

## 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.

As he enters a well-earned retirement, dedicating his time to family and friends, I express my deepest gratitude for his courage and commitment to the safety and well-being of the people of North Texas. Congratulations and thanks to Corporal James Gordon.

CONGRATULATING ECORE INTERNATIONAL ON BEING NAMED EXIM'S EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Ecore International for being named Exporter of the Year by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

Beginning as a small cork manufacturer in 1871, Lancaster-based Ecore International is a global leader in circular rubber flooring. Ecore has covered projects from local gyms, turf fields, and playgrounds to NFL locker rooms and Churchill Downs. What makes Ecore truly special is their dedication to sustainability and innovation. Ecore uses recycled rubber and ensures it can be reused continuously, transforming 430 million pounds of rubber waste annually into 1,500 different products.

Ecore International operates in 76 different countries and has 13 facilities across the United States, including 2 in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. Their recognition as EXIM's Exporter of the Year compliments their noteworthy pedigree of awards and accomplishments.

It is with great pride that I can consider Ecore International among my constituents. I thank the company for helping to solidify Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District as a center for manufacturing and innovation, and once again I congratulate them for being EXIM's Exporter of the Year.

RECOGNIZING HEYZEL PEREZ

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

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

Heyzel 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 Heyzel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Heyzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance as Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING DEAN LANCASTER

**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 Mr. Dean Lancaster has made as a volunteer with the Hernando County School System. Mr. Lancaster offered his services as an announcer for high school basketball games. Coach Kupcik decided to allow him to announce at an upcoming game and had no idea what to expect. When Mr. Lancaster arrived to announce his first game, he came early, brought all his fancy equipment, and got to work setting up. That night, he blew everyone away and bought a real, college-like feel to the game. He was prepared and professional, enthusiastic and exciting. He brought music, catchphrases, and announcing on the call—the whole nine yards. All night long people were asking, “where did this guy come from?”, “he is amazing!”, “Can he come to every game?”. Coach Kupcik told him, “You’re hired!” That day, and every day moving forward, he refused payment for his services. Mr. Lancaster always says it’s his way of giving back to the community. Since his “tryout”, Mr. Lancaster has offered his talents, professionalism, and enthusiasm to every home Boys Basketball game at Springstead High School. Over the years, he has agreed to do the same for every home Varsity Football and Baseball game as well. Because he has been so popular and because he brings so much to the events he is announcing, Mr. Lancaster has also been requested to announce at other big events at Springstead, such as senior nights, their annual cheer competition and during the final matches of the historic Corey Hill Memorial Wrestling Tournament. As an Athletic Director, Coach Kupcik shares that having a consistent announcer locked in is always a plus. It’s one less thing to worry about. But having a consistent, amazing, professional-level announcer that transforms a relatively meaningless Tuesday night baseball or basketball game into a must-go-to, college like event for fans and players alike is truly a blessing. Mr. Lancaster is one of a kind, and is now a true part of what Springstead Athletics is, and forever an Eagle.

It is clear Dean Lancaster has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 14, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C.

These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 14 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Richard Adamo, Richard G. Aiello, Robert Alicea, Ronnie R. Anderson, Enrique Araujo, Michael Barrows, John M. Bauer, Charles Bauman, Donald L. Beach, James O. Beatty, John D. Bogumil, Edward J. Bosic, William A. Browne, Steven J. Burval, Richard E. Butt, Paul E. Canik, Robert A. Clavenna, Theodore Clemon, Jr., John Conroy, John C. Cosentino, James D. Cox, Edward Cruz, Michael A. Dantino, John H. Dotson, Charles J. Drosos, Bruce Engel, Gerald J. Ewalt, Larry L. Ferris, Philip S. Fertitta, Mario Fontana, Raymond M. Furlong, Ronnie J. Gagnon, Sylvester Gant, Marvin D. Goldberg, Anthony J. Gomez, Walter A. Gorak, Charles O. Grafton, Frank J. Haggerty, Harold E. Hanson, John K. Harper, Jr., Robert E. Hess, Rodney L. Hiltz, Gregory Hines, Alan Hoeksema, John H. Hollmeyer, Paul Isenmann, George Jonkman, Jr., Richard Karwowski, Arthur L. Kavanaugh, Gerald Kielian, Robert C. Kielian, Billy W. Knight, Patricia D. Knight, Donald Kochevar, Robert J. Kowalsky, Walter C. Koziel, Harold Kuras, Donald E. Lange, William D. Langele, Michael E. Lareau, Gary L. Lockridge, Sr., Marvin L. Losey, Norman M. Lurie, Robert H. Marcinkowski, Timothy J. Marden, Dennis C. McCarroll, Thomas Merchant, Thomas S. Messenger, Willis Miles, Ronald J. Miller, Eric E. Miller, John Milton, Jeffery Monahan, Dennis P. Monroe, James L. Moore, Robert J. Mrozek, Theodore Musak, Gerald Musak, Terrance W. Niewiadomski, Donald E. Nixon, Frank Ochoa, Jr., Joseph A. Panarale, James R. Phillips, Michael Pisaurro, Stephen Prado, Alan R. Pringle, Bruce Riemenschneider, Keith M. Roseland, Russell Ruzanski, James P. Ryland, Charles E. Sampson, Abdias Saucedo, William Schell, Rodney L. Schuler, Thomas J. Schwartz, Leonard W. Seltzer, Fred T. Short, Leonard R. Sklaney, Philip G. Spotofora, Thomas W. Stefanski, William F. Stewart, Ronald G. Stille, James S. Strugala, Richard P. Sutton, Richard A. Tamborski, Thomas Therkildsen, Edward Thoele, Maynard L. Visser, Randall J. Voorn, Edgar L. Ward, David C. Wegner, Bartel Zandstra, Robert Zichmiller, Frank Zlatos

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 121, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.