

all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate St. Joseph Catholic Church on its 150th anniversary of devout service to the Fort Stockton community. This milestone serves as a testament to St. Joseph's long-term dedication to faith in Pecos County.

A century and a half ago, the foundation of what later would become the church was formed, and in 1914 St. Joseph became part of the new Diocese of El Paso. On March 19, 1975, the first centennial of the parish was celebrated, marking a major event for church and the surrounding region. Finally, in 2014, Saint Joseph was consolidated with Saint Agnes to form the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Year after year, this institution of faith has contributed greatly to the spiritual life of Fort Stockton, and I am grateful for the many acts of service that it has carried out on behalf of our neighbors and friends in the community.

As St. Joseph continues to inspire those it serves, I wish the church many blessings and pray for many more years of impact. I congratulate them on their legacy of 150 years.

HONORING THE 2025 OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, May 2, to mark the induction of its 2025 class. Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to just over 500 Ohioans since 2000. To be considered for induction, individuals must have been decorated for heroic action in a combat situation.

I am honored to commend to the House this year's 19 inductees:

Technical Sergeant Forrest E. Everhalt, Senior (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Private Philip G. Shadrach (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Private George D. Wilson (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Captain Richard Morgan Rees (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Captain William J. Barthelmas (posthumously), Air Force, recipient of the Silver Star.

Staff Sergeant Roger LeRoy Coffman (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Silver Star.

Captain Kenneth W. Cordier (posthumously), Air Force, recipient of the Silver Star.

Corporal Joseph D. Karam (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Silver Star.

Private First Class Harrison J. Meyer (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Silver Star.

Private First Class Elbert Ray Rawlins (posthumously), Army, recipient of the Silver Star.

Lieutenant Commander Owen W. Huff (posthumously), Navy, recipient of the Legion of Merit with "V" Device.

Lieutenant Commander Matthew S. McGraw, Navy, recipient of the Legion of Merit with "V" Device.

Specialist Donald E. Austin, Army, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Corporal Michael R. Cowles, Army, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Specialist Donald L. Justice, Army, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Corporal Russell G. Little, Junior (posthumously), Marine Corps, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Specialist James E. Moses, Army, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Specialist William L. Vasil, Army, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device.

Sergeant Alex J. Rozanski, Marine Corps, recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "V" Device.

HONORING KAY ROSS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Kay Ross, a proud veteran of the Marines, a military branch known for its demand of physical and mental excellence.

I established the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award to highlight the extraordinary women whose service to our nation and communities is unparalleled. I am honored to recognize Kay for the month of April.

Kay's decision to join the military was motivated by her desire to be part of something greater than herself. Having proudly served as an Avionics Technician from 1990 to 1995, Kay not only amplified the voices of current women in the Marines, but also helped open doors for future generations of women Marines. She is a beacon of purpose, honor, and sacrifice, qualities exemplified through her military service and in her ongoing dedication to fellow veterans and active-duty personnel.

As the Sr. Vice Commandant of the Marine Corps League Department of Indiana and a Veterans Service Officer, Kay has worked tirelessly to help veterans transition back to civilian life, providing essential resources to ensure their livelihood and security. As a Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator with the Veterans Benefit Administration, Kay provides essential housing resources to Indianapolis-area veterans, ensuring they receive the care, recognition, and resources they rightfully deserve. Kay's humility and dedication to the veteran community have and will continue to leave a lasting impact.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kay Ross for her outstanding service to our country and her unwavering dedication to her fellow veterans. I thank her for making Indianapolis a haven for her diligent service.

RECOGNIZING BRODY VEROSIC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Brody Verosic has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Verosic was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process. It is clear Brody Verosic has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

OPPOSING THE CHAOTIC AND HARMFUL TRADE POLICIES OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned by President Trump's chaotic, contradictory, and harmful trade policy that affect American families and my state of Illinois. His emergency powers to impose tariffs have disrupted business and commerce to operate successfully during a time of inconsistent policy initiatives with major trading partners like Canada, China, and Mexico.

What is more alarming is that this trade policy also undermines the Republican Party's historic commitment to free markets and open trade. It is not based on a clear, comprehensive, well-balanced and measured policy vision, but rather on arbitrary decisions that seem to reflect the preferences of a single individual—or a small group—more than the American people. We've now reached a point where this "America First" trade policy is now delivering real economic damage across the country.

I want to emphasize that this is not an isolated concern. My constituents, as well as economists, academicians, and policy experts across the country have echoed the same worries. The Administration's recent approach to tariffs has created serious uncertainty for U.S. businesses, workers, and consumers. This is not just a matter of opinion, it is supported by data and economic analysis.

Economic experts estimate that the 2025 tariffs will raise overall prices by 2.3 percent, costing the average household \$3,800 annually, with even greater burdens on working-class families. Clothing prices are expected to jump by 33 percent, and food prices by 4.5 percent. These are not abstract numbers, they represent real consequences for real people: higher grocery bills and more expensive everyday essentials.

For instance, Canada, Illinois's top export market for oil, vehicles parts, and agricultural products, has already signaled retaliation,

threatening our supply chains and manufacturing sectors. A similar pattern occurs with China, where Illinois sends substantial volumes of agricultural products and electronics. Mexico is another major trading partner in auto parts, machinery, and food products. Disrupting the supply chains through tariffs or threats to pull out of trade deals like the USMCA could destabilize job-creating industries within Illinois.

Moreover, this trade strategy is not only economically damaging, but also unconstitutional. Congress, not the President, holds the exclusive authority to regulate foreign commerce. The Administration's abuse of emergency powers to give himself authority to regulate foreign trade and impose tariffs on the entire world bypasses the legislative process, undermines transparency, and strips away the opportunity for public accountability.

