

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 2025 SPARC HEROES AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREES

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three outstanding honorees whose leadership, dedication, and compassion were celebrated at the 2025 SPARC Awards Celebration Gala, hosted by Specially Adapted Resource Centers (SPARC), an organization that plays an indispensable role in supporting young adults with severe and multiple disabilities in Northern Virginia.

For years, SPARC has filled one of the most significant gaps in our social safety net by providing meaningful day programs, therapeutic supports, and a sense of belonging to individuals who often age out of the K–12 system with few options for continued care. The honorees recognized this year represent the very best of our community's commitment to inclusion, dignity, and opportunity.

I am proud to honor and include in the RECORD the following honorees:

Chair Phyllis J. Randall, recipient of the 2025 SPARC Hero Award, whose steadfast leadership in Loudoun County has elevated disability services, strengthened community partnerships, and championed the rights and dignity of residents with complex needs. Her advocacy continues to make Loudoun County a more compassionate and inclusive place for all.

Ms. Jessica Burmester, recipient of the SPARC Lifetime Achievement Award, whose years of service, dedication, and hands-on commitment have had a direct and lasting impact on SPARC's mission. Her work has improved the lives of countless young adults and families, and her legacy will continue to shape SPARC for years to come.

George Washington University, honored as the 2025 Education Partner, recognized for its commitment to inclusive learning, community engagement, and preparing the next generation of professionals and advocates who support individuals with disabilities. Their partnership demonstrates the essential role that higher education institutions play in advancing disability inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, these honorees embody the values of service, compassion, and community that define Northern Virginia. Their work strengthens families, uplifts neighbors, and reflects the promise of a society where every individual, regardless of ability, is valued and supported. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chair Phyllis Randall, Ms. Jessica Burmester, and George Washington University on their well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE LATE JUDGE BABATUNDE AKOWE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, leadership, and public service of Judge Babatunde Akowe, a distinguished jurist, community advocate, husband, father and public servant whose recent passing leaves a profound void in the many communities he faithfully served.

Judge Akowe's life was defined by family, community and an unwavering belief in the power of civic engagement to transform lives. Judge Akowe was born and raised in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and his life's work remained deeply rooted in his community.

His public service career was broad and impactful. Before ascending to the bench, he held roles across numerous institutions: he worked in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, served in the New York State Unified Court System, and served in the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection.

In 2015, Judge Akowe completed the Congressional Black Caucus Institute (CBCI) Political Leadership Boot Camp, a significant milestone in his development as a civic leader. When the CBCI began its annual bootcamp, it was conceived to help to train young, ambitious public servants just like Judge Akowe. Notably, he went on to become one of the first members of that cohort to run for and win public office, underscoring both his ambition and his readiness to serve. His success signaled to aspiring leaders across the country that dedication, preparation, and audacity could indeed shape a pathway to elected office.

His distinguished judicial career reflected the same qualities that guided him throughout life: an unshakeable sense of fairness, a commitment to equity, and a belief that justice must be both principled and compassionate. On the bench, Judge Akowe quickly earned a reputation for wisdom, humility, and an extraordinary ability to listen deeply—the facts, to the law, and to the humanity of those before him.

Judge Akowe was not only a public servant—he was a beloved family man. He is survived by his wife, Lauren, and their two daughters, Adia and Amara. His loss has deeply saddened his community, family and friends—with many noting that his life and judicial service were cut far too short. He was a friend to all, and for many, the first call made when visiting New York.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Judge Babatunde Akowe is a tremendous loss to his family, his community, and the many institutions enriched by his service. Yet his legacy endures—as a trailblazer in political leadership training, as a respected judge, and as a public servant who believed deeply in democracy's promise.

I ask my colleagues to join me and the board and many alumni of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's leadership training programs in honoring his memory, celebrating his service, and extending our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and admired him.

CELEBRATING BERT GUMKOWSKI'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Bert Gumkowski of South Bend, Indiana, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Bert was born on January 1, 1926. He grew up in South Bend, where he developed a love for music and played in local school bands. At 18, he set aside an opportunity with the South Bend Symphony to serve his country in World War II. He served on an Army transport ship, completing six overseas missions and helping maintain morale on board.

After the war, Bert worked as a draftsman at the Studebaker Corporation. He joined the Naval Reserve in 1947 and was later activated during the Korean War, serving on the USS Twining during operations in the Pacific.

In 1950, Bert married Irene Cichon, and they were married for nearly 65 years raising three sons. He went on to a long career with Bendix, later Honeywell, where he designed brakes and earned 65 patents. He remained active in retirement and valued time with his growing family.

Bert is a devoted Notre Dame sports fan, a longtime attendee of Bendix retiree breakfasts, and a man rooted in family, faith, and community.

Mr. Speaker, reaching 100 years is a remarkable milestone. Bert Gumkowski's life reflects service, resilience, and dedication to those around him.

We congratulate him on this special birthday and thank him for his many contributions to his community and his country.

