

to the rank of senior master sergeant, she continued her service by becoming a commissioned Army officer, ultimately retiring as a captain in the Medical Service Corps.

Throughout her distinguished career, Captain Moone deployed in Operation Desert Storm, served overseas in Korea, and led soldiers as a medical company commander. Her service has been recognized with numerous honors, including: the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Moone represents the very best of the Space Coast: selfless, resilient, and devoted to something greater than herself. Our Nation is stronger because of her service, and Brevard County is proud to call her one of our own.

HONORING LUIS FRANCISCO RAMOS RAMIREZ

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez who has been selected as January's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Mr. Ramos Ramirez proudly served our Nation in the United States Army, answering the call of duty during a critical moment in our history. He served in Vietnam where he conducted reconnaissance missions, some of the most dangerous and demanding assignments in combat. He served honorably, even volunteered to remain in Vietnam for additional time, demonstrating his extraordinary courage and selflessness.

For his service, Mr. Ramos Ramirez earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, Two Bronze Service Stars, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal, decorations that reflect both his valor and his sacrifice.

Like so many of our veterans, his legacy extends beyond the uniform. His commitment to protecting our freedoms remind us that the liberties we enjoy today were secured by Americans willing to put country before self.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Space Coast and a grateful Nation, I thank Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez for his service, his sacrifice, and his example of leadership.

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RECOGNIZING BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH AND PASTOR HORACE SANDERS, JR.

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and salute the dynamic faith community of Bethesda Baptist Church in New Rochelle as they welcome their new pastor, Reverend Horace Sanders, Jr., and his wife, Lady Katrina Sanders, to the pulpit. Bethesda Baptist will be celebrating this month over installation weekend, highlighted by a congregational celebration gala on Friday night, January 16.

The faithful of Bethesda have given God the glory for over 138 years, since

1888, with weekly Sunday services, Friday morning prayer line, Wednesday Bible study, programs for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a food pantry for the needy and hungry, and programs targeted to the youth of the community.

Pastor-elect Sanders served for over a decade at Mount Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Schenectady and previously in Peekskill. His energetic leadership was on display last week when Bethesda hosted Watch Night services, joined by two other New Rochelle congregations. Reverend Sanders' sermon "Leave the Baggage Behind" was a perfect theme to start the new year and his new responsibilities at Bethesda.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome him and Lady Katrina to New Rochelle from the floor of the House of Representatives, and I look forward to his many contributions in the days to come.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF C. NATHAN EDWERS

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Archbishop C. Nathan Edwers, spiritual leader and senior pastor at Friendship Worship Center in Mount Vernon as he celebrates his 65th birthday this month. His congregates, friends, and admirers will gather that weekend for a festive event in his honor, and we join in that recognition for a man of God who has been a leader in the community inside and outside of his church.

Bishop Edwers holds a number of academic degrees, including a doctorate from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He began his ministry in 1983 and came from Brooklyn to Mount Vernon in 1989 to lead the Friendship Worship community. He has grown the church dynamically with outreach to embrace a large presence in the Mount Veteran community with the religious vision for worship, prayer, Bible study, and a community vision for services to the youth, seniors, and those in need with food delivery, after-school and summer programs, a warming center for the homeless, foster family services, and more.

Bishop Edwers has held numerous positions in the church organization, also in the Masons, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, and as a founder and leader of the United Black Clergy of Westchester County. He has done all of this with his wife, Aro Denise Edwers, as his life partner, and all of this was done in a mere 65 years.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Bishop Edwers from the floor of the House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING SHORELINE PUBLISHING

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, in a world where local newspapers and radio stations are disappearing, it is valuable to recognize and salute those organizations that are continuing to provide information about our local communities' life and times.

In Westchester County we owe a public debt of gratitude to Shoreline Pub-

lishing, which serves the people of southern Westchester with five community newspapers; a countywide Jewish monthly newspaper; and a full-color quarterly magazine, Westchester Women.

