

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

Vaughn (Uncle Dude) and my mother Mazzie Lee Davis were brother and sister. Our families worshipped together, and visited each other's homes. Cora and I were classmates in school and graduated from high school together. My wife of 56 years, Dr. Vera G. Davis and all of our family extend to her and Floyd our best wishes and pray they have, many, many more anniversaries.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on December 12, 2025.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 333, and YEA on Roll Call No. 334.

HONORING SARAH ADAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sarah Adams Elementary 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, Sarah Adams Elementary has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

Sarah Adams Elementary School stands out in the State of Illinois. At Sarah Adams Elementary School, 52 percent of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 62 percent scored at or above that level for reading, well above the state and national average. The excellent work of Sarah Adams is fostering the next generation of leaders, right here in Chicagoland.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like Prescott Elementary, 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 Prescott Elementary for their exceptional and continuous success in educating and nurturing the brilliant future minds of this Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MICHAEL P. FARRELL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Captain Michael P. Farrell has lived a life defined by service to his country and his community, and I am honored to recognize him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Captain Farrell began his distinguished Coast Guard career in 1977 and graduated

from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1981. Over 32 years of service, he served as a helicopter pilot, conducting lifesaving missions, performing high-risk rescues, and supporting operations around the world. He participated in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and later served as Chief of the Migrant Interdiction Division at Coast Guard Headquarters, where he oversaw the safe repatriation of hundreds of migrants in coordination with the Departments of State and Defense and the National Security Council.

As Coast Guard Attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Captain Farrell helped forge a historic law enforcement agreement with the Mexican Navy, leading to enhanced joint operations, maritime security cooperation, and the seizure of a semi-submersible vessel carrying more than five tons of cocaine. His distinguished career earned him numerous honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

Since retiring in 2009, Captain Farrell has continued his commitment to service through work with several Texas state agencies focused on safety and family protection. He has also shared his expertise as an educator at St. Edward's University, the University of Phoenix, and Hawai'i Pacific University. A devoted volunteer, he has served with the Knights of Columbus, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, and the St. John Vianney Committee.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest appreciation to Captain Michael P. Farrell for his lifelong dedication to service and his enduring impact on both his country and his community.