HONORING 15 YEARS OF THE KOREAN BELL GARDEN

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Korean Bell Garden, a symbol of peace, cultural heritage, and enduring friendship between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

Fifteen years ago, through the visionary leadership of the Korean American Cultural Committee and NOVA Parks, an unused hillside was transformed into a remarkable landscape of beauty and meaning.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Their joint effort brought forth a lasting tribute to the values we hold dear: freedom, opportunity, and harmony. Central to this garden stands the Bell of Peace and Harmony, cast in Korea and installed to honor the spirit of unity and the shared commitment to democratic ideals that bind our two nations.

Situated within Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia, the Korean Bell Garden has become a treasured landmark in the Commonwealth and throughout the Nation. It remains the only Korean Bell Garden of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, distinguished by its intricate engravings of flora and fauna native to both Korea and Virginia, symbols of the deep and natural connection between our cultures. The garden's traditional architecture, totem poles, and statuary further embody centuries of Korean artistry and philosophical reflection, offering visitors an enduring space for contemplation, appreciation, and peace.

As we mark this milestone, we recognize that the Korean Bell Garden represents far more than a place of beauty, it is a living testament to the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Korea and the United States, and to the shared values that continue to strengthen our partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the fifteenth anniversary of the Korean Bell Garden and in expressing our deep appreciation for the Korean American community of Virginia's 11th Congressional District. May this garden continue to serve as a beacon of peace, hope, and harmony for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 298; YEA on Roll Call No. 299; YEA on Roll Call No. 300; YEA on Roll Call No. 301; and YEA on Roll Call No. 302.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN STEVE PETTY

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Steve Petty, a United States Army veteran, who was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame on November 5, 2025, for his outstanding service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the health and dignity of his fellow veterans.

Captain Petty has dedicated his post-service life to ensuring that those who served our Nation receive the care, respect, and honors they have earned. As Director of the Veterans Resource Center in Ocala, Florida, he has led groundbreaking efforts to provide free Galleri blood testing for veterans exposed to carcinogens such as Agent Orange and burn pits—conditions that have claimed far too many lives long after the battles ended. Through his

leadership, veterans who served “boots on the ground” in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and the Global War on Terrorism can now access this \$950 cancer screening at no cost, right in their own community. This lifesaving initiative—made possible through partnerships with the Marion County Hospital District and the Marion County Community Development Block Grant—stands as a model of community collaboration, compassion, and unwavering commitment to those who have borne the battle.

Beyond his work in advancing preventive care, Captain Petty has also been instrumental in ensuring that every Marion County veteran interred at the Bushnell National Cemetery receives full military honors—a solemn and sacred recognition of their service to our Nation. Captain Petty's dedication exemplifies the very best of the veteran community: leadership through service, compassion through action, and a steadfast refusal to leave any brother or sister behind. His induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame is not only well-deserved—it stands as a testament to what one individual can accomplish when driven by love of country and devotion to those who have borne the battle.

On behalf of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, I offer my deepest congratulations to Captain Steve Petty, his wife Joan, and all those at the Veterans Resource Center who continue to serve those who served us.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER HOWARD “HOWIE” LIEBENGLOOD

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Howard “Howie” Liebengood for his tremendous service to our Nation as a U.S. Capitol Police officer on January 6, 2021. Officer Liebengood proudly served with the U.S. Capitol Police for over 15 years and demonstrated incredible courage, commitment, and honor during his decorated career.

Officer Liebengood was on duty at the U.S. Capitol during the events of January 6, 2021. In the days that followed, he continued to serve, carrying the immense and often unseen toll felt by so many officers in the aftermath of that tragic day. He tragically passed on January 9, 2021, at the age of 51. At the time of his passing, he lived in Vienna, Virginia, where he was a valued member of the community.

Officer Liebengood's story is quieter and harder to speak about, not because his service was any less meaningful, but because the nature of his loss reflects the unseen burdens that many public servants carry. It is precisely for that reason that his life and service must be remembered with dignity. Service and suffering that go unseen still matter, and those who bear such weight in silence deserve our lasting gratitude.

Officer Liebengood's colleagues would often describe him as steady, kind, and deeply committed to the shared mission. These qualities made him an incredible officer, a trusted partner, and a genuine friend within the U.S. Capitol Police.

Officer Liebengood's life and legacy have been recognized with several significant hon-

ors. In 2022, he was posthumously awarded the Defenders of Democracy Award by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics for his brave service on January 6th and his efforts to protect our democracy alongside his fellow officers. That same year, Officer Liebengood was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the oldest and highest civilian award in the Nation. In 2023, he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal, which recognizes citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Officer Howard “Howie” Liebengood and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and fellow officers. His steadfast service to the United States Capitol Police will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING PHIL AND LAURIE DAVIS AS A COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN PENNSYLVANIA—16

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Phil and Laurie Davis for their extraordinary service to the veteran community of Crawford County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Phil Davis proudly served in the United States Army from January 21, 1970, to December 3, 1971. He deployed to Vietnam from January to October 1971, serving his country during one of the most challenging periods in our Nation's history.

On November 28, 1988, the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Post 52 was established in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Phil was among the founding members who helped launch the post and shape its mission of supporting veterans in need. When the National Organization later went bankrupt and closed, Post 52 refused to let its mission end. In 2019, the post reorganized, completed all necessary work to become an independent 501(c)(19) organization, and expanded membership eligibility to veterans of all eras, ensuring that no veteran seeking help would be turned away. This decision dramatically increased the number of veterans they have been able to serve.

