

1979 he received the KSPE State Award for Outstanding Engineer in Industry. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America and was a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the University of Kentucky Alumni Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a life member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. He received the Mayor's Spirit of Lexington Award.

Vaughn P. Drake, Jr. was a true patriot, a great American, and an inspiration to us all. I am forever grateful to him and other members of the Greatest Generation for sacrificing and fighting to preserve the freedoms that we hold dear. It is my honor to recognize his life and his service before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT
CORBETT HOWARD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

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

Corbett was born in Roswell, New Mexico. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Southern Nazarene University and graduated from Engineer Officer Candidate School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After graduation, Corbett commissioned in the United States Army and served with the Military Assistant Command, Vietnam (MACV) as an advisor for the South Vietnamese Army. For his meritorious service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Corbett was first elected to the Celina City Council in 1999. In 2002, he was elected to serve as the Mayor of Celina and was re-elected twice. Under Corbett's leadership, Celina transformed economically through increased job growth and critical business investments. As a result of his advocacy for Celina residents, he was recognized as a top influential leader in Collin County. After his tenure as mayor, Corbett served as the Executive Director of the Celina Economic Development Corporation for ten years. He also served on the Board of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District and the McKinney Urban Transit District. He is the past President of the Preston Trail Rotary Club and the current Chairman of Government Affairs for the Celina Chamber of Commerce. Corbett currently serves as the Market President of Lamar National Bank and is a board member of the Military Warriors Support Foundation, which donates homes and cars to wounded veterans. A devoted man of faith, he attends the Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, where he has led Bible study classes for over 33 years. I am proud of the work Corbett has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING CHUCK ANDERSON

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 Charles Anderson has made through his work with United Way of Pasco County. Charles W. Anderson, recently retired January 2025 as President & CEO of United Way of Pasco County (UWPC). He has made a profound and lasting impact on the organization and the community it serves. Since assuming leadership in January 2019, Charles transformed UWPC into a more dynamic, responsive, and impactful organization, nearly doubling annual fundraising to \$2.8 million by 2023 and expanding its focus from three to eight critical areas of community needs. Under Charles's visionary guidance, UWPC rose to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with swift aid innovative action. He launched Operation Feed Pasco, which not only supported 19 local restaurants but also provided over 237,000 meals to individuals and families in need. The program mobilized \$2.4 million and delivered vital services to shelters, food ministries, and elder care centers during one of the community's most vulnerable times. Charles also pioneered the Fighting Human Trafficking (FHT) Program, positioning UWPC as one of only four United Way organizations globally offering direct services to human trafficking survivors. This program is the only one in Florida with state funding to provide emergency hotel stays and housing for survivors of human trafficking state-wide. Through his strategic advocacy, he secured over \$2 million in funding from the Florida Legislature and the Department of Justice, significantly amplifying the program's reach and capacity. Financial stewardship and ethical governance flourished under his leadership, with UWPC earning the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for four consecutive years and maintaining a remarkably low 6.5 percent overhead. Charles built strong partnerships with local, state, and federal leaders, ensuring UWPC played a key role in disaster response and community resilience efforts, including managing FEMA allocations and emergency shelter coordination. Beyond programmatic and financial accomplishments, Charles leaves a cultural legacy of collaboration, compassion, and forward-thinking leadership. He empowered staff and volunteers to innovate and excel, instilled a strong sense of mission throughout the organization, and strengthened the relationship between UWPC and its many partner agencies. Charles retired 2 months ago to spend more time with his family, and he leaves behind a stronger, more resilient UWPC prepared to meet future challenges.

It is clear Charles Anderson 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.

RECOGNIZING HIALEAH, FLORIDA
MAYOR ESTEBAN BOVO

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend and the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, Esteban Bovo, for his decades of commitment to public service.

Mayor Bovo began his career in 1998 as a member of the Hialeah City Council. In 2008, he was elected to serve his community in the Florida House of Representatives.

Following his service in Tallahassee, Mayor Bovo was elected to the Miami Dade County Commission, where he served from 2011 to 2020. During his tenure, his colleagues elected him to serve as the Commission Chair from 2017 to 2018.

In 2021, Mayor Bovo was elected as Mayor of the City of Hialeah. Since taking office, he has been an advocate for transparency, public safety, and accountability. Under his leadership, Mayor Bovo Hialeah has served his constituents with pride and with a commitment to excellence.

I extend my gratitude to Mayor Esteban Bovo for his unwavering dedication to public service and I look forward to his continued contributions to the community.

HONORING JEAN MARIE
THOMPSON-BJORKMAN

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Jean Marie Thompson-Bjorkman a very happy 100th birthday, who will be celebrating her milestone on July 22, 2025.

In 1944, Jean, an English citizen, married Paul Bjorkman, an American Army GI. Jean patiently waited nearly two years to be able to see her husband again in 1946 when she emigrated to the U.S.

Alongside other war brides, Jean made the journey to the U.S. aboard a U.S. Navy Liberty Ship. The voyage was cold and rough, but her determination never wavered. Jean and Paul eventually settled in Thompson, Ohio where they welcomed their daughter. In November of 1950, Jean achieved her American citizenship, and in a desire to be closer to her daughter, Jean moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 2021. Jean's dedication to family exemplifies true determination and courage.

