

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, serving 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 mas-

ter'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,

influence, Psychological Operations, and Civil Affairs activities across five Theater Special Operations Commands and more than 80 countries. His storied career reflects an unwavering commitment to soldiers, military families, and the defense of our Nation. Because of his service, the United States, our allies, and communities around the world are safer and more secure.

I am grateful for Colonel Wilcox's service to Fort Bragg and to the United States Army. I also extend my sincere appreciation to his wife, Nellie, and their three children, Hannah, Aiden, and Lukas, for their support throughout his distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Colonel John Wilcox upon his retirement from the United States Army and wishing him and his family continued success as they move on to their next great adventure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies—our unemployed young people—by adding 500,000 new members to AmeriCorps. Youth unemployment is harming our young people and costing our country billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and tax revenue, among other costs. Although the total unemployment rate has reached a relative low (4.2 percent), the youth unemployment rate is 10.8 percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.

By adding 500,000 new members to AmeriCorps, this bill would allow unemployed youth to earn a stipend, obtain work experience, and provide valuable public service. AmeriCorps participants receive a living allowance and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell Grant, school-loan forbearance, health care benefits, and childcare assistance.

This bill would also establish that the minimum wage for any AmeriCorps State and National member is 200 percent of the federal poverty line and would not allow for a decrease in that amount, as is allowed under current law. AmeriCorps members serve their country and gain skills, but we should increase the minimum wage for everyone, including national service members.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address the most stubborn forms of unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, many young people will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire necessary work experience. Young people deserve a better start in life as adults.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ROBERT "BOB" HUTCHINSON, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor a man who spent his whole life mending the hearts of others—Mr. Robert "Bob" Hutchinson, Sr., who was called home to glory on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at the age of 77, in the city he loved and served for so long, Albany, Georgia. There are homes across Southwest Georgia tonight where the light seems a little dimmer, because a man who spent his life turning the lights on for children has finally laid down his own. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Bob was born on July 19, 1949, in Ocala, Florida, to the late Clemm and Ethlene Blakely Hutchinson. He answered a calling early and never once stopped serving. After graduating from high school in 1967, he enlisted in the United States Army and gave to his country the same devotion he would later give to a generation of children who needed him more than they had words to say. For more than forty-five years, Bob made a quiet holy promise to every child who crossed his path—that no matter where they came from, no matter what they carried, they would have a safe place to belong, a mentor who believed in them, and a chance to become who God made them to be.

His life's work found its home in Albany, at the Cedar Avenue Boys and Girls Club and there it grew into a legacy that touched an entire region. Rising to Director of Operations and ultimately to Chief Professional Officer, Bob led the Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany and from three locations to eleven, until more than five thousand young people were being loved, fed, taught, and lifted every single day. He planted Club sites in schools, in churches, in housing communities—anywhere a hurting child might be—because he could not bear the thought of one boy or one girl being too far from a hand that would reach for them. And in 1995, he flung the doors open to girls as well, because in Bob's heart there was not one child on this earth who did not deserve to be believed in.

The world gave Bob its honors, and they were many—Leadership Albany, the Law Day USA Liberty Bell Award, the Herman Prescott Award, the David Roark Light the Path Award, and in 2016, induction into the Georgia Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame. He earned every one. But Mr. Speaker, I stand here to testify that Bob Hutchinson's name is written in a greater Hall of Fame than any this world can offer.

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews records what the saints have long called the Hall of Faith—God's own roll call of the faithful. By faith Abraham. By faith Moses. By faith Sarah. These are the men and women who, Scripture says, "all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off." And of one of them the Word says something that could have been written for Bob Hutchinson himself: "he being dead yet speaketh." Mr. Speaker, that is Bob. He is gone from us—but

he is not silent. He still speaks. He speaks every time a child he mentored chooses hope over despair. He speaks every time a young man who had no father remembers the man who chose to father him anyway. He speaks in ten thousand lives, and he will go on speaking long after every one of us in this Chamber has been forgotten.

You do not measure a man like Bob by buildings or by plaques. You measure him by the frightened child who walked through a Club door with his head down and walked back out with his head up. You measure him by the boys and girls—now grown into teachers, ministers, business owners, mothers, and fathers—who still cannot speak his name without their voices breaking. Somewhere tonight there is a grown man who learned to tie his shoes, to shake a hand, to look another person in the eye, because Bob Hutchinson took the time. That man will carry Bob with him to his own grave, and hand him to his children after that. This is the true Hall of Fame—the one written not in bronze, but in the living hearts of the people he refused to give up on.

Through all of it, beside this remarkable man stood the love of his life, his devoted wife of fifty-five years, Lula Peterson Hutchinson. Fifty-five years. Through every trial and every triumph, she never let go of his hand. Together they raised three children—Rodney, Michelle, and Robert, Jr.—and were blessed with four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. And among the countless he fathered was his devoted protégé, Marvin Laster, who loved him not as a supervisor but as a daddy. When a man's employees weep for him like sons, they have learned everything they will ever need to know about how he lived.

Mr. Speaker, the Scripture says we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." Bob Hutchinson has taken his place in that number now. And so, on behalf of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,00 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in mourning his loss and celebrating his life. To Lula, to his children, grandchildren, and to the countless sons and daughters of Southwest Georgia who called him family—we grieve with them, and we thank God for the gift of him. Rest now, Bob. Well done, good and faithful servant. He has fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith—and generations yet unborn will rise up and call him blessed.

IN MEMORY OF JILLIAN OLSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the life of Master Deputy Jillian Olson, a true South Carolina hero, who dedicated her life to protecting and serving others. My wife, Roxanne, my staff, and I send prayers to her family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. May God Bless the men and women of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. I include in the RECORD an inspiring obituary provided by Cauthman-Harman Funeral Home: