

As one county official observed, Ebensburg is a town built not only by hands and hard work, but by faith, courage and an unshakable belief in the American spirit.

As Ebensburg celebrates this significant milestone throughout the year, worthy tribute is bestowed upon the many generations of residents, business owners, community leaders and government officials who have partnered to fulfill collective goals and aspirations.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Borough of Ebensburg on its 200th anniversary and express fond wishes for continued growth and prosperity.

HONORING CARNEGIE MEDAL
RECIPIENT, SARA SCHALLER

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to honor a true hero from Indiana's First Congressional District, Sara Schaller from Hammond, Indiana. Sara was recently awarded the Carnegie Medal for her courageous acts that saved a fourteen-year-old girl from drowning in Lake Michigan.

On June 20, 2023, Sara Schaller and her four-year-old daughter made a trip to the beach at the Indiana Dunes National Park. Suddenly, a rip current swept two swimmers out into Lake Michigan about 300 feet from shore. Sara did not hesitate to act, and after asking a woman to watch her daughter, she ran into the lake and swam out to reach the drowning girl. Sara grabbed the girl under both arms and swam with her 150 feet back to safety where bystanders helped to pull her out of the water. Paramedics were able to treat the girl at the scene of the incident, and she later recovered at the hospital. For her swift and valiant efforts that saved a young girl's life, Sara Schaller is to be commended.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission awards the Carnegie Medal to civilians who enter extreme danger, risk death or serious injury to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others throughout the United States and Canada. It was my honor to invite Sara to my office to present her with the Carnegie Medal on April 22, 2025. On that day, Sara's family shared their praises for her heroic feat. Sara was raised by a family of first responders who were not surprised at her ability and willingness to act at a moment's notice to help someone in need. Truly a "hometown hero", Sara Schaller is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Sara Schaller for her courageous deeds and in congratulating her on being presented with the prestigious Carnegie Medal. Sara's story serves as an inspiration to us all, and we as a community are grateful for her determination and bravery.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES KNIGHT
ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT
TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Charles Knight of Republic, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Charles's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2029. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Charles brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2029. While attending Columbian High School, he participated in Boy Scouts earning his Eagle Scout rank, Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Charles was involved in soccer, earning his varsity letter and becoming team captain. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Charles Knight on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Charles will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT
WOMEN IN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable group of women whose leadership, service, and achievements have made a profound impact on communities across Virginia's Fourth Congressional District and beyond. From advancing equity in education and environmental justice to transforming industries through innovation and empowering families in need, these honorees exemplify the very best of civic and professional excellence. Each awardee has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to making a difference—lifting others as they lead and setting powerful examples for future generations. It is a privilege to celebrate their accomplishments and recognize their outstanding contributions.

Businesswoman of the Year—Monika Mueller: Monika's journey to becoming Chief Strategy Officer is a true testament to her visionary leadership, relentless innovation, and

deep commitment to empowering others. Over the past several years, she transformed multiple departments, drove major revenue growth, expanded international operations, and championed the use of AI to accelerate performance across the company. Beyond her business achievements, Monika mentors women, volunteers with organizations like IT Girls, and uplifts her community with the same passion and dedication she brings to her career. Her story is one of resilience and excellence, making a lasting impact.

Non-Profit of the Year—Little Hands VA: Little Hands Virginia is transforming the lives of young children and their families by providing essential items, such as diapers, safe sleep spaces, and strollers, to those in need across Central Virginia. Focused on children from birth to age three, Little Hands alleviates financial stress for families, improves early childhood outcomes, and strengthens community support systems. In just five years, they have grown from serving 100 children a month to reaching over 10,000 annually through partnerships with 130 local organizations. Their work not only addresses immediate needs but also empowers parents and creates a foundation for lifelong success—making Little Hands a shining example of compassion, impact, and community leadership.

The Women of Impact in Education Award—Kayla Diaz: Kayla Diaz has dedicated her career to breaking down language and cultural barriers for students and families at Colonial Heights Public Schools. Drawing from her own experiences navigating a new language and school system, Kayla became a tireless advocate for better support services, leading to the creation of a full-time interpreter position she now proudly holds. Beyond translation, she builds bridges, fosters understanding, and empowers families to thrive. A first-generation college graduate and proud daughter of Puerto Rico, Kayla's work embodies compassion, resilience, and a deep commitment to educational equity.

Women in Action Volunteer Award—Fatima Smith: Fatima M. Smith is a powerful advocate, volunteer, and community leader whose work spans anti-violence initiatives, racial justice, and philanthropy. With over 15 years of experience, she has championed child advocacy, led major legislative efforts to protect survivors, and founded Collective 365 to empower Black and Brown communities through accessible grant funding. Through her work with organizations like Side by Side and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia, and as a mentor and speaker, Fatima's unwavering commitment to building safer, more inclusive communities makes her a true force for positive change.

The Dr. Gladys West Women in STEM Award—Pamela Bingham: Pamela R. Bingham is a trailblazing environmental engineer whose 30-year career has bridged STEM, environmental justice (EJ), public health, and community empowerment. As Operations Manager for the University of Maryland's Health, Environmental, and Economic Justice Lab, she leads initiatives that support grassroots environmental justice (EJ) organizations and empower future generations through education and mentorship. From managing multi-million-dollar climate action grants to volunteering with Girl Scouts and the National Society of Black Engineers, Pamela's impact is far-reaching. Pamela remains a tireless advocate

and role model, embodying leadership and a passion for justice in every space she serves.

