

field. Don't walk off the field without knowing that you are bloodied, you are beat up, you are muddy, you are dirty, you are exhausted, knowing you did every single thing you could to leave this great country in stronger shape for our kids and our grandkids so that flag, so that this Chamber, so that those words "in God we trust," so that the heroes at Arlington National Cemetery that I was walking around this morning giving a tour that we can stand up and be proud that we put everything on the line.

Speaking of that, as I was getting ready to wind down to a rousing conclusion, I am proud to hand over the microphone to another veteran, another man that has put it all on the line both in service to his country in the military and now in Congress, a dear friend who was the gentleman that I earlier said was reading the Bible down at the Museum of the Bible. I think he sprinted here from the Museum of the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) to celebrate our good friend Tim Reitz.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make an analogy. When I was first assigned to a Special Forces team as a young lieutenant, I had already been in the 82nd Airborne Division for a couple years. When I got to the A-Team the team sergeant was an old, grizzled, experienced NCO.

My team sergeant had been in Vietnam. He had run the patrols. He had been behind the lines. He had seen his soldiers wounded and killed. That was the man that actually did my training. That is the kind of man you need.

To put it in context, if you have seen the movie "We Were Soldiers," the command sergeant major, that is Tim Reitz for me and for the Freedom Caucus. Tim Reitz is the one that knows the rules, but he knows more than the rules. He knows what we need to do to get things done.

So my analogy for Tim Reitz is one of utmost respect because just as the NCO corps is the backbone of the United States Army, Tim Reitz was the backbone of the House Freedom Caucus to me.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) for his comments, and we are about to wrap up and wind down here. I just want to say a couple more quick things. I am giving a heads up to those that are coming in that we have a couple more minutes.

I would note that we have got to recognize those who have served before my friend Tim Reitz: Justin Ouimette and Steve Chartan. We have had great patriots who are still very active in the conservative movement who were a part of this organization that Tim worked with and learned from. I know he wants to give credit where it is due. I would just tell you that I had a friend of mine who was a former member of the House Freedom Caucus who texted me watching this on the floor who said:

Tim is a hero and a patriot that never throws in the towel and deserves to be honored.

□ 1750

I have gotten lots of messages like that from staff, from current Members, and from former Members who recognize what Tim has meant, again, not just to the House Freedom Caucus, but to the House of Representatives and, importantly, to the United States of America in service to a greater cause than just being here. They are in service of the Constitution, of God, of freedom, and all those who have given the last full measure of devotion to defend this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for coming down. I thank my good friend, Tim Rice. I want to wish him well in his next endeavors. I thank him for his service to the United States of America. I wish him the best of success, luck, health, and happiness with his beautiful bride.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HONORING PRIVATE BENNETT WATERS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private Bennett Waters, a serviceman who tragically died as a prisoner of war during World War II.

Private Waters was a southeast Georgia serviceman whose remains were recently identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. A member of the Army Air Force 17th Bombardment Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, Private Waters was stationed in the Philippines.

He was taken prisoner during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in April of 1942 and remained a POW until his death in 1944.

He is forever memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. His remains will now be transferred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu to his final resting place among family in Georgia.

We thank Private Waters for his bravery, service, and sacrifice to our Nation 82 years ago.

#### ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 30th anniversary of St. Marys Submarine Museum in St. Marys, Georgia. The museum is the largest of its kind in the South and the fifth largest in the country, with nearly 5,000 square feet of exhibit.

After being converted from an old movie theater, St. Marys opened its doors on March 30, 1996, receiving thousands of visitors since. It is here visitors get the opportunity to see, enjoy, and learn about submarines and their artifacts. Thousands of these artifacts, some older than 100 years, are on display,

including patrol reports, uniforms, and battle flags. Mr. Speaker, you can even operate a real submarine periscope to view the beautiful St. Marys River.

Former submariner and current executive director, Keith Forest Post, has been dedicated to preserving submarine history and artifacts at the museum since 2010. The historical importance of this museum cannot be understated.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate St. Marys Submarine Museum on this fantastic accomplishment and wish them 30 more years of success.

#### HONORING THOMAS "TOM" DRAFFIN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Draffin for his work as the president and CEO of the McIntosh County Industrial Development Authority. Tom is retiring after several years dedicated to the growth and development of McIntosh County.

During his tenure, he has led a number of major initiatives promoting the county's hospitality, tourism, and seafood industries. He is also a founding member of the Tri-95 Georgia Joint Development Authority, where he also serves on the board of directors.

