

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

them as the “Jolly Boys”. The name stuck, and to this day, the Jolly Boys of Williamsville continue to symbolize that spirit with everything they do.

From the very start, the Jolly Boys set themselves apart by committing to a simple yet profound mission: to raise funds exclusively for local children and families facing financial difficulties, primarily through youth sports and activities. They embraced the values of volunteerism, ensuring that all their efforts were carried out by volunteers and that every dollar raised went directly to those in need. Through their commitment, the Jolly Boys have transformed the lives of many, providing vital resources and support to families in Williamsville and beyond.

As their efforts expanded, the Jolly Boys continued to evolve, they were able to start using their resources to support homeless shelters, cancer research, local parks, and historic preservation efforts. Their commitment to the community has never shifted, and their impact will be seen and felt for centuries to come.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the Jolly Boys for their contributions to not only the lives of individuals and families but have also strengthened our community. I ask that I am joined to express gratitude for the Jolly Boys of Williamsville, whose spirit of volunteerism and selflessness should serve as an inspiration to all.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The Reformed Church in the United States was founded in 1725, proclaiming the Gospel while serving communities across our Nation.

I'm especially honored to note the pivotal role that South Dakota churches have played in advancing the mission and heritage of the Reformed Church in the United States through the Eureka Classis and beyond.

During the Revolutionary War, one-fifth of German Reformed pastors served as chaplains in the Continental Army. One member, Captain Peter Humrickhouse, even crossed the Delaware River with General George Washington and delivered critical supplies to Yorktown, helping secure our Nation's independence.

Presidents George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt both recognized the influence and integrity of the Reformed Church. President Washington openly praised the loyalty and devotion of its clergy and congregants. President Roosevelt regularly attended Grace Reformed Church in Washington, D.C. and laid its cornerstone himself.

This June, members and friends of the Reformed Church in the United States will gather at Mount Rushmore in my home state to mark this historic tricentennial milestone. It is fitting that such a celebration should occur in South Dakota, a state shaped by faith, perseverance, and patriotism.

Join me in recognizing the Reformed Church in the United States for 300 years of devotion to faith and service.

CONGRATULATING THE YOUNGSTOWN STATE WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM ON WINNING THE 2025 NCAA BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Youngstown State women's bowling team on winning the 2025 NCAA bowling championship over Jacksonville State on April 12, 2025.

In the “Entertainment Capital of the World”, Las Vegas, the Youngstown State women's bowling team certainly put on a show. The path to the championship was vigorous, playing against very tough competition to secure the championship win.

The Penguins cruised through the regional rounds on the way to the championship and in the semifinals, the Penguins fell short to Jacksonville State 2–1. In the finals, the Penguins defeated the No. 2 seed 2–0 to advance to the national championship against Jacksonville State.

Looking for revenge, the Penguins came out of the gate swinging, winning the first two games by the scores of 204–199 and 248–210. The Penguins threw five strikes in the final four frames to win the first match and threw a strike on each of their final eight rolls in the second game. After Jacksonville State won game 3, the Penguins won game 4, taking a 3–1 lead and one win away from the glory. Games 5 and 6 were won by Jacksonville State to even the series 3–3. In game 7, the Penguins started strongly. Strikes and spares were the theme for the Penguins, showing the consistency that led them to the national championship game. With every strike and spare, the crowd roared, bringing the team one step closer to immortality. After back-to-back strikes to end the game, the team embraced, realizing their dreams and all their hard work had come to fruition. The Penguins forever etched themselves into history as champions.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Youngstown State women's bowling team's players, coaches, staff, families, and friends as we celebrate this historic victory and national championship. Go Penguins.

RECOGNIZING CAROL BRISBOIS

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 Brisbois has made through her work with Metropolitan Ministries. Carol has been a dedicated volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries since 2016. Monday and Friday mornings at the Metro Welcome Center are lively and wel-

coming, thanks to this remarkable woman. She greets both new and returning volunteers with enthusiasm, ensuring newcomers feel comfortable and understand the importance of their roles. Her humor, empathy, and dedication ensure smooth operations across all areas, from kitchen prep to client shopping in the metro market. She welcomes everyone—volunteers, clients, residents, and community members—with warmth, compassion, and genuine joy in service. Carol is always ready to tackle any task that needs attention. Metropolitan Ministries relies heavily on her to keep Volunteer Services running smoothly, not just during the holidays but all year round. She embodies the four key values of Metro's culture, including: Character, Chemistry, Competency, and Calling.

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

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF METRA

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a milestone in Illinois' transportation history, the 40th anniversary of Metra, which has been an essential part of the fabric of our region's transportation network.

Since its founding in 1984, Metra has provided reliable, safe, and efficient rail service for millions of residents and commuters throughout the Chicagoland area. Metra plays a crucial role in connecting neighborhoods, supporting local businesses, and ensuring that individuals can travel easily to work, school, and recreational activities.

As the second-largest commuter rail system in the United States, Metra has helped foster economic growth by supporting both suburban and urban development and providing a convenient and sustainable alternative to driving. With 243 stations and 11 routes spanning nearly 500 route miles, Metra connects communities across the six-county Chicago area. Serving over 300,000 riders on an average weekday, Metra is the backbone of the region's transit system, enabling people to commute safely, reliably, and efficiently.

Over the last four decades, Metra has adapted to the evolving needs of its riders, weathered economic challenges, and embraced innovations in technology to enhance the rider experience. The agency's leadership has embraced modern technologies, improved accessibility, and continuously enhanced customer service to meet the growing demands of its passengers. Whether through the expansion of services, improvements to stations, or the adoption of innovative rail solutions, Metra has remained dedicated to serving the people of Illinois with the highest standards of service.

Today, we recognize the hard work and dedication of Metra's employees—from conductors to engineers, from planners to customer service representatives—whose efforts have helped ensure the continued success of this critical public transportation system.