

DHR Health is one of the largest physician-owned hospitals in the United States of America and the only Level I trauma center south of San Antonio.

Dr. Gelman's influence reached far beyond the hospital walls. A radio host and dedicated steward of the arts, he spent decades preserving historic stained glass windows now permanently housed at the Gelman Stained Glass Museum in San Juan, Texas, which remains a gift to the Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Gelman will be remembered for his love of God and his family. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity to his friends, family, and community.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JOEL PULIDO

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Officer Joel Pulido for 28 years of service with the Edinburg Police Department.

Officer Pulido started with the department in 1997 as the calm voice on the dispatch radio. Not long after, he joined the field after earning his badge and became a mentor to the next generation of recruits.

Throughout his career, he was committed to keeping criminals off our streets and protecting our community. His exceptional detective work solved 26 murder investigations with a perfect conviction rate. He didn't just close the cases. He delivered justice for families when they needed it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Pulido for nearly three decades of integrity and service. I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

□ 1030

HONORING JONATHAN DANDES

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

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and a friend to many, Jonathan Dandes, who tragically passed away on February 22, 2026, at the age of 72.

Born and raised in Queens, New York, he chose to put down his roots in the City of Good Neighbors, helping to cultivate Buffalo's identity and catalyze its resurgence for over four decades.

He was a champion for our city and provided our community with a steady, trusted presence in numerous corners of civic life.

In the world of local sports and entertainment, Jon was an institution. He was instrumental in the development of Sahlen Field, helping to bring professional baseball into the heart of downtown Buffalo, ensuring that generations of families could come together and create lasting memories.

As president of Rich Baseball Operations he elevated the fan experience, strengthening community ties and made baseball in Buffalo a point of pride.

He chaired and supported organizations that continued to define the Buffalo Niagara region, including Shea's

Performing Arts Center, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Visit Buffalo Niagara, and the Erie County Medical Center, among many, many more.

At the University at Buffalo, Jon served as the longest tenured member of the UB Council, being appointed by four of New York's Governors, first in 1994, and most recently, to his fifth term, dedicating decades to strengthening higher education and expanding opportunity for future generations.

He was a proud alumnus, a trusted adviser, and a relentless advocate for UB's mission to serve as a driver of innovation and public good.

In each role, he brought not only sharp insight and strategic vision but a genuine love for his community and its people.

Just as importantly, Jon believed in uplifting others. He mentored countless young professionals, guiding them, encouraging them, and helping them discover their own paths to leadership.

Jon was also keenly aware that a strong community is built through compassion. His work with organizations like the National Kidney Foundation, Upstate New York Transplant Services, and Erie County Jewish Family Services reflected a deep commitment to caring for others, especially those in need.

Through it all, he remained grounded in what mattered most: his family. He was a devoted husband to his late wife, Marcy; the proud father of Leo and Arin; and a beloved grandfather to Luca and Leif.

Jon's legacy lives on in the community he helped build, the lives he touched, and the spirit of service he embodied.

When western New Yorkers spend an afternoon with their family rooting on the Bisons, that is Jon Dandes' legacy in action. When their loved ones receive lifesaving care at ECMC, we can thank Jon Dandes for his tireless work to strengthen our region's only Level I trauma hospital. And when the next generation of UB grads decides to stay in Buffalo and call western New York home, that, too, is a testament to Jon's unwavering vision and leadership for our region.

Western New York is a better place to live, work, and raise a family because Jon Dandes decided to call it home.

Today, we honor not just what he accomplished but who he was: a leader, a mentor, a neighbor, and a friend.

May we carry forward his example, his signature generosity, energy, and unwavering belief in the community he cherished.

On behalf of a grateful city, State, and Nation, may Jonathan A. Dandes' memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BAKER

(Mr. COMER of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and First Congressional District of Kentucky resident, Dave Baker, upon his retirement from the University of Kentucky Sports Network after 37 years.

Dave "Buzz" Baker began his career at WKYT in Lexington as an intern and was hired full time upon his graduation from Georgetown College in 1982.

Dave and his lovely wife, Donna, reside in Frankfort and attend church with me and my family at Forks of Elkhorn Baptist in Midway, Kentucky.

Dave began working Southeastern Conference events in 1993 and has been a constant presence on the SEC Network and other University of Kentucky televised events ever since calling men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

Buzz Baker is a Kentucky sports legend who has always been and will continue to be a force in what we in the Bluegrass State call Big Blue Nation.

MISSION OF OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to give an update on the work that the House Oversight Committee has been doing recently. I want to remind everyone that our mission on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Federal Government.

We have been going State by State and focusing on identifying massive fraud in the Federal welfare programs administered by poorly run States.

We began in Minnesota. We worked with nine whistleblowers. These whistleblowers were career State employees who came forward, and I hope that whistleblowers in other States saw how we treated those whistleblowers. We protected the whistleblowers.

We sat down with the whistleblowers. We interviewed them. We did transcribed interviews and took their testimony to produce a report to build our case to help with the Department of Justice's ongoing investigation in Minnesota on the welfare fraud.

What we concluded after bringing in people who were State employees in Minnesota who had been ringing the bell on fraud there for many years, we concluded that both Attorney General Keith Ellison and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz knew about the massive amounts of fraud in the welfare programs in Minnesota, yet did nothing about it, and in some instances, retaliated against the State employees who did the right thing and came forward.

Now we have moved our investigation into California, and we are focusing on a massive hospice fraud scheme—hospice of all things. This is a program I think every Member of Congress supports. Hospice is who we call in our deepest, darkest times of need.

We have zeroed in on one particular area in California: Los Angeles County. A recent audit revealed over \$3.5 billion in hospice fraud primarily in one county: Los Angeles County.

What we found in Los Angeles County is that 18 percent of the total bill for the Federal Government for hospice in America went to one county. You had thousands of people registered as hospice providers billing hospice for hundreds and hundreds of patients that no one can find.

We are going to continue to work with auditors. We hope that whistleblowers will come forward in California like they did in Minnesota, and we are going to try to identify this and hopefully work with authorities in Minnesota who have prosecuted over two dozen people already in Minnesota for fraud.

We are serious on the House Oversight Committee, the Republicans are, about doing something about the massive amounts of fraud we are seeing. We want to get the backs of the American taxpayer. The hardworking taxpayers who work hard every day and send their tax dollars here to Washington are frustrated that we are losing so much money to fraud. We are going to do something about it.

RECOGNIZING CO-OP CITY NAACP

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, let me recognize the outstanding work of the Co-op City branch of the NAACP for its many contributions to the life of African Americans in their area.

The branch is ably led by president Leslie Peterson, and she is aided by Tracy Edwards, Brenda Brown, and Anika Green-Watson and has been connected and involved in numerous programs in their community.

The branch meets on the fourth Sunday of each month in their offices in the Einstein, room 36, with interesting programs and speakers.

The branch has also hosted and sponsored major events during February's Black History Month, the January celebration of the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King and in June for Juneteenth.

The group joins other NAACP branches, notably the next-door Williamsbridge NAACP, for events like Know Your Rights seminars. Their advocacy of national NAACP legislative priorities bring them to lobby their elected officials on matters promoting education, healthcare, and anti-discrimination policies.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I salute the Co-op City branch of the NAACP for their persistence and their moral leadership at a time when it is needed the most.

SALUTING SENIOR CITIZEN COUNCIL OF
TUCKAHOE AND BRONXVILLE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the outstanding work of the Senior Citizen Council of Tuckahoe and Bronxville and the services that they provide to address the issues of isolation and loneliness to seniors in both villages.

Their programs include a host of different activities, social and recreational programs, health and wellness, arts and crafts, musical programs, guest lectures, luncheons, and day trips.

