

Bishop Cooper has strengthened the Albuquerque community, uplifted the lives of its residents, and left a lasting impact on all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico extends its deepest gratitude to Bishop David Cooper for his 50 years of faithful service. He is a source of pride and inspiration for all New Mexicans, and I am honored to recognize his contributions.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF REVEREND DR. HIRAM RATLIFF

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th birthday of Reverend Dr. Hiram Ratliff, an extraordinary pastor, leader, author, servant, and proud son of the Bronx.

For 30 years, Reverend Dr. Ratliff has answered the call to ministry, dedicating his life to serving God and uplifting others. For the past 15 years, he has served as the Senior Pastor of New Tabernacle Baptist Church in the Bronx, where his leadership has extended far beyond the walls of the church.

Under his ministry, New Tabernacle has provided health screenings, food and clothing giveaways, and programs for young people. Reverend Ratliff has also been a powerful advocate for social justice, partnering with community organizations to support working people, immigrants, children, and families in need.

His service extends throughout our community—from his work with young people and children with special needs to his leadership on educational and religious institutions. He is also an accomplished author whose writing reflects the struggles, hopes, and triumphs of his life and community.

Today, we celebrate not only Reverend Dr. Ratliff's 60th birthday, but also a life defined by faith, service, and purpose.

I wish him a happy 60th birthday, and I congratulate him on 30 years of ministry and 15 years of faithful leadership at New Tabernacle Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ZYLASHA GAMBREL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zylasha Gambrel for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Rising Star Award.

The Rising Star Award recognizes High School students who live or attend school in Arvada who have exemplified extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact, and leadership. As Student Body President at Arvada High School, Zylasha exemplifies innovative problem-solving by turning ideas into action—identifying school culture gaps amid rigorous academics and leadership demands.

Her community involvement encompasses the Jeffco Student Leadership Board, National

Honor Society membership, mentoring as an Outdoor Lab Leader, and participation in wrestling, softball, and tennis. She also orchestrates successful events, including pep rallies, school dances, Trick or Treat Street, and Empty Bowls Night to benefit The Community Table. Zylasha takes initiative in everything she does, from shadowing the mayor at work to driving creative solutions at school.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Zylasha Gambrel for this award and thank her for her commitment to our community.

HONORING DR. JOHN A. PEOPLES, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., a distinguished Mississippian, educator, veteran, and the sixth president of Jackson State University.

A native of Starkville, Mississippi, Dr. Peoples served his country with distinction as a United States Marine during World War II. He served as a Drill Instructor at Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, where Black Marines were trained during segregation. In July 2012, Dr. Peoples was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his service as one of the African-American Marines who trained at Montford Point.

After his military service, Dr. Peoples returned to Jackson State University, earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1950. He later earned a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. In 1964, he returned to Jackson State as a professor of mathematics and vice president and became president in 1967.

Dr. Peoples served as president from 1967 to 1984, overseeing an extraordinary period of growth and transformation. During his tenure, enrollment increased from approximately 2,200 to 7,800 students, academic programs expanded through the doctoral level, and the University's physical facilities grew substantially. He also founded the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit at Jackson State University, establishing a lasting tradition of military leadership and service.

Dr. Peoples led Jackson State through some of the most challenging years of the civil rights era, including the tragic May 14, 1970, shootings at Jackson State, when Phillip Gibbs and James Green were killed and other students were wounded.

Beyond Jackson State, Dr. Peoples became a nationally recognized leader in higher education and was the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Board of the American Council on Education. His contributions to education, civil rights, and public service have earned him numerous honors, including the Medgar Evers Award, the Mississippi Medal of Service, and induction into the Jackson State University and Southwestern Athletic Conference Halls of Fame.

Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., has devoted his life to service, education, leadership, and the advancement of opportunity for others. From

the United States Marine Corps to the halls of Jackson State University, his legacy reflects courage, excellence, and an unwavering commitment to his community and his country.

I am proud to honor Dr. John A. Peoples, Jr., for his extraordinary contributions to Mississippi, Jackson State University, the United States Marine Corps, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable American and Mississippi trailblazer.

HONORING THE MEDICAL CENTER OF THE AMERICAS FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation as it celebrates 20 years of advancing health care, innovation, and economic opportunity across the Paso de Norte region.

In El Paso, we know that progress is only built by people willing to see possibilities where others have seen limitations. Twenty years ago, the MCA was founded on the belief that our border community could become a center for exceptional health care, scientific discovery, and economic opportunity. What began as an ambitious idea has become a defining, indispensable part of our community.

Because of the MCA, young El Pasoans can imagine a future in medicine and science, local innovators have turned their ideas into solutions, and families can receive critical, life-saving care closer to home. The MCA's success belongs to the many visionary leaders, health care professionals, researchers, educators, and community partners who believed deeply in El Paso's potential and worked together to realize it.

I congratulate the entire MCA family on 20 remarkable years and thank them for helping build a healthier, more innovative, more prosperous future for our community.

RECOGNIZING LUJANE HANNA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lujane Hanna for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Young Professional Leadership Award.

The Young Professional Leadership Award recognizes a young professional under the age of 40 whose leadership and dedication has impacted the world around them. As a financial professional at Valorem Financial, Lujane has already achieved the CFP designation—the industry gold standard—delivering financial clarity, stability, and long-term success for individuals, families, and business owners. She also serves as a mentor at her company, helping other employees with skill-building.

