

for innovation in Rochester, New York: Theresa Mazzullo, who is retiring after an extraordinary tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Excell Partners. Her years of service have left an indelible mark on the entrepreneurial landscape of Upstate New York.

Since stepping into the role in 2006, Theresa has guided Excell Partners through a period of remarkable growth. What began as a small seed fund has, under her leadership, evolved into a venture capital organization overseeing more than \$80 million in assets. She played a pivotal role in establishing Excell as a cornerstone supporter of emerging companies across the region, most recently through the creation of the Upstate Biotech Venture Fund to bolster life sciences startups.

Beyond stewarding the firm's investments, Theresa has been a driving force in strengthening the broader innovation ecosystem. She has led efforts in governance, compliance, fundraising, and community engagement, drawing upon more than three decades of experience in business and finance—including founding her own small business. Her insight and dedication have shaped the strategic direction of Excell and the communities it serves.

Her commitment to the region extends far beyond her executive responsibilities. Theresa has contributed her expertise to numerous boards and advisory groups, helping influence economic development initiatives and supporting the continued growth of entrepreneurial networks throughout Upstate New York. Her leadership was recently honored with the Upstate Capital Association of New York's Ecosystem Champion Award, a testament to her collaborative spirit and her long-standing dedication to the region's success.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and deep gratitude that I recognize a dear friend, Theresa Mazzullo, for her remarkable career and enduring contributions to the Rochester community. Her legacy will continue to benefit our region for years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 333, and NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SCHMITZ

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and I am privileged to present Mr. David Schmitz with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. He has exemplified the meaning of service to our country, both as a leader in the U.S. military and as a civilian.

Mr. Schmitz proudly served in the United States Air Force for 29 years, holding prestigious roles in the Defense Mapping Agency, On-Site Inspection Agency, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, European Operations Division. He was stationed in Wyoming, California, and Utah in the United States, served overseas in Germany, and impressively served as a Russian interpreter during a three-month stint with Operation Provide Hope in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Schmitz was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant in June of 2004, but his service to America didn't end there. He continued to stay involved with veteran advocacy through participation in the Disabled American Veterans Lone Star Chapter, where he served as the First Vice Commander. In the organization, he was tasked with organizing membership and coordinating outreach to veterans across the region. He now serves as a Chapter Service Officer, where he demonstrates diligence, patience, and works in-depth with the claims process.

Through extensive one-on-one support, he has guided veterans in navigating resources and services, ensuring they receive the care they need and deserve. He played a pivotal role in emergency flood relief efforts, personally seeking out veterans in affected communities to ensure their safety and well-being. Additionally, he was instrumental in planning the Pflugerville Memorial Day Veteran Pfest, demonstrating exceptional leadership within the community.

I am incredibly appreciative of his dedication to service and the lasting difference he has made in the lives of countless veterans, and I am proud to honor him with this commendation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House during Monday's two Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 335, S. 284 and AYE on Roll Call No. 336, H.R. 3187.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN ALEXANDER FELDMAN

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Captain Alexander Feldman, United States Marine Corps, and his service and contributions to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Alex joined my office in January and quickly became an indispensable member of my team. As my Department of Defense Legislative Fellow, Alex spearheaded numerous legislative efforts that delivered tangible results to

the constituents of my district, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the country. He was integral throughout the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act process, working across policy verticals and the aisle to enact meaningful legislation. He also led my veterans policy work, where he liaised with the Veterans Affairs Department and took immense pride and care in working with veteran constituents facing the unique challenges that only a service member themselves could appreciate.

Alex has served as a mentor and leader for my legislative staff and the entire office, sharing his expertise and experience with the rest of my team. His counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill. Alex was truly the beating heart of my office, keeping the mood light, ever quick with a joke, and always willing to offer his colleagues sage advice.

I would like to thank Alex for his many contributions and dedicated service over the last year. He is thorough, a true team player, and a spark in my office that will be dearly missed. Alex has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish him the best of luck as he moves on to the next chapter of his professional career.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for joining me to recognize Alexander Feldman for his service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

#### HONORING ST. MATTHIAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Matthias Catholic School on their designation as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School.

Since 1982, the Blue-Ribbon School Award has recognized the most exemplary public and private schools for outstanding academic performance and significant progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

From its inception in 1888 to its continued excellence through the 21st Century, St. Matthias has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

St. Matthias School is the only PK3–8th Grade Catholic, International Baccalaureate (IB), National Blue Ribbon School in Illinois. Student performance at St. Matthias at or above grade level surpasses average student performance at other Archdiocese of Chicago schools by more than 15 percent for reading and math.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like St. Matthias, which deserve praise and congratulations for this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing St. Matthias Academy for their exceptional and continuous success in educating and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.

