

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.

RECOGNIZING KRYSTAL MARTINEZ

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 Krystal Martinez has made to our community through her work with New Beginnings Youth Shelter which serves homeless kids aged 10–17 who are between foster homes, abandoned, or homeless. The whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else looking out for them. They teach kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team really cares and each member is deeply invested in the kids' long-term success.

It is clear Krystal Martinez 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 DEPUTY GALINA CLAUSSEN**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Deputy Galina Claussen of the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Claussen was assigned to the Special Operations Division of the Clay County Sheriff's Office which is specifically responsible for civil process service, courtroom security, evidence room management, and animal control. Deputy Claussen assumed the direct management and development of the animal control program, which had just been given to the Sheriff's Office by the Clay County Commissioners.

Through her hard work and dedication, Deputy Claussen made the animal control program a great success. Deputy Claussen is very respected among her animal control partners with the Health Department, Veterinarian Kayla Lawlor, fellow Deputies, and the public who make reports of concern. In addition to Deputy Claussen's skills and abilities that serve the citizens of Clay County so very well, her professionalism, integrity, and positive attitude foster camaraderie among her peers.

Deputy Claussen has earned the respect of her fellow officers and that of every member of the Sheriff's Office Command Staff.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to thank Deputy Claussen for her dedication and service to her community.

CONGRATULATING MEMPHIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Memphis Central High School

Jazz Band and Band Director Ollie Liddell for winning First Place Honors at the 30th Annual "Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival" at Lincoln Center in New York City on Sunday, May 11. The band was one of 127 that applied this year, competing with bands from all over the world including Japan and Spain, and was one of the 30 bands—some trained at music magnet schools or with private tutors—invited to New York. The Central High students advanced to the semifinal level where 10 were selected and then was one of the top three bands to play. Dr. Liddell has been the band's director for the past 13 years, often spending 12-hour days in the band room to give students the practice time they need—especially since many can't play in their apartment complexes or transport heavy instruments home. Overall, the band won the Best Band honors and awards for outstanding trumpet section, outstanding trombone section, outstanding rhythm section, outstanding alto saxophone soloist for student Jackson Hankins, outstanding trumpet soloist for Kingston Grandberry and outstanding trombone soloist for Marqese Cobb. The Memphis Central Jazz Band was selected to compete at "Essentially Ellington" in 2020 and 2021, but the competition was held virtually, so the students did not have the opportunity to travel to New York. In an interview with The Daily Memphian columnist Geoff Calkins in January, Liddell explained that many of his students arrive at the band room with no prior knowledge of jazz. He added: "The City of Memphis is why I do what I do." Over the years, the numbers in the Central jazz band jumped from about 80 to the current 187. The festival in New York concluded with a concert at the Metropolitan Opera House featuring the top student ensembles and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra directed by Wynton Marsalis. Memphis is home to many talented musicians, and Central's band members have now earned international recognition—a testament to the hard work of the students and Dr. Liddell.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN REIL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

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

RECOGNIZING LESA BURNHAM

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 Lesa Burnham has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Lesa is a tireless volunteer, eager to assist with all clinic needs. She is quick to get the patients ready to see the doctor, answer phones, and keeps the patient EMR updated. She is an inspirational decorator, creating holiday decor throughout the clinic that lifts patients' spirits.

It is clear Lesa Burnham 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 EULESS POLICE CORPORAL JAMES GORDON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Corporal James Gordon for his twenty-eight years of selfless service to North Texans.

Corporal Gordon, a graduate of Lewisville High School and Texas A&M University, began his career in public service as a Probation Officer for Denton, Tarrant, and Dallas Counties. He joined the Euless Police Department in 1996, serving with distinction for nearly three decades. Promoted to the rank of Police Corporal in 2000, he has held numerous critical assignments and roles that strengthened the safety and trust in the community.

Corporal Gordon is best known to many in the Euless community for his role as a Neighborhood Police Officer and his dedicated work with crime watch programs. He has been a pillar in community engagement efforts through the Citizen's Police Academy, CERT Program, Child Safety Seat Program, Rape Aggression Defense (RAD), CPR instruction, and the David Hofer Police Camp. His commitment to safety extended to conducting home security surveys and creating the Euless SAFE business program to promote responsible business security practices.

A skilled and decorated officer, Corporal Gordon served as a SWAT officer from 2001 to 2008 and has been a Defensive Tactics Instructor since 1999. His leadership earned him the title of Crime Prevention Expert from the Texas Crime Prevention Association and STEP Officer of the Year for the State of Texas in 2007. His professional affiliations include the Texas Crime Prevention Association, where he serves as President of the North Texas chapter, and the Texas Municipal Police Association. His commitment to duty and the community has also been recognized through numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award, multiple Unit Citations, and the prestigious Euless Employee of the Year in 2018. Beyond his accolades, James Gordon is a trusted mentor, an Eagle Scout and a devoted public servant who has made a lasting impact on countless lives.