Law and Government Champion Award—Gray Montrose: Gray Montrose is a leader in land use, environmental law, and conservation, with over a decade of experience advancing cultural heritage and resource protection. As Deputy Director of Land Conservation at the Capital Region Land Conservancy and a former Assistant Attorney General, she has shaped major policies on environmental justice, clean air, coastal resilience, and community revitalization. A passionate volunteer and advocate, Gray has received accolades like the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation's Volunteer of the Year and the Sierra Club's Green Giant Award. Through her legal expertise, community leadership, and commitment to access to justice, she continues to drive positive change across Virginia.

Media and Communications Champion Award—Claudia Massey: Claudia Massey has made a lasting impact in media and communications as a bestselling author, TV and radio host, columnist, and Certified Life and Wellness Coach. Through her podcast and documentary, *Reclaiming My Life*, she reaches audiences worldwide, sharing stories of strength and hope. Claudia also founded Rena's New Life Ministry, supporting underprivileged families through school supply drives, Secret Santa programs, and scholarships. She preserves gospel music through Quartet Unstoppable and advocates for the elderly through Patience for Patients, LLC. Her dedication to service and community makes her a deserving recipient of the Media and Communications Champion Award.

RECOGNIZING BRANNON RAINS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brannon Rains on his career with the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A Dundee, Oregon native and 2018 graduate of Oregon State University, Brannon began his career in the U.S. House of Representatives as an intern for his home state Congressman, Representative Greg Walden (OR-02) before joining the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in 2018 as a Staff Assistant for Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Since that time, he has served as a Legislative Clerk, Policy Analyst, and most recently a Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. When I became Chairman in January, Brannon stayed on as a valuable member of my team as a policy expert in critical areas such as artificial intelligence, data privacy, and children's online safety. During his time in the United States House of Representatives, he has helped develop important pieces of legislation including the RANSOMWARE Act and the American COMPETE Act. Brannon was also crucial in planning legislative hearings regarding technology policies, Federal Trade Commission, and Department of Commerce.

Recently, Brannon accepted a role in Senator TODD YOUNG's office as a Policy Advisor. I thank him for his service, congratulate him on his new role, and wish him the best.

HONORING THE ATLEE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the 2024 Class 4 VHSL State Champions Atlee Varsity Raiders baseball team. Led by head coach Michael Morris, this team made history by winning the school's first ever Regional Championship and first ever Virginia State Championship. That accomplishment is a testament to their hard work and dedication to each other as teammates and as brothers.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM SIKORA ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that William Sikora of Avon, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

William's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2029. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

William brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2029. While attending Avon High School, he received the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Academic Achievement Award, the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, attended Buckeye Boys State, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, William was involved in wrestling, earning wrestler of the week. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating William Sikora on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that William will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ELISE WOBBE

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Christina "Elise" Wobbe, a

vibrant and talented individual who touched the lives of many through her passion for the performing arts and her kindness. Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Elise's journey was marked by dedication, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to her craft.

From a young age, Elise immersed herself in the world of dance, singing, and acting. Her early start in dance paved the way for a lifelong love of performance. She showcased her talents at the Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS) at duPont Manual High School, where she graduated in 2024. Elise's excellence was further recognized when she attended the Governor's School for the Arts in 2022, specializing in musical theater.

Continuing her artistic journey, Elise enrolled at Syracuse University as a first-year musical theater major. Her commitment to excellence earned her a place on the Fall 2024 Dean's List. She actively contributed to the university's theater community, serving on the production staff and costume crew for the Department of Drama's production of "Pippin."

Elise's unexpected passing on February 14, 2025, in Syracuse, New York, was a profound loss to all who knew her. Her warmth and genuine nature left an indelible mark on those around her. Her family fondly remembers her ability to light up any room and her knack for turning strangers into friends. They expressed, "She lived her dream each and every day with exuberance, determination, and genuine kindness."

In recognition of her impact and to honor her legacy, the family has established the Elise Wobbe Scholarship. This scholarship aims to support a YPAS senior pursuing a career in the performing arts, ensuring that Elise's passion continues to inspire future generations.

Elise Wobbe's legacy is one of passion, kindness, and artistic brilliance. Her spirit continues to inspire, reminding us of the profound impact one individual can have on their community.

HONORING THE APPOINTMENT OF LOS ANGELES POSTMASTER MARICELA LUNA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maricela Luna, the first Mexican-American Latina to serve as Postmaster of Los Angeles since the city's postal establishment in 1850.

It is fitting that Maricela Luna's appointment coincides with the 250th Anniversary of USPS. As the 42nd Postmaster in Los Angeles, Marci's story is one of unwavering commitment in service to the local community. Luna is an exemplary public servant dedicated to operational and logistical excellence befitting of the United States Postal Service. Her dedication to innovation and inclusivity sets a high bar for all of us in public service, and a living example of the legacy USPS which has served Americans since it was established in 1775.

I am hopeful that Luna's groundbreaking appointment will serve as a catalyst to inspire to future generations—especially in the Mexican-