Under the leadership of president and publisher Edward Shapiro, Shoreline provides an information lifeline across our towns with the Pelham Post, the Bronxville Bulletin, the Harrison Herald, the Larchmont Ledger—as you can see, alliteration still has its appeal—and the New Rochelle Review.

Editors Cynthia Pena and Joyce Farrell ensure timely local news reaches the readers in each community, as well as the readers of Westchester Jewish Life, which is always available in the local synagogues and temples. Other key Shoreline executives round out the local team, including Lauren Levine and Mary DeYoung.

I thank Shoreline Publishing from the floor of the House of Representatives for continuing to keep local news at the forefront of our hometowns.

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HONORING DR. CALVIN BAKER

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor my friend Dr. Calvin Baker, an education giant in our community who sadly passed away on December 26 of this past year.

It is nearly impossible to put into words what Cal meant to our community. I am so sorry for Nancy's loss. Cal Baker was a truly devoted husband, father, friend, and a transformational leader in public education.

For 32 years, Cal served as superintendent of the Vail School District dedicating his life to students, educators, and families across southern Arizona. During his tenure, Cal pioneered K-12 education in Arizona, guiding Vail's growth from fewer than 400 students to nearly 14,000 students by the time he retired in 2020. His legacy lives on through the Calvin Baker Leadership Center, a lasting tribute to his service and vision.

Cal is remembered for his strength, his wisdom, his faith, and deep love for his family and his community. Throughout his entire health battle, he kept a positive attitude and always, always had a smile to give. Though he is no longer with us, his impact will be felt for generations.

In a loving message, his family described Cal as a man of "grit and perseverance," words that perfectly capture his life's work and his heart, as well.

Laura and I were honored to know Cal and are heartbroken by his passing. We are keeping his lifelong bride, Nancy, the love of his life; their family; and all who loved in him in our prayers.

We lost one of the greats. We thank Cal. May my friend rest in peace.

## HONORING STUART “STU” CARTER

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stuart “Stu” Carter, a veteran, a pillar of the Sierra Vista community, and a friend to so many, who sadly passed away in November of 2025.

Stu Carter exemplified a life of service. He was a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel. He dedicated more than 45 years to military and Federal service. Even after retiring, Stu continued giving back, combining his passion for cycling with a deep commitment to supporting fellow veterans.

In 2017, Stu founded VeloVets Sierra Vista, a nonprofit that provides disabled veterans with adaptive bicycles and a supportive community to help them regain mobility and also connection. Laura and I were honored to ride with Stu and the VeloVets in 2024 and again this past December for the inaugural Stu Carter Memorial Ride held in his honor.

Through VeloVets, Stu became a vital resource for veterans living with physical injuries and PTSD. He also served as the President of Cochise Bicycle Advocates, helping secure grants that brought dozens of bikes, bike racks, and bicycles to Sierra Vista and improved cycling safety and accessibility.

Beyond cycling, Stu served numerous organizations, including the Air Force Association of Arizona, the Sierra Vista Commission on Disability Issues, the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery Foundation, and the Volunteer Interfaith Caregiving Program. He is remembered for his compassion, organization, and tireless dedication to others, as well.

Stu Carter’s legacy of service will live on in these veterans and in our community that he so faithfully served.

## RECOGNIZING JOYCE REID-COLEMAN

(Mrs. HAYES of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Joyce Reid-Coleman, who passed away on December 15 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Poochie, as she was affectionately known, was beloved by the community. After overcoming many challenges in life, she decided to channel all of her energy to giving back.

While employed at the Siemon Company, she spearheaded many annual events and programs for employees, including the Haunted Cafe for the children of employees, a Thanksgiving feast, and a Christmas extravaganza.

