

Investment Committee and chief author of the legislation, she helped deliver a historic \$2.6 billion capital investment package supporting critical infrastructure for communities across Minnesota.

Beyond her legislative accomplishments, Senator Pappas has devoted considerable time and energy to public policy and community service. In 2011, she co-founded Forward Global Women, a nonprofit organization that convenes and trains women leaders from Middle Eastern and North African countries and the United States to step into public leadership positions and build the next generation of women peacemakers. She also taught public policy at Metropolitan State University for 20 years. She earned her bachelor's degree in public policy from Metropolitan State University and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government as a Bush Fellow. Throughout her career, Senator Pappas has exemplified a steadfast commitment to public service, human rights, equality, and expanding opportunities for women to lead.

It has been an honor to know and work with Senator Pappas. When I was first elected to the Minnesota House in 1992, Sandy was already a force in the state legislature. Over the years, our paths took us in different directions. I eventually went to Congress, while Sandy continued her work in the Minnesota Senate. But we never stopped working together because we both care deeply about the communities we have the privilege to represent. I had the pleasure of working with her on many projects for Saint Paul that brought together local, state, and federal government, including the historic Union Depot. Her legislative expertise, dedication to Saint Paul, and commitment to public service have made her a trusted partner and friend. She leaves public service having made Saint Paul and Minnesota stronger.

I am grateful for Sandy's friendship and for all she has done for our communities. I wish her, her husband Neal, their three children, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren all the best in this next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Senator Sandy Pappas on the occasion of her retirement after 42 years of distinguished public service in the Minnesota Legislature.

RECOGNIZING JOE A. GONZALEZ
(JAG) FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nueces County Commissioner Joe A. Gonzalez (JAG) for his decades of public service and contributions to the people of Nueces County.

Commissioner Gonzalez has devoted more than four decades to serving his community and country. His career began in law enforcement and criminal justice, where he served as a Corpus Christi Police Officer, Texas State Parole Officer, and the United States Department of Justice. He later served as Nueces County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1, before becoming Nueces County Commissioner for Precinct No. 2 in 2011.

Throughout his tenure at the county, Gonzalez focused on expanding opportunity and improving quality of life. As Justice of the Peace, he helped establish the Truancy Reduction Alternative Program Solutions, an initiative focused on early intervention, education, and helping young people succeed. He later established the Joe A. Gonzalez (JAG) Education Is Our Freedom GED College Scholarship Program, which has helped thousands of local students pursue higher education.

As a Nueces County Commissioner, Gonzalez worked to improve healthcare access, veterans' services, rural infrastructure, public transportation, education, and community development. He helped establish Veterans Memorial Courtyards in the Agua Dulce, Banquete, and Bishop communities creating permanent places to honor those who served our Nation. He also worked to improve drainage, wastewater systems, and colonia infrastructure, while expanding access to healthcare services in underserved rural communities.

Additionally, Gonzalez served six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and twelve years in the United States Air Force Reserve. His dedication to both his country and community reflects a lifetime of commitment to others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Joe A. Gonzalez (JAG), Nueces County Commissioner, on his remarkable career and thank him for his commitment to the people of Nueces County and South Texas.

RECOGNIZING PHILIP C. SNEED

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Philip C. Sneed for his extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities as he retires after nearly 14 years as President and CEO.

Philip Sneed's connection to the Arvada Center spans nearly its entire 50-year history. At 17, he received his first paycheck from the Arvada Center for a role in its inaugural theatre season. After a distinguished career in the arts in both Colorado and California, Philip returned to Arvada to lead the very institution where his artistic journey began—bringing his career full circle.

During his tenure, Philip became the longest-serving leader in the Arvada Center's history. His leadership helped guide the organization through some of its most significant milestones and challenges, including its transition from a City of Arvada entity to an independent nonprofit organization. He also helped the Center endure the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, ensuring that this treasured cultural institution remained strong during a time when communities could not gather in person. Philip has worked to make the Arvada Center a more welcoming and inclusive place, one where all people feel they belong and where the arts can be experienced by everyone in our community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to recog-

nize Philip C. Sneed and thank him for his contribution to our community.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL
BASEBALL TEAM

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Grapevine High School Baseball Team. The Grapevine Mustangs Baseball Team clinched their second consecutive state title at the UIL 5A Division II State Championship in Round Rock, Texas. With a 9–5 victory over Humble Kingwood Park High School, the Mustangs became the first UIL 5A team to go back-to-back since 2003.