Tom's work on the Tri-95 and McIntosh County Development Authorities is critical to the development of southeast Georgia.

I thank him for all the work he has done over the years to grow our region. He has been a close friend to me over the years, and his retirement will be a significant loss for the community.

#### HONORING CECILY HILL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cecily A. Hill of St. Marys, Georgia, who passed away on March 30, 2026, at the age of 83.

Cecily was born in Woodbine, Georgia, in 1942, where she learned to embody true southern grace and strength. With a heart rooted in deep faith in Jesus Christ, she made every person feel seen, valued, and genuinely loved.

A true trailblazer, Cecily became the first female and first Republican State representative from Camden County. Serving District 108 in the Georgia House from 2003 to 2011, she chaired the subcommittees on ports and on tourism and film. She also served with distinction on appropriations, transportation, and economic development committees, earning respect across party lines.

A respected businesswoman, she co-owned Prudential Magnolia Realty for over 30 years and earlier operated Hill's Drug Store and Gift Shop with her late husband, Meredith Langley Hill, Jr.

A devoted mother, she cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who carry forward her spirit of hospitality and love. Her legacy of faith, service, and kindness endures along the Georgia coast she called home.

#### RECOGNIZING MACY JOHNSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true young hero from Richmond Hill, Georgia, 12-year-old Macy Johnson.

After school, Macy stepped off the bus to see flames tearing through her family's garage. Thick smoke filled the two-story home where her two older brothers were inside, completely unaware.

Instead of running for safety, Macy raced to the front door and screamed: Get out.

Her urgent warning gave them just enough time to escape unharmed. Thanks to Macy's quick thinking and courage, her entire family survived.

Five crews from Richmond Hill and Bryan County knocked down flames, but the home suffered severe damage. The Johnsons lost nearly 80 percent of their belongings and are now relying on the American Red Cross as they begin to rebuild.

Lisa Johnson, Macy's proud mother, calls her daughter incredible. In the face of danger, this 12 year old showed bravery far beyond her years and put her family first.

Macy Johnson reminds us that heroes come in all ages and selfless actions save lives.

#### RECOGNIZING BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a shining honor for coastal Georgia.

Brunswick has been named one of the 13 Prettiest Towns in the United States by World Atlas, earning the number seven spot among more than 19,000 communities nationwide.

Nestled along our scenic coast near the Golden Isles, Brunswick charms visitors with its waterfront, moss-draped live oaks, and timeless southern charm.

Once known as the Shrimp Capital of the World, its historic fishing industry still defines its vibrant identity. At the heart of its beauty stands the majestic Lover's Oak, a 900-year-old southern live oak stretching over 13 feet in diameter, wrapped in local folklore.

In the Brunswick Old Town Historic District there is a plethora of historical sites, like the century-old city hall and the skillfully restored 124-year-old Ritz Theatre, still welcoming audiences today.

With breathtaking waterfront views, rich history, and easy access to pristine beaches, Brunswick blends natural beauty and cultural heritage. This national recognition reminds us why Georgia's coast remains one of America's treasures.

#### RECOGNIZING ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, recipient of the President's Ambassador Award at Georgia Southern University's 2026 Gratitude Gala.

For over two centuries, these pillars of compassionate care have served southeast Georgia and the Lowcountry.

Candler Hospital, the second oldest hospital in America, dates to 1804, while St. Joseph's Hospital was founded in 1875. Together they now reach 33 counties with expert healing.

They hold true to their mission statement: Rooted in God's love, we

treat illness and promote wellness for all people.

Guided by values of compassion, integrity, and teamwork, St. Joseph's/Candler treats the mind, body, and spirit while empowering communities to thrive. Their strong partnership with Georgia Southern University is shaping the future.

Through clinical training and the state-of-the-art 8,000 square foot St. Joseph's/Candler Nursing Suite, they prepare the next generation of skilled and compassionate healthcare professionals.

St. Joseph's/Candler embodies excellence and service, and their dedication strengthens our region and honors the best of Georgia.

□ 1800

#### HONORING THE LEONARD BEVILL FAMILY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bevill family of Georgia as recipients of the President's Innovator Award at Georgia Southern University.

Leonard "Lenny" Bevill; his wife, Sandra; his sons, Josh and Andrew; and his daughters-in-law, Jenna and Taylor, are all proud Georgia Southern alumni. Together, their close-knit family has poured their hearts into Georgia Southern with extraordinary generosity. They have given their time, talent, and resources to lift Eagle Athletics and support student athletes in powerful ways.

