On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize the University Place Book Club for its significant contributions to the City of Fort Worth. The members' passion for literature and commitment to enhancing educational resources for children have left a lasting impact on the community. I extend my best wishes to all its members as they continue the legacy of this historic book club.

RECOGNIZING AULONNIE LOPEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Aulonnie has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Aulonnie, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aulonnie'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 Aulonnie Lopez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mercer County Pennsylvania as they commemorate their 225th Anniversary. It is with immense pride that we acknowledge 225 years of history, community, and resilience. This milestone is not simply a measure of time, but a testament to the unwavering determination, grit, and ingenuity of the individuals who have molded this county into the exceptional place it is today.

From its founding in 1800, Mercer County has stood as a pillar of strength and community. What began as a frontier settlement has grown into a thriving region rich in culture, industry, and opportunity. Over the centuries, this county has been home to hardworking farmers, entrepreneurs, educators, and service members—all of whom have played a role in shaping its legacy.

We remember the early settlers who shaped life in this land, facing hardships with unwavering determination. We honor the industries that have driven our economy forward, from steel and manufacturing to agriculture and small businesses. We celebrate our schools, where generations of students have been educated and prepared for bright futures. And we take pride in our local traditions, events, and landmarks that make Mercer County a place like no other.

To the families who have lived here for generations, and to those who have chosen to make Mercer County their home more recently, I thank them for being part of this incredible journey. Their dedication, kindness, and commitment to this community are what make it truly special.

So, as we celebrate this historic anniversary, let us not only honor our past but also embrace the opportunities ahead. Let us work together to ensure that Mercer County continues to be a place of growth, unity, and prosperity for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHY GEARHEART SMITH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Kathy Gearheart Smith, who passed away on March 12th at the age of 70.

Of the important roles Ms. Smith embraced in her life, perhaps one of the most meaningful was as a wife.

Ms. Smith was happily married to her late husband, Stephen, for many years. They shared a strong bond and growing appreciation for their greater family, which now includes three grandchildren.

In addition to her love for her family, Ms. Smith adamantly cared about the wellbeing of her community in the Roanoke Valley. This was most evident in her public service positions. She worked in my state legislative office, and later in my Congressional office.

These positions required Ms. Smith to be a professional representative for both offices and interact with thousands of constituents in the community. I was grateful for the true dedication, precise care and exceptional character with which she treated her job.

Ms. Smith was a great person to be around for my staff and myself. I appreciated her friendly demeanor and joyful nature during her long tenure helping me and the people of the 8th District of the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia's 9th Congressional District of the United States House of Representatives.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sister, Diana Gearheart; brother, Chuck Gearheart; sister-in-law, Jennifer Gearheart; son, Jake Smith; grandsons, Caleb, Ethan, and Micah Smith; and numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces.

The impacts that Ms. Smith had on her community will surely be missed. I will cherish my memories of her and celebrate her life.

RECOGNIZING ANGEL LAMUS BONILLA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Angel has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Angel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel'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 Angel Lamus Bonilla on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING MARCH AS YOUTH ART MONTH IN KANSAS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate March as Youth Art Month in Kansas. Youth Art Month exists to honor our student artists and recognize the value of art education, especially for our children.

In 1961, the Art & Creative Materials Institute created Children's Art Month as an event to emphasize the value of visual art education. In 1969, the celebration expanded to include secondary school students, and Children's Art Month officially became known as Youth Art Month. Youth Art Month is now celebrated across the Nation with art contests, exhibits, and special activities.

Annually in Kansas, every art teacher in the state is eligible to submit one student's artwork from their school to be showcased in the Kansas Youth Art Month exhibit at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library. Nationwide, a student from each state designs a Youth Art Month flag to represent their state at the National Art Education Association's Convention. This year, on March 29, 2025, there was a celebration to recognize all of these artists. At this celebration, students engaged in fun art activities, viewed the exhibits, and received certificates and prizes for their involvement in the event.

Youth Art Month exists to increase community understanding, interest, and participation in art and art education. Year round, Kansas art teachers strive to expand art programs in schools and provide opportunities for more students to explore their artistic creativity. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to these educators, and to the Kansas Art Education Association for organizing Kansas' Youth Art Month so that we can formally celebrate them and their students.

HONORING FORT WORTH MEACHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fort Worth Meacham International Airport on its 100th anniversary. Established in 1914 and acquired by the City of Fort Worth in 1925, this historic airfield was named after former Mayor Henry C. Meacham

in 1927. Meacham Airport was the site of the first airline passenger flight out of Texas in 1928 and became home to a regularly scheduled airline service in 1929.

