

work of Tampa attorney, Michael Bedke, who will receive the Florida Bar Foundation's 2019 Medal of Honor Award this week. The Medal of Honor is the Foundation's highest honor.

Michael Bedke works to ensure the wheels of justice turn for everyone. He has devoted a large portion of his distinguished legal career in service to his community and his country. He has provided extensive pro bono service and advocacy for AIDS patients, domestic violence survivors and individuals in need. He also has maintained an unflinching commitment to improve the lives of veterans. He spearheaded the "No Place Like Home" initiative which establishes permanent supportive housing for neighbors in need of mental health services or who are at risk of chronic homelessness.

Throughout his life, Mike always has recognized his duty to serve his neighbors and country in a wide variety of ways. He is constantly thinking of ways to meet unmet legal needs and has a unique ability to develop effective plans for meeting those needs.

As a young lawyer, Mike took on pro bono cases to represent persons with AIDS in the 1980s, a time when the general public was both fearful and uneducated about the disease. True to his style of leading by example, by taking on these cases and serving on the board of the Tampa AIDS Network he encouraged colleagues to take similar action.

After Category 5 Hurricane Andrew struck Florida in 1992, Mike worked to pass Good Samaritan legislation that removed an impediment to lawyers providing pro bono help to disaster survivors. He also led legal relief efforts in response to Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and September 11. He founded the Greater Access and Assistance Project while chair of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division, modeling it after the Courthouse Assistance Project he created at home as a member of Bay Area Legal Services' board of directors.

Mike has worked to empower domestic violence survivors for more than 25 years. He was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women in 2002 and has served on numerous boards working to improve access and support for survivors. He worked with the Women's Caucus of the Peruvian Parliament to draft model domestic violence legislation.

Mike received his bachelor's degree with high honors from the University of Florida in Gainesville and served as student body president. He then completed his juris doctorate with honors from the University of Florida. He developed a program at his alma mater to recruit and retain minority law students. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Stetson College of Law.

Close to my heart and so many in the Tampa Bay area is Bay Area Legal Services that provides legal aid to people who need it. As president of the Board of Directors for Bay Area Legal Services, in 2015, Mike spearheaded a fundraising effort that created a \$400,000 endowment for a veterans program. He also led the development and implementation of Bay Area's "No Place Like Home Project" to provide pro bono help to low-income homeowners experiencing title issues.

He is a partner in the Tampa office of the distinguished international law firm, DLA Piper. While Mike is much sought after in his specific

area of practice, he was called to do more in service to his community and country—and we are better for it and grateful for his vision and commitment.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of America, the State of Florida and my neighbors across our hometown, I am proud to mark Mike Bedke's lifetime of leadership.

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HONORING THE STAFF OF THE  
CAPITAL GAZETTE

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the notice of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Special Awards and Citations awarded to the Capital Gazette of Annapolis, Maryland.

THE PULITZER PRIZES

THE 2019 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER IN SPECIAL  
AWARDS AND CITATIONS

A special citation to honor the journalists, staff and editorial board of the Capital Gazette, Annapolis, Maryland, for their courageous response to the largest killing of journalists in U.S. history in their newsroom on June 28, 2018, and for demonstrating unflinching commitment to covering the news and serving their community at a time of unspeakable grief. The citation comes with a \$100,000 bequest by the Pulitzer Board to be used to further the newspaper's journalistic mission.

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TRIBUTE TO MOLLY GRAHAM

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman whose bravery and perseverance exemplify a significant American story. It is fitting that during this July 4th, as we celebrate our nation's birthday, citizens of South Carolina and the descendants of Molly Graham will be dedicating a bridge over the Combahee River in Colleton County, South Carolina in her honor. Although seven generations removed, Molly Graham's story is inspiring and instructive for all of us.

Molly Graham was enslaved on the Cypress Plantation in Green Pond, South Carolina during the Civil War. Her husband and brother were killed during the final months of the war when Confederate soldiers executed male slaves to prevent them from enlisting in the Union Army. Ms. Graham and her daughters escaped after Confederate troops raided their plantation and threatened to burn it to the ground.

She and her daughters traveled 16 miles on foot to the safety of a Union camp in Beaufort. Along the treacherous journey, they had to crawl across a plank over the Combahee River because the bridge had been destroyed by fire. They hid from Confederate troops during the day and traveled under the cover of darkness at night. Ms. Graham let faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen," guide her.

After spending several months in the refuge of the Union camp, Ms. Graham and her

daughters returned to Green Pond. The daughters eventually married, and they worked together, pooled their resources and bought several hundred acres of land. The family raised chickens, turkeys and vegetables on the farm and sold their goods at the Walterboro farmers market.

Ms. Graham also served as a naturopathic herb doctor who treated both former slaves and plantation owners without prejudice or malice. She added rooms to her home to treat patients overnight, that served as the only "hospital" to ever exist in Green Pond. Today, she and many of her progeny are buried at the historic Hickory Hill Cemetery close to the banks of the Combahee River.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the life of Molly Graham and the contributions of seven generations of her offspring in the Bryant, Pinckney and Singleton families. Theirs is a true story of resilience and triumph that exemplifies the diversity of the American experience. I applaud the descendants' efforts to dedicate the Molly Graham Memorial Bridge that crosses her beloved Combahee River and to continue her legacy of giving back to the community through their family's non-profit foundation.

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IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICK &  
DENISE GOGGINS' 50TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 26, 2019*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Patrick and Denise Goggins on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. This July 4th marks a special milestone for this couple and their family, and it is my pleasure to recognize it as such.

Pat and Denise were married on July 4, 1969, but their story begins even four years earlier when they met as high school sweethearts. Their life of love, marriage and family is truly heartwarming and worthy of recognition. From the purchase of their first home through President Johnson's Housing and Urban Development program for first-time homebuyers, to the births of their three daughters (Bridget, Erin, and Molly), and then the gifts of grandchildren, the Goggins exemplify the spirit of hardworking American families across the country.

Marriage is an institution undeniably linked to the fabric of our society. It is a union celebrated not only by the two partners, but by their friends and family alike. The nuptial celebrations of Patrick and Denise were no exception and are certainly still not today. Their marriage will be celebrated by close to 200 people in Cape Cod, Massachusetts this July 4th and will certainly be filled with the same warmth of the original, humble wedding reception of five decades prior. I extend my personal greetings to all those that will gather together that day in celebration of Pat and Denise.

Madam Speaker, once again, it is my pleasure to recognize the milestone of Patrick and Denise Goggins' 50th wedding anniversary. Their commitment to each other and their family is truly uplifting. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors as they continue their wonderful life together for years to come.