Throughout the season, the team displayed incredible resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship representing North Texas well. With the strong leadership of Head Coach Jimmy Webster, Grapevine finished with an impressive 36–3 record and ranked number 1 in the Texas High School Coaches Association Rankings.

The Mustangs' hard-fought championship run is more than just a victory on a field, it is a testament to their dedication and commitment. I congratulate the players, coaches, and families on this unforgettable season. The Grapevine High School Mustangs Baseball Team has given us in Texas-24 something to celebrate.

HONORING NEW HOPE BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished church in my District, New Hope Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as it approaches eight decades of worship, discipleship, and service to the Eden Park community and the greater Baton Rouge area.

The New Hope Baptist Church, with its seating capacity of two hundred, was organized on North 46th Street on Sunday, September 28, 1947, under the leadership of the late Reverend J.S. Wicks, with approximately fifty members who ventured in faith to make an impact on the community and together secured governmental services and educational resources beneficial to Eden Park. New Hope grew numerically and spiritually with Church Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, evangelistic efforts, and the formation of the Adult Music Ministry, while musicals, culinary endeavors, and trips to beaches garnered funds to meet needs.

Pastor Wicks served as the under-shepherd for twenty-nine years, and then, in the spirit of love, Dr. Leo Daniel Cyrus, Sr., was installed as the church's second pastor on the fourth Sunday, August 22, 1976. The first Children's Choir was formed, Bible study began, the usher ministries increased, and the deaconess ministry was organized.

Under his leadership, New Hope experienced significant spiritual and numerical growth, and as a consequence of spirit-led sermons and worship experiences the North 46th Street sanctuary could no longer accommodate the increasing numbers. Pastor Cyrus and a Relocation Committee explored several sites before the majority selected a site on Greenwell Springs Road, where construction began in 1985 with relocation and dedication services held in 1988. The church later expanded its facilities with the Hope Center and continued its involvement in education, youth development, and community service.

In 2025, Reverend Samuel Calvin Lofton, Jr., was elected as the third pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, succeeding Dr. Cyrus, who became Pastor Emeritus after nearly forty-nine years of service, and today the membership continues to strive to keep the vision of the church and its longstanding mission of worship, fellowship, ministry, evangelism, discipleship, and service to the Baton Rouge community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending New Hope Baptist Church for nearly eighty years of faithful service, and in wishing its pastor and congregation continued blessings in the years to come.

HONORING THE LIVES AND LEGACIES OF CORNELIUS ALLEN BOTTOMLEY, JR. AND JOHN WILLIAM HUGHAN

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Cornelius Allen Bottomley, Jr., known to everyone who loved him as Allen, and his nephew, John William Hughan. It is fitting that we remember them here together, because that is how their family holds them in their hearts.

Allen Bottomley, of Hanover, Massachusetts, passed away on September 13, 2024, at the age of 54, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on December 18, 1969, in Boston to the late Dorothy Warnock Bottomley and Cornelius Allen Bottomley, Sr. He graduated from Plymouth-Carver High School in 1988, earned his bachelor's degree in computer science from Bucknell University in 1993, and completed his Master of Business Administration at the F.W. Olin School of Business at Babson College in 2000.

Allen's strong work ethic showed up in everything he did, at home and on the job. After Bucknell, he spent six years working alongside his father, Neil, as Director of Operations for their company, Evaluation Associates, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. After earning his MBA, Allen served for a short time as a financial analyst at Send.com in Waltham before beginning a twelve-year run at Fidelity Investments' Boston Coach, where he held many positions and rose to Senior Vice President of Strategic Operations Analysis. Beginning in 2015, he brought that same steadiness to Granite Telecommunications in Quincy, where he served as Vice President of Treasury and Financial Operations.

Mr. Speaker, the résumé tells you what Allen did. It does not tell you who he was.

Allen was known for his quick wit, his boisterous laugh, his kind heart, his brilliant mind, and a fierce loyalty to family and friends. He chose to surround himself with genuine, trustworthy, and intelligent people. He loved boating on Cape Cod, skiing in Vermont, and sitting contentedly at home with his family in front of a beautiful fire.

Allen cooked and carved the turkey on Thanksgiving. He chose and cut down the family Christmas tree each December. He offered sage advice to family and friends, and he managed to fix anything and everything that broke around the house. Those are small things, and they are the things families hold onto.

