

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's vote due to a lower back injury. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 285, and YEA on Roll Call No. 284.

HONORING THE LATE MATTYE PHILLIPS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mattye Phillips, a lifelong educator, community activist and the first Black Psychometrist (psychological tester) in the State of Florida.

Ms. Phillips began her teaching career at the age of 20. She taught French, English, Drama and Physical Education Theory. Ms. Phillips' career would expand to include the title of lecturer and trainer. She also focused her energy on working with youth through the Alternatives to Incarceration Program. Ms. Phillips worked tirelessly and dedicated her life to changing the lives of young people in the Second Chance Program.

Ms. Phillips drew her thirst for knowledge and her drive to help others from her father's belief that "lazy people walk," and from that day she always ran.

Ms. Phillips graduated high school at age 16. After graduation from high school, she attended Florida Agricultural Mechanical University (FAMU) where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Education Degree.

Please join me in honoring the late Mattye Phillips, a mother, teacher and nurturer, who dedicated her life to educating and guiding our youth in Miami-Dade County.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOS ABOGADOS

HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Los Abogados, Arizona's Hispanic Bar Association.

Founded in 1976 by Latino lawyers and law students, Los Abogados has spent five decades building community, creating opportunities, and advancing the interests of Arizona's Latino communities within the legal profession and beyond.

Today, Latinos comprise only approximately 2.5 to 3 percent of licensed attorneys in the United States. Through programming, mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement, Los Abogados works to address the systemic and cultural barriers that Latinos continue to encounter throughout their legal careers.

For 50 years, Los Abogados has remained steadfast in its commitment to diversity and inclusion, advocacy, and education. The Hispanic Bar Association actively promotes diversity within Arizona's legal and judicial professions. Supporting Latino lawyers and expanding their representation is essential to narrowing the significant representation gap and ensuring that our legal system better reflects the communities it serves.

Los Abogados' Civil Rights Committee supports the equitable and just application of civil rights, advocating for Arizona's Latino communities. The committee organizes "Continuing Legal Education" seminars to update legal professionals about current voting rights, civic engagement, and racial profiling positions. Additionally, Los Abogados hosts citizenship fairs, providing essential immigration resources and assistance to Arizonans.

As we commemorate this important milestone, we recognize Los Abogados for 50 years of service, advocacy, and leadership. I congratulate its members, past and present, and commend their enduring commitment to strengthening Arizona's legal community and ensuring greater access, representation, and opportunity for all.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Los Abogados on their 50th Anniversary.

HONORING JEFF MOLTER

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Jeff Molter MBA, MSN, CRNA. Mr. Molter will soon complete his term as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA). I am proud that Mr. Molter was elected as the 2025 to 2026 president of this prestigious healthcare organization, with a storied history in Ohio where the AANA was founded.

As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Jeff worked to support CRNAs across the country during his term. CRNAs are advanced practice registered nurses who administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year. They provide anesthesia in every healthcare setting, providing critical services to so many, particularly in rural and underserved communities. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals.

As an AANA member since 1997, Mr. Molter has contributed greatly to the healthcare community nationwide and in the great state of Ohio. As a (CRNA) for more than 25 years, he began his career at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland and has since worked across hospitals and surgery centers throughout Ohio. Mr. Molter's extensive involvement with the AANA spans decades and includes national roles as Vice President, Board of Directors and Region 6 Director. His work on AANA committees includes the State Organizational Development, Finance, Executive, Governance, and Nominating committees. Mr. Molter also has significant experience with Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists (OSANA) in-

cludes roles as President, President-elect, and Director; additional committee positions included OSANA State Government Relations, Communications, Finance, and Nominating committees.

In addition to his work as a CRNA, Mr. Molter is also an innovator. He is the co-creator of the Block Pro app along with fellow CRNA and business partner Scott Urigel. Mr. Molter is an alumni and guest lecturer for the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University. Mr. Molter earned his MBA degree from Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, his Master of Science degree in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, and his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

During his AANA presidency, Mr. Molter has been a strong advocate for the patients and practice of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. He has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system, and to help protect the profession for future generations.

I extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Molter today on a job well done. His service to AANA and commitment to safe, quality anesthesia care nationwide, and in the great state of Ohio, are highly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Molter's notable career and outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING 35 YEARS OF UZBEKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the Republic of Uzbekistan's independence and to celebrate the strong and growing relationship between Uzbekistan and the United States.

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has continued to pursue economic and social reforms while strengthening its relationships with the United States and other partners around the world. I commend President Mirziyoyev for his efforts to advance Uzbekistan's development and expand its role as a leader in Central Asia.

Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Uzbekistan have built an important partnership based on shared interests in regional security, economic development, trade, and stability.

Today, the United States and Uzbekistan continue to strengthen cooperation through their Strategic Partnership. Our two countries work together on regional security, counterterrorism, trade and investment, and critical minerals. Uzbekistan's strategic location and leadership in Central Asia make it an important partner as the United States works to promote stability and strengthen economic ties throughout the region.

Uzbekistan has also played an important role in the C5+1 diplomatic platform, which brings the United States together with the five Central Asian nations to advance regional cooperation, economic opportunity, and security.

These efforts demonstrate the continued importance of a strong relationship between our two countries.

I am proud to be a friend of Uzbekistan and congratulate President Mirziyoyev and the Uzbek people as they celebrate 35 years of independence. I look forward to the continued growth of the friendship and partnership between the United States and Uzbekistan.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF MOUNT OLIVETTE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary celebration of Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church, a historic landmark in Miami, Florida's Overtown community.