The council is led by chair Eleanor Gustavson, along with Sarah Belair, Maryann Dennen, Barbara McGraw, Jean Murrer, and a host of other active board members.

The weekly senior programs are offered at both the Father Fata Hall in Tuckahoe and the Reformed Church of Bronxville. They are sponsored and supervised by Tuckahoe senior director Michelle Oliva and Bronxville senior director Lisa McGovern.

The council is also helped by a community advisory board of prominent Tuckahoe and Bronxville leaders who give assistance and counsel to the council.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, I salute the Senior Citizen Council of Tuckahoe and Bronxville and will tell both of those senior groups I will be stopping by sometime soon with the cookies.

STAFF SALUTE

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, every freshman member comes into this institution with much to learn, and it is impossible to do that and function every day to represent the people of your district without the help of a committed, talented staff.

Let me publicly express my gratitude for the hard work of the staff that I have had the pleasure of working with in this first term: chief of staff, Rich Orsillo; senior adviser on policy, Rob Hoch. My D.C. team is led by Jessica Merritt, deputy chief of staff and legislative director; along with Ryan Reed; Sidd Gannu; Jeremy Hoffner; Samantha Kirschner; and Ellie Lockhart. My Westchester team is led by Ellen Hendrickx, the district director; Michelle Gewanter, Edili Espallat, Daphney Sintyl, Tara Conte, and Channah Haigh. My Bronx team is led by Tremaine O'Garro, Bronx director, and Kelly Saunders. I owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them.

RECOGNIZING JANIS BLOCKER

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Janis Blocker, a South Carolinian whose legacy and impact on those around her has been nothing short of remarkable.

Janis was born in Colleton County in 1938. Following what she saw as God's calling for her, she became a devoted teacher for many years and was deeply beloved by all of her students.

She first attended Charleston Southern University where she graduated summa cum laude and later received a master's degree in teaching English from The Citadel in 1981. That is the degree that she used to teach for over 49 years.

She taught a range of topics, including English honors and journalism, and was heavily involved in the State education system. Her students honored her with Teacher of the Year in 1987, and she had a yearbook dedicated to her as a testament to her hard work spanning many years.

Janis is also known for her complete dedication to her local community, serving for all of the 24 years as a chair of the Colleton County Republican Party and as a delegate to three national Presidential conventions.

She was even recognized with the Dr. James B. Edwards Award for her dedicated and conspicuous service to the South Carolina Republican Party. These achievements are nothing short of exceptional.

She is now the vice chair of the Colleton County Board of Elections and has served as a chair of the Colleton County Library Board of Trustees from 2019 to this day, as well as a long-standing member of the Colleton Library Board of Trustees.

Janis has served as a board member of the Colleton County Board of Voter Registrations and Elections. She served two terms on the County Council and is a former member of the United Way board. As if this wasn't enough, she is also a member and officer of the South Carolina Artisans Center Board and the Colleton Historical Society.

Faith has always been an integral part of her life story. Janis not only graduated from the South Carolina School of Theology, but she is a lifelong member of the Bethel Presbyterian Church in Walterboro, South Carolina, where she has been a choir director for 67 years.

□ 1045

She was also a clerk of sessions at Bethel Presbyterian Church for 25 years, among many other church activities.

Her outstanding life's work has led her to receive numerous awards. Janis received the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award; the Walterboro-Colleton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Achievement in Education Award; the First Star of the Southeast award from Delta Kappa Gamma Southeastern District; the State Achievement Award from the State teachers' society, Alpha Eta State; and the Order of the Rose award from the Zeta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma.

I would be remiss to omit that she has a husband, a beautiful family, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This is only an inkling of the life and legacy of Mrs. Janis Blocker. She has deeply impacted her students, her community, and her home State through her vested commitment to building up all those with whom she comes in contact.

Janis Blocker's legacy demonstrates a life truly well lived. I am proud to