

Sybrina has carried this mission into every space available to her, speaking to communities, students, and policymakers across the country about the toll of gun violence and the resilience required to survive it. She co-authored "Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin," bringing her family's story and her ongoing advocacy to an even wider audience, and she has continued to show up, year after year, for mothers who never asked to join this circle but found strength in it nonetheless.

Sybrina has often said that losing her son forced her to stand up rather than stay on her knees, and that spirit runs through everything the Circle of Mothers represents: turning unimaginable grief into a source of strength for others. Her willingness to keep opening that circle to new mothers, again and again, has made her one of the most enduring voices in this country's fight against gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sybrina Fulton for her advocacy through the Circle of Mothers, and for the healing and hope she has extended to mothers across this Nation who have suffered as she has.

RECOGNIZING CESAR ALVAREZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Cesar Alvarez, an outstanding leader in law, civic advocacy, and an inspiring member of my community. His longstanding commitment to justice and leadership in the Cuba-American community has culminated today in his recognition by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce in awarding him the "Sand in My Shoes Award."

Originally from Havana, Cuba, Cesar exemplifies what it means to pursue and live out the American dream. His father, Licinio Alvarez, played a pivotal role in his upbringing, both in making the decision to pursue a life in Miami and instilling the importance of hard work and community involvement. With these values driven into him at a young age, it is no surprise Cesar chose one of the most rigorous and demanding career paths available in our Nation: law. In 1973 Cesar began his life's work at Greenberg Traurig as an associate. Throughout his time at the firm, he has been involved in nationally recognized cases, taking Greenberg Traurig time and again to new heights.

Notably, Cesar has worked on cases that have significantly impacted the Cuban American community. During the Cuban Rafter Crisis in 1994, Cesar led a legal challenge against the government stance that Guantanamo was not U.S. territory. This involved seeking representation for those being detained and those that were denied asylum protection. This case served as essential legal precedent that influenced future policies regarding detainment at Guantanamo Bay, a reality which continues to this day.

Perhaps the most recognizable of these victories includes his work in bringing justice to the families of the "Brothers to the Rescue." This horrific attack in 1996 resulting in the death of four unarmed American pilots tore

through Miami's Cuban-American community; an attack perpetrated by the Castro regime in cold blood. Cuban MiGs shot down two aircraft operated by "Brothers to the Rescue," seeking to save the lives of countless Cuban men and women crossing the Straits of Florida and forced into exile by the Cuban regime. Alongside Frank Angones, Cesar fought for justice for the pilots through U.S. anti-terrorism laws. While successful in their heroic efforts, they encountered challenges upon attempting to collect the damages from the Cuban regime from the wrongful death suit, *Alejandro v. Republic of Cuba* 1999. This galvanized congressional action aiming to increase pressure for democratic change in Cuba, leading to the introduction and passage of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act in 1996, an act for which my dear brother Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart and close friend Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen each provided critical support. This marked a singular moment in history for the Cuban American community, and Cesar's contributions were monumental.

Similarly, Cesar played a pivotal role in the legal dispute between George W. Bush and Al Gore in 2000. He was contacted by Florida Governor Jeb Bush's legal team personally and ultimately approved of the firm's participation in this case. He worked to ensure Greenberg Traurig remained neutral and provided bipartisan representation. This case was essential in Greenberg Traurig's growth, opening the door for high profile cases, and placing them among other major players in the legal world.

In clear acknowledgment of his historic contributions, Cesar ascended to CEO and President of Greenberg Traurig in 1997, leading the firm from these to become an internationally recognized organization with thousands of attorneys. Today, the heart of the firm remains in Miami, with Cesar serving as Senior Chairman, where it not only provides its legal services but contributes to the community by providing leadership and financial support to numerous local and national charitable organizations. Whether in law or in service to our community, Cesar Alvarez remains a singular figure in our Cuban-American community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize my close friend Cesar Alvarez. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable career and achievements. His work has truly shaped the Miami community, and his leadership has left a significant impact.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JANE GARCIA

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Garcia as she retires from La Clínica de La Raza.

Jane has worked tirelessly to serve the East Bay community through her role as the Chief Executive Officer of La Clínica. Since beginning her role in 1982, Jane has led La Clínica in providing culturally sensitive care to over 86,000 patients throughout the East Bay.