Through the Eagle Victory Plan, and especially the Eagle Nation Fund, they have backed capital projects, sport accounts, and initiatives to create new opportunities for our young athletes.

What sets the Bevills apart is their ongoing commitment. They continue strengthening programs like the Erk Russell Fund while helping elevate the entire Georgia Southern community.

Leonard Bevill embodies true innovation and leadership, and the Bevill family's legacy reflects deep dedication and a vision of gratitude.

Georgia is profoundly grateful for their nonstop support.

#### HONORING GREG PARKER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Greg Parker, recipient of the President's Visionary Award at Georgia Southern University.

From humble beginnings in 1976 as a one-man operation, Greg Parker built Parker's Kitchen into a powerhouse, serving over 1 million customers weekly across 110 locations.

Through relentless innovation and determination, he redefined the convenience store industry and created immense success.

Yet, Greg measures his legacy not only by business growth but by his generosity. He has donated more than \$30 million to advance education, healthcare, childhood hunger relief, and veterans' causes across our region.

In 2019, Parker made the largest gift in Georgia Southern history, transforming the College of Business into

the Parker College of Business in support of the next generation of business leaders in Georgia.

That single investment created new scholarships, strengthened faculty, and expanded life-changing opportunities for students.

His visionary leadership and belief in Georgia Southern's future embody the highest spirit of partnership and service. Georgia Southern is deeply grateful for Greg Parker's continued impact.

#### RECOGNIZING HANNAH HARRISON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hannah Harrison for being selected as a 2026 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar.

This highly competitive program selects around 120 undergraduate students each year to receive tuition and paid summer internships across the country.

Since its creation, the scholarship has supported more than 2,300 students from over 450 colleges and universities. The goal of the program is to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science by offering hands-on experience in research, policy, and education.

Hannah is currently a sophomore, studying environmental science with concentrations in marine science and sustainability policy and management at the College of Coastal Georgia.

She has conducted extensive research on topics such as lead contamination in drinking water and the role of artificial reefs in tunicate recruitment.

She is currently an intern at Satilla Riverkeeper, where she continues to demonstrate dedication and drive. We are proud of Hannah for this outstanding accomplishment.

#### HONORING LAURA WILUND ADAMS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Laura Wilund Adams.

Born October 9, 1963, she moved frequently to accommodate her father's career. She developed a fierce tennis talent and played for the University of South Carolina, later winning the South Carolina State championship.

Although she earned a law degree from Emory University, Mrs. Adams' dream was to be an artist, focusing first on photography and, later, collages. Her three decades as a working artist made her nationally renowned, representing galleries across the country and owning the Brickworks Gallery in Atlanta.

Additionally, Mrs. Adams was a naturalist. She never felt more alive than in the woods and trails surrounding her cabin home in North Carolina.

Her 14 years with her husband, Andrew, were said to be the best years of their lives, filled with art and mutual inspiration.

Laura faced leukemia with grace and optimism until her peaceful passing on March 27, 2026, at the age of 62. Laura's beautiful collages and love of nature leave a lasting light on all who knew her and admired her work.

## RECOGNIZING PAT HACKNEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pat Hackney, a true gem of Savannah.

A beloved community leader, Pat has devoted her life to shaping our city's civic, cultural, and philanthropic landscapes.

Through her tireless work with the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, she has built outstanding educational programs, grown membership, and created signature events that bring families, students, and neighbors together to learn and inspire.

Whether chairing membership for the Friends of the Coastal Gardens, serving on the board of the Coastal Georgia Camellia Society, or quietly mobilizing countless charitable efforts across our community, Pat embodies the quiet strength and generous spirit that make Savannah shine brighter.

Her dedication and her commitment prove that real leadership isn't loud. It is consistent, kind, and always in service of a greater good.

Today, as Senior Citizens, Inc., honors her with the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award, we thank Pat Hackney for a lifetime of lifting up others. Savannah is better because she walks among us.

## CELEBRATING SHIRLEY BARBER JAMES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley Barber James, a mighty figure in Savannah's story.

Shirley is a respected civic leader whose lifelong commitment to education, media, and public service has profoundly shaped our city's civic and cultural life.

A proud graduate of Spelman College and holder of a master's degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, Shirley dedicated more than 30 years to Savannah State University in senior leadership roles before stepping forward as publisher and retired editor of The Savannah Tribune.

