

arts programs. In 2000, he became the district's Fine Arts & District Projects Director, where he helped design and build the Terrell ISD Performing Arts Center. Since its completion, the Performing Arts Center has become a home for artistic expression and a gathering place for students and residents alike.

Dana's influence extended far beyond the walls of the school. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the arts remained a vital part of the Terrell community, promoting a sense of pride and bringing people together through music, theater, and the performing arts. His leadership in securing funding for the Terrell ISD Excellence Foundation and organizing the E! Terrell Entertainment Series helped elevate Terrell's cultural landscape for years to come.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dana Skelton for his decades of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the students and families of Terrell. His impact on the community will be felt for generations. I wish him and his wife, Sherry, all the best as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON MINOR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

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

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEART'S DESIRE

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Heart's Desire in Frisco, Texas.

In 1995, Sherri Hale and Molly Hoebeke founded Heart's Desire, the first gift shop in Frisco. What started off as a hobby between friends has transformed into a very successful small business and a must-visit attraction for Frisco residents and tourists. From gourmet food, jewelry, handbags, to lake-themed gifts, Heart's Desire offers an incredible, diverse selection of goods and a warm, welcoming environment for visitors. When conceptualizing name ideas for the store, Sherri and Molly leaned on their faith for inspiration and ultimately settled on "Heart's Desire," a reference from Psalm 37:4, to encapsulate the feeling you get when you walk through their doors.

They attribute the business' success to their dedicated patrons and their hardworking staff. Now open for over three decades, visitors from all over the world have enjoyed the authentic and exceptional customer service experience in Heart's Desire.

For their incredible commitment to serving the needs of customers and the community, Heart's Desire has received the Best in DFW People's Choice Award for best gift shop and Frisco STYLE Magazine's Best of Business—Outstanding Experience Award. Moreover, it has been ranked as one of the top 10 best spots for shopping in Frisco by Local Profile of Collin County. I am pleased to recognize Heart's Desire's longtime contributions to North Texas, and I know it will remain a gem in our community for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this wonderful occasion. I wish Sherri, Molly, and the staff of Heart's Desire continued success.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET PETERSON

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Peterson, a dedicated public servant and respected leader in West Valley City.

Margaret served on the city council for 18 years, always putting families and students first. She is also the founder and Executive Director of the Community Education Partnership, a nonprofit that supports afterschool programs across the city.

Under her leadership, the program has reached over 15,000 students from 20 elementary schools, four junior highs, one high school, and several charter schools. It has helped improve academic outcomes, encouraged stronger attendance, and given students a safe place to grow.

In 2024, West Valley City honored Margaret with the "Essential Piece" award—a heartfelt recognition of her decades of service and the lives she's touched through education and community building.

Her example is one we should all aspire to.

HONORING MR. ROOSEVELT BROWN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roosevelt Brown, an outstanding member of our community who has served the youth in San Diego for more than 40 years.

Mr. Brown spent his formative years in the San Diego school system, attending Logan Elementary School, Memorial Junior High School, and San Diego High School. At a young age, Mr. Brown struggled with a speech impediment that hindered his academic progress. He feared being called on by teachers to read or speak aloud due to his stutter.

It is this limitation that inspired his community work.

Mr. Brown pursued several professional avenues following his high school graduation, and in his thirties, he decided to take classes at the University of Redlands and San Diego City College. These courses nurtured a newfound passion for reading. He decided to channel this passion into community work, with a goal to make sure children didn't have to wait as long as he did to discover the joys of reading. He knew that reading opened doors to learning and confidence.

Mr. Brown began his "Children's Book Party" in his backyard, aiming for every child to form a collection of books. The books covered a variety of subjects including math, science, short stories, and novels. His continued dedication expanded the program to the Education Cultural Complex and then the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. His book parties have come to fruition through the nonprofit he founded 35 years ago, "Reading Literacy Learning, Inc."

Mr. Brown's dedication to his nonprofit and community work has allowed him to overcome challenges throughout the years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he still delivered books to schools. His efforts have proven fruitful as his nonprofit has distributed over a million books to children in the San Diego Community.

Mr. Brown's family has been heavily involved in his community work, with the support of his wife aiding in the success of his nonprofit, and his children recently taking over the operations of his book parties.

Mr. Brown was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in February 2025, when Black History Month was celebrated, for his dedication to providing learning opportunities to the youth of San Diego, which will undoubtedly impact generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on missed votes from April 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 91.

RECOGNIZING ISABELLA EKMAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

Isabella 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 Isabella, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Isabella's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Excel Academy and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Isabella Ekman on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING BOBBY BEAGLES FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Bobby Beagles diligently served the agriculture community throughout his career. Agricultural issues were always better served with Bobby as an advocate at the county, state, and national levels.

As a cattle rancher, Bobby early on recognized that “what was good for all agriculture was good for his farm.” In effect, he embraced the idea that “all boats rise with the tide.” As such, he embarked on a path of agricultural advocacy. Whether it be at a local community meeting or hundreds of county board meetings, Bobby was a voice to be reckoned with. He was unrelenting and tireless in representing agriculture.

His legislative advocacy at all levels of government was never-ending. It was no surprise when Bobby was asked to be then-Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Tom Feeney’s agricultural liaison. He carried that privilege and honor to Washington, D.C., when Speaker Feeney became Congressman Feeney.

