

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 Memo-

rial 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 perse-

verance 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.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
REVEREND FATHER THEODORE
“TED” POTERES

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to congratulate Reverend Father Theodore “Ted” Poteres, Proistamenos of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana, on his retirement. For his twenty-eight years of leadership and unwavering devotion to the parish and to his community, Father Ted will be honored at a retirement celebration on May 18, 2025, at Saints Constantine and Helen Banquet Center.

Reverend Father Ted Poteres was ordained in 1984 and began his career as parish priest of Saints Constantine and Helen in Rockford, Illinois, where he served for more than ten years. In 1997, he became the priest at Saints Constantine and Helen in Merrillville, Indiana. For his outstanding career in the priesthood spanning a remarkable forty-one years, Father Ted is worthy of the highest praise.

Throughout his noteworthy career, Father Ted has worked tirelessly to support those most in need throughout the region. Under his direction at the cathedral in Merrillville, the church’s ministries have continued to grow and expand. These programs include the Angel Tree program, the Harvest for Hungry program, winter clothing drives, back-to-school supply drives, hosting the Ross Township food pantry, and supporting the AHEPA low-income senior housing residents. In addition to his ministry efforts, providing his parishioners and the community with spiritual guidance has always been of the utmost importance to Father Ted, and he has done so with absolute integrity and grace. He has worked diligently to counsel his parishioners and the surrounding community on issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, child abuse, suicide, cancer, HIV and AIDS, grief, marriage counseling, and youth concerns.

Outside of his tireless work at the cathedral, Father Ted gives of his time and effort to numerous charitable endeavors within the community. He also serves on boards and committees for several organizations including the Chicago Metropolis for Jewish-Christian Dialogue, the Chicago Metropolis Youth Retreat Camps, the Northwest Indiana Orthodox Clergy Association, and the Merrillville Clergy Association, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Father Ted Poteres for his extraordinary leadership at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana, and to wish him well upon his retirement. For his lifetime of service to others and dedication to providing spiritual guidance and support to those most in need, Father Ted serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING SARBELIO GUEVARA
GONZALEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

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

HONORING EAST HARTFORD’S
PATRICK AGYEMANG: FROM
PARKS AND RECREATION TO
THE U.S. MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to celebrate the remarkable achievements of East Hartford’s own Patrick Agyemang, who recently joined the U.S. Men’s National Team. From being named a 2017 All-Conference soccer player while at East Hartford High School, to playing soccer for my alma mater, Eastern Connecticut State University, to his new position on the USMNT, Patrick’s hometown has watched with pride as he represents the best of our community.

The following article by Steven Goff, originally published in The Washington Post and republished in our local paper, The East Hartford Gazette, encapsulates Patrick’s journey from spectator to soccer star:

Patrick Agyemang was 9 when he found his seat at Rentschler Field in East Hartford to watch the U.S. men’s national soccer team play one of its final tune-ups for the 2010 World Cup.

He lived a few minutes from the stadium in a working-class home the family called “the Headquarters”—the place where he and his two brothers, parents and friends enjoyed most of their time together.

With his participation and passion in the sport swelling, Patrick couldn’t wait for kickoff against the Czech Republic. He stared out and saw Clint Dempsey, Landon Donovan and other stars pass through the players’ tunnel and in that moment tried seeing himself someday making that walk in U.S. colors.

“It’s funny, because I still kind of remember how I felt,” he said Tuesday. “It was a sense of excitement, and I was like: ‘This is where I want to be. I don’t know how, but I would love to be on that field, to play for the country and be able to know that my parents [someday] could come to this game and watch me.’”

Almost 15 years have passed, and Agyemang is in a U.S. uniform—not pre-

paring for a World Cup but making gains with the national team after climbing the ladder as a relative unknown from NCAA Division III to Division I, to MLS’s developmental league, then to MLS with Charlotte FC, where last year he made the league minimum (\$71,401).

In his first appearance for the national program at any level, Agyemang started and scored the second U.S. goal Saturday during a 3-1 victory over Venezuela in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Agyemang (pronounced Aaw-jee-mawn) earned his place this month after scoring a team best 10 goals in MLS last year. On Saturday, the 24-year-old forward was among eight players to make their U.S. debut.

“There was a level of uncertainty, just because I’ve never been in an environment like this,” Agyemang said of his first camp. “I just wanted to come in being myself, completely myself, and, showing it on and off the field. I think I was able to do that, but the guys and the coaching staff made it way more easy than I expected and just made it an experience I won’t forget.”

Patrick Agyemang had never been invited to a U.S. camp at any level until this month.

Agile and 6-foot-4, Agyemang displayed qualities in the open field and on set pieces Saturday. He drew a penalty kick less than two minutes into the match—Matko Miljevic failed to convert—and proved dangerous on the counterattack.

“I think he can be very, very, very useful,” Pochettino said. “He’s still young, still has room to improve. . . . I am so happy with him. His performance was really good. He’s capable to add [something] different to the team that sometimes we were missing a little bit. It’s a very good alternative.”

Over the years, the U.S. program has employed tall center backs and goalkeepers but few towering forwards. Agyemang sprouted five inches before his junior year in high school and kept growing.

“He’s apparently 6-4, but I think he’s like 6-6,” said U.S. left back DeJuan Jones, who has played against Agyemang in MLS. “He’s got the Height—tough to mark on corners, for sure—and then he’s very quick and agile, and his holdup play is nice as well. It’s nice to be on his team for once. One to watch out for.”

Agyemang’s parents emigrated from Ghana and juggled multiple jobs while raising three children. Soccer was central to their upbringing with neighborhood games, school teams and youth leagues.

During World Cups, family and friends gathered to watch the Black Stars, Ghana’s national team. In 2006, 2010 and 2014, the United States and Ghana faced each other at the World Cup, with the Black Stars winning the first two.

“I remember 2010 I was actually at one of my teammates’ house,” Agyemang said. “We were having a pool party. All the parents were in the living room. Whoever scores, they’ll scream, then the other group will scream. It was a lot because it was a diverse place. I think I was rooting for both.”

Despite excelling for his high school and club, he did not receive any offers from NCAA Division I or II programs. He landed at Eastern Connecticut State. Agyemang was the league’s rookie of the year.