

Born in Macon, Georgia, on September 4, 1926, to Adrian Ashley and Mamie Holliman, she built a life centered around compassion and service.

She brought those values to Buffalo in 1945, becoming a deeply respected leader in our community. Singing every Sunday in the choir at Calvary Baptist, dedicating herself to the missionary board at White Rock Baptist, and later becoming a beloved spiritual mother to multiple fellowships, she served God not only in word but in action.

Christine mentored generations of believers and brought that same devotion to her professional life, working for decades as a senior receptionist at several community centers across the region and also spending time with the Erie County Board of Elections.

Beyond her contributions to our great region, her greatest joy was her family. She and her late husband, Willie A. Davis, Sr., raised 12 wonderful children, laying the foundation for a remarkable family legacy that grew to include 38 grandchildren, 78 great-grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-great-grandchildren.

Her family and friends will forever remember her radiant smile and the genuineness of her spirit. She was a woman who loved to dance and spend time with her friends, particularly playing cards with her loved ones, a pastime she enjoyed while wearing a backward baseball cap.

Mother Christine Ashley Davis showed us all how to live with immense kindness and respect for others.

On behalf of a grateful community and nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering sincere condolences to her family as they reflect and celebrate on her extraordinary life.

May Granny, Mother Christine Ashley Davis, rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING DR. WILLIE UNDERWOOD III

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Willie Underwood III of Buffalo, New York, who was sworn in to serve as the 181st president of the American Medical Association on June 9, 2026.

A respected urological surgeon, public health expert, and advocate for equitable care, Dr. Underwood has spent over two decades serving patients in Buffalo and is the second urologist and third Black physician to serve as AMA president.

Dr. Underwood is a graduate of Morehouse College and earned his master's degrees from the State University of New York Upstate Medical University, and the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Dr. Underwood completed medical training in general and urological surgery at The University of Connecticut Health Center and was one of the first five urologists to be admitted into the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program.

During his inaugural address as AMA president, Dr. Underwood reminded us

that advocating for patients also means advocating for the physicians who care for them, ensuring they have the support, resources, and environment needed to meet the growing demands of this moment.

Dr. Underwood's leadership comes at a critical moment, as doctors and patients alike face rising costs, workforce shortages, and shrinking Federal support.

With Dr. Underwood at the helm, the AMA is in strong, steady hands, and I know that together we can build a healthcare system that works for both patients and providers.

Western New York is proud to call Dr. Willie Underwood III one of our own, and we are excited for the rest of the country to share in the benefits of his work.

On behalf of a grateful nation and community, I congratulate my good friend Dr. Willie Underwood.

CONGRATULATING AURORA GUZMAN

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aurora Guzman from McAllen Memorial High School for being selected as a Texas Girls Coaches Association all-star player.

A brilliant athlete and student, Aurora is known for her captivating energy on the court. Behind her success are years of hard work, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to her sport.

Aurora has shown true leadership, helping to elevate the Lady Mustang basketball team while earning recognition as a premier player in the region. She not only represents McAllen Memorial, but she also represents the entire Rio Grande Valley and every young athlete who dreams of playing on the big stage.

I thank Aurora for representing south Texas with pride. I congratulate her on this prestigious honor. We wish her the best of luck next month at the TGCA all-star game.

RECOGNIZING MCCREERY AVIATION

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize McCreery Aviation on 80 years of exceptional service in south Texas.

Founded in 1946 by J.F. "Mac" McCreery, the company began as a small flight school following World War II. What started as one aircraft has grown into a premier, full-service aviation provider at McAllen International Airport, serving aircraft owners and international travelers across the region.

Today, under the leadership of Mac's son, Bob McCreery, the company reflects the strength of the family-owned business built on hard work and commitment. Through high-quality maintenance, pilot training, and support for international trade, McCreery Aviation continues to play a vital role in our community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate McCreery Aviation on eight decades of service. I wish them continued success for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING ALICE ISD

Ms. De La CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Alice ISD, the recipient of the 2026 Small School District title at the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

This milestone highlights the exceptional leadership, vision, and dedication shaping the future of the Alice community.

With this award comes \$50,000 in grant money for student-centered upgrades across six campuses. These funds will bring new changes, from an outdoor science classroom and digital marquees to transforming the Schallert Elementary Library into a modern workspace.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated administrators, teachers, and support staff who lift their students up.

I congratulate the superintendent, Dr. Anysia Trevino, the Board of Trustees, and the entire Alice ISD community on this grand achievement.

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MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING LIFE OF JUNIPER BLESSING

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, New Mexico and Washington State rise today to honor the life of Juniper Blessing. Juniper was my constituent and attended the New Mexico School for the Arts High School.

There, Juniper's voice filled the air with hope, delight, passion, and, yes, sometimes angst. Madam Speaker, don't we all remember wondering who we are, wondering what our lives will look like beyond high school.

At that age, every joy shines brighter. Every fear cuts deeper. Every dream feels possible.

Juniper lived all of that and more. She was smart, funny, curious, energetic, and fiercely herself. She loved music, rainstorms, her dogs, her family, and the natural world.

She looked at the world with wonder and questions. She looked at Santa Fe's glorious thunder, lightning, and rainbows and said: I want to know more.

So she went to the University of Washington to study climate science and meteorology. She wanted to understand the mysteries of the atmosphere, the beauty and power of the world around us.

But for many, Juniper will always be remembered for her voice. She had the voice of an angel whose music filled classrooms, stages, and community gatherings. Her voice soared beyond the school walls and into the hearts of everyone who heard her.

I know that like so many parents, Craig and Monica Blessing sent Juniper

off to college in Washington both proud and worried. They were proud because she was becoming exactly who she was meant to be, and they were worried because loving a child means carrying their hopes and dreams alongside your own.

