

It is clear that Ms. Waterhouse has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD  
FOR JUSTIN MCCAREINS

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Justin McCareins of Whitewright, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Justin is a former professional athlete and public servant who has dedicated himself to serving and protecting our community.

Justin grew up in Chicago's suburbs and attended Northern Illinois University. While at NIU, he played college football and set numerous records for receptions, yards, and touchdowns. After graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Communication, Justin was drafted by the NFL to play as a Wide Receiver and Kick Returner for the Tennessee Titans. He briefly played for the New York Jets from 2004 to 2008 before returning to the Titans for an additional year. During this time, he successfully led his teams to the playoffs for five of his eight years in the league. For his impressive accomplishments and record, Justin was inducted into the NIU Hall of Fame in 2011 and ranked in the top 10 among NIU's 50 Greatest Players in Huskie Stadium history. In recognition of his philanthropy to NIU, the university has established the Justin & Sherrone McCareins Auditorium at their state-of-the-art Academic and Athletic Performance Center.

After playing for the NFL, Justin began his public service career in 2009 as a law enforcement officer for the city of Coral Springs, Florida. During his six-year tenure as a patrol officer, he worked closely with other police units to effectively enforce criminal law and serve his community. In 2015, Justin moved to Frisco to assist his brother Jay in opening MAC Speed and Strength to train elite athletes. He also volunteered as an assistant football coach at McKinney Christian Academy for two years. Currently, Justin manages a large ranch in Whitewright alongside his wife Sherrone. Together, they raise a variety of animals and generously donate food and other goods to underprivileged families. I am proud of the work Justin has accomplished for our community and his continued support for those in need.

It is an honor to bestow Justin with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING DUDA SABINO

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Duda Sabino for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Duda has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perse-

verance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Duda, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Duda's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Duda Sabino on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

SLOW GROWTH DESTROYS JOBS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we enter National Small Business Week, the failed policies of Biden have made it nearly impossible for them to succeed.

Last week, the Commerce Department reported that economic growth for the country is weaker than expected.

The gross domestic product for first quarter, a measure of goods and services produced, grew at its slowest pace in two years—while prices rose at a faster rate, destroying jobs.

Small businesses account for nearly half of the American private job creation and forty-three percent of the employees in South Carolina. The National Federation of Independent Businesses with local chambers make a difference from North Augusta to Blythewood to Orangeburg and Barnwell.

House Republicans are fighting to protect small businesses and create jobs.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

Congratulations to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON for promoting Peace Through Strength to deter dictators. Lawfare persecution must stop as President Trump persecution and Hamas terrorists provided amnesty.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOE PARISI

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the contributions of Dane County Executive Joe Parisi:

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has had a long career in public service that dates back to 1996, having worked as a legislative aide in the Wisconsin State Capitol, elected as the Dane County Clerk, and elected to the State Assembly for Wisconsin's 48th District before being elected as the Dane County Executive on April 5th, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi handled the Dane County's budget with precision to run the

Dane County Regional Airport, the Henry Vilas Zoo, the county landfill, a host of parks, much of the criminal justice system, and an impactful human services program; and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi fostered excellent working relationships with South Central Wisconsin's local elected officials to invest in infrastructure, combat climate change, and protect the area's water, and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has been credited as championing partnerships with local organizations to help create trust with many communities within Dane County and promoting racial equity in government and the workforce, and

WHEREAS, Joe Parisi has been involved in projects such as youth training programs, expanding solar and renewable energy, apprenticeships in county parks, mental health initiatives, and a program that helps people expunge criminal records, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby proclaim May 1, 2024, as Joe Parisi Day in honor of his service to his community, Dane County, and the State of Wisconsin. I join his friends, family, and colleagues in offering him best wishes on his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING BARRETT RIVERA

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Barrett Rivera who owns a local small business, Rivera's Flooring, Kitchens and More. As a Veteran, Mr. Rivera has spent many years giving back to his fellow brothers and sisters in arms who needed help. His Military Makeover program involves fixing up Veterans' homes when they can't afford the repair or maintenance that is needed. He also has sent his employees into the woods in search of a local missing child and helped elderly neighbors with needed repairs. He is not the type of person to seek recognition, he simply does whatever he thinks is right.

Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Rivera has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD  
FOR PETER MUNSON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter Munson of Pottsboro, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Peter is an experienced jurist and litigator who has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

Peter was born in Sherman, Texas, in 1944. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1967 with a Bachelor of Business

Administration and obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Texas in 1970. Since then, Peter has continuously engaged in civil trial law and maintains several office locations across Grayson County. He is also board certified in Family Law and licensed to practice before the US Supreme Court. In 1984, former Governor Mark White appointed Peter to serve as a life member of the Uniform Law Commission to help clarify state statutory law.

