

The 2025 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was born out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2025 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 148 active O.W.L. members answer thousands of calls and serve 95,000 people each year. Their job is demanding, and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

The 2025 Officers: President Todd Hewitt, Executive Vice President Susan Wessollock, Membership Secretary Stacey Godin, Treasurer Debra Haight, Sergeant at Arms Mark Bauer, Elections Officer Sabrina Brandon Ricks, Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Kurt Bolland, Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis, Assistant Chief Ryan Williams, Assistant Chief of Rescue Sandra Williams, Fire Captain Steve Godin, EMS Captain Mike Yankaskas, Fire Lieutenant Peter Langone, Fire Lieutenant Jared Lawrence, EMS Lieutenant Andrea Bonilla, EMS Lieutenant Leo Greenwald.

Board of Directors: Frank Bruno, Mike Clark, Steve Godin, Dee Gottman, Dave Lukes, Stephanie Powers, Anna Smith, Cynthia Thackway

2024 Awardees: Betty Limerick Lifetime Service Award: Stacey Godin

Roger T. Furr Chief's Award: Malak Hassan Richard A. McAvoy Award for EMS Service Award: Leo Greenwald

John M. McGovern, Jr. Unsung Hero Award: Ernest DeSantis

Robert F. Arrington Administrative Member of the Year Award: Melaina Lewis

Fred M. Lynn Fire Crew Member of the Year Award: Daniel Collins

Bonita F. Joseph EMS Crew Member of the Year Award: Steven Ostrosky

New EMS Crew Member of The Year Award: Mitchell Connolly

James W. Ludwig Owllet Award: Austin Williams

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to congratulate these remarkable volunteers for their continued work. The Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William and Fairfax community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT KURT DELONG

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Kurt Delong of Westfield, Indiana who for his 25 years of service as a reserve officer to the Hamilton County Indiana

Sheriff's Department, where he has served with distinction. Lieutenant Delong had a very strong religious upbringing, while stating numerous times to his colleagues that he is a "Missionary disguised as a police officer."

During his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Delong has obtained numerous awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year," "Sergeant of the Year," and "Lieutenant of the Year." Additionally, he was named a Pistol Expert, and "Life Saving Award" recipient.

Lieutenant Delong also served as a trainer for Hamilton County Sheriff's Office new Reserve Deputies, and he was a Board Member for the Community Foundation's "Christmas Express Volunteer and Shop for Kids" drive. Lieutenant Delong, in his 25 years of service, provided a strong foundation for safety, training, and growth for the citizens of Hamilton County.

Outside of his law enforcement duties, Lieutenant Delong operates a small landscaping business. Lieutenant Delong is an avid fan of both high school and college wrestling, and he loves boating and travelling.

While Lieutenant Delong will be retiring as a reserve officer on March 28, 2025, he will continue to serve the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate Kurt's dedication and contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

For nearly 40 years, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has been observed across the United States to recognize and highlight the achievements, challenges, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, vision impairment, and hearing loss, among many others. Developmental disabilities occur across all racial, ethnic, gender, educational, and socioeconomic groups. Today in the United States, around 1 in 6 children aged 3 through 17 have one or more developmental disabilities.

Developmental disabilities present differently in every person, and the difficulties an individual faces can vary significantly. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for supporting those with developmental disabilities, and we must recommit ourselves to gaining a better understanding of all developmental disabilities.

We have made significant progress as a nation in advancing the rights, inclusion, and participation of people with developmental disabilities, but challenges and barriers persist. We must continue to promote policies that improve resource accessibility, strengthen support networks, and increase public awareness.

I commend activists, families, caregivers, and organizations, like the Arc of Northern Virginia, for their efforts to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the care, resources, and opportunities necessary to lead productive and fulfilling lives. The tireless and selfless work they do makes it possible for those with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential. The mission is not just to make sure that individuals with developmental disabilities survive, it is to make sure that they are able to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to promoting accessibility, dignity, and equity for all Americans with developmental disabilities.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE & FARM MUSEUM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum for their 100th anniversary.

In 1925, brothers Henry and George Landis combined their collection of Pennsylvania German objects and antiques to found what would eventually become the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. The museum was formally incorporated in 1941. In 1953, the brothers donated the museum and property, the Landis' family farm, to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

As the largest Pennsylvania German museum in the country, Landis Valley holds over 100,000 historic artifacts, such as furniture, fraktur art, pottery and quilts, which date back to the early days of Pennsylvania German settlement. Over the years the museum has transformed into a living history exhibition, adding onto its collection many relocated and constructed historical buildings, historical breeds of animals and plants, and interactive presentations of traditional, Pennsylvania German life.