It was at Post 52 that Phil and Laurie met, forming a partnership rooted in service and compassion. They were married in 1995, and together they have dedicated decades to supporting their fellow veterans. Phil has served as Commander of Post 52 many times over the years, and has held the position continuously since 2020. Laurie has long served as the Quartermaster, ensuring that the post remains organized, responsive, and financially sound. Their leadership has been essential to sustaining the post's mission and expanding its impact.

Phil and Laurie's commitment goes far beyond titles. They provide Walmart gift cards and gas cards to the Crawford County Veterans Service office so that any veteran who walks in without food, resources, or fuel can receive immediate assistance. Their generosity has provided critical support to veterans in crisis and has exemplified the values of honor, service, and community.

Phil and Laurie Davis represent the very best of what it means to serve. Their decades of dedication have strengthened our community and improved the lives of countless veterans and their families. It is my honor to extend deep appreciation and recognition for their unwavering commitment to those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COREY
LEE SIDNEY**

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Sidney family in celebrating the life of Corey Lee Sidney, who was born on June 10, 1977, and died all too soon on October 11, 2025. He was a quiet man with a gentle spirit, and was cherished by his family, loved ones, and friends.

Corey Lee Sidney was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Melanie Sidney and Norman Gladden. After spending his early childhood in Philadelphia, he returned to Pittsburgh around age eight, where he lived until moving to Buffalo, New York, where he made his home for the past decade.

Corey was a devoted man of faith, a lifelong member of Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he faithfully served as a Trustee. His love for God and church was a guiding force throughout his life. Family was at the heart of Corey's world. He cherished his grandmother, the late Margaret Lucinda Sidney, his aunt Sylvia Sidney, and his cousin Arthur Dennis Sidney, both of whom now reside in Washington, D.C. Corey was proud of his close-knit family and maintained affectionate relationships across the country.

Though he might have claimed to be shy, Corey was truly a social butterfly, effortlessly making friends wherever he went, thanks to his gift of gab and genuine warmth. He loved good food and embraced new experiences, dedicating himself recently to a passion for international travel. Among many things, he will be remembered for his care, compassion, loving kindness, sense of humor, his unique laugh, and his face full of freckles.

Corey's circle of love extended to his beloved partner, Laurence Jones; many aunts—including Carole (and husband Clayton), Clarice, Yvonne, and Sylvia; cousins Juan, Jose, Thomas, and countless others; and a wide community of close friends who will dearly miss him.

Corey touched countless lives with his kindness, faith, and joyful spirit. He leaves behind a legacy of love that will be remembered by all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING NOVA PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL GILBERT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Paul Gilbert on his up-

coming retirement after two decades of extraordinary leadership as Executive Director of NOVA Parks. Mr. Gilbert has transformed our park system into a vibrant, inclusive network of outdoor spaces that serve more than 2 million residents across Northern Virginia. His dedicated service to our region is worth celebrating and commemorating.

Mr. Gilbert became Executive Director of NOVA Parks in 2005 after serving many years on the NOVA Parks Board. During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Gilbert remained steadfastly dedicated to public service in land acquisition, conservation, and management.

Under Mr. Gilbert's visionary leadership, NOVA Parks completed 22 major land-acquisition transactions totaling over 1,800 acres of parkland, 15 new parks, and 3 expanded parks. These acquisitions increased access to nature, preserved precious habitat, and elevated the quality of life in our region.

A hallmark of Mr. Gilbert's career has been his commitment to telling the untold stories of Northern Virginia. Under his guidance, NOVA Parks made significant efforts to illuminate the forgotten stories of the many communities that helped shape Fairfax County. Mr. Gilbert's vision ensured that NOVA Parks was not only protecting natural landscapes but also honoring the diverse communities and stories that helped shape Northern Virginia.

Mr. Gilbert's many contributions to public service have been recognized throughout his career, including receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Outdoor Recreation award from the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and the Land Manager of the Year award from the Mid-Atlantic Mountain Bike Enthusiasts. Along with his tremendous service to NOVA Parks, Mr. Gilbert has also dedicated his time as an Executive-in-Residence for George Mason University's Recreation Management Program, Chairman of the Board of Visit Fairfax, and a member of the Board for The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gilbert's decades of vision, leadership, and dedication to our parks system will benefit our region for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Gilbert for his years of dedicated service and wishing him a joyful and well-earned retirement.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF GWEN REGALIA**

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gwen Regalia.

A proud resident of Walnut Creek since 1958, Gwen was an incredible leader and public servant. Beginning as a local 4th grade schoolteacher, Gwen started her career in local politics with the Walnut Creek School District board, serving nearly a decade. During this time, she was also instrumental in helping elect Peg Kovar, the city's first female mayor.

In 1987, Gwen was elected to Walnut Creek City Council. She served on City Council for 21 years, including five terms as Mayor. During her time in city government, Gwen was al-

ways a champion of local arts and culture. Some of her most notable accomplishments include overseeing the development of the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Downtown Walnut Creek Library, the Shadelands Art Center, and the Iron Horse Trail bridge over Ygnacio Valley Road. Gwen's leadership also extended past Walnut Creek, as she was a president of the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board.

