

RECOGNIZING AVAYA BARNES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

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

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

RECOGNIZING CHERYL DILLOW

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 Cheryl Dillow has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Cheryl is the check out clerk at the clinic. Speedy in her typing, proficient with patient checkout and efficient at scheduling imaging and Dermatology referrals. Cheryl is a vital part of the team. She is always available to assist the patients and co-workers whenever needed. The clinic would not run smoothly without her diligent efforts.

It is clear Cheryl Dillow 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 CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SEAN MICHAEL TERRY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sean Michael Terry of Pilot Point, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Sean has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

A native of Gunter, Sean earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University and began his career as a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance and equipment salesman. For over 25 years, he has distinguished himself through public service as a volunteer firefighter, councilmember, and Mayor of the City of Celina. Sean has also served as President of the North Texas Mayors Association and board member of the Celina Rodeo Foundation Board. In addition, he has been the Vice President of Entitlements for Centurion Amer-

ican Development Group since 2013. Under his leadership as Celina's mayor, the city experienced remarkable economic growth and investments. Sean also led the effort to connect all Celina residents to high-speed internet, which led to Celina's recognition as the first Gigabit City in Texas.

For his outstanding contributions and service, Sean has earned numerous accolades, including the Outstanding Leader Award from the City of Celina, the Community Builder Award, and the Celina Varsity Cheer Parent of the Year Award. He has also been recognized by the Celina Fire Department and received a proclamation from the Collin County Commissioners Court for the State of Texas. Sean's leadership and community advocacy have made a profound impact on the City of Celina and the North Texas region. I am pleased to recognize him today for his unwavering dedication to public service, and I wish him continued success.

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

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize April as Distracted Driving Awareness Month, as part of ongoing efforts to educate our communities about the dangers of inattentive driving and to promote safer streets.

On average, nine people a day are killed in a distracted driving crash. Texting and cell phone use while driving is the most common type of unfocused driving; however, any action that takes a drivers' attention away from the road is distracted driving and is extremely dangerous.

Texting while driving is especially prevalent among younger drivers, with 39 percent of high school students reporting texting or emailing while driving during the past month, according to a 2019 CDC study. Even though 48 states have banned texting and driving, including Florida, drivers engage in this behavior anyway.

That is why I am proud to uplift leaders in my district who are taking action this month to educate Floridian students and families about the importance of attentive driving. The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter at Hollywood Hills High School and the Florida Teen Safe Driver Coalition's April Safety Awareness Campaign truly shows the power of community-based advocacy.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have focused on road safety, especially for our teens. So, in recognition of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, I will take the following pledge from the National Safety Council and encourage others to do the same:

"For my friends, my family, and anyone else who may have fond feelings toward me, I pledge not to drive distracted or recklessly. For every person I may never meet, but share the road with, I pledge to give driving the 100 percent attention it deserves."

APPRECIATING WILLIAM BERRY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 12th, South Carolina lost a son. I am grateful for William Berry's service to the country and state and my thoughts and prayers go to his family and friends.

I include in the RECORD, his loving obituary, which has been published by the Folk Funeral Home:

A memorial service for William Grady "Bill" Berry, 69, will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Folk Funeral Home in Williston. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. The memorial service will be officiated by Dr. Thomas Terry and Dr. William A. Sandifer. Honorary pallbearers will be Ricky Black; Dodd Buie, III; Robert Lowman, Jr.; and Phillip B. Ness. A private interment will be held at a later date at the Blackville Cemetery.

Bill Berry passed away at MUSC, Charleston, with his sister and niece by his side. He was a resident of Barnwell, SC. Born in Augusta, GA, he was the son of the late Anita Johnson Berry and James T. "Pete" Berry of Blackville. Bill graduated from Jefferson Davis Academy, Presbyterian College, and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He attended Presbyterian (PC) on an academic and athletic scholarship. He was an Eagle Scout. At Jefferson Davis Academy, he was chosen as the male student to enter the JDA Senior Class Hall of Fame in 1974. In his senior year at PC, he was selected as captain of the football team. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and a member of the track team.

Bill Berry earned a Juris Doctor (JD) at the University of South Carolina School of Law. After being admitted to the South Carolina Bar, he started the Public Defender Office for Bamberg and Barnwell Counties and served as Chief Public Defender and Guardian Ad Litem for abused and neglected children.

He was accepted into the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps). As an Army Captain, he served in Panama prior to Operation Just Cause. After his Army service, Bill opened a law practice in Myrtle Beach, SC. Bill loved sports throughout his life, especially football. He was a loyal Gamecock fan.

Surviving are his sister Kathy Berry Orr (Tom Gantt) and his niece Kathryn Liana (Orr) Gantt.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL J. MABIN, JR.—50 YEARS OF LIFE, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable leader, dedicated family man, and proud son of Bucks County—Mr. Michael J. Mabin, Jr., President and CEO of PennFab, Inc., headquartered in Morrisville and Martelli Companies, headquartered in Ivyland.

Mike Mabin is more than a successful businessman—he is a builder of community, a job

creator, and a champion for working families in Pennsylvania's First Congressional District. Through his leadership, generosity, and vision, Mike has helped shape not only the economic fabric of our region, but its moral character as well.