Jane has been a steadfast proponent for accessible, culturally competent, community-focused health care. She has helped thousands of patients in navigating the health care sys-

tem and has worked diligently to build La Clínica into what it is today. She fostered strong partnerships with providers like Kaiser Permanente, allowing La Clínica to reach underserved communities. Under her leadership, La Clínica has not only become a major asset to communities in need of accessible health care, but it also helps to enroll patients in Medicaid and other insurance programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jane facilitated programs at La Clínica that helped patients re-enroll in health care after their coverage had expired, delivered meals to families in quarantine, and helped people find resources so that they were able to keep their homes. Furthermore, in 1997 she took then-California Governor Pete Wilson's administration to court for defunding Medi-Cal prenatal care for undocumented immigrant women—and she won. She also serves on various boards such as The California Endowment, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and Oakland Thrives, and she served a remarkable three-year term as President of the California Primary Care Association. Through working on the ground with patients and navigating policy, she has been a fierce advocate for historically marginalized communities and has been a true leader in protecting and promoting public health throughout the Bay Area.

Jane's commitment to community health has earned her numerous awards, including the Equal Rights Advocates award, the YMCA Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Prize for Human Dignity and Brotherhood award, and the National Association of Community Health Centers 2010 Betsey Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. She has also been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, as well as the Women's Hall of Fame by the Contra Costa Commission for Women, and was recognized as one of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health's 75 Influential Alumni.

Jane's leadership has been integral to providing quality health care to marginalized communities around the Bay Area, and her stellar commitment to service has left a lasting impact on countless individuals. Please join me in congratulating Jane Garcia on her retirement after her four decades of service to our region.

HONORING STEVE BASSETT FOR 60 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO VIRGINIA MUSIC

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Bassett, an accomplished musician, songwriter and proud Virginian, who for 60 years has made extraordinary contributions to the Commonwealth's musical heritage.

For six decades, Steve has helped shape Virginia's musical heritage through his songwriting, performances and commitment to the arts. His career has taken him to stages across Virginia and beyond, sharing music that reflects the people, places and spirit of the Commonwealth.

Among Steve's most enduring contributions is "Sweet Virginia Breeze," which he co-wrote with Robbin Thompson. Beloved by generations of Virginians, the song celebrates the

natural beauty and history that define our Commonwealth. In 2015, the Virginia General Assembly designated "Sweet Virginia Breeze" as Virginia's official popular state song, ensuring that Steve's contribution to Virginia's musical legacy will endure for generations to come.

On October 10, 2026, friends, fellow musicians, and members of the community will gather at the Perkinson Center for the Arts and Education in Chester, Virginia, for "Steve Bassett: 60 Years in Music." The celebration will look back on Steve's remarkable career through music and storytelling while also looking ahead by highlighting the next generation of Virginia artists.

Steve's legacy extends beyond any single song or performance. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated the important role artists play in telling the stories of our communities, preserving our shared culture and bringing people together. His six decades of artistry represent an extraordinary contribution to Virginia's rich musical tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steve Bassett on 60 years in music and thanking him for his lasting contributions to the arts and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I wish him continued success as he celebrates this remarkable milestone.

HONORING BENJAMIN CRUMP

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as Chair of the U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, on the occasion of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, where we gathered to officially cut the ribbon for the Commission and to honor the memory of young Black boys who were murdered, and the parents who continue to carry their sons' legacies forward. It is in that spirit that I pay tribute to Attorney Benjamin Crump, who spent his career confronting the disparities Black men and boys face in our criminal justice system, our schools, our hospitals, and our workplaces.

For nearly two decades, families who had nowhere else to turn have turned to him. As founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law, he has stood beside the families of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Stephon Clark, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, and he has fought for the residents of Flint, Michigan, in their long battle for clean water. He carried the case for reparations on behalf of the family of Henrietta Lacks. As this panel's participants share the pain of losing a child and the fight that grief has demanded of them, Mr. Crump is not hearing their stories for the first time—he has lived alongside families carrying that exact weight for most of his career.