Unfortunately, Gwen passed away on November 17, 2025, at the age of 92. She was a wonderful mentor to me and so many others and the Bay Area is better because of Gwen. She will be remembered for her outstanding leadership, dedicated service to her community, and the incredible impact she had on the City of Walnut Creek and beyond. Please join me in honoring Gwen Regalia for her many contributions to our community.

**CELEBRATING MRS. NENETTE
MADLA'S RETIREMENT FROM
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the career of Mrs. Nenette Madla, who, after 37 years of service, retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), San Antonio, Texas.

Nenette began her civil service career in 1988, working in the Office of Public Affairs at the Defense Mapping Agency at Fort Sam Houston. A year later, she would begin her remarkable tenure with the VA.

Nenette's first role in the VA was in the Medical Transcription Unit where she supported medical transcriptionists. In 1992, she began a 10-year stint as a Program Assistant to the Chief of Neurosurgery and Urology. She would then work as a Credentialing Specialist for the Office of Chief of Staff and a Management Assistant/Suspense Coordinator for the Associate Director. In 2006, Nenette joined the Office of Public Affairs, where she remained until her retirement.

In the Office of Public Affairs, she served as a Congressional Affairs Liaison, Deputy Public Affairs Officer and as the Chief of Public Affairs. In these roles, Nenette oversaw the South Texas Veterans Health Care System's (STVHCS) public affairs program. Under her guidance, awareness for STVHCS programming has grown. Leading many of our Nation's veterans in Military City, U.S.A. to receive essential services.

Throughout her career, Nenette had a wonderful support system along every step of the way. She is the daughter of Linda and Arnulfo Cardenas and the granddaughter of Rosa and Jesus Torres. She has shared 23 years of marriage with Dr. Frank Madla, III. They have one child, Crystal Zapata, and two grandchildren together, Bailey Gonzalez and Jackson Zapata.

Nenette's career embodies what it means to be a civil servant. She dedicated over three decades of her life helping those who sacrificed themselves in service of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mrs. Nenette Madla for a lifetime of service. I wish her a joyful retirement.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2025 STEPHEN A.
MCLAUGHLIN FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER
AWARDS**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards. Since 2001, these awards have been presented to athletes, coaches, and parents in our region who exemplify the tenets of teamwork, leadership, good sportsmanship, and community service during athletic competitions.

It is my honor to include in RECORD the following names of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards recipients:

BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Tillman Abeyta, Football, Braddock Road Youth Club; Female Athlete: Norah Garcia, Soccer, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Coach Carlos Santizo, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club, Parent: Angela Santizo, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club.

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Brady Britt, Football/Baseball, Great Falls Little League/Langley High School Braddock Road Youth Club; Female Athlete: Ayla Sayd, Volleyball, Marshall High School/Coach Khayla Williams, Basketball, Herndon Optimist Club; Parent: Martine Silve, Field Hockey, Herndon Reston Youth Field Hockey.

FRANCONIA DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Bowen Kirui, Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Female Athlete: Vivienne Jensen, Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club, Coach Russell Balikian, Soccer, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Parent: Tara Suga, Baseball, CSLL/Patriot/Hayfield High School.

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Teddy Gill, Football, Reston Youth Association-, Female Athlete: Sienna McIntyre, Ice Hockey, Reston Raiders; Coach Terry Redican, Football, South Lakes High School/Parent: Walid Choueiri, Basketball/Swim/Football.

MASON DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Makai Carothers, Football, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Female Athlete: Michelle Soto, Soccer, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Coach Alicia Hopkins, Basketball/Soccer/T-Ball/Football, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Parent: Maria Colbert, Soccer, Premier Athletics Club.

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Tate Allen, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Female Athlete: Zoe Tickner Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club/West Potomac High School, Coach Garrett Kell Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Parent: Michael Day, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club.

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Ben Ochsendorf Basketball, McLean Select/Nova Cats AAU; Female Athlete: Ryan Elizabeth McIntosh, Swimming, Poplar Heights Crush/Coach Mark Cruz, Volleyball, Vienna Youth Inc. Parent: Mary Wong, Volleyball, Vienna Youth Inc.

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Simon Fischer, Baseball, Central Springfield Little League; Female

Athlete: Valeria Morales, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club; Coach Dan Walsh, Baseball, Central Springfield Little League, Parent: Kwame James, Basketball, Cross-Training Athletes into Believers.

SULLY DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Otto Hutchins, Soccer, Southvester n Youth Association, Female Athlete: Quinn Crozier, Softball, VA Glory, Coach Javier Alarcon, Soccer, Southwestern Youth Association, Parent: Dan Mac, Soccer, Southwestern Youth Association.

I would also like to give special recognition to the 2025 Champions of Character Award recipient, Harold Leff, who is recognized for his 33 years of dedicated and tireless service to The Fairfax County Athletic Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards and commend them for their exemplary sportsmanship character, and values, which serve as a source of inspiration for their peers and community.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY**

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize school custodians on National Custodian Appreciation Day. Celebrating the tireless work of our school custodians is immensely important, for they are the quiet champions of our schools working diligently, day in and day out, to ensure that our learning environments remain clean, safe, and welcoming. They are often the first to arrive and the last to leave, faithfully fulfilling their duties with dedication and pride. National Custodian Day was first established in 1972, when a group of educators and school administrators recognized the vital contributions of custodians in creating safe and healthy spaces for students to learn. They wanted to show appreciation for the hard work and steadfast commitment of custodial staff to their school communities.