Joyce created Big, Bold and Beautiful Productions to expand her service work to the Waterbury community. As an entrepreneur, she opened New York Handbags Plus Dresses in downtown Waterbury. Through her organization, Joyce provided the means to send chil-

dren to prom. She worked closely with all of the high schools to select students to receive services. These services included gowns, tuxedos, shoes, haircuts, hairstyling, manicures, pedicures, all accessories, flowers, pictures, and even transportation.

Her love for children inspired her to create The Back to School Kids Day, an all-day event providing food, games, activities, and free haircuts for all of the children.

Her love for her community was unprecedented. During the holiday season, her organization would provide Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless and those in need, toys for children, and blankets for the sick and shut in. Even as she was in hospice, she hosted a large Thanksgiving dinner this last Thanksgiving.

Joyce dedicated her life to God and was a faithful servant at Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury, Connecticut. Her generous, giving, and loving spirit made her a unique blessing to so many. Her work was celebrated in the city of Waterbury and throughout the State of Connecticut.

To say that her living spirit will be missed by all who knew her is an understatement. I pray for her husband, Gene, and the family. Joyce will surely be missed. May Poochie rest well. She has earned it.

## LODI TEACHERS RECOGNITION

(Ms. POU of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Christine Orosz and Melanie Panarese, two exceptional educators in Lodi, New Jersey, whose dedication to their students and community exemplifies the very best of public education.

A graduate of Lodi public schools, Christine returned home to serve the district that shaped her. Since joining Lodi in 2012, she has grown from school counselor to supervisor of school counseling, overseeing guidance and mental health support for students across her district.

Working with first-generation college aspirants, English language learners, and students from working-class families, Christine has demystified college applications and financial aid. She has opened doors that once seemed out of reach.

Her leadership has helped raise Lodi’s high school graduation rate from roughly three-in-four students to nearly 90 percent.

Melanie Panarese, an English teacher at Lodi High School, brings the same commitment to her classroom every single day. With two decades in the profession and 7 years serving Lodi students, Melanie’s lessons encourage critical thinking and creativity.

She also pioneered an academic yearbook course allowing students to design, write, and produce the school’s yearbook, building collaboration and pride in their work. Colleagues praise

her exceptional ability to make every student feel seen and valued.

Both Christine and Melanie were named New Jersey Exemplary Educators in 2025, an honor reserved for educators who demonstrate true leadership and positive influence on students and colleagues.

At a time when school districts face growing challenges and diminishing resources, educators like Christine and Melanie continue to step up, providing stability, opportunity, and hope for young men and women.

Together, their work reminds us that investment in public education is ultimately an investment in our communities and our future.

Christine and Melanie represent the very best of public education, and I am proud to honor them today.

## PATERSON SCHOOLS FUNDING

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, while we are talking about education in America, I want to talk about something more serious: the Department of Education’s continued war on our schools.

Last month, without warning, the Department informed eight schools in our district that it was rescinding \$8 million in critical funding.

I urgently appealed to Secretary McMahon. My office met with the Department, and our school districts repeatedly sought engagement. We were ignored.

Over the holidays, the Department informed us that the cuts were final and will begin immediately.

Over the next 3 years alone, schools in our district will lose millions of dollars promised and planned for. The program has already shown positive educational outcomes, and the negative consequences for our kids will be felt for years to come.

Our school districts have been willing to work with the Trump administration to remedy any issue to find a fair path forward, but that willingness has not been matched.

Across the U.S., the Department of Education is dismantling public schools. New Jersey is the latest victim.

I will continue working with our district school officials to use every single tool available to restore this funding and to fight to support public education. I will not give up on our children.

## RECOGNIZING AND THANKING JOANNE HORN

(Mr. SMUCKER of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and thank an extraordinary public servant, Joanne Horn, who has retired after decades of faithful service to the people of Pennsylvania’s 11th Congressional District.

Joanne has been a valued member of my staff since 2017, and before that, she served for 20 years working for Congressman Joe Pitts. For nearly three