

still standing, the artists who kept working through moments of crisis, and the generation of advocates she trained and inspired along the way.

On behalf of everyone who has ever benefited from a stronger, more visible case for the arts in this country, I want to thank Nina Ozlu Tunceli for 30 years of extraordinary service. I wish her the very best in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE A.
MINNIS

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 Catherine A. Minnis, a strong and well-known advocate for breast cancer awareness in South Florida.

In 2006, Ms. Minnis overcame a cancer scare when a lump found by her doctor turned out to be benign. That same year, a former boss died from breast cancer. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Minnis joined the Dade-Monroe Unit of The American Cancer Society and was named Volunteer of the Year for her activism in the fight against breast cancer and for raising nearly 400,000 dollars for cancer research. A coffee-table book with stories from breast cancer survivors written by Ms. Minnis to empower, educate and encourage women with breast cancer and breast cancer survivors, will be released in November of 2012.

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. Minnis 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 Catherine A. Minnis, a long-term advocate for breast cancer awareness, for her dedication and commitment to our community and the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING SANDY AND OLE
JAEGER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of Sandy and Ole Jaeger. Sandy and Ole met in Denmark in 1960 and were married for 65 years, many of which they spent in their home in Georgetown, Maine. They both passed away this year at the age of 90.

One of my favorite parts of serving as a Member of Congress is hearing from my con-

stituents. It is fair to say Sandy and Ole were some of my most engaged constituents in Maine's 1st District. They believed more than anything in the importance of speaking up for the changes you want to see in local, state, and federal government.

I met Sandy and Ole when they volunteered for my campaign when I ran for Senate in 2002. Over the years, they have contacted me and other legislators, made phone calls, and written hundreds of letters to the editor on countless issues. Most recently, Sandy and Ole shared their own experiences in order to stand up for the rights and dignity of Maine's elderly population.

Sandy and Ole never stopped advocating for the causes they believed in and gave their time and support to local organizations including Boy Scouts, Association of Special Children and Families, AARP, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Age Friendly Georgetown, and the Maine Coalition to Fight Prostate Cancer. They dedicated their lives to making Maine communities more vibrant and connected.

Sandy wrote to me in March of this year through her work with the Coalition to Fight Prostate Cancer. She added at the end of the note, "P.S. Ole died in September. We were married for 65 years and loved it all." Maine is better off thanks to the tireless advocacy and bountiful love of Sandy and Ole.

We are so grateful for their activism and the compassionate and giving lives they led in our state. I extend my deepest condolences to their family, including their children, Eric, Carl, Joseph, and Anna Sofia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAT
MCLELLAN

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Pat McClellan, the legendary owner of the Flora-Bama, a true icon of Northwest Florida and the Gulf Coast, and a dear personal friend.

I had the privilege of knowing Pat for more than 20 years. Beyond his success as a visionary businessman, Pat was a veteran who served on the USS Lexington after graduating from the Navy Flight Program, a dedicated community leader, and a man who believed deeply that the best things in life were simple and shared. His impact on our community and countless lives cannot be overstated.

Pat had a rare gift for bringing people from every walk of life together through music, laughter, and genuine fellowship. Pat's generosity, larger-than-life personality, and unwavering love for Northwest Florida had a lasting mark on everyone who had the opportunity to know him. His legacy will live on through the memories created at the Flora-Bama and through the many people whose lives he touched.

Katie and I send our heartfelt condolences to Pat's wife, Sheryl, family, friends, and the entire Flora-Bama family during this deeply difficult time. We join our entire community in praying for them as they mourn this tremendous loss.

May Pat McClellan rest in peace, and may his memory continue to inspire all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEALTH
CENTER WEEK

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Health Center Week and celebrate the vital role Community Health Centers play in improving the health and well-being of millions of Americans. This week, we honor the dedicated health professionals, staff, and leaders who make these centers a trusted source of care for communities across the United States.

For nearly 60 years, Community Health Centers have been a cornerstone of our Nation's health care system, delivering high-quality, comprehensive care to 52 million patients across more than 17,000 communities. These centers are a critical part of New York's primary care safety net, serving more than 2.5 million patients across 900 sites. Nearly 60 percent of New York's Community Health Center patients are enrolled in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

These centers, which include our Capital Region's own Whitney Young Health Center and Hometown Health Centers, deliver integrated, whole-person care to patients and families who need it most. This includes primary and preventive care, behavioral health services, substance use disorder treatment, dental care, vision care, and other essential services. With more than \$9.2 million in federal investments, these sites serve more than 36,983 patients, providing life-saving care that builds healthier communities throughout the Capital Region. I have been proud to help deliver federal support for these Community Health Centers, including funding to create a new dental clinic at Hometown Health Centers and establish a community-based dental residency program at Whitney Young Health Center. These investments ensure more Capital Region residents can access the care they need close to home.

As we recognize the vital role of Whitney Young Health Center and Hometown Health Centers, we celebrate their longstanding commitment to deliver equitable, accessible care to patients in our region and beyond.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY LARRY
R. HANDFIELD

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 a South Florida philanthropist and public servant, Attorney Larry R. Handfield, who is the first graduate of Bethune-Cookman University, located in Daytona Beach, Florida, to have two on-campus buildings named in his honor, the "Dr. Larry R. Handfield Athletic Training Center" and the "Dr. Larry R. Handfield Music Building."

Attorney Handfield is a nationally known trial lawyer who has received national recognition for his work within the judicial system. He has been appointed to three statewide commission posts by three different Governors. He was first appointed to the Statewide Sentencing Guideline Commission by Governor Robert Martinez. Florida Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Attorney Handfield to the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Miami-Dade County Court System. And his third appointment was to the post of State Commissioner to the Statewide Ethics Commission by Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

Mr. Handfield is currently Chairman of the Board of Bethune-Cookman University, and he is the first of its graduates to hold the position.

Attorney Handfield received his bachelor's degree from Bethune-Cookman University and then received the degree of Juris Doctor from Howard University, School of Law, located in Washington, D.C. The degree of Doctor of Law was later conferred on by Bethune-Cookman University. Mr. Handfield has worked as a Federal Prosecutor, and as a State Prosecutor under former United States Attorney General, Janet Reno.

Mr. Handfield's accomplishments are too numerous to count, and he has truly lived up to his motto: "Service is the price we pay for the space we occupy on this earth."

Please join me in honoring and recognizing Attorney Larry R. Handfield for his dedication and commitment to his community, family and friends.

HONORING THE MATHENY MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of Matheny Medical and Educational Center. For nearly a century, Matheny has provided outstanding support to individuals with unique disabilities and rare diseases from around the world, demonstrating the highest standards of comprehensive care and education.

Founded in 1946 by Walter Duane Matheny and Mary Marguerite Hughes Matheny, Matheny began as the Burnt Mills School for Paralysis Correction, inspired by their son Chuck, who was born with cerebral palsy in an era ill-equipped to care for children with special needs. Starting with just three children and three staff members, the Matheny's received crucial support from the Somerset County community, whose local donations sustained their operation until Matheny became a non-profit school in 1950.

Over the years, Matheny's commitment to excellence in care and research has transformed the organization. Today, Matheny employs more than 600 staff and provides vital services through a special hospital, seven community group homes, two adult day centers, a private special school for children ages 3 to 21, a fine arts program, recreation programs, and clinics offering dental, medical, and rehabilitative technology services.

These extensive services fulfill Matheny's mission to "provide exceptional care and an optimal quality of life for children and adults

with special needs and medically complex developmental disabilities." As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we express our sincere gratitude for Matheny's 80 years of service to Somerset County and the State of New Jersey. I wish them continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA KROP, CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the honor of recognizing women on the Central Coast whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community through the Women of the Year Award. This year, it is my pleasure to recognize Linda Krop for her decades of environmental advocacy, public service, and commitment to protecting the natural resources of California's Central Coast.

Linda has devoted more than three decades to the Environmental Defense Center, a local public-interest environmental law firm. She joined the firm in 1989 and has served as its Chief Counsel since 1999. Throughout her career, she has specialized in environmental law involving offshore oil and gas development, ocean and coastal conservation, open-space preservation, natural-resource protection, and energy policy.

Linda's work has produced lasting protections for communities and ecosystems throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Among her most notable legal accomplishments, she helped secure the termination of 40 federal oil and gas leases off the California coast. She prevented the extension of 37 federal oil leases off the coasts of the three counties. She also played a leading role in response to the 2015 Refugio oil spill, which released 140,000 gallons of crude oil and polluted both the ocean and surrounding land. She led the EDC's legal team in efforts that forced the companies to pay more than \$700 million in damages.

Beyond her courtroom advocacy, Linda has helped advance environmental protections through public policy. She served on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council from 1998 to 2013, representing the conservation community. She was also appointed by the U.S. Minerals Management Service to serve on the California Offshore Oil and Gas Energy Resources Committee and the High Energy Seismic Survey Task Force.

Since 2006, she has regularly taught in the Environmental Studies Program at UCSB and at the Santa Barbara College of Law.

Through litigation, policy advocacy, and education, she has helped preserve some of California's most valued landscapes and has strengthened environmental protections throughout our region. Today, she continues those efforts by challenging Sable Offshore Corp.'s plans to restart offshore oil operations, helping protect the Central Coast's coastline and communities.

I am proud to recognize Linda Krop for her extraordinary record of leadership and service

and her lifelong dedication to protecting the natural beauty and environmental future of the Central Coast.

HONORING FILIPINO AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FANHS) LEADERS DR. ALLAN BERGANO, EDWINA BERGANO, AND DOROTHY LAIGO CORDOVA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) leaders Dorothy Laigo Cordova, Dr. Allan Bergano, and Edwina Bergano.

Known as the "Mother" of the Filipino American National Historical Society and the Filipino American civil rights movement, Dorothy Laigo Cordova co-founded FANHS with her late husband, Fred Cordova, in 1982 as a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and sharing Filipino American history. For seven decades, she has worked to combat racism and ensure that the Filipino American story is recognized as an integral part of the American experience. FANHS was born out of frustration with the lack of accurate representation of Filipino Americans in mainstream history and has since grown to more than 40 chapters across the United States, including one in Hampton Roads. Dorothy's tireless efforts were instrumental in establishing Filipino American History Month, observed every October and recognized by President Obama in 2012.

Dr. Allan Bergano and Edwina Bergano founded the Hampton Roads Chapter of FANHS in 1990. They are taking a much-deserved retirement after nearly 40 years of service and a shared commitment to intergenerational community leadership. The Hampton Roads Chapter is the oldest on the East Coast and focuses on preserving, documenting, and sharing the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the region.

As the only present Member of Congress with Filipino ancestry, I have the privilege of representing this rich and vibrant Filipino American community in Hampton Roads while serving as co-chair of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus. The region is home to the largest Filipino American population on the East Coast and several U.S. military bases. Many Filipinos immigrated to the area through service in the U.S. Navy or by working in the health professions.

In closing, I thank Dorothy Laigo Cordova, Dr. Allan Bergano, and Edwina Bergano for the sacrifices they have made and the bridges they have built for the Filipino American community.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAHAMIAN INDEPENDENCE

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,