By 1998, custodian appreciation efforts had expanded beyond expressions of gratitude to raise awareness about the critical role custodians play in maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and order in every setting. People have begun to acknowledge the often-overlooked impact custodial workers have on our daily lives.

Since then, custodian appreciation initiatives have continued to grow and gain global recognition. Planned events and gestures have grown, promoting respect and recognition, and emphasizing the significance of the contributions of school custodians. School custodians are our children's first line of defense against germs and illness. Through their consistent and tireless efforts, they ensure that our schools remain places where students can thrive. From before the first bell rings until long after the last student leaves, custodians work to create an environment where learning and growth can flourish.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the custodians in our schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the entire United States. I ask that my colleagues in

Congress and friends throughout Massachusetts join me in celebrating school custodians on National Custodian Appreciation Day as we honor their dedication and their many contributions to our school communities.

**RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN FLOYD
BLAIR**

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Floyd Blair of Marion County, Florida, who celebrated his 105th birthday on November 15, 2025.

Captain Blair's life is a complete representation of the American spirit—characterized by courage, service, and an enduring commitment to his country. He was born in a 1920, a defining moment in history when the world faced the threat of tyranny and oppression. Answering his Nation's call to service, Captain Blair served honorably in the United States Army Air Forces during the Second World War, where he demonstrated the incredible valor that were the hallmarks of America's Greatest Generation.

Throughout his service, Captain Blair embodied the values of duty, honor, and sacrifice. As a fighter pilot in combat operations across Europe, he placed himself in harm's way to defend the cause of liberty and ensure a future of peace for generations to come. His courage and leadership remain an inspiration to all who cherish freedom and understand the profound cost at which it is preserved.

Following his military service, Captain Blair continued to exemplify these same values in civilian life. For decades, he has been a devoted member of the Marion County community, respected for his humility, integrity, and steadfast patriotism. Even in his later years, Captain Blair has continued to inspire others through his quiet strength and lifelong commitment to his fellow veterans.

This year, as family, friends, and community members join together to celebrate this remarkable milestone, we pause to reflect on the profound legacy of a man who has given so much to his Nation. Captain Blair's story reminds us of the resilience and selflessness that define America's veterans and the importance of honoring those who have safeguarded our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations to Captain Floyd Blair on his 105th birthday. May his life continue to be blessed with health, joy, and the enduring appreciation of a grateful Nation.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2025 ARTSFAIRFAX ARTS
AWARDS**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the

2025 ArtsFairfax Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, individuals, and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the formally named Arts Council of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. Today, ArtsFairfax operates programs and initiatives that include grant opportunities, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for arts and culture organizations.

ArtsFairfax envisions a thriving arts and culture community accessible to all of Fairfax County. To support this vision, ArtsFairfax awarded a total of \$799,026 in 82 Awards to over 65 local arts organizations across its three grant programs for FY2026. Among those awardees, 82 percent are led by women, 30 percent are led by people of color, and 23 percent are led by veterans. These figures reflect ArtsFairfax's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility when it comes to the arts.

The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Philanthropy Award, the Impact Award, and the Education Award. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2025 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2025 Jinx Hazel Award will be presented to General (retired) Lester L. Lyles.

The 2025 Philanthropy Award will be presented to Tim Rizer.

The 2025 Impact Award will be presented to IACC—Pars Place.

The 2025 Education Award will be presented to Marco Rando.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2025 Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

HONORING CICELY MULDOON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cicely Muldoon upon her retirement from the National Park Service after 40 years of extraordinary public service.

A Bay Area native, Cicely was born on the Presidio Army base in San Francisco. Her father was a World War II Army infantryman. She grew up in Sausalito and after earning her bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of California, Davis, began her first job with the National Park Service (NPS) in 1985 as a ranger at the Sitka National Historic Park in Alaska. During her tenure, Cicely had the wonderful opportunity to work in many parks across the United States, including Buffalo River National Park in Arkansas and the San Juan Island National Historic Park in Washington, before being appointed Superintendent of Pinnacles National Park in San Benito County in 2002. After three dedicated years, and significant progress in expanding the condor release program, Cicely became a deputy regional director for NPS. For five years she

oversaw community partnerships, fire and safety initiatives, and education programs across the region while providing direct management of 10 parks including Death Valley and Joshua Tree.

In 2010, Cicely was named Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS), a position she held for a decade. My staff and I worked closely with her in this role on many challenging matters including the aftermath of the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's decision to let the NPS lease to Drakes Bay Oyster Company expire and the ensuing years trying to deliver on the directive to pursue 20-year leases to the historic working ranchers in Point Reyes National Seashore. During her time in PRNS she also managed several vital infrastructure renovations, including the restoration of the 150-year-old Point Reyes Light-house.