Bobby’s heart was always about the youth—from the earliest days of buying animals at the county fair to timelessly encouraging auto dealerships and any number of businesses to purchase the kids’ market livestock project. On a not-to-be-ignored side note, at the request of then-Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs, Bobby was asked to rewrite the livestock section of the zoning laws. These laws today allow FFA and 4H to house some of their agriculture projects at home.

His work with the youth led to numerous awards from the local FFA chapters as well as the state and national associations. He was honored to be awarded the Honorary Florida State FFA Degree and the American FFA Degree. In addition to those accolades, he was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame.

Bobby served as Orange County Farm Bureau executive director for 13 years. Prior to that, he was a board member for 17 years. His work in this capacity has made him “Mr. Agriculture” in our area of the state.

In 2007, Bobby received the prestigious Jefferson Award. This award is given to an individual who has devoted their life to exceptional public service in any arena. He was nominated for this award by then-Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty and Orange County Extension. This represented a body of work that included procuring \$12 million for the construction of a new extension office in Orange County.

This refrain is consistent with Bobby Beagles’ character. In 2002, Bobby was awarded the Friend of Extension Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi State. This award traditionally recognizes individuals who have been true Friends of Extension. A year after receiving the Jefferson Award, Bobby received the Florida Farm Bureau’s Distinguished Service

Award. The award honors Florida agriculturalists for their overall contributions to farming at the local or state level.

Bobby Beagles was married to Vickie Beagles and had a son, Thomas Beagles, a daughter, Rachel Kelly, and five grandchildren.

VALUING TRUTH ‘FULLNESS’: LESSONS FROM JURY TRIALS

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the profound responsibility that accompanies public service.

As public officials across the country are sworn into office, each affirms a commitment to faithfully execute the duties of public office and defend the Constitution of the United States. But more and more Americans are losing faith that the actions of our public officials are principally guided by our Constitution and our laws. And some of my colleagues even doubt whether truth exists and whether government can operate on the basis of mutually agreed facts, such as who won an election.

Gregory Mize—a Georgetown University law professor and retired trial judge—offers a compelling perspective: we can use jury trials as models for attaining higher levels of truthfulness and reliable outcomes in government. After all, our whole justice system is based on the idea that we must all tell the truth and the fact-finder can decide “beyond a reasonable doubt” or “by preponderance of the evidence” what actually happened.

Thomas Jefferson said, “I consider trial by jury as the only anchor, yet ever imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.” Indeed, the way a courtroom pursues truth provides a blueprint for encouraging trustworthiness in our public servants.

At the beginning of jury selection, potential jurors take a solemn oath to truthfully answer questions posed by the judge and lawyers. The selected jurors take a second oath to “faithfully discharge the duties of a juror and a true verdict render according to the law and the evidence.” When testimony begins, jurors observe each witness take an oath under penalty of perjury to “tell the truth and nothing but the truth.” Judges, also sworn to follow the law, enforce rules of evidence—including by striking irrelevant or unreliable testimony from consideration by the jury. In some cases, judges must also pre-qualify proposed experts before they can state an opinion on a key issue. A lawyer’s questioning then further tests the reliability of those opinions. Thanks to these established procedures, jurors learn the court’s high valuation of honesty and come to expect it from their government.

Rather than relying on a single robed jurist to render a final verdict, our Founders wanted a panel of common citizens to administer justice in honest dialogue with one another. They believed jury deliberations to be a gold standard for reaching truth and achieving just ends.

After hearing evidence and receiving legal instructions from the judge, jurors enter a deliberation room. They test one another’s recollections and assumptions and assess witness credibility. Studies show that, during delibera-

tions, a jury polices itself. Individual jurors remind others of the obligations of their oaths and the requirements of the law as stated by the judge.

As a new year—with a new Congress and President—is underway, it is high time to bring courtroom reverence for truth-telling into the government generally and the public square. As citizens, we must demand a commitment to the pursuit of truth from all of our public officials. While enforcing oaths of office is a big challenge, citizens must demand truth from public officials in all that we do. And as public officials, we must earn that trust by honoring our oaths.

The work of Judge Gregory Mize is exemplary in calling America back to the bedrock quest for truth. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE OLYMPUS HIGH SCHOOL TITANS

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Olympus High School Titans on winning the 5A Boys Basketball State Championship.

With a commanding 69 to 40 win over Highland High, the Titans capped off a season defined by discipline, grit, and teamwork. This championship reflects the hours of practice, the leadership of their coaches, and the drive of a team that refused to let up.

I also want to give a special shout-out to three players from the Millcreek area—Luke Owen, Jack Evan, and Malakai Philip—whose efforts on the court made a lasting impact.

Their hard work, and the hard work of the entire team, has brought pride to their school and to our entire community.

Congratulations again to the Titans on an outstanding season and a well-earned title.

RECOGNIZING BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE DIVISION IV STATE GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school basketball team in Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Bellevue High School girls’ basketball team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division IV State Girls Basketball Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division IV State Basketball Playoffs, the Bellevue Redmen overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Bellevue Lady Redmen defeated the Kettering Archbishop Alter Knights to win their first state basketball 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