The church was founded by the late Reverend S.A. Sampson on October 12, 1912, in the home of Reverend Sampson's brother, Nathaniel Sampson. Nathaniel Sampson is listed as one of the pioneers of the church along with Julia Dean, Remalia Ellis, Richard Johnson, Francis Smith, Albert Taylor and Ellen Ward. Reverend Sampson's 16-year-old daughter Irene Sampson was the recording secretary.

The congregation later moved to Mrs. Powell's schoolhouse on Avenue G and Woods Street, which is now Northwest 11th Street and 2nd Avenue. The church bell would ring from a pine tree to alert the congregation and the community about Sunday services, deaths and funerals.

In 1915, Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church relocated to its present site, at 1450 Northwest 1st Court. The church is now under the leadership of Reverend Franklin R. Clark, who was installed on August 12, 1979.

Since its founding in 1912, Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church has served as a cornerstone of the community. From humble beginnings, to one of the most respected churches in Miami's Overtown community, Mount Olivette continues to inspire and positively impact our community, through its spiritual, educational, cultural and social programs.

I am honored to pay tribute to Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates its 100th anniversary and a century of dedication and commitment to its members and Miami's Overtown community.

RECOGNIZING BERNADETTE BASCOM ON BEING AN EXCEPTIONAL MUSICIAN GIVING BACK

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bernadette Bascom, a native daughter of Baltimore who has dedicated her life to the performance of music and the education of young people.

She has used her God-given talents to entertain countless Americans and to help those with special needs find their voice, and next month, her adopted home of Bothell, Washington will recognize October 11 as Bernadette Bascom Day.

Bernadette was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1962, the daughter of Lutherine Bascom, a music teacher, and one of Baltimore's greatest civil rights leaders, Rev. Marion C. Bascom of Douglas Memorial Community Church.

Rev. Bascom was a giant in the movement, marching alongside Dr. King, helping integrate Gwynn Oak Amusement Park, and serving as Baltimore's first Black fire commissioner. Rev. and Mrs. Bascom raised their daughter to share their values of justice, service, and the right of all people to dignity and respect.

Bernadette gravitated to music as a girl, with her mother sneaking her to rehearsals while Rev. Bascom insisted that she focus on her education. She began her career on the air as a disc jockey and a vocalist, but her big break came when she received an invitation to go on tour with The People's Choice.

Bernadette toured the West Coast that summer and, while in Seattle, fell in love with Washington State and decided to stay. She established herself in the local funk scene, touring the state with bands like Epicenter and Acapulco Gold.

While in Washington, she re-connected with a friend she had made while attending a Stevie Wonder concert in high school—Stevie Wonder himself. She had never sung for him, but after she sent him a recording of her voice, Stevie insisted that she become the first artist to sign onto his record label, Black Bull Music Inc.

From there, Bernadette's successful musical career accelerated, and she shared a stage with acclaimed musicians like Lenny Williams and Elton John. In 1981, she released her trademark single, "Seattle Sunshine/I Don't Wanna Lose Your Love," bringing her to a new pinnacle of fame.

Over the next several decades, Bernadette solidified herself as a working performer of the highest caliber. She spent over 15 years in Las Vegas, co-starring in the Divine Divas, and spent a decade performing with the Supremes at the Motown Café in New York.

In 2004, Bernadette made a career change and transitioned from the stage to the classroom. She helped launch the Music Project in Washington's Northshore School District, a program building an inclusive space in the world of music for kids with special needs.

In the years since, Bernadette has shepherded hundreds of young people through the program, using music to help them find their voice while imbuing them with self-esteem, life skills, and confidence. The program was so successful. Bernadette has worked with Microsoft to build the "SPEAK! Music As Language" app, bringing her multisensory teaching methods to the world.

In addition to her work with the Music Project, Bernadette is a professor of performance and voice at Northwest University. When she joined the university, she donated music manuals and songbooks worth over \$10,000 to the school library, and she has since provided vocal training to hundreds of NU students.

Bernadette has received numerous accolades and awards over the years, including a 2013 Emmy Award for a documentary about

the Music Project entitled "Bernadette's Touch." No doubt, more than any of the acclaim she has received, it is the impact that she has had on young people that brings Bernadette the most joy.

Mr. Speaker, Bernadette Bascom has lived a life devoted to creating art and serving others. She has helped countless young Americans embrace their voices and find joy in music, and she has more than earned the plaudits that she has received over her career. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to her.

HONORING CHIEF FRANK CLAEYS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GAYLORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Chief Frank Claeys on his retirement after twenty-nine years of selfless service to the City of Gaylord Police Department.

Chief Claeys began his career with the Gaylord Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1996 before joining the department as a full-time Patrol Officer in the following year. As a testament to his enduring commitment to duty and exceptional leadership, Chief Claeys was promoted to Sergeant in 2013 and later appointed Chief of Police in 2019. At every stage of his career, he exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement, earning the respect of his fellow officers and the trust of his community through his integrity, professionalism, and steadfast dedication to public service.

As Chief of Police, Frank strengthened the Gaylord Police Department through meaningful initiatives that will benefit the community for many years to come. Under his leadership, the department reinstated participation in the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, added a K-9 unit, enhanced departmental equipment, and recruited and mentored a new generation of law enforcement officers. His leadership has ensured the department remains well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of the community while fostering a culture of compassion, excellence, and commitment to service.

Whether working alongside fellow officers, partnering with community organizations, or assisting residents in times of need, he consistently demonstrated kindness, humility, and a deep sense of duty. His ability to build lasting relationships strengthened not only the Gaylord Police Department but the entire Gaylord community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Chief Frank Claeys for his nearly three decades of honorable service and steadfast dedication to the people of Gaylord. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and thank him for his enduring commitment to keeping our communities safe.