

3,800 affordable housing units and acquired 1,400 supportive housing units through the Health Through Housing program. Dow supported the creation of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC), provided funding to immigrant-serving organizations and reinforced King County's commitment to being a welcoming community. He launched the Crisis Care Centers initiative, providing essential care and reducing the burden on emergency rooms and jails. Dow's commitment to environmental conservation resulted in the protection of 30,000 acres of land and the restoration of 500 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, including the successful resurgence of the Kokanee salmon population. Through his advocacy for sustainable transportation, he expanded King County Metro with the launch of eight RapidRide routes and growing the Link Light Rail network to 51 stations.

Dow's leadership has always been grounded in the values of equity, public service and collaboration. His legacy will continue to inspire future leaders to carry forward the work of building a stronger community that serves all people. As he moves on to serve as CEO of Sound Transit, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dow's accomplishments and service to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Dow for making King County a more inclusive, sustainable, and just place to live.

**RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORAL JOSEPH DONALD**

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corporal Joseph Donald for his incredible service to our country and to recognize his recent approval to receive the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most revered military decorations. It is awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It represents not just injury, but sacrifice—the physical cost of defending our freedoms.

Corporal Donald served honorably for over six years, including deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq. His time in uniform coincided with some of the most dangerous years of conflict, ending in 2011. During that period, he witnessed the loss of many fellow Marines—brothers and sisters in arms who gave their lives in service.

In 2011, while deployed in Afghanistan, Corporal Donald was severely injured in an explosion. Despite the severity of his injuries, Corporal Donald's resiliency is a true testament of his character and to the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Today, as we recognize Corporal Donald's receipt of the Purple Heart, we also reflect on the sacrifices made by so many service members like him. His story is one of bravery, dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Corporal Donald formally on the honor of re-

ceiving the Purple Heart award. I join the rest of the community in thanking Corporal Donald for his courage and bravery in the line of duty.

**RECOGNIZING ALFONZE ROMERO**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

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

**RECOGNIZING KRISTINA ARNOLD**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

It is clear that Kristina Arnold 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 MARTHA JANE WEST**

**HON. WESLEY BELL**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and unwavering commitment of Ms. Martha Jane West—a proud educator, community advocate, and lifelong champion for equity and justice—who passed peacefully on Sunday, March 30, 2025, surrounded by her loving family in Mississippi, following a lengthy illness.

Born in Dyer, Tennessee, Ms. West charted a path of purpose early in life. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee State University in 1953, a proud alumna who remained deeply involved

with her alma mater throughout her life. Each summer during her college years, she visited St. Louis with her cousin, forging a bond with the city that would eventually become her lifelong home.

Following her graduation, Ms. West settled in St. Louis, living for more than three decades on the 5100 block of Greer Avenue in the Kingsway West neighborhood. Her commitment to education was unwavering. She began her career at the Nursery Foundation—the first integrated nursery school in St. Louis—before dedicating herself to the St. Louis County Special School District, where she served students with the highest needs for over 40 years before her retirement.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. West gave tirelessly to her faith community at Lane Tabernacle Methodist Church, where she had been a devoted member since 1960. She shared her time, talent, and treasure as part of the Kitchen Committee and the Trustee Auxiliary Club, visiting the sick, supporting the elderly, feeding the hungry, and collecting clothing for those in need.

Her sense of civic duty extended far beyond her church walls. She was deeply engaged in local politics and social justice. As a precinct captain in the former 20th Ward, she registered voters, attended the Democratic National Convention in the 1980's, and proudly cast her ballot for President Barack Obama in 2008. She was an active member of the NAACP, the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the Organization for Black Struggle, and the Tennessee State University Alumni Association. Whether speaking out at St. Louis Public School board meetings or calling into the iconic Onion Horton radio show, Ms. West's voice was one of courage, conviction, and clarity.

Ms. West never shied away from the front lines in the fight for justice. She was a visible force in demonstrations to protect and honor the legacy of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in the Ville neighborhood. She also knew how to celebrate her community—supporting local clubs and causes through galas, dances, and events. Among her proudest philanthropic efforts was serving as the number one booster for TSU during its annual alumni fundraiser dinner and dance.

Ms. Martha Jane West was a woman of principle, purpose, and boundless compassion. Her legacy lives on in the countless students she nurtured, the communities she uplifted, and the lives she so profoundly impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Ms. Martha Jane West. May her service be remembered, her example be followed, and her family be comforted with the peace and pride of knowing her legacy will endure.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE MIA LOVE**

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mia Bourdeau Love, a trailblazing public servant, devoted wife and mother, proud Haitian American, and

the first Black Republican woman elected to the United States Congress. I enjoyed serving with Congresswoman Love during her time in this body and considered her a friend.