Throughout his extensive legal career, Peter has continued to be actively involved in numerous charitable organizations to benefit students and individuals in need. He is a current Trustee for the Austin College Board and was the former Director of the Denison and Sherman Chambers of Commerce. Moreover, he previously served in leadership roles for Grayson United Way, Grayson Salvation Army, and Boy Scouts of America. A devoted man of faith, Peter attends the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Denison with his wife, Kathleen. I am proud to recognize Peter today for his lifelong commitment to uphold the rule of law and fight for justice.

It is an honor to bestow Peter with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING ANTHONY ABURTO

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anthony Aburto for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Anthony has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Anthony, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Anthony's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Anthony Aburto on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING NEIR'S TAVERN

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Neir's Tavern, a beloved establishment located in the heart of Woodhaven, Queens. From its inception in 1829, Neir's Tavern has contributed to New York City's rich cultural history. Today, I am marking the momentous occasion of Neir's Tavern receiving the Queensmark Historical Designation award from the Queens Historical Society of New York.

This designation is not only meaningful for the Woodhaven, Queens community, it also highlights the significant contributions of Loycent Gordon, the current owner of Neir's

Tavern. A public servant who dedicated more than two decades as a New York City firefighter and was one of the first African American Lieutenant's in the FDNY Hazmat Division.

In 2009, he courageously stepped up and purchased the establishment when it was set to shutter its doors. Loycent is the embodiment of the American dream, immigrating at the age of 10 from the island of Jamaica to Jamaica, Queens. His business acumen and sense of community has contributed greatly to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Woodhaven.

As we commemorate this milestone in the history of Neir's Tavern, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving and celebrating the cultural landmarks that make our communities unique as well as the small businesses that are the backbone of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Neir's Tavern on its well-deserved Queensmark historical designation and in wishing Loycent Gordon many more years of success.

#### RECOGNIZING RANDAL MESSER

#### HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Randal Messer as the 2023–2024 Walton County Educational Support Professional of the Year. For the past thirty-three years, Mr. Messer has served the Walton County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educational support professionals in the Nation. It is recognized that the position of Paraprofessional can be taxing but can also be so rewarding. Mr. Messer performs his many duties without question or hesitation and does so with enthusiasm and a commitment to cultivate a safe and healthy school environment.

Mr. Messer is revered by his Principal and colleagues for his positive attitude and willingness to go above and beyond the scope of his job duties. He is often asked for input to adjust or problem solve at his school. He selflessly considers the needs of both students and staff because of the immense pride he has for his school.

Mr. Messer's support and outreach extend far beyond the walls of the school. He is always willing to help wherever assistance is needed. Mr. Messer has displayed dedicated teamwork by providing staff and students with technology support and is always willing to lend a helping hand. I commend him for his steadfast willingness to serve as an example for those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all his admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Mr. Randal Messer as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Randal Messer for his accomplishments and his commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Walton County School District. I thank him for

his service and wish him all the best for continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING KRISTIE SEARS

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Kristie Sears of Bomhoff Law Firm, who is an outstanding volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club of Hernando County. Kristie's dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the Club and its mission has left a lasting imprint on the lives of those she works with. Her tireless efforts have positively impacted the organization and community, serving as an inspiration for others to follow her lead.

Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Sears has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

#### CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD FOR LARRY PHILLIPS

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Lawrence "Larry" Phillips of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Judge Phillips currently serves the 59th District Court in Grayson County, and he has dedicated himself to serving and uplifting our community.

A graduate of Baylor University, Judge Phillips attended law school at the University of Houston. In 2003, he was elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives for the 62nd District, a position he held for over fifteen years. While in the legislature, Judge Phillips chaired numerous committees and served in leadership positions for the Southern Legislative Conference, the Council of State Governments, and the Red River Boundary Commission.

In 2019, Judge Phillips won a special election to serve on the 59th District Court after being appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to fill a vacancy in the previous year. He presides over felony criminal, civil, family, and juvenile matters, including the STAR Recovery Court program. Additionally, Judge Phillips conducts judicial oversight through his positions as Administrative Judge and Chair of the Bail Bond Board. He is the current President of the Texas Association of Specialty Courts and the former President of the Federal Eastern District of Texas Bar Association. Judge Phillips is a devoted man of faith, and he attends the Post Oak Fellowship Church in Sherman with his wonderful wife Robin. He enjoys serving in their children's church ministry, traveling, gardening, and spending time