Mike was born on February 24, 1975, in Bucks County. He grew up in Levittown before moving to the Holland neighborhood and later settling with his wife Kristie (née Kash) and their children—Michael, Ashlynne, and Jamison—in Ivyland, Pennsylvania.

Born and raised in Bucks County, Mike Mabin, Jr.'s story is one of homegrown leadership, generational grit, and a deep-rooted commitment to community. He got his start on the shop floor of his family's fabrication business, PennFab, where he worked side-by-side with his father and gained not just a trade, but a calling. From the very beginning, Mike understood that real leadership isn't about titles—it's about responsibility: to your people, to your hometown, and to the future.

When Mike assumed leadership of PennFab following his father's passing in 2018, he did far more than carry on a legacy—he redefined it. With bold vision and relentless determination, he transformed a respected local operation into a nationally recognized infrastructure partner. He expanded operations, acquired PennFab's sister company, Martelli Companies LLC, and positioned both businesses as critical players in some of the Nation's most vital sectors while keeping their roots firmly planted in Bucks County.

But the measure of Mike's success isn't just found in the scale of the business—it's in the strength of the community he's built around it. He has created hundreds of family-sustaining jobs right here at home. He's mentored young tradespeople, empowered second-chance workers, and in doing so, restored something too many communities have lost: the dignity of work, and the hope that comes with it.

At a time when much of our Nation's industrial foundation has eroded, Mike made a different choice—he reinvested. He proved that American manufacturing can still thrive, that "Made in Bucks County" still matters, and that a business rooted in values can lift entire neighborhoods.

Mike's commitment to the community doesn't stop at the manufacturing doors. Whether it's stepping up in times of need, supporting local nonprofits, or quietly funding initiatives that benefit area youth, families and veterans, Mike has always led by example—without seeking credit, and always putting others first.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Mike Mabin, Jr. is the story of Bucks County Leader at his best—rooted in family, built by hard work, and driven by a relentless belief in the power of community. We thank him for the lives he's uplifted, the jobs he's created, and the example he continues to set for what local leadership should look like.

He hasn't just carried forward a legacy—he's forged one of his own.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL WIRT

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

Cheryl Wirt has made to our community through her volunteer work at Veterans Elementary School. Cheryl comes to volunteer at the school almost every day. She has a big heart and a passion for helping students and staff. Cheryl is very involved with the community group that heads up all fundraising for the school. She helps with ideas, calls, and follow-through with anything that needs to be done. She also spends time with the students in the "Pop up Shop" each Friday morning and provides extra supervision in the cafeteria at lunchtime. She also, recently re-vamped the School Events Parent Information Board which has all of our events and fundraisers on it for the families to see as they come onto campus. Cheryl asks daily what she can do to help and never stops until she exceeds expectations.

It is clear Cheryl Wirt 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 ARTURO ARO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

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

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

THANKING NORTHERN MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND LINEMEN FOR RESTORING POWER THROUGHOUT NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude to the electric cooperatives and linemen who worked tirelessly to restore power to the communities of Northern Michigan following the devastating ice storm of March 2025.

After multiple days of high winds and freezing rain, thousands of families in Michigan's First District were left without power, while temperatures remained in the single digits. During this State of Emergency, local electric cooperatives demonstrated extraordinary dedication and resilience. Lineworkers from Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric and

Gas Cooperative, and Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative braved dangerous conditions to restore essential services to the region, and I commend them for their hard work and a job well done.

For decades, these cooperatives and their workforce have provided reliable energy and critical assistance throughout Northern Michigan. In rural communities, dependable energy is not just a convenience: it is the backbone of modern life and public safety. These cooperatives consistently ensure that all residents of Northern Michigan—especially the area's most vulnerable individuals, including those with medical needs, families with children, and the elderly—remain safe and warm throughout harsh northern winters. Simply put, these cooperatives help deliver a quality of life to rural areas that might otherwise be left behind.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and applaud the outstanding service of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric and Gas Cooperative, and Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative. Their selflessness and dedication to our communities in Northern Michigan deserve our highest praise and deepest appreciation.

IN MEMORY OF VAUGHN P.

DRAKE, JR.

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero and a true patriot, Mr. Vaughn P. Drake, Jr. of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Drake passed away on April 7, 2025, at the age of 106 and has been recognized as our Nation's oldest survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Drake was born in Winchester, Kentucky on November 6, 1918. He attended the University of Kentucky's College of Engineering. At the age of 23, he was serving in the Army Corps of Engineers and was in charge of a temporary power plant in Hawaii. On December 7, 1941, he became a part of history as he witnessed Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor, and the battle ensued. He was also involved in the strategic and significant Battle of Saipan in the Marianas. For his brave service in the United States Army, he received the Congressional Medal for the Veterans of Pearl Harbor, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Medal with Foreign Service bar, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with two battle stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Following his military service, Mr. Drake returned home to Kentucky and married his wife, Lina. They were married for 65 years when she passed away in 2011. Mr. Drake is survived by his son, Sam W. Drake, as well as two grandsons and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Drake began working as a registered professional engineer and had a distinguished career for over 50 years. He was a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and was a charter member and past president of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers. In