This is why, I urge my colleagues, especially Republican Members of Congress, to approach this trade policy in a joint and measured manner for our constituents. When Congress gives away its capacity to question and dialogue with the other branch, we weaken our position and risk deals that don't reflect all American values or economic priorities.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT "BOB" P. HUBBARD AS BATAVIA'S 2024 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert "Bob" P. Hubbard for receiving the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award in the City of Batavia. The Citizen of the Year Award celebrates individuals who have made a profound impact towards inspiring and uplifting the City of Batavia.

As a native Batavian, Bob has lived a life rooted in the values of compassion, civic engagement, and integrity. His contributions have touched nearly every corner of the Batavia community and continue to uplift countless lives.

Bob is a driving force behind the recruiting and funding work for the INCubator Entrepreneurship Program. Since 2015, he has recruited and coordinated dozens of volunteer mentors, coaches, and judges, providing over 500 students with meaningful real-world business experience. Through his leadership, the program has raised more than \$80,000 and secured \$100,000 in grants, helping to build a lasting foundation for future innovation.

As a longtime CASA Kane County volunteer, he has dedicated his efforts to protecting the community's most vulnerable, serving as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate and Guardian Ad Litem. In these roles, he has been a steadfast voice for children in abuse and neglect cases, offering critical guidance and advocacy. He has also provided leadership to numerous community organizations, including TriCity Family Services, the LivingWell Cancer Resource Center, the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, and the Batavia Community Chest. Notably, his tenure with the Rotary Club of Batavia has spanned nearly four decades and includes service as club president, recognition as Rotarian of the Year, and multiple Paul Harris Fellow honors.

Beyond formal roles, Bob embodies the essence of "Service Above Self." Whether he's packing food for the Northern Illinois Food Bank, supporting families through CHIP IN Batavia, participating in roadside cleanups, or doing yard work for neighbors in need, Bob is always the first to volunteer.

He is also a steward of Batavia's legacy. As the third-generation owner of Hubbard's Home Furnishings, his family's business served the community for over 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an extraordinary citizen of Batavia, Illinois, who exemplifies what it means to be a good neighbor and a true public servant. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert "Bob" P. Hubbard for his remarkable lifetime of service and congratulating him on being named the 2024 Citizen of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ESOP FUNDING FOR SBA POSITION ACT OF 2025

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to ensure that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) fully supports our small businesses establish and maintain employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs).

ESOPs offer a powerful way to ensure employees become stakeholders and help run the business they've built. This wealth-generating and retirement plan approach creates a more engaged and productive workforce by aligning employee interests with a company's success. This model promotes a stronger sense of ownership and community and keeps investment and wealth in local economies, benefiting workers and their families.

In Hawaii, we've seen firsthand the benefits of ESOPs. Hawaii is home to the second-oldest ESOP chapter in the Nation, underscoring the success and importance of employee-owned businesses in our state. From that humble beginning, the Hawaii Chapter of the ESOP Association now represents over 45 ESOP companies and professional service providers in the state, which is a significant number considering our state's size. These businesses, with the help of ESOPs, have continued to thrive, contributing to the local economy in ways that benefit families and the broader community.

Despite this strong record of ESOPs in Hawaii and throughout the United States, many small businesses face challenges in navigating the complex process of establishing and maintaining an ESOP. They often lack expertise in tax considerations, regulatory compliance, stock valuation, and securing the necessary funding.

There is also a growing concern with the "Silver Tsunami"—the impending wave of baby boomer business owners looking for ways to transfer ownership. As these owners retire, many are considering ESOPs, but the complexity of setting them up may discourage some from pursuing this option.

To help overcome these challenges, my ESOP Funding for SBA Position Act of 2025 will create a position within the SBA to guide small businesses through the process of set-

ting up ESOPs, providing essential support on tax considerations, compliance, stock valuation and securing funding. This new SBA position will provide businesses with the resources they need to navigate the complexities of employee ownership.

This bipartisan bill, which I have introduced with my colleague Congressman ROBERT BRESNAHAN, will help empower small businesses nationwide. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative that will make employee ownership more accessible, foster stronger communities and keep business wealth where it belongs—locally.

Mahalo.

RECOGNIZING CAROL BERTI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Carol Berti has made on through her work with Oasis Pregnancy Centers. Carol is a rare gem in the volunteer world; dedication is her middle name. For 16 years, Carol has served Oasis with warmth, compassion, and dedication to the families of Oasis. Carol was an integral part of the start-up of Oasis in 2009 and continues to be a cornerstone of the ministry at the Land O' Lakes center. Her unwavering desire to be a light to each woman who walks through the door of Oasis is a shining example of her obedience to Christ and His call on her life. Carol helps vet new volunteers and works with Center Directors to find the right fit for each volunteer and for Oasis. Carol is an inspiration to the staff and the team she serves with. Additionally, Carol has served for years as a Sunday School teacher each week and Poll Captain of elections in her area. She truly is a Hero in the community.

It is clear Carol Berti has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE JOLLY BOYS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Jolly Boys of Williamsville, New York, a remarkable group of volunteers whose dedication to serving their community has been a shining example of generosity and selflessness for over five decades. What began in 1971 as a small group of parents from the Village of Williamsville coming together to support their children's involvement in local sports has grown into a community-wide effort to assist those in need, making a lasting impact on countless lives.

The origin of the name Jolly Boys is a charming part of the group's history. It was coined by the wife of one of the founding members, who observed the group's infectious spirit and glee, who in turn, began referring to