Jean and her family have consistently embodied the traditional values we cherish in Idaho. I thank Jean Marie Thompson-Bjorkman for her incredible example of perseverance and fearlessness. I wish her a very happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING CINDY MAHON

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

Cindy Gandy Mahon has made to our community as a volunteer with Brooksville Main Street (BMS). Cindy has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment, enthusiasm, and passion for the revitalization and growth of downtown Brooksville. Her tireless dedication to BMS's mission and objectives has made a lasting impact, and her unwavering support has been instrumental in the success of numerous projects and events. Cindy has been an invaluable volunteer, consistently contributing countless hours to the betterment of Brooksville. She has been actively involved in multiple committees such as Beautify Brooksville, Promotions, Design as well as Beautify Brooksville, Tangerine Festival, the City's Founder's Week and Christmas on Main, bringing her energy, expertise, and creativity to every initiative. Whether planning events, setting up for activities, assisting with vendor coordination, or welcoming guests with a warm smile, Cindy is always at the forefront, ensuring that every detail is executed flawlessly. One of Cindy's most significant contributions has been her work in supporting Brooksville Main Street's special events, including Beautify Brooksville. Her hands-on involvement in coordinating logistics and managing on-site operations has been crucial in making this event successful. She dedicates long hours before, during, and after this and other events, ensuring everything runs smoothly and all volunteers and attendees have a positive experience. Cindy's leadership and problem-solving skills shine in high-pressure situations, making her a trusted and reliable member of the team. Beyond event coordination, Cindy has also played a key role in furthering the goals of BMS by assisting with community engagement initiatives. She actively promotes Brooksville's historic charm and economic growth by working with local businesses, encouraging participation, and fostering a sense of unity among merchants and residents. Her efforts to support small businesses align perfectly with BMS's mission to strengthen the local economy while preserving the character of our town. Cindy's volunteerism goes above and beyond expectations. She does not hesitate to take an extra responsibility, often stepping up when additional help is needed. Whether it is arriving early to set up for an event, staying late to clean up, or brainstorming creative ideas to enhance the visitor experience, Cindy's selfless dedication is truly inspiring. She brings positivity, teamwork, and a solutions-oriented approach to every task setting an exemplary standard for other volunteers. Over the past year alone, Cindy has devoted over 100 volunteer hours to BMS, significantly impacting our programs and outreach efforts. Her willingness to invest her time and talents into the organization speaks volumes about her love for Brooksville and her desire to see it thrive. She embodies the spirit of volunteerism, demonstrating a deep sense of responsibility and pride in her work. Her dedication, hard work, and commitment to BMS have made an undeniable difference in our community, and we are deeply grateful for her service.

It is clear Cindy Gandy Mahon 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.

HONORING OLIVIA BATES

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Olivia Bates, for her work as an intern serving in my Hendersonville office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this spring.

Olivia is originally from New York but now calls Henderson County, North Carolina home. She graduated from Western Carolina University where she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Olivia was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Olivia, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Olivia exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Olivia on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SHERIFF LANE AKIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Lane Akin of Decatur, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lane has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and protecting our community.

A native of Greenville, Texas, Lane earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from East Texas A&M University. He began his lengthy law enforcement career in 1974 as a Department of Public Safety officer at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. He worked his way up the ranks to become a Highway Patrol trooper, Narcotics Service Sergeant, Texas Ranger, and Texas Ranger supervisor. After retiring from Texas DPS, Lane served as the Office Enforcement Captain for the Wise County Sheriffs office and was elected Wise County Sheriff in 2016. In December 2024, he retired after five decades of distinguished service as a law enforcement officer.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Lane is heavily involved in community service initiatives to benefit North Texans. He serves as the President of the NCT 911 Board and the Chairman of the Wise County's Santa's Deputies to deliver toys and food to families in need during the holidays. Moreover, Lane is an accomplished author, and in 2024, he published his first book, *The Point: Dawn of the Texas Meth War*, which details the history of the drug epidemic and has been highly rated by readers. He will be publishing his second book in Fall of 2025 titled *Texas Ranger, Wise*

County. For his outstanding service as a Texas Ranger, Lane has been recognized as Officer of the Year twice by the Wise, Jack, and Montague County Criminal Justice Association. I am proud to recognize Lane today for a lifetime of public service to the North Texas community, and I look forward to his future endeavors and publications.

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

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER ARO CAVILLO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE JUDITH ANN ALGEO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable constituent from my district, Judith Ann Algeo, J.D., M.A., who passed away on January 1, 2025. Judith was not only a distinguished professional but also a civil servant, trailblazer and beloved member of our community who lived a life full of compassion, service, and helping those in need.

Born April 19, 1953, to Rita and Hugh Algeo, Judith attended Good Shepherd Parish School and West Catholic High School for Girls. She went on to earn her B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology, as well as her M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from La Salle College (now University). She worked at Bell Telephone to pay for her schooling, which is a true testament to her determination and work ethic she had starting from a young age. Judith later earned her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Throughout her lifetime, Judith worked across a wide range of careers. She began her professional journey as a childcare worker, which introduced her to the challenges faced by vulnerable families. This sparked a lifelong interest in advocacy which led her to then work as a child and family therapist, massage therapist and a public official before finding