

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-

American and Hispanic communities—towards a life of public service. May this appointment deepen public trust and strengthen the Postal Service for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maricela Luna, 42nd Postmaster of Los Angeles.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MASTER PATROL OFFICER DENNIS BEVENOUR

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gettysburg Borough Master Patrol Officer Dennis P. Bevenour, who retired after serving the community with distinction for over 16 years.

Officer Bevenour joined the Gettysburg Police Department as a Patrolman in September 2008 and was promoted to Criminal Investigator, Intelligence Officer and Master Patrol Officer.

He entered law enforcement after a 27-year career in the United States Air Force. His impressive record of public service also includes roles as a volunteer firefighter and Probation and Parole Officer.

Officer Bevenour was widely respected by colleagues and supervisors for his expertise in criminal investigations. He was instrumental in securing grant funding to enhance the security of the borough building and to upgrade the police department's records management system.

Throughout the Borough of Gettysburg and beyond, Officer Bevenour's legacy of dedication, professionalism and community service will be forever respected and appreciated.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I express gratitude to Officer Bevenour for an extraordinary record of military and public service and offer fond wishes for joy and contentment in retirement.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN SOLTIS ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 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 Christian Soltis of North Ridgeville, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Christian's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Air Force 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.

Christian brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2029. While attending Elyria Catholic High School, he participated in National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Buckeye Boys State, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Christian was involved in football, wrestling, and track and field, earning his varsity letter in all three. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Gadsden State Community College. Gadsden State is currently under the leadership of President Dr. Kathy Murphy.

One of the initial founding institutions of Gadsden State is the Alabama School of Trades. It was established in 1925 as the first state-operated trade school in Alabama and the entire southern United States.

Classes began on September 16, 1925, with 42 students enrolled in the inaugural class. Four courses were available: printing, electricity, bricklaying and cabinetmaking. All students lived in the newly constructed dormitory equipped with modern conveniences such as steam heat and plumbing that featured hot and cold running water. Students helped government workmen lay bricks to build the school's first permanent two-story buildings.

The Alabama School of Trades continued to thrive as a training center for the area's technical industry with increasing student enrollment and course offerings. In 1942, courses were converted to War Training. At the close of World War II, new courses were added to help veterans re-enter the workforce such as: Radio, TV, Auto Mechanics, Machine Shop, Refrigeration, Drafting, Photography, Upholstery, Auto Body, Barbering, General Farm Dairy, Poultry and Heavy Equipment.

In 1973, the school's name was changed to the Alabama Technical College and began offering associate in applied technology degrees. In 1985, the Alabama Technical College merged with Gadsden State Community College and is now known as the East Broad Campus. It is home to many of Gadsden State's workforce development programs such as Precision Machining, Mechanical Design, Industrial Automation, Welding, Electrical, Electronic Technology, Salon/Spa, Court Reporting, Truck Driving, Skid Steer Training, Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Civil Engineering.

As a result of mergers and expansion of services, Gadsden State is now a sprawling Community College with five campuses including East Broad, Wallace Drive, Valley Street (HBCU), Ayers and Cherokee. Gadsden State serves Etowah, Calhoun, Cleburne, Cherokee and St. Clair counties in northeast Alabama. There are 70 programs of study offered to over 5,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Gadsden State Community College a happy 100th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BILL MATTHYS

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Matthys—a man whose life reflects a steadfast commitment to education, public service, and community.

Raised in rural Wharton County, Mr. Matthys graduated from El Campo High School in 1965, later earning degrees from Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston, including a BA in English and Journalism and a master's in Curriculum and Instruction. In 1967, he married Pamela, his high school sweetheart, and together they built a loving family and a legacy of service.

Following college, Mr. Matthys served on active duty in the United States Army from 1970 to 1974, including time stationed in Germany, and later in the Army Reserve until his honorable discharge as a Captain in 1981. His service to our Nation was marked by integrity and continued through his 35 years dedicated to public education in Texas. He worked as both a teacher and administrator, with 16 of those years at Cuero ISD. After retiring from education, he continued serving the community through legal work as a certified paralegal at a local firm.

His civic involvement has been just as remarkable. He has served on the boards of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce, the Cuero Lions Club, the Cuero ISD Education Foundation, and the DeWitt County Habitat for Humanity. For 17 years, he represented the people of Cuero on the City Council, including 14 years as Mayor Pro-Temp.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Matthys represents the very best of servant leadership. His life is a testimony to the impact one person can make through quiet faithfulness, love for family, and a deep-rooted commitment to community.

May God continue to bless him, his family, and all those he serves.

RECOGNIZING JOHN PAUL GRAY 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