

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 PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. 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 PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANNEL CAT PASSENGER FERRYBOAT SERVICE IN THE QUAD CITIES

**HON. ERIC SORENSEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary milestone in the Quad Cities—the 30th anniversary of the Channel Cat passenger ferryboat service. What began as a bold idea in 1994, led by Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action, has since become a vital part of our region's transportation network and a celebrated symbol of innovation along the Mississippi River.

With early support from the Riverboat Development Authority and a coalition of local leaders, the first water taxi launched over the July 4th weekend in 1995, connecting communities and offering a new way to experience our historic river. Since MetroLINK assumed operation in 1998 under the direction of CEO Jeff Nelson, the Channel Cat has grown tremendously. Federal grants have helped fund three ADA-accessible vessels powered by biodiesel, construction of improved riverfront docks, and even plans for future electric ferries.

The Channel Cat has provided over one million rides, giving residents and visitors alike a unique and sustainable way to cross the Mississippi River—connecting two states, three downtowns, and countless cultural and recreational opportunities.

On May 23, 2025, we celebrate three decades of impact and innovation. I proudly recognize the Channel Cat for its outstanding service and commend Kathy Wine and Jeff Nelson for their visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and public access along our riverfront. The Quad Cities is a better, more connected place because of their work.

RECOGNIZING NOAH TRASK

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

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

RECOGNIZING JUDY SALVADOR

**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 Judy Salvador has made through her work with Metropolitan Ministries. Judy has been a dedicated volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries since 2016. Monday and Friday mornings at the Metro Welcome Center are lively and welcoming, thanks to this remarkable woman. She greets both new and returning volunteers with enthusiasm, ensuring newcomers feel comfortable and understand the importance of their roles. Her humor, empathy, and dedication ensure smooth operations across all areas, from kitchen prep to client shopping in the metro market. She welcomes everyone—volunteers, clients, residents, and community members—with warmth, compassion, and genuine joy in service. Judy is always ready to tackle any task that needs attention. Metropolitan Ministries relies heavily on her to keep Volunteer Services running smoothly, not just during the holidays but all year round. She embodies the four key values of Metro's culture, including: Character, Chemistry, Competency, and Calling.

It is clear Judy Salvador 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 NYPD DETECTIVE FABIO L. GONZALEZ

**HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, NYPD Detective Fabio L. Gonzalez of Babylon, New York on the occasion of his recognition with an Honorable Mention in the 2025 TOP COPS Awards from the National Association of Police Organizations. Detective Gonzalez has distinguished himself as an exemplary member of the New York City Police Department, having been recognized for meritorious and excellent service to the City of New York 16 times since joining the department in July 2011.

On July 4, 2024, in Jamaica, Queens, Detective Gonzalez and Officer Patrick E. Lynch responded to a call for assistance after a woman had been stabbed. Upon entering the apartment, they encountered the suspect holding a knife to his father's neck. After repeated commands in both English and Spanish were ignored and the suspect began to cut his father's throat, Officer Lynch fired at the suspect, striking him once, saving the father's life. Detective Gonzalez and Officer Lynch then discovered the near-lifeless body of an eight-year-old child and, recognizing the urgency of the moment, rushed the child to Jamaica Hospital in their patrol vehicle. Tragically, despite their heroic efforts, the child did not survive.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Gonzalez demonstrated extraordinary courage, composure, and selflessness in the face of life-threatening

danger. It is my great honor to recognize him for his bravery and to commend him on receiving this well-deserved award. I wish Detective Gonzalez continued success and safety in his distinguished service to the people of New York, and I extend my deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication.

HONORING JA'KYRA CHAPMAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman.

Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman is a 17-year-old visionary residing in Centreville, Mississippi—one of the smallest cities in the state. She is a dreamer with an abundance of ambition that reaches far beyond the horizon.

The youngest of four children, Ja'Kyra was raised in a family where love holds greater value than material possessions, and cherished memories are considered more precious than anything the world can offer. Humility has been the cornerstone of her upbringing and her approach to life.

Academically, Ja'Kyra has demonstrated excellence and dedication. She holds a 4.13 GPA, earned a 26 on the ACT, and has received numerous honors and awards. These accomplishments reflect her commitment to continuous improvement and her preparation for success in future academic and professional endeavors.

Aspiring to become a fashion designer, Ja'Kyra is also a trailblazer in her family as the first to attend college. She is eager to embrace new experiences and is determined to lead a life of purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the Centreville, Mississippi community.

RECOGNIZING LILITH ROBERTS-RUIZ

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lilith Roberts-Ruiz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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