Through it all, Juniper lived her life on her own terms with authenticity, courage, and joy. Her family describes her as pure love.

Friends remember reassuring hugs. They remember someone who noticed when others felt afraid, different, or alone. That kind of compassion leaves a mark that never disappears, and Juniper's voice will never be silent in our memories.

While we in Congress must address the senseless violence that took her from her grieving family and community, we must also honor the blessing that is Juniper. The tragedy of her death must not overshadow the beauty of her life.

We honor Juniper in the people's House so that her voice and her memory never fade.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. I thank the gentlewoman for those beautiful words and also for sharing this moment of celebration of Juniper Blessing and her life.

I am so proud that Juniper Blessing was a constituent of mine as well as a college student at the University of Washington in Seattle.

She was deeply loved and respected for who she was. At just 19 years old, she had already made her mark, and the tragedy of her murder leaves an incredible sense of pain in our community.

Here on the House floor, we send our thoughts, our prayers, and our commitment to her family, friends, and our entire community that we will continue to honor Juniper's incredible life, spirit, and light.

Juniper's friends have described her immense warmth, kindness, and commitment to justice. An incredibly talented woman, she shared her joy with our community through the arts and her singing voice. She said that her participation at the University of Washington's production of "Considering Matthew Shepard," a musical response to the murder of a gay college student, was the most powerful thing she had ever been a part of.

She had a curiosity and love of planet and people that showed up in her choice of majors: atmospheric science specializing in meteorology and hurricane tracking with minors in both philosophy and music.

She was beloved on campus. Just a few weeks ago, the University of Washington community took part in an honor walk across campus carrying pieces of her memorial from Red Square to Mary Gates Hall where a new memorial will remain through September as a place for reflection and remembrance.

Let's honor Juniper's life and legacy to make this moment a rallying cry of love to all our transgender students at the University of Washington and across the country and a display of our strength and commitment that comes in times of tragedy to embrace even more tightly the right to freely and safely express who you are.

To the people at the University of Washington and my district and across the country, know that you are loved, and we will never stop fighting for the right for everyone to be who they are.

I now ask for a moment of silence to honor the incredible life of Juniper Blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE WADE ELLIS

(Mr. MILLER of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Joe, if you are watching: I don't have my cell phone or keys in my pockets, but I rise today to honor the life of Joe Wade Ellis.

Born in Mississippi and raised in Alabama, Joe was a mentor, a friend, a patriot, and he was one hell of a man.

Joe recently passed away after an accident that occurred while supporting the United States delegation to the G7 meeting in France.

Joe, as I sit here in the office you helped me create, mold, and shape, I can only say how grateful I am to you.

When you and I first met, you were brought on to be my mentor in 2017 during the first Trump administration. My boss at the time wanted to let me go, probably not to anyone's surprise, but you saw something in me. You then told the White House how impressed you were with me, and then somehow I became the director of that office just 2 years later.

I have lost many people in my life but very few who cared about me the way that you did. You were my mentor and closest friend. You were with me through all the ups and downs. You were my rock like you were for so many others. You had a contagious personality. Everyone wanted to be around you, even if you may not have wanted to be around them, which could be often.

When I asked you to come out of retirement to be my chief of staff, I truly did not believe you would accept it, but when I won my race, you were there and simply responded: I am in. Let's talk tomorrow.

I knew you didn't want to take this job, but you did it for me. I knew that then, and I know it now. You said you would only stay for a year, but you stayed for the full term to make sure I won reelection, got reelected to steering, and got on Ways and Means.

That was because of you, Joe Ellis.

When my daughter was born, I had never seen you so excited for me to be a dad. You gave me invaluable advice that I will pass on to her as she grows older, and she will know where it came from.

I will miss our foreign trips together during the admin where you taught me everything I know about Advance. I will miss our time together as colleagues but even more as friends. It hurts when I call you and you are not on the other line.

You passed away doing what you loved. I know you are in a better place and that God has a plan for all of us. I just don't think you realized the impact you had on so many people during your time here on this Earth. That time was cut way too short, and I know you are watching and you are probably, you know, laughing a little bit as I am crying, but know how much I love you. Know the impact you had on me and other people, and I miss our time more than you can imagine.

RESTORE BACK BAY STUDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GALLAGHER). The Chair recognizes the Member from Delaware (Representative MCBRIDE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to start by thanking my colleagues who have spoken earlier in this speaking program for honoring individuals whose lives were cut tragically short, and I want to extend my condolences to all those who are mourning those who have been honored in this Chamber today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my disappointment at the rejection of my amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

My amendment supported the continuation of the Back Bay study, a congressionally authorized effort to help Delaware better address the vulnerabilities facing our coastal communities.

Delaware is the lowest-lying State in the Nation. In Sussex County, farmers, small businesses, and families are already dealing with the consequences of rising sea levels, coastal flooding, and increasingly severe weather.

The Back Bay study, which began in November of 2022, has been providing valuable research needed to strengthen infrastructure and plan for the future.

But earlier this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers terminated the study, citing an inability to "develop a scope and budget that is compliant."

In response, Senator COONS, Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER, and I called on the Army Corps to reinstate the study and provide a real explanation for walking away from this congressionally authorized effort.

Given their inaction, I filed my amendment. But the message from the majority party's leadership that has refused to even allow for a vote on my amendment is that research that supports the long-term safety of Delawareans in the face of rising sea levels is of no consequence to them.

I will keep working to restore the Back Bay study because Delawareans cannot afford for this study to simply be abandoned.

FAREWELL TO RETIRING LEGISLATORS

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, this coming June 30, the Delaware's State