

ongoing pursuit for freedom, strength, and integrity in our Nation.

It is an honor to bestow Ralph with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSHUA BATES

#### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

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

Joshua has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Joshua, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Joshua's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

#### RECOGNIZING CASEY "KC" GABELLI

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Casey "KC" Gabelli 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, Casey helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Casey was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Casey "KC" Gabelli has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for Casey's service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

#### HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ETA TAU CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC.

#### HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Eta Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and to celebrate the dedication of a new monument honoring the chapter's enduring legacy and profound impact on the community.

Established in 1970, the Eta Tau Chapter has been a steadfast pillar of service, scholar-

ship, and sisterhood. Over the past five and a half decades, its members have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to uplifting underserved communities, empowering youth, and advocating for social justice. Through a myriad of initiatives, including educational programs, health awareness campaigns, and civic engagement efforts, the chapter has consistently worked to effect positive change.

The dedication of the new monument serves as a tangible testament to the chapter's rich history and its ongoing dedication to community betterment. This monument not only honors the past achievements of Eta Tau but also inspires future generations to continue the chapter's mission of service and advocacy.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable contributions of the Eta Tau Chapter over the past 55 years and in celebrating the unveiling of this significant monument. May the chapter's legacy continue to inspire and guide efforts toward community enrichment and empowerment.

#### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT NATE PIKE

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Nate Pike of Prosper, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Nate has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

A native of Denison, Texas, Nate attended Denison High School and graduated from Baylor University in 2003 with his Bachelor of Business Administration. He began his career out of college as a financial advisor and sales representative for multiple firms. In 2014, Nate joined the Utter, Pike, & Dobbs Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, where he currently serves as a partner and managing director. In addition to his work in the financial industry, he was elected to serve as the mayor of Anna, Texas, in which his robust leadership transformed the city into one of the fastest growing regions in Texas and the country.

Currently, Nate is the President of the Anna Education Foundation and Treasurer of CASA of Grayson County. He previously served as the President of numerous advocacy organizations, including Grayson County Children's Advocacy Center, the Anna Community Development Corporation, and the Grayson Collin Municipal Alliance. For his important contributions, Nate was named the Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International and listed in the Dallas Business Journal and Grayson County's Top 40 Under 40 Business Professionals. He was also named Citizen of the Year in 2024 by the Anna Chamber of Commerce. I am pleased to recognize Nate today for a lifetime of servant leadership, and I wish him continued success.

It is an honor to bestow Nate with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### CONGRATULATING THE NIT NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: THE UTC MOCS

#### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to congratulate the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga men's basketball team on winning the National Invitation Tournament in an exciting overtime victory to bring the championship trophy home to Chattanooga and East Tennessee.

This nail-biting head-to-head had Chattanoogaans on the edge of their seat. As Chattanooga Mocs senior Garrison Keeslar drained a jumper with 11 seconds left in overtime, the Mocs' opponent, UC Irvine, launched a Hail Mary pass to their player on the opposite baseline, who missed his shot at the buzzer. This error delivered a well-deserved National Championship to the UTC men's basketball team—the first ever in the program's history.

The UTC Mocs have made Chattanooga and all of Tennessee so proud. I join their families and friends with my immense respect for their talents and new title—National Champions.

Go Mocs.

#### RECOGNIZING CASEY THIERYUNG

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Casey Thieryung has made to our community as a volunteer for Brooksville Main Street. Casey embodies the spirit of community service and leadership that makes Brooksville a special place. As the dedicated owner of the Red Mule Pub, a beloved local establishment, Casey has created more than just a restaurant—he has built a gathering place where residents feel at home. However, his contributions to the community extend far beyond his business.

Through tireless volunteer efforts, active participation in civic organizations, and a deep commitment to public service, Casey has left a lasting impact on Brooksville and its people. A true public servant, Casey served as a City Council member for the City of Brooksville, where he worked diligently to improve the quality of life for residents. His time on the Council was marked by his advocacy for local businesses, support for community development projects, and dedication to preserving the town's historic charm. He was always accessible, listening to the concerns of citizens and striving to make decisions that benefited the entire community. Beyond his official role in government, Casey has dedicated countless hours to various civic organizations that make Brooksville a better place to live. He is an active member of multiple local groups, always stepping up to help organize community events, support charitable initiatives, and lend a hand wherever needed. His volunteerism

has been instrumental in projects that promote economic growth, cultural enrichment and social well-being in Brooksville. One of Casey's most notable contributions is his unwavering support for local charities and nonprofit organizations. Through the Red Mule Pub, he has hosted and participated in numerous fundraising efforts, donating time, resources, and space to causes that benefit the less fortunate, veterans, first responders, and community programs. His generosity has directly impacted countless individuals and families in need, reinforcing the sense of unity that defines Brooksville.

Casey's leadership extends to mentoring and supporting others in the community. He is known for offering guidance and encouragement to young entrepreneurs, fellow business owners, and civic leaders. His ability to bring people together for a common cause has strengthened the bonds within Brooksville, fostering collaboration and goodwill among diverse groups of residents.