Meacham Airport has played a crucial role in connecting businesses and institutions across Fort Worth's expanding landscape. It has served as a gateway for both domestic and international travelers seeking direct access to Fort Worth's thriving districts. Over the past century, Meacham Airport has been a vital airfield for the U.S. Navy during World War II and has welcomed notable figures such as Elvis Presley and multiple U.S. Presidents. Today, it remains a strategic hub near the historic Stockyards, Downtown Fort Worth, and the Texas A&M Research Center.

Continuing its legacy in aviation, Meacham Airport now serves as a premier training ground for the next generation of pilots. Through established flight schools and specialized maintenance facilities, the airport plays a vital role in addressing workforce challenges within the aviation industry. Flight training programs such as Delta Qualiflight and Rich Aviation inspire future pilots to pursue careers in aviation. Additionally, the airport partners with the U.S. Navy through the Helicopter Institute to train new helicopter pilots.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Fort Worth Meacham International Airport on this significant milestone. Since its inception, the airport has been a cornerstone of the City of Fort Worth and continues to evolve to meet the needs of its citizens. I look forward to witnessing its continued innovation and dedication to advancing aviation in Fort Worth.

RECOGNIZING ABEL HARRIS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Abel 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 Abel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Abel'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 Abel Harris on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE SMITH-McDONALD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of Michelle Smith-McDonald, who has been elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a recipient of the 2025 Curt Gowdy Media Award. Her induction into the Hall of Fame stands as a testament to her decades-long commitment to advancing women's sports journalism and her influential voice within the world of basketball.

A trailblazer in her field, Michelle Smith-McDonald became ESPN.com's first-ever regular women's basketball columnist in the 1990's. Over her distinguished career, she has covered women's professional and collegiate sports for some of the Nation's most prominent outlets, including ESPN, the San Francisco Chronicle, AOL Fanhouse, and espnW. Her dedication to elevating women's sports through insightful reporting and compelling storytelling has spotlighted generations of athletes, coaches, and programs, contributing to the growth and visibility of women's sports nationwide.

Michelle's contributions extend beyond her work as a journalist. She also has demonstrated her leadership and service in public relations at San José State University and the Alameda County Office of Education. Her dedication to public service further includes her tenure as an elected official on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors.

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has rightly recognized Michelle Smith-McDonald as a trailblazer and visionary whose work has broadened opportunities and raised the profile of women's sports. As a resident of the Bay Area for over three decades, Michelle also has celebrated and supported the talent emerging from local programs like Stanford, Cal, and the newly launched Golden State Valkyries of the WNBA.

It is my honor to acknowledge Michelle Smith-McDonald's induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame and to commend her for her lifelong dedication to sports journalism, advocacy, and service. She has left an indelible mark on the world of basketball and inspired countless individuals along the way. We join her friends, family, colleagues, and admirers in celebrating this extraordinary achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I was attending the Space Symposium as a result of my duties as Chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 89, and YEA on Roll Call No. 90.

RECOGNIZING TASIA HOWARD

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Tasia has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Tasia, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Tasia'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 Tasia Howard on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eagle Mountain Saginaw Independent School District for its outstanding achievement in winning the Caudill Award. This prestigious architectural honor is presented by the Texas Association of School Boards to recognize the best educational facility in Texas. The Dr. Jim F. Chadwell Administration Building and the Discovery Lab Learning Center received this award for their exceptional planning and innovative design in fostering an excellent learning environment.

Designed by VLK Architects, an innovative firm based in Fort Worth, these buildings have been recognized for their nature-infused, forward-thinking architecture. Situated near Marine Creek Lake, the facilities seamlessly incorporate the surrounding natural landscape, featuring trails through scenic woods, prairies, and waterways. At the Discovery Lab, students can explore the environment firsthand, collect scientific samples, and bring them back to the labs for further study. Additionally, the administrative building represents a significant upgrade, consolidating multiple smaller structures into one state-of-the-art facility. Housing 17 administrative departments and 150 employees, this campus sets a new standard for Texas public school infrastructure.

These remarkable centers for education are named in honor of esteemed local educators who have dedicated decades of their lives to the district's students. The administration building bears the name of Dr. Jim F. Chadwell, who served as superintendent for 14 years. Under his leadership, the district passed two bond measures totaling over $1 billion and expanded from 23 schools serving 16,600 students to 31 schools with a student body of 23,800. The Discovery Lab buildings honor Jane Weaver and David Prince, two of the district's distinguished educators, who have devoted decades of their careers to teaching outdoor education.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD for earning the prestigious Caudill Award. This recognition is a testament to the district's dedication to excellence in education. The community is fortunate to have such an innovative facility that supports students, educators, and administrators alike. The Caudill Award is a well-deserved honor and a valuable addition to an already thriving school system.