Born Ludmya Bourdeau in Brooklyn, New York, to Haitian immigrant parents Jean Maxime and Marie Bourdeau, Mia embodied the values of compassion, resilience, freedom, and service to others—principles instilled in her from childhood and manifested through decades of unwavering commitment to family, faith, and public leadership. At age five, she and her family moved to Norwalk in Southwestern Connecticut where she would grow up and later attend Norwalk High School.

Mia inspired countless individuals through her historic example—serving as a councilwoman, mayor, congresswoman, commentator, mentor, and friend. Her light, wisdom, authenticity, and spirit of service have left an indelible mark on both the Haitian American community and the state of Connecticut, and her voice will continue to resonate across generations.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Love and Bourdeau families and all who knew and loved Mia. I look forward to partnering with the Haitian American Collaborative, a national organization located in Mia's former hometown of Norwalk, to honor her memory by continuing her work of uplifting Haitian communities, building legacies of impact, and preserving the rich cultural heritage she so proudly represented.

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS DEMPSTER

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING KAY HOFFLAND

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kay Hoffland 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, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help.

A truly selfless leader, Ms. Hoffland was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Kay Hoffland 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.

#### WORLD IP DAY AND INVENTIONS CAUCUS

### HON. KEVIN KILEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day and the creation of the Congressional Inventions Caucus.

The newly created caucus will work to foster education, collaboration, and legislative action on intellectually property issues in Congress. I would like to thank Rep. DEBORAH ROSS for leading this caucus with me in the House, as well as Sen. DAINES and Sen. COONS.

Copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets are key to America's innovation, industrial strength, standard of living, and our economic and national security.

Intellectual property-intensive firms account for 44 percent of U.S. jobs and better pay and benefits than jobs with that utilize little or no intellectual property.

It is integral to cutting-edge technologies, discovery, and development of new miracle medicines, sophisticated computing, and advanced microchips. Intellectual property is also foundational for movies, music, publishing, and much more.

Intellectual property industries produce almost 80 percent of U.S. commodity exports. Many of these industries even have trade surpluses since the United States is the world's top intellectual property exporter, with exports valued at \$140 billion in 2024.

#### RECOGNIZING DAYANARA TISCARENO ESCALERA

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

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

#### HONORING CHARLES ROSS

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero and a true patriot, Mr. Charles Ross of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Mr. Ross, a 96-year-old veteran, was a prisoner of war during the Korean War for three years.

Charles Ross enlisted in the United States Army on February 13, 1947. Born on December 6, 1928, in Columbia, South Carolina, he was just 18 years old when he enlisted. He was inspired by soldiers who served in WWII, and he wanted some adventure in his life. After basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama, he spent three years in post-WWII Germany with the 1st Infantry. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Mr. Ross was deployed there with the 1st Provisional Battalion. He was then assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Brigade. Soon after arriving in Korea was the Battle of Inchon, followed by the Battle of PyongYang, and the Battle of Unsan, which was long and treacherous. Mr. Ross' battalion of around 900 men was surrounded by 10 to 20,000 Chinese soldiers. After fighting the Chinese off for three days and nights, they ran out of food, water, and provisions. Many lives were lost. On the fourth day, the Chinese Army started shelling chemical rounds of white phosphorous. All those who were able to run did so, crossing the Nammyon River. Mr. Ross and a fellow soldier broke off from the crowd and hid. An older Korean civilian helped them find shelter in a cave and brought them water and broth. Leaving the cave, they were soon found and surrendered to the Chinese Army. They were taken to Camp 5 in Pyoktong in January of 1951. Prisoners in the camp experienced untreated wounds, disease, frozen ground, starvation, and many died. They were forced to work on the burial detail, which was horrendous. In August of 1951, Mr. Ross and other non-commissioned officers were taken to Camp 4, where conditions were somewhat improved. He was released from the POW camp on August 20, 1953, reunited with the American Army, and promoted to Master Sergeant.

Mr. Ross' POW experience left him with lifelong Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and painful neuropathy in his feet from the frigid Korean winters. He retired from the Army in 1970 as a Command Sergeant Major. Mr. Ross lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky with his daughter Barbara. He and his late wife Janet have three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was recently celebrated by Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 for National Prisoner of War Day.

Charles Ross is a true patriot, a great American, and an inspiration to us all. I am forever grateful to him and his fellow soldiers who sacrificed so much in service to our Nation. It is my honor to recognize his service before the United States Congress.