Above all, Casey Thieryung exemplifies what it means to be a Local Hero—not for accolades or recognition, but because he truly cares about his hometown and its people. His selfless dedication, unwavering passion, and boundless generosity have made an enduring difference in Brooksville. For these reasons, Casey is a deserving recipient of the Local Hero Award, and it is with great pride that we nominate him for this honor. It is clear Casey Thieryung 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.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE 6990TH & 6908TH SECURITY  
SQUADRON (DOGGERS)—VIET-  
NAMESE LINGUISTS

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished service of two exceptional units of the United States Air Force—the 6990th & 6908th Security Squadrons and the contributions of the Vietnamese linguists (affectionately known as DOGGERS). These squadrons exemplified the very best of American dedication, vigilance, and sacrifice.

The 6990th Security Squadron, stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, played a critical role in safeguarding our national security. Activated in the 1960s, this unit specialized in signals intelligence, electronic surveillance, and cryptologic operations. During the Vietnam War and throughout the Cold War, the airmen of the 6990th monitored enemy communications, gathered vital intelligence, and supported combat operations with unwavering commitment. Their contributions were instrumental in ensuring the security of American forces and our allies across the Pacific.

Similarly, the 6908th Security Squadron, based at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, carried out equally vital missions. This squadron operated under the United States Air Force Security Service. Its primary focus was communications inter-

ception, security, and support for operations critical to our nation's strategic interests in Asia. The men and women of the 6908th displayed exceptional skill and professionalism in an era when information dominance was key to preserving peace and deterring aggression.

Mr. Speaker, the work of these squadrons was often carried out in secrecy, without public recognition or fanfare. Yet their efforts were fundamental to the defense of the United States and the free world. Today, we pay tribute to their service and reaffirm our gratitude for their enduring legacy. May their example of quiet professionalism and steadfast duty continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

Today, I would like to recognize all the members of the USAF Doggers that served in the Vietnam War.

Richard Bini, Gregory Bonnell, Dean Brown, Jerry Clausen, Melvin Cole, Lowell Cook, Robert DeMay, Edward DeMayo, David Domyancic, Gary Fellenz, Michael Freeman.

Mark Graham, Dennis Gurtner, Tim Hamm, William Healy, Jim Hebert, John Hill, Benjamin Johnson, Perry Keeton, Marvin Marker, Paul McNulty, Lawrence Miller.

Larry Mills, Roger Morimoto, Carl Muellner, Robert Neiles, Buddy Newell, John Nicolai, Joseph Nolan, Ty Peters, Sandy Potter, Edgar Royce, Randolph Seitter.

William Sheldrake, John Slyman, Dennis Smith, Dale Sprosty, Casey Teliczan, Mark Thompson, Joe Turney, Joel Ware, Rick White, Michael Wright.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT MARK  
METDKER

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mark Metdker of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Mark has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

A native of Dallas, Mark graduated from Lewisville High School in 1975 as a star football and track athlete. He began his career working for the McKinney Fire Department and in the oilfield industry. From 1983 to 2007, Mark worked for the Addison Fire Department before being selected to serve as the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal for the Celina Fire Department in 2008. He served in a variety of roles, including firefighter, arson investigator, and fire prevention captain. As a result of his contributions to the city and exceptional public service abilities, Mark attained the positions of Fire Chief, Chief of Police, and Director of Public Safety, before retiring in November 2023.

In addition to his public service, Mark has participated in many community service initiatives throughout North Texas. He previously served as a member of Collin College's Fire Science Program steering committee and the North Texas Council of Governments 911 Communications Commission. Moreover, Mark is a member of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, Texas Police Chiefs Association, Collin County Fire Chiefs Association, Denton County Fire Chiefs Association, and the National

Fire Protection Agency. For his exceptional work, he has earned two Meritorious Service awards, the Career Achievement Medal, the City Builder award, and the Agency Best Practices award from the Celina Police Department and Fire Department. I would like to thank Mark for a lifetime of public service and dedication to our community.

It is an honor to bestow Mark with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING GAEL ALVAREZ  
ACOSTA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

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

Gael 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 Gael, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Gael's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Gael Alvarez Acosta on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING VERNON L. MICHAEL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 28, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Vernon L. Michael for his 40 years of outstanding Federal service both as a military member of the United States Navy, and as a civilian for the Department of the Navy (DON) Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Mr. Michael enlisted in the United States Navy in July 1984 under the delayed entry program and began his active-duty naval career in January 1985. Upon completing basic training at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Florida, he successfully completed Yeoman "A" School, graduating with honors, followed by his first duty assignment to the pre-commissioning unit for USS *Missouri* (BB 63) for which he became a plankowner. Over the next 23 years, Mr. Michael served in a variety of operational and staff assignments including sea tours aboard USS *Duluth* (LPD 6) and USS *Seattle* (AOE 3). Staff/shore assignments included Personnel Support Activity Detachment, San Antonio, Texas; the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition); and DON OGC. Throughout his naval career, Mr. Michael served in numerous leadership positions and was awarded multiple personal, service, and unit awards. He retired from active duty in August 2008 in the grade of Chief Yeoman (E-7).