In what was originally a collection between two brothers, the passing century has transformed Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum into an educational community center for the surrounding area. As they celebrate one hundred years in serving the public, I am thankful that Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District has such a wonderful organization keeping our community's heritage alive.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT JENNINGS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Robert Jennings, on his retirement from SpartanNash in Byron Center, Michigan. Mr. Jennings was an outstanding associate of SpartanNash, with

his retirement marking 25 years of incredible professionalism and service to his coworkers and community. His commitment to excellence in his role is to be commended, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Jennings here today.

Through considerable effort, innovation, and persistence, Mr. Jennings has helped foster an efficient and effective warehouse environment for associates at SpartanNash. He worked with cross-functional departments to coordinate distribution center operations while supervising the daily warehouse department in shipping, selection, loading, and storage. Mr. Jennings was also crucial in assisting with the training of SpartanNash teams during changes in procedure, and worked with warehouse leads to coordinate the day-to-day scheduling of associates. Our West Michigan Community is fortunate to have lived and worked alongside Mr. Jennings, who has made outstanding contributions during his time at SpartanNash.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Jennings on his retirement from SpartanNash. We commend him for his decades of service. I wish Mr. Jennings, a much-deserved, restful retirement surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia which is celebrating its centennial on March 28, 2025.

In 1925, a group of women met in Williamsburg, Virginia to form a Virginia state Division of the American Association of University Women. The women, mainly educators, resolved to work for an increase in funds for the state supported schools and a program for pre-school children.

In the 1930's, AAUW-Virginia worked to improve school curricula, promoted teacher training, fought for equal salaries for men and women teachers and for removing the discriminatory ruling against married women teaching in the public schools.

In the 1940's, members worked around travel restrictions from World War II. The number of local branches grew in Virginia, as the National organization worked to help women Axis and occupied nations escape to safety. AAUW of Virginia was active in promoting jury duty for women, a right granted in 1950.

In the 1950's when some schools were closed following federal court orders, AAUW branches in Virginia established tutoring groups as temporary substitutes, laying the groundwork for the organization's firm and courageous stand for the preservation of a statewide system of free public schools.

In the 1960's, AAUW of Virginia worked for compulsory school attendance and consistently opposed tuition grants to pupils in private, sectarian schools. The organization had long supported measures to protect and improve the legal status of women, and efforts increased during this decade.

In 1971 AAUW of Virginia voted to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In protest the organization moved its state convention outside Virginia to Washington, D.C., in 1981 and to Maryland, a ratified state, in 1982.

The fight for gender equality continued throughout the 1980's, as AAUW of Virginia again opposed the use of public funds for the male-only Virginia Military Institute and signed on as an amicus curia when the case went before the Supreme Court. In 1996, the Court ruled in favor of admitting women students.

In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The organization's support never waned.

In the new century, some of AAUW of Virginia's issues were the same, such as opposition to public education funds for private schools, and equality for all. Under the auspices of the AAUW National, the Virginia branches have worked for equal pay, including support for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and fought to protect Title IX, as well as access to reproductive care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating AAUW of Virginia for 100 years as the Nation's leading organization for equity in higher education and women's economic empowerment. Cheers to another century of advocacy and civic engagement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 24th to March 28th of 2025 as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, which means longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

The AHEC program has already trained millions of health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank them all for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY INCORPORATED ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated on the historic milestone of 100 years of achievement and service. Since 1925, when Brother Earl B. Dickerson, the 5th Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, appointed John Miller Marquees as the first Eastern Province Polemarch, the province has exhibited the fundamental purpose of the organization achievement in every field of human endeavor.

As a proud member of the Hyattsville-Landover Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, I have seen first-hand the commitment to excellence, brotherhood, and the betterment of mankind exhibited by the Eastern Province. With 5 total regions, including all of Washington, D.C., Virginia, Bermuda, and Maryland, the Eastern Province includes over 100 undergraduate and alumni chapters, whose God-fearing and serious minded men have positively contributed to society and the fraternity for the past 100 years.

The Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated serves as an embodiment of the organization's core values and principles. Under the 30th administration of the province, I am certain that they will continue in the mission and ideals set forth by our illustrious founders. I congratulate them again on 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMY LEE HOOKS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of one of my late constituents, Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. He was a decorated war veteran; devoted husband, father and grandfather; and American hero who exemplified duty, courage, and selfless sacrifice in service to the United States of America. Sadly, Mr. Hooks passed from labor to reward on November 5, 2024, at the age of 77 in Columbus, Georgia.

Born and raised in Plains, Georgia, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. was no stranger to hardship. After losing his mother at an early age, he developed a deep sense of resilience, family values, and an unwavering work ethic. He graduated from Sumter County High School in Americus, Georgia, in 1967. Shortly thereafter, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army. After enlisting, he married his high school sweetheart and beloved, lifelong partner of 54 years, Mildred Louise Hooks (Hubbard).

Private First Class Hooks' courage and valor were tested on the front lines of the Vietnam War, where he served as a Rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division's 11th Infantry Brigade near