

may find comfort as they reflect on the many loving memories they enjoyed with Sharon through 58 years of love and marriage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and memory of this beloved and respected community leader.

RECOGNIZING THE QUINCY-COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary milestone in the history of American reclamation, Western agriculture, and responsible local stewardship.

On June 30, 2026, the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District in Quincy, Washington, made its final construction repayment obligation associated with its portion of the Columbia Basin Project.

This is more than the closing of an account. It is the fulfillment of a promise made across generations.

The Columbia Basin Project is one of the great infrastructure achievements in the history of the American West.

At the center of the Project is the Grand Coulee Dam, one of America's most remarkable public works.

Through the Project's pumping plants, reservoirs, canals, laterals, and drains, water from the Columbia River is lifted, stored, delivered, reused, and put to beneficial use.

What was once arid ground today serves over 700,000 irrigated acres sustaining the production of potatoes, apples, wheat, corn, hay, grapes, livestock, and many other crops.

It also supports processors, equipment dealers, truck drivers, local banks, schools, small businesses, and rural communities whose futures are tied to the land.

Today, the Columbia Basin Project supports a diverse agricultural landscape that helps feed families across the country and around the world.

So we honor the Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation District, its irrigators, its landowners, its employees, and the generations of Central Washington families who made this achievement possible.

I congratulate the District on this historic accomplishment, and I took forward to the continued success of Central Washington agriculture for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING DEMETRES L. PARRISH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Demetres L. Parrish, a co-founder and membership chairwoman of the Miami, Florida Chapter of Sisters Network Incorporated.

In 2011, Ms. Parrish, an advocate for breast cancer awareness joined with three breast cancer survivors to found the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network, Inc., a national African-

American breast cancer survivorship organization. Its mission is to address the needs particular to African-American women, the underinsured and the underserved around the country by getting the message out that "we must stop the silence about breast cancer so women can start beating the odds." The organization has since provided a strong support group for hundreds of women with breast cancer and survivors in South Florida.

Experts estimate that about one out of every eight women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during her life. The strongest risk factor for breast cancer is age. A woman's risk of developing this disease increases as she gets older. However, thanks to the work Ms. Parrish is doing and improvements in cancer treatment and early detection, millions of women and thousands of men are surviving breast cancer today.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, other than skin cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer. The disease occurs almost entirely in women, but men can get it, too. Today, there are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

I am honored to recognize Demetres L. Parrish, a co-founder and membership Chairwoman of the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network, for her dedication and commitment to our community and the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DENNIS MIETZ

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dennis Mietz, President of Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (BVA), whose extraordinary dedication to emergency medical services and unwavering commitment to the Rochester community left an indelible mark on countless lives. I was fortunate to know Dennis as both a colleague and a friend over many years, and I saw firsthand the dedication defining his life of service.

For nearly four decades, Dennis served the BVA with exceptional distinction, becoming its longest-serving member and one of its most respected leaders. Throughout his remarkable tenure, he served as an Emergency Medical Technician, Critical Care EMT, member of the Board of Directors, and ultimately President of the Board. In every role, he helped shape the organization's future while mentoring generations of volunteers and earning the admiration of colleagues, patients, and friends alike.

Dennis's legacy extends far beyond the remarkable milestones of his service. Over the course of his career, he devoted more than 30,000 volunteer hours, helped save approximately 120 lives, and assisted in the delivery of eight babies. Those who knew him will remember him not only for these extraordinary accomplishments, but for his compassion and steadfast belief that the greatest leaders are those who listen first. Whether responding to an emergency, mentoring a new EMT, or guiding the organization through challenges, Dennis led with wisdom and an unwavering com-

mitment to serving others. Beyond his distinguished service in emergency medicine, Dennis was an accomplished commercial airline pilot and Division I hockey player, exemplifying a lifelong pursuit of excellence in every endeavor he pursued.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dennis Mietz and celebrating his extraordinary legacy of service and compassion. Having had the privilege of working alongside Dennis throughout the years, I know his absence will be deeply felt by all who had the opportunity to know him. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Brighton Volunteer Ambulance community. His selfless devotion to others enriched the lives of so many, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of first responders and community leaders throughout Rochester and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF NORMA WILSON GREGORY

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 100th birthday of my constituent, Mrs. Norma Wilson Gregory.

Norma was born on August 2, 1926, and grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. She was the middle child of five, with older brother Walter, older sister Jeanne, and two younger brothers, Herb and Gordon. As a child, she was something of a tomboy to keep up with her older brother Walter who was only ten months older. She also was an avid reader, often taking a book and the family dog on a walk to climb and sit in a tree, reading for hours, with the dog sitting guard at the base of the tree.

The name Norma means "hard working and vivacious" in Latin, and those who know and love her say that is an incredibly apt description. Anything she puts her mind to, she can master. From hanging wallpaper, painting, and making braided rugs, to gardening, arranging flowers, and baking and cooking, she was a woman of many talents.

Her talents allowed her to thrive professionally, having a successful 30-year career as a realtor. She loved selling houses and had the wonderful ability to visualize how a couple could fix up a house and make it their own.

Away from work, she became an avid bird watcher, traversing the globe to see birds in Northern Africa and Belize. She still to this day watches the birds at her feeder, including four male goldfinches who often come to the feeder at the same time and put on quite a show. While bird watching started to spend time with her beloved husband, Jim Gregory, she continues to experience the joy it can bring to its enthusiasts.