Allen is survived by Jane (Connolly) Bottomley, his wife of 26 years, and their two children, Cornelius Haraden Bottomley, III, known as Haraden, and McKenzie Jane Bottomley. He was immensely proud of all three, and he loved watching his son and daughter grow into the amazing young adults they are today. Jane is quick to admit that the first thing that drew the two of them to one another was their ability to make each other laugh, and that laughter grew into a deep love, a deep respect, and an uncomplicated happiness rooted in simply being together. His family has said that Allen's ultimate goal was their happiness, and that they intend to keep trying to succeed and make him proud. Mr. Speaker, I cannot think of a better tribute to a husband and a father than that.

Allen also leaves behind his sister, Allison Bottomley Hughan, his brother-in-law, Peter, and his niece, Emmeline, of Norwell, Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his nephew, John.

John William Hughan was taken from his family far too soon. He was born in Boston and lived in South Boston until he was five years old. He moved to Norwell, where he attended the William Gould Vinal Elementary School and took up new sports, the trumpet, and Cub Scout Pack 66. He went on to Norwell Middle School, where he worked hard to excel academically.

John had a natural talent for music. He worked at the trumpet for years, and he was selected for the Massachusetts Music Education Association Southeastern District Honor Band and the Southeastern Massachusetts School Bandmasters Association Honor Band in both seventh and eighth grade, along with the Bridgewater State Middle School Honor Band in those same two years. He was a member of the United Church of Christ Norwell, where he had taken part in the music program since he was five years old, starting in Cherub Chimes, moving on to the bells in Rockin' Rings, and eventually performing trumpet solos. He had just completed his confirmation, and over the years he took part in numerous service events. John loved every genre of music, and his family often caught him singing or humming along to a song.

John was an athlete, too. He played club lacrosse with the Laxachusetts program beginning in third grade and was looking forward to joining his Laxachusetts 2028 team and the Norwell High School team. His love of soccer grew in seventh grade, and he had just started tryouts at Norwell High School, excited to play alongside his classmates. He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 38 in Hanover, Massachusetts, where he had recently achieved his Life Rank and was working toward becoming an

Eagle Scout. For his Eagle project, he wanted to build an outdoor classroom at Norwell Middle School.

John spent his summers on Cape Cod, and he spent most of those days on the water. He raced Optis for many summers and made friends at yacht clubs across the Cape. He had started sailing 420s and was looking forward to racing more the next summer with his friends at Chatham Yacht Club. He spent many hours on the golf course, and his game improved to the point that his goal was to beat his dad. Weekends were often family days on the powerboat, heading over to Hyannis, to Nantucket, or just putting around Bass River. He almost always had a smile.

Mr. Speaker, John was a conversationalist. He could talk with anyone and would talk with anyone, and from an early age he believed everyone wanted to talk with him. He was curious and full of questions. He was the kind of friend who would try to make you laugh, make you feel heard, and make you feel important. His friends and classmates describe him as kind, always with a smile.

John was a wonderful big brother. He was proud of his sister Emmeline's accomplishments, watched her sporting events, cheered her on from the sailing racecourse, and beamed when she succeeded. He was forever trying to improve her lacrosse game, talk through sailing strategy, and battle it out with her in the front yard playing soccer. They had a special bond and a real reliance on each other. He was a remarkable son, too. His mother hugged him every day, sometimes having to chase him out the door to be sure she got her hug.

Mr. Speaker, Allen Bottomley's greatest accomplishments were being a father, a husband, a son, a brother, an uncle, a brother-in-law, and a friend, and his happiest moments were the ones he spent with his family. John Hughan will be remembered for how hard he worked at everything he tried, for the kindness that came through in everything he did, and for his compassion toward his friends and family. Both of them will be missed beyond words.

On the two-year anniversary of their passing, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the lives and legacies of Cornelius Allen Bottomley, Jr., and John William Hughan, and in keeping the Bottomley and Hughan families in our thoughts. May God continue to bless and watch over their souls.

HONORING COACH MICKEY LINDSEY

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true Northwest Florida legend, Coach Mickey Lindsey, as Pace High School will dedicate its football field in his honor on Friday, September 4, 2026.

For generations of students and families in Pace, Coach Lindsey has represented far more than football and his impact reached far beyond the scoreboard.

Coach Lindsey understood that the lessons learned through athletics, hard work, and commitment could shape young people for the rest