In January 2020, Cicely left PRNS to assume the role of acting superintendent of the iconic Yosemite National Park. After 10 months, she was promoted to permanent superintendent, overseeing the 750,000-acre park, its 1,200 employees, and more than 40 million visitors annually. The second female superintendent in Yosemite's 156-year history, Cicely led the park through historic reforms and unprecedented challenges. At the start of her tenure, she skillfully navigated the pandemic, successfully preventing any major COVID-19 outbreaks among visitors or employees. She also managed Yosemite as it faced wildfire challenges, an unexpected winter closure in 2023, and the introduction of the new day-use reservation system to manage long-term overcrowding concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I personally worked with Cicely Muldoon for more than a decade on critical issues affecting the Point Reyes National Seashore and our natural resources. She is smart, committed, and has a great sense of humor. Always dedicated to the welfare of her employees and the protection of our natural lands, Cicely leaves an indelible positive impact on the National Park Service and all those visitors and staff whom she has taught and inspired. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Cicely for her generosity of spirit, innumerable good deeds, and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FALLEN CORRECTIONS OFFICER JEREMY HALL

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, the 9th Congressional District of Virginia and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia mourn the loss of Virginia Department of Corrections Officer Jeremy Hall.

On Monday, November 17th, Officer Hall was working a morning shift at the North River Correctional Center in Independence, Virginia. Just before 8 am, an inmate at the facility attacked multiple officers, including Officer Hall. As a result of the inmate attack, Officer Hall suffered serious injuries and died.

Our communities depend on the incredible sacrifices of corrections officers to keep our

communities safe. These officers are trained to respond to, supervise and effectively tend to inmates under state custody. Accordingly, our corrections officers must be willing to put their own well-being on the line to handle stressful, challenging and even dangerous circumstances.

We rely on figures like Officer Hall, who made the selfless choice to serve the Virginia Department of Corrections since April 2024. Officer Hall carried out his corrections work with professionalism, integrity and strength. But he is also remembered for showing up to every shift with a smile and with pride in his work.

The attitude that Officer Hall carried to work can be attributed to his deep love for his family. Like so many of our corrections officers, Officer Hall received great support from his family and community.

He is survived by his wife Dawn Marie Hall, of the home; daughter, Amaya Hall (Bland, Virginia); mother, Mary Susan Richardson (Wytheville, Virginia); father, Michael L. Hall (Debra) Elk Creek, Virginia; Mother-in-law, JoAnn Bollin (Dorchester, South Carolina); brother, Drew Hall (Wytheville, Virginia); maternal grandmother, Edna Ruth Burcham (Galax, Virginia); paternal grandmother, Ruth Hall (Elk Creek, Virginia); stepchildren, Felix and Sophi Johnson (Durham, North Carolina) beloved dogs, Chia and Willow; and several loved aunts, uncles and cousins also survive. Jeremy is preceded in death by paternal grandfather, James Hall.

Officer Hall was about to celebrate his 41st birthday at the time of his death. While our region grieves his loss, River North Correctional Center and the Virginia Department of Corrections remain resolute in providing protection, safety and care to our communities. They will continue to operate according to the very same mission that Officer Hall supported and they will remember his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING CORNERSTONES CEO KERRIE WILSON ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kerrie Wilson on her upcoming retirement after nearly 25 years of dedicated service as the CEO of Cornerstones in Reston, Virginia. Cornerstones is a nonprofit organization that has provided Northern Virginia families and individuals with support, advocacy, and empowerment through critical services for over 55 years.

Founded in 1970 as Reston Interfaith, Cornerstones began as an advocacy group focusing on affordable housing needs in the Reston community and has now grown into a comprehensive service organization that serves and supports approximately 26,000 individuals throughout Fairfax County annually. The services available through Cornerstones have expanded significantly under the exceptional leadership of Kerrie Wilson and today encompass housing assistance, food assistance, financial assistance, childcare, youth services, community and family strengthening, and several community resource centers throughout the district.

Ms. Wilson became CEO of Cornerstones in 2001 after a distinguished career at the American Cancer Society, where she focused on cancer prevention for medically underserved communities and ultimately served as the organization's national vice president for government relations. During her tenure at Cornerstones, she has guided the nonprofit through a period of remarkable growth and strengthened its role as an indispensable resource for our region.

Her leadership has been defined by a deep commitment to social justice, equity, and collaboration. She played an instrumental role in expanding access to affordable housing, advancing supportive services, and forging strategic partnerships that empower individuals and families toward long-term stability. In 2023, Cornerstones extended its reach with the opening of the Free from Hunger Center, a 10,000-square-foot facility that strengthens food distribution networks throughout the region.

Ms. Wilson's many contributions to public service have been recognized throughout her career, including receiving the Katherine Hanley Public Service Award for her extraordinary impact on Fairfax County and her dedication to improving the lives of others, and Leadership Fairfax's Non-Profit Leadership Award for her tireless commitment to strengthening the region's non-profit sector.

Mr. Speaker, Kerrie Wilson's retirement marks the culmination of nearly a quarter-century of visionary leadership that has transformed and strengthened an institution central to the well-being of our region. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Kerrie Wilson for her years of devoted service and wishing her a joyful, fulfilling, and well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING MS. NINA
MARTINEZ ON WINNING THE
LONE STAR EMMY AWARD

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Nina Martinez for winning the Lone Star Emmy Award in the Historical/Cultural—Short Form or Long Form Content category. This outstanding achievement is a testament to her dedication to telling meaningful stories that educate, uplift, and empower viewers throughout Corpus Christi and the entire Coastal Bend region.