Jim Holmwood Gregory was not just the one who introduced her to bird watching, he was her greatest love and husband of 54 years. Norma met James when she was living in Kansas City with her aunt, Muriel. One day she ended up having all of her wisdom teeth pulled, and Aunt Muriel decided a night on the town would take her mind off of her teeth. Sure enough, James and his colleagues were

in town on business and happened to be at the same local nightclub as Norma, and it was love at first sight. Eight months later, after a lot of visits and correspondence between the two, they were married in East Aurora, New York on May 24, 1947. They had a wonderful marriage and four children: Kim, John, Jamie, and Mark.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Norma Wilson Gregory on her 100th Birthday. Cheers to countless memories and adventures, and cheers to many more.

RECOGNIZING INTRUST BANK'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY DURING
AMERICA'S SEMIQUIN-
CENTENNIAL

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, in November, INTRUST Bank will celebrate 150 years of serving the Wichita community, during the same year our Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary.

INTRUST Bank was founded in 1876 in Wichita, when our Nation was celebrating its first 100 years, and Wichita was a small town on the Chisholm Trail. Since then, INTRUST Bank has been led by five generations, maintained a strong community presence, and expanded into neighboring states.

This institution, rooted in the patriotism of our country and the pride of the Kansas plains, has not only watched changes and growth of the past 150 years but has accelerated it. Throughout its history, INTRUST Bank has built trust through a commitment to its employees and customers.

While this milestone for INTRUST Bank is impressive, it is even more meaningful that it coincides with the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. As we celebrate 250 years and look toward the next 250 years, I have full confidence that INTRUST Bank will continue to be a critical piece of our nation's story.

I'm grateful that INTRUST Bank has been part of this community and continues to invest in the people of south central Kansas and our region. I look forward to seeing the growth of INTRUST Bank for many more years to come. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Kansas, I congratulate them on their sesquicentennial.

COMMENDING CHIEF LEONARD
BURGESS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Mr. Leonard Burgess was appointed on June 8, 2014 to the position of Police Chief for the North Miami Police Department in Miami-Dade County Florida. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Chief Burgess is a long-standing and progressive law enforcement officer well suited to lead North Miami Police Department. Having started his law enforcement career in North Miami Florida in 1984, he spent the past 29 years amassing, diversifying and refining his professional qualifications and his personal attributes;

Whereas, during his 20-year tenure with the Miami-Dade Police Department, Chief Burgess diligently and effectively served in numerous capacities, during this period he advanced from the rank of police officer to the position of Division Chief, where he was responsible for managing and supervising hundreds of personnel;

Whereas, from October of 2006 through December 2006, Chief Burgess was appointed and served as interim Director of the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department. Later, again he responded to the call for service when he was requested and voluntarily returned as the Department's Deputy Director;

Whereas, as the father of three children, Chief Burgess takes great pride in sharing his wisdom with young people to positively contribute to their growth and development. Chief Burgess has maintained a commitment and has worked tirelessly for more than 15 years to assist children serving as a mentor with and through the 5000 Role Model of Excellence Program;

Whereas, prior to his serving the South Florida communities of Miami-Dade County and North Miami Florida, Chief Burgess proudly served his Country in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged after service was complete; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Chief Leonard Burgess for his dedication to his profession, and his commitment to serve others and maintain a pledge to commitment and to personal involvement and assuming leadership roles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, I inadvertently voted "aye" on Grothman Amendment No. 316 when my intention was to vote "no."

I regret this error. Had I been able to vote as intended, I would have voted "no" on Grothman Amendment No. 316.

HONORING THE 2026 SUMMER
INTERN CLASS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the amazing interns who spent their summer serving the people of California's 20th Congressional District. As their summer internships come to an end, I want to sincerely express my gratitude to Sydney Calderwood and Esmeralda Martinez for their service in my Bakersfield, California office,

and to Logan McLoughlin, Isabella Stroia, and Cara Gallen for their contributions to my Washington, D.C. office.

Whether serving in my district office or D.C. office, these interns worked tirelessly for our constituents and country, demonstrating a strong willingness to learn and showing their drive and thoughtfulness during their time here. The work done by each of them has helped my team's efforts immensely, and I hope this experience will help them make even stronger contributions in whatever they choose to pursue. I truly look forward to seeing the impact they will have on their endeavors in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF NINA OZLU TUNCELI

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nina Ozlu Tunceli on the occasion of her retirement. For more than three decades, Nina has been one of the most tireless and effective advocates for the arts in America. Nina understands something fundamental: not only do the arts enrich our lives, they are also a key component of vibrant, economically strong communities.

Since 1993, Nina has served as Chief Counsel of Government and Public Affairs at Americans for the Arts, and since 2004, as the founding Executive Director of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. In that time, she built a network of 450,000 grassroots activists, built relationships with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, and made the case that support for the arts is not a partisan issue—it is an American one.

Nina has helped secure some of the most consequential arts policy wins of the past thirty years. In 2009, she led the "Arts = Jobs" campaign, which secured \$50 million in federal support for the arts in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. During the pandemic, she helped secure critical relief for artists and arts organizations through the CARES Act, the Economic Aid Act, and the American Rescue Plan. Then, Nina established Zoom Office Hours with Nina where she devoted time to personally walking artists and small arts organizations through how to access that essential aid. She built the National Arts Advocacy Day into a Capitol Hill institution. Through ArtsVote, Nina ensured that voters across the country understood what was at stake for the arts in every election.

I had the privilege of working with Nina throughout my time in Congress, especially during my leadership of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Nina has been a constant, trusted partner in the subcommittee's work to fund the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Nina provided the subcommittee with data and brought with her the voices of artists and arts organizations from every corner of the country. That partnership made our subcommittee's work stronger, and it strengthened the case for federal arts funding.

Mr. Speaker, a career like Nina's isn't just measured in legislation passed or funding secured. It's measured in the local arts agencies