RECOGNIZING AVON HIGH SCHOOL  
ON WINNING THE DIVISION II  
STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young women of the Avon High School girls' volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division II State Girls Volleyball Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division II State Volleyball Playoffs, the Avon Eagles overcame the challenges posed by Intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Avon Eagles defeated the Anthony Wayne Generals to win the state volleyball championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the court, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Avon High School girls volleyball team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING CHABAD LUBAVITCH

**HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia on the occasion of its annual Main Street Grand Gelt Drop, a cherished community tradition that marks the beginning of Hanukkah and brings together families, neighbors, and visitors from across Northern Virginia.

Each year, the Main Street Grand Gelt Drop serves as a joyful gathering that reflects the enduring values of Hanukkah, including light, generosity, community, and hope. Through music, crafts, games, food, and shared tradition, Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia creates a space where people of all backgrounds are welcomed and where community bonds are strengthened.

Beyond this annual celebration, Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia serves as a consistent source of outreach, education, and service throughout the year. Its leadership and volunteers work tirelessly to support individuals and families, preserve meaningful traditions, and strengthen the bond of our region through acts of kindness and engagement.

As Hanukkah 2025 begins, this celebration carries special significance. At a time when connection, understanding, and mutual support matter deeply, events like the Gelt Drop remind us of the importance of coming together in fellowship and goodwill. Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia continues to play a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging, resilience, and shared community within our district.

I commend the leadership, volunteers, and families of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia for their dedication to service, outreach, and community building throughout the year. Their efforts ensure that traditions are preserved and shared in ways that uplift and inspire.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia on another successful Main Street Grand Gelt Drop, and I wish the entire community a happy and meaningful Hanukkah.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
BRANDON CROOK

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Brandon Crook has devoted his life to caring for service members, veterans, and their families, both in and out of uniform. His commitment to others reflects the finest traditions of the United States Navy, and I am honored to recognize him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Mr. Crook entered the Navy in 2009 as a Seaman Recruit and trained as a Hospital Corpsman. He served at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, where he supported medical operations and strengthened the health and readiness of the force. Later, with the 1st Marine Division, he served as the medical readiness leader for more than 1,800 Marines and Sailors, raising readiness to 97 percent and preparing units for deployment. His performance earned him multiple awards, including two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

After completing his military service, Mr. Crook continued to support the military community through Heroes Night Out (HNO). Beginning as a volunteer in 2018 and now serving as Executive Director, he has helped transform HNO into one of Central Texas's most impactful veteran service organizations. Today, HNO reaches more than 7,500 veterans and family members annually and hosts over 145 events each year. Under his leadership, the organization launched outdoor programming, expanded holiday meal support, created a Women Veterans Program, and built strong partnerships across the region. He has also secured more than \$1.7 million in funding, contributing to HNO's recognition as the Rising Star Non-Profit of the Year in 2023.

Brandon Crook's work has strengthened countless lives and families. I am grateful for his service to our Nation and for his ongoing mission to support those who have worn the uniform.

CONGRATULATING SENIOR MASTER  
SERGEANT ADAM M. WALTER  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Senior Master Sergeant Adam M.

Walter upon the occasion of his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard (PaANG) after 24 years of dedicated service.

Sergeant Walter entered the PaANG in January 2002, diligently working his way to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant in October 2022. In 2003, he joined the 193rd Special Operations Wing as a video maintenance technician. During his illustrious career, he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 193rd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron (2005), Qatar (2005, and between 2020 to 2023), and in Guam (2025), where he served with the 513th Expeditionary RED HORSE Squadron.

Sergeant Walter has earned a multitude of awards and decorations, including the: Meritorious Service Medal (w/3 OLC); Air and Space Commendation Medal; and Air and Space Achievement Medal (w/1 OLC). Between 2015 and 2017, he oversaw all acts related to the accounting of public funds and financial services for 1,800 Wing members, including travel pay, accounting, and vendor pay, and processed over 500 travel vouchers with a zero-error rate. Between 2020 and 2021, while deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, his support while battling the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic secured a 100 percent mission effectiveness rate during the execution of more than 1,300 combat missions. In addition, while deployed to Guam this year, his actions expedited an Airman's redeployment within 48 hours to ensure a final visit with a family during a time of need, and during a unit crisis, his leadership coordinated the rapid medical evacuation of two personnel.

While not performing military duty, Sergeant Walter is a higher education full-time administrator, adjunct faculty member, and self-employed business owner. In 2018, he earned his Doctor of Education and published his dissertation, "Challenges faced by US Student Veterans Transitioning to a Community College." He previously earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Penn State and a master's degree in leadership and business ethics from Duquesne.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Adam M. Walter upon his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and a job extremely well done. His dedicated service to his fellow Airmen, our communities, and our United States of America are the standard by which we all should be judged.

CONGRATULATING MR. FLOYD  
AND MRS. CORA HENDERSON ON  
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 65TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express congratulations to my dear cousin Cora and her wonderful husband Floyd, on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Sixty-five years is a long time, but when you can spend them with one person sharing every moment the time becomes more and more precious as the days go by.

Cora and I grew up together in rural Arkansas, Parkdale to be exact, her father Mr. Willie