Ms. Martinez began her journey in journalism at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi and has since devoted more than two decades to television broadcasting and news reporting. Since joining KAJA Telemundo Corpus Christi in 2015 as the main evening anchor, she has become a trusted and respected voice—consistently delivering accurate, compelling, and community-centered reporting.

Throughout her career, Ms. Martínez has demonstrated not only excellence in journalism but a deep commitment to public service. She has established herself as a strong advocate for the Latino community, particularly on issues related to immigration, economic opportunity, and social equity. In addition to her

work on air, she serves on the Board of the West Side Business Association, where she helps support local businesses and advance community-driven initiatives that strengthen the region.

Ms. Martinez is equally dedicated to shaping the next generation of journalists. Through mentorship, training, and professional guidance, she has invested countless hours in helping young media professionals develop their skills and pursue successful careers in broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Nina Martinez for her exceptional career, commitment, advocacy, and her well-deserved Lone Star Emmy Award. She represents the very best of South Texas, and I congratulate her on this remarkable achievement.

CONGRATULATING MEMORIAL
MEDFLIGHT ON ITS 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone for our region. On January 1, 2026, Memorial MedFlight will celebrate its 20th Anniversary of service to the people of northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan.

For two decades, Memorial MedFlight has provided lifesaving air medical transport to our communities, often responding in the most critical moments when every second matters.

Their pilots, flight nurses, paramedics, and support teams have demonstrated extraordinary skill, professionalism, and courage day and night, in all conditions.

Thousands of families across our region have been touched by the fast, expert care this team delivers. Their work has strengthened our emergency response system, expanded access to advanced medical care, and saved countless lives.

Today, we honor Memorial MedFlight's dedication, their unwavering commitment to the people they serve, and the strong partnerships they have built with hospitals, first responders, and local communities.

We celebrate 20 years of excellence, and we express our deepest gratitude for the lives they have protected and the hope they continue to provide.

I congratulate Memorial MedFlight on this remarkable anniversary and thank them for their continued service.

HONORING CAPITAL ONE'S COM-
MITMENT TO VETERANS, SERV-
ICE MEMBERS AND MILITARY
FAMILIES

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Capital One and its exceptional contributions to our Nation's veterans, service members, and military families.

As one of Northern Virginia's largest employers, Capital One has demonstrated an un-

wavering commitment to supporting those who serve and those who stand beside them.

For more than a decade, Capital One's military-service-focused Business Resource Group, known as Salute, has been a cornerstone of that commitment. Today, Salute includes over 6,000 members and continues to grow as a vibrant community for veterans, active-duty service members, military family members, and allies.

Salute's mission is clear: to ensure that those connected to military service can thrive through meaningful engagement, professional development, and support during the unique challenges of military life.

One of Salute's signature initiatives, the Serve the Reserve program, provides personal and professional support to associates and their families during times of deployment or military separation. From care packages and communication assistance to navigating military systems and connecting employees to job placement resources, this program reflects the values of service and solidarity that strengthen our communities.

Capital One has also emerged as a national leader in helping service members transition into civilian careers. As an inaugural founder of the Hiring Our Heroes program, Capital One has helped veterans, military spouses, and caregivers access professional training and hands-on experience in fields such as cybersecurity, analytics, and project management.

Capital One also promotes career tools like "Translate My Skills," which helps applicants align military experience with civilian job requirements.

They consistently appear on the Military Friendly Employer list, and for 2025 it received the organization's prestigious Gold Status. Capital One has also been selected by the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for an Extraordinary Employer Support Award and is a proud member of the Military Spouse Employment Program, underscoring its commitment to hiring and advancing military spouses.

Capital One's impact extends beyond employment. Here in Virginia, they have played a critical role in bringing Terwilliger Place to life, which is the first housing credit development in the Commonwealth with a leasing preference for veterans.

Through a low-income housing tax credit equity investment, construction financing, and pre-development support, Capital One helped create 160 affordable housing units, half of them reserved for veterans. This project stands as a model for community-centered, veteran-focused development.

They also empower veterans to continue serving their communities through volunteerism. From resume reviews and mock interviews to care packages for active-duty service members and support for nonprofits that train service dogs for veterans with disabilities, Capital One helps extend the spirit of service well beyond military life. Their support for veteran entrepreneurship, including partnerships with Bunker Labs and the National Veteran Owned Business Association, has helped veterans build and grow small businesses across the country.

Capital One's dedication to veterans and military families represents the best of what it means to serve one another. I am proud to recognize their contributions and to thank

them for their continued leadership in supporting those who have served our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Capital One for its steadfast commitment to our military community.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 7 REVISITED

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

October 7 Revisited. Prophet Habakkuk's haunting Biblical. Words come true on a sacred turned scarred Day robbed of its joys, "For a stone shall cry out From the wall." Once loving homes where the Divine forged an abode turned Into blackened stones soaked from Hatred—filled wells of blood and fire. With walls of witness wailing in silence Of strewn bodies, young and old bonded. In death as in life, for the land of ubiquitous. Memorials again and again and again, Till when? Of snuffed dreams in a hunting field. Where dancing—davening flowers held. Sway till halted singing from deep within. Surging souls yearning to bond across. Man—made borders—barriers to be. Breached for war or peace, To yet prevail with heightened cadence. Of Shalom's invisible, ever—surviving promise!