What sets his work apart is that it rarely ends with verdicts alone. Time and again, he has taken the outcome of a single case and pushed it further, turning accountability for one family into policy that protects others—legislation restricting excessive use of force and requiring implicit bias training within law enforcement agencies. He understands, in other

words, how an individual family's tragedy becomes the basis for the very kind of systemic reform this Commission was created to recommend.

That commitment to building something lasting extends beyond any single case. Mr. Crump founded and directs the Benjamin Crump Social Justice Institute, and in 2023, St Thomas University's College of Law in Miami was renamed the Benjamin L. Crump College of Law in his honor—the first law school in the country named for a practicing Black attorney. It is that same investment in the next generation, and in turning individual pain into lasting institutions, that he brings to this panel today: a chance to ensure the stories shared by our families are not simply heard, but translated into the policy recommendations this Commission is charged with delivering.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Benjamin Crump for his extraordinary contributions to civil rights and social justice, and for lending his voice and his experience to this vital conversation on behalf of Black men and boys across America.

HONORING AUTUMN MORLEY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the honorable and decades-long career in public service of my Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Autumn Morley.

While Autumn started her education at Davidson College in North Carolina, an internship in Washington, D.C. so impacted her, that she chose to transfer to George Washington University, where she graduated summa cum laude with majors in political science and religion. In 2004, she received her J.D. from Emory University School of Law and Masters of Theological Studies from Emory's Candler School of Theology. That same year, she joined the Florida Bar.

Autumn began her career on Capitol Hill as a Staff Assistant in the office of Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart in 2005. However, it was in 2008 in her role as Legislative Assistant that Autumn would begin to hone her knowledge and skills in defense of democracy and on behalf of those suffering under repression. Taking charge of the Congressman's Cuba and foreign policy portfolios, Autumn began to lay the groundwork for her near-unparalleled expertise on Capitol Hill in the fight for freedom; a fight not only in our Nation or our hemisphere, but across the globe. Following her years of dedicated work as a Legislative Assistant, Autumn was later promoted to Legislative Director.

In 2011, following Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart's retirement, I had the immense privilege of having Autumn join my team as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor. Once again, our community in South Florida was afforded the opportunity to have the best and brightest at the helm of our freedom agenda. Overseeing Cuba and Western Hemisphere affairs more broadly, democracy promotion, and the work in opposition to Communism, Autumn became an asset not only to my office

or community in Miami, but she also became the preeminent expert in the fight for freedom for offices across Capitol Hill. Never seeking after credit, accolades, or praise, Autumn was for years an unsung hero on Capitol Hill, fighting for democracy and for the human rights of men and women she will likely never meet.

Among her many contributions, Autumn was critical in drafting pro-freedom language for numerous appropriations bills, in preparing floor statements and other speeches, and always worked hand in glove with my entire team and committee staff in facilitating the passage of key legislation. Throughout the years, Autumn was clear in her convictions, unwavering in her commitment and hard work, and perpetually delivered for our community with humility and grace.

For this and so much more, I wish to express my deepest gratitude on behalf of myself, our team, and our district for the 21 years of steadfast service Autumn has given to our community and her resolute dedication to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong public servant, a dear friend, and a true patriot, Autumn has been instrumental in our team. Autumn now begins a new chapter, as she retires from public service. I am grateful for the time that she has graciously given to serve our community, state and country. She is a source of great pride to us all, including her husband, Michael, and her two sons, Zachary and Nicholas. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of this outstanding individual.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. KENT LEE SACK

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Dr. Kent Lee Sack.

Kent was born in Hettinger, North Dakota, on January 13, 1935. He earned his degree with honor from North Dakota State University where he studied pharmacology. Kent returned to his alma mater later to help build the university's master's program before he went on to medical school at Northwestern University. After medical school, Kent relocated to California where he completed an internship at Orange County General Hospital and later, a family medicine residency at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center.

Kent was then drafted into the Navy where he accepted a Marine Corps assignment and served with the First Marine Division in Vietnam. During this time, Kent served as an anesthesiologist, surgeon, and medical troubleshooter, reactivating a Marine Corps MASH unit. For his service in the Marine Corps, Kent was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Following his military service, Kent continued to demonstrate his commitment to promoting public health and quality care. He returned to California where he completed a pediatric residency at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center and later returned to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center. Kent was a firm believer that everyone deserved to be