Through her steady hand in journalism, Shirley has built bridges, amplified voices, and lifted countless lives with strength and purpose.

Her legacy is one of service, advocacy, and excellence, a shining example of what dedicated leadership can accomplish when rooted in community and conviction.

Today, as Senior Citizens, Inc., presents her with the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award, Savannah pauses to say thank you to Shirley Barber James for a lifetime of shaping our city for the better.

We are stronger, wiser, and more connected because of her.

## CELEBRATING DR. PAUL PRESSLY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor distinguished educator and scholar Dr. Paul Pressly, who has shaped Savannah for decades.

Dr. Pressly served as headmaster of Savannah Country Day School from 1983 to 2004, guiding generations of students with integrity and mentorship.

A Rhodes Scholar with degrees from Princeton, Harvard, and Oxford, he ele-

vated the school to national recognition as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

Beyond the classroom, his impact continues through national leadership and independent education and his service as director emeritus of the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance, where he has preserved coastal history and inspired curiosity.

Dr. Pressly's intellectual depth and commitment to community have enriched Savannah's cultural and educational landscape in ways that will echo for generations.

As Senior Citizens, Inc., presents him with the Legends, Leaders, and Life Well Lived Award, we celebrate a life defined by excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. Savannah is wiser, more thoughtful, and more connected to its rich heritage because of Dr. Paul Pressly.

## HONORING SONNY PERDUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true Georgia trailblazer.

Former Governor Sonny Perdue, the first Republican elected Governor of our State since Reconstruction, announced that he is retiring as chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

Born on a Houston County farm, Perdue built a life dedicated to public service. He served in the State senate, two terms as Governor, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Trump, and, since April of 2022, as the 14th chancellor leading Georgia's 25 public colleges and universities.

More than four decades of public service, from the farm to the Cabinet, Sonny has always put Georgians first.

His leadership helped strengthen our higher education system with a \$12.1 billion budget, growing opportunity across every corner of our State.

As the board of regents begins a national search, Perdue will stay until a successor is named.

Sonny Perdue leaves a legacy of integrity, results, and dedication that will benefit Georgia for generations. I wish him and his family well in their well-deserved next chapter.

□ 1810

## RECOGNIZING STEVE MULLENIX

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Mullenix, former chair of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs.

Steve is retiring after 16 years of dedication and service to the council. He has been instrumental in strengthening relationships between pharmacies and industry associations, which contribute to positive outcomes for patients.

NCPDP is critical in driving technological innovation and collaborating with others to push pharmacy forward. His work as board chair has helped this vision become a reality and save patients money. In particular, his work on SCRIPT and ePrescribe have transformed pharmacy for the better.

I thank Steve for his commitment to improving outcomes for all patients. He will be missed, but his legacy will stand for years to come.

## CONGRATULATING JIM CANTORE ON 40 YEARS AT THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Cantore for celebrating 40 years with The Weather Channel.

For four decades, Jim has been a trusted voice during some of the Nation's most severe weather events. He has shown true commitment to families across the country, working diligently day by day. Jim has served the American people by helping them better understand complex weather conditions.

His reporting, which he has delivered with great passion and energy, has brought clarity to those around him. His expertise in the weather field is nothing short of impressive, and his dedication has helped keep communities informed and prepared.

I have enjoyed watching Jim grow and succeed through his reporting career. His work will not go unnoticed, and we won't forget the lasting impact he has had on our communities.

We thank Jim for his years of service and congratulate him on this remarkable milestone. We wish him the very best as he celebrates this 40th anniversary.

## HONORING CHAD NIMMER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chad Nimmer for his recent appointment to the USDA Farm Service Agency Georgia State Committee. Mr. Nimmer is a former Georgia State House Representative from District 178 in Blackshear, Georgia, who I had the honor of serving with.

FSA State committees oversee conservation and agricultural programs for their State. Chad's background in timber harvesting, land management, and conservation makes him an exceptional choice for this important role in our State.

He is a recognized leader in the forest industry, owning his own successful timber company. His dedication to rural communities and stewardship of our natural resources makes him an invaluable resource to our State.

I thank Mr. Nimmer for his public service thus far and wish him well in his new position.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

## RECOGNIZING VANCE PATTERSON

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Vance Patterson, an exemplary North Carolinian and someone I consider myself very fortunate to call a friend.

Vance describes himself as a "serial entrepreneur," and when you come to