RECOGNIZING ALFRED THOMAS LEWERENZ

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Alfred Thomas Lewerenz of Rainbow Springs, Florida, who passed away on September 16, 2025, at the age of 89.

Mr. Lewerenz lived a life marked by service, leadership, and deep devotion to his family and community. In 1952, he enlisted in the Florida Army National Guard, beginning a distinguished 33-year military career that saw him rise from Private to Lieutenant Colonel. As Battalion Commander of the 53rd Infantry Brigade in Coral Gables, he was instrumental in maintaining communication lines and coordinating operations during natural disasters and civil security efforts. His integrity and dedication left a lasting impression on all who served alongside him.

Mr. Lewerenz's commitment to excellence extended well beyond his military service. A

graduate of Lindsey Hopkins Vocational School, the U.S. Army Signal School, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, he combined technical skill with a lifelong love of learning. His passion for electronics led to a successful career in broadcasting, where he worked with WTVJ in Miami, co-founded Omni Video, and later served as Engineering Manager at Telemundo. He also shared his expertise as a Technical Advisor for the Broward County School Board, mentoring the next generation of media professionals.

Outside of his professional achievements, Mr. Lewerenz was known for his generosity, energy, and love of life. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he found joy in hosting family gatherings, camping trips, and community events. After retiring to Rainbow Springs, he cherished time spent golfing, playing pool, and attending Meadowbrook Church with his beloved wife Marilyn.

Mr. Lewerenz is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marilyn; his children Lorraine Berg, Stephanie Hanks, Jennifer Brant, and Stephen Lewerenz; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He will be remembered as a patriot, mentor, and friend whose legacy of service, faith, and love continues to inspire those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Alfred Thomas Lewerenz for his lifetime of service to Florida and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING OMICRON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AND HON- OREES

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for its Achievement Week and Honorees.

Since 1925, Achievement Week has been an annual, internationally mandated program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The purpose of the program is to inspire race, pride, and public appreciation of the Negro's potential. Chapters celebrate their communities and engage the public through exhibits, activities, meetings and forums in schools, churches, and public halls.

The fraternity's 2025 International Achievement Week is from November 10, 2025, to November 17, 2025. This year's Achievement Week theme is "Impactful Service Through Intentional Friendship."

The Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. received its

graduate chapter charter on December 14, 1996, and serves primarily the Fairfax, Herndon, and Reston, Virginia areas.

The fraternity's Annual Achievement Week Awards Luncheon serves as an opportunity to recognize our youth and members of the community for their contributions to the chapter and the community over the past year.

I include in the RECORD the following OKK awards recipients:

Trailblazer Award: Lieutenant General (Retired) R. Scott Dingle, U.S. Army

Trailblazer Award: The Honorable Robert R. Rigsby, Associate Judge, District of Columbia Superior Court and Colonel (Retired), Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Reserves

High School Essay Contest First Place Winner: Gabriella E. Celestine, James W. Robinson, Jr. Secondary School

Brigadier General Charles Young Military Leadership Award: Major Justin Brown, Engineer, U.S. Army Reserves

Citizen of the Year Award: Dr. Mamie Parker, PhD

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Award for Excellence in Aerospace and the Arts: Imani C.O. Nzekwe, Thomas A. Edison High School

Dr. Charles R. Drew Award for Excellence in Medical Research: Hernan Bekele, Carter G. Woodson High School

Dr. Ernest Everett Just Award for Excellence in Biology: Shreya Soni and Peyton Tran, South County High School

Dr. Oscar James Cooper, M.D., Award for Excellence in Biomedical and Health Sciences: Chloe Giglio, McLean High School

Professor Frank Coleman Award for Excellence in Physics and Astronomy: Leona Agyepong, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Dr. Edgar Amos Love Award for Excellence in Biomedical Engineering: Aaryasinh Vaghela and Rishik Puli, Basis Independence School

Charles "Chuck" Smith Award for Excellence in Computer Science and Mathematics: Eamon O'Leary, South Lakes High School

Founders Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Dennis Humphrey, PhD

Omega Man of the Year: Sanford Crenshaw Superior Service Award: Brian Bond

Service Pins: Gerald Hamilton, 55 Years; Howard Foard Jr., 50 Years; Gerald Curry, 45 Years; Robert Drummer, 40 Years; Julius Reynolds, 40 years; Earl Smith Jr., 40 Years; Shun Williams, 40 Years; Michael Craghead, 35 Years; Michael Kennebrew, 25 Years; Joseph Nelson, 25 Years.

Basileus Bricks: Michael Welch, Chairman, Charles Drew Blood Drive; Sanford Crenshaw, Vice Basileus; Vince Jones, Vice Chairman, Charles Drew Blood Drive; Zachary Canady, Keeper of Records and Seal; Jeremiah Davis, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. and the honorees for this year's Achievement Week.