Outside of work, she hosts free educational workshops around empowering women professionals through financial literacy, and participates in Old Town Arvada community events

like Trick or Treat Street and Second Saturday during the summer with her "Wheel of Wealth" booth.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Lujane Hanna for this award and thank her for her commitment to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRI CITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tri City Health Partnership as it celebrates its 25th anniversary of providing compassionate, high-quality health care to residents of Central Kane County.

Since opening its doors in 2001, Tri City Health Partnership has played an indispensable role in our community by ensuring that uninsured individuals and families have access to the medical and dental services they need.

Tri City was founded on a simple but powerful principle that no one should have to go without basic health care simply because they cannot afford it. Its mission is to provide quality health care in an environment of mutual respect while promoting better health choices through education and preventive care.

That mission is reflected in the breadth of services Tri City provides. Its volunteer physicians, dentists, health care professionals, and dedicated staff help patients receive preventive and ongoing care, including medical examinations, dental services, chronic disease management, screenings, medications, and other essential services. By helping patients address health concerns early, Tri City works to prevent manageable conditions from becoming serious or life-threatening illnesses.

Tri City Health Partnership provides more than health care. It provides dignity, compassion, and peace of mind. Patients who walk through its doors can receive high-quality care in an environment where they are treated with respect and without the fear of overwhelming medical bills. For people who have struggled to navigate our health care system, that welcoming environment can be life-changing.

Over its 25 years of service, Tri City Health Partnership has become a trusted institution in Central Kane County. Its impact can be measured not only in the thousands of medical and dental visits it has provided, but also in the healthier families, prevented illnesses, and improved quality of life made possible through its work.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Tri City Health Partnership in my district and grateful for its 25 years of service to the people of Kane County. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the organization's staff, volunteers, supporters, and everyone who has contributed to its remarkable legacy.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) as they celebrate 75 years of serving students and communities across Northern Michigan.

Since opening its doors in 1951 as Michigan's first community college, NMC has provided generations of students with affordable, high-quality educational opportunities while helping meet the workforce needs of our region. For 75 years, NMC has strengthened Northern Michigan by preparing students for meaningful careers, supporting local employers, and creating opportunities for lifelong learning.

NMC has long demonstrated a commitment to innovation. As Michigan's first community college, NMC has continued to find new ways to serve students and employers alike. Today, the college offers a variety of employer-driven degrees, certificates, and workforce training programs. They lead important research through its Freshwater Research and Innovation Center and provide students with valuable hands-on learning opportunities.

NMC is also home to one of the Nation's premier aviation programs, where students can earn their private pilot licenses and continue on pathways toward commercial aviation careers. Its nationally recognized drone program is preparing the next generation of professionals to use unmanned aircraft systems in industries ranging from agriculture and infrastructure to public safety and environmental stewardship.

The College has also built strong partnerships with universities across Michigan, giving students the opportunity to earn bachelor's and select master's degrees while remaining in Traverse City. These partnerships expand access to higher education, keep talented students in Northern Michigan, and help meet the workforce needs of our communities.

For 75 years, NMC has remained committed to serving the people of Northern Michigan by expanding educational opportunities, strengthening our workforce, and investing in the future of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate Northwestern Michigan College on this significant milestone and thank its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters for 75 years of service to Northern Michigan. I wish them continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PEDRO RAMOS RIVERA FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private First Class Pedro Ramos Rivera, who honorably served in the United States Army

from February 5, 1951, to January 31, 1953, as a member of the 65th Infantry Regiment, Borinqueneers, assigned to the Medical Company, APO 468. He served during the Korean War and was recognized with the Korean Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge.

After his military service, he continued serving his community with dedication and integrity. He worked as a maintenance supervisor for a United States company established in Puerto Rico, where he contributed through hard work and strong leadership. He also gave his time to the Little League Baseball program in Country Club, the Angel Ramos League, volunteering his efforts to help children play the game and grow in a positive environment. Through both his work and volunteer service, he was a productive and respected example of citizenship in his community.

His service also reflects the proud legacy of the Borinqueneers, one of the most distinguished units in United States military history. He received the Borinqueneers 65th Infantry Regiment Congressional Gold Medal, a thank-you letter from the office of Senator RICK SCOTT, a Certificate of Recognition from CSM Anibal Arbertorio, an Ambassador for Peace Medal, a Return from Hell Patch, 3rd Division, a Letter of Bravery from Paula Stark, Florida House District 47, and recognition from me for his service.

Private First Class Ramos Rivera's military and community service stand as a lasting example of courage, sacrifice, leadership, and devotion to family, community, and country.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANNKATHERINE CARLOS

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman whose life embodies the values of duty, perseverance, and selfless service—Sergeant First Class Annkatherine Carlos of the United States Army.

Raised on the island of Guam, Sergeant First Class Carlos has carried the strength and spirit of our island with her throughout a distinguished military career spanning nearly two decades.

In 2006, shortly after graduating from high school, she made the decision to answer our Nation's call by enlisting in the United States Army.

Throughout her military service, Sergeant First Class Carlos has taken on increasingly demanding assignments across the globe. From South Korea to Iraq, from Qatar to Afghanistan, and today serving on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and professionalism in some of our Nation's most critical missions.

With every new assignment came greater responsibility. Whether serving overseas, supporting combat operations, or advising senior military leaders, she has consistently earned the trust of those around her.

She has supported Operations Iraqi Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation