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 rceived 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,

I rise today, as a descendant of Bahamians, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Bahamian Independence and to pay tribute to its citizens and Bahamian-Americans living in South Florida and across the United States. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, the Islands of the Bahamas became an Independent Commonwealth Country on July 10, 1973, after centuries of British rule;

Whereas, the proud people who, through uncertainty and tough economic times, remained steadfast and determined to build a brighter future after their hard-fought independence, showed great strength and unwavering will;

Whereas, today, The Bahamas has a thriving economy built around tourism and financial services; the tenacious and enduring spirit of the Bahamian people, and its rich traditions and culture;

Whereas, Bahamians and Bahamian-Americans have made significant contributions to the United States through the arts & humanities, business, activism, local and national government, and remain an integral part of the South Florida Community; 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, and a person of Bahamian descent, am proud to recognize the 40th Anniversary of this resilient, free and sovereign nation, and pay tribute to the wonderful people and descendants who make it great.

HONORING JIM LINDLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Lindley in recognition of his retirement after 28 years of public service, including service to our community as the City Manager of Dixon, California.

Mr. Lindley received an Associate of Science in Business Administration and an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from Victor Valley Community College. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Public Administration from the California State University, San Bernardino.

Mr. Lindley's nearly three decades of public service includes eight years as an elected official in Hesperia serving as council member, mayor pro tem, and mayor. He then spent five years in three distinct director-level roles for San Bernardino County. He later transitioned back to city management, sewing as the city manager of Dunsmuir and executive director of the Dunsmuir Redevelopment Agency from June 2010 to March 2012.

Serving Dixon for over 14 years, Mr. Lindley steered the city of Dixon through significant economic eras, including navigating the municipality out of the Great Recession and through the complexities of the global pandemic. Lindley's leadership in Dixon was also defined by a series of infrastructure and capital improvement initiatives, including the railroad overcrossing project and construction of Pardi Plaza. He also brought significant commercial and residential development to the City of Dixon. Mr. Lindley has provided pivotal operational leadership, financial oversight and support to the City Council, leaving behind a legacy of growth and modernization.

In addition, Mr. Lindley accumulated over 25 years in the private sector and five years as the Chief Executive Officer of Municipal Consulting Associates.

Mr. Lindley has been widely recognized for his ''people-first'' management style, guiding the city with deep kindness and loyalty. His balanced leadership successfully created a collaborative environment across municipal staff, council members, and residents alike.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Jim Lindley for his dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN WARRANT OFFICER MATTHEW D. ZAMMIT AS AUGUST 2026 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warrant Officer Matthew D. Zammit for his distinguished service in the United States Marine Corps and his continued dedication to his family and community. It is my privilege to honor him as our August 2026 Veteran of the Month.

Warrant Officer Zammit enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1983. After graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, he completed Infantry Weapons Repair School in Aberdeen, Maryland, beginning a remarkable 22-year military career.

Throughout his service, Warrant Officer Zammit held assignments in California, Hawaii, Spain, Morocco, Ecuador, Japan, and North Carolina. He served as a Maine Security Guard protecting American embassies overseas before becoming an Ordnance Inspector with the 2nd Marine Division. In 1999, he was promoted to Warrant Officer and reassigned as the Lead G–4 Inspection Team Officer for small arms and artillery for the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership and technical expertise.

His outstanding service was recognized with numerous honors, including three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, six Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendations, and multiple expert marksmanship awards.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps in 2005, Warrant Officer Zammit continued serving our Nation in civilian roles supporting the United States Army. Over the next two decades, he supported military operations at Fort Bragg, Detroit Arsenal, and Fort Hood, while deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. His continued service earned additional recognition, including the NATO Medal, Superior Civilian Award, and a Two-Star Letter of Appreciation.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Warrant Officer Zammit has remained committed to serving his community. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and two master's degrees in organizational management, supply chain, and life coaching. He later shared his passion for mentorship by coaching high school cross-country and track and field athletes.

Together with his wife, Captain Marisol Zammit, a fellow United States Marine Corps veteran, he has raised four children while continuing to exemplify the values of service, faith, and leadership. Today, Warrant Officer Zammit and his family reside in China Township, where they remain active in their church and community.

Mr. Speaker, Warrant Officer Matthew D. Zammit has dedicated his life to serving our Nation and his community. Through his military service and continued commitment to others, he exemplifies the values of honor, courage, and commitment. It is my great honor to recognize his service and accomplishments by naming him our August 2026 Veteran of the Month.

HONORING COLONEL JOHN WILCOX UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John Wilcox upon his retirement from the United States Army and to thank him for nearly three decades of extraordinary service to our Nation.

Colonel Wilcox graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and received his commission in the Military Police Corps in 1999. He served in numerous leadership positions, including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Military Police Advisor during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007, he volunteered to join Army Special Operations Civil Affairs, beginning a distinguished chapter of service that would take him throughout the United States and around the world.

Colonel Wilcox deployed twice to the southern Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom—Philippines and later deployed to Afghanistan as Director of the Afghan Local Police Special Operations Advisory Cell. He also commanded the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) and served as Deputy Chief of Staff G–5 for the United States Army Special Operations Command.

From 2022 to 2024, Colonel Wilcox served as Garrison Commander of Fort Bragg, leading the Nation's largest military installation through significant infrastructure and resourcing challenges. During his tenure, he strengthened relationships with local leaders, improved installation services, and demonstrated a genuine commitment to the soldiers, families, and communities who depend upon Fort Bragg. I was fortunate to work closely with Colonel Wilcox throughout his command, and I came to value not only his leadership but also his friendship. Our work together addressed challenges facing the installation and advanced the priorities of soldiers and their families.

In his final military assignment, Colonel Wilcox served as J39 for the United States Special Operations Command. In this role, he was responsible for synchronizing information,