

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.

RECOGNIZING FERNANDA OROZCO
SAENZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

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

RECOGNIZING KYLE SMITH

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 Kyle Smith has made through his work with the Pasco County Human Services Team. The Pasco County Human Services Team has proven itself to be a cornerstone of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the community. Amidst the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, they emerged as an indispensable force, transforming challenges into triumphs and ensuring no resident was left behind. The team managed and helped coordinate efforts for shelters that housed 485 residents. When Hurricane Milton struck shortly thereafter, the team rose to even greater heights, coordinating shelters for 5,800 individuals and 1,315 animals—an extraordinary feat of operational precision and compassion. Despite personal hardships, including one case manager losing her home while another lost her rental property, the team prioritized the welfare of the community, working tirelessly to ensure safety and stability for all. Post-storm, the team was responsible for helping shelter residents whose homes were no longer safe, find appropriate alternatives for housing. Their dedication shone through in rapid response efforts. In the days immediately following Hurricane Helene, 49 residents received critical assessments and essential resources. After Hurricane Milton, they worked with 225 displaced individuals who remained in shelters, demonstrating their unparalleled ability to adapt and respond under pressure. The team leveraged the Human Services Needs app to streamline disaster case management, supporting 1,351 residents. Their follow-up system, in partnership with other agencies, ensured personalized service for every individual. This innovative approach epitomized their ability to harness technology and partnerships for meaningful impact. Beyond immediate relief, the

team worked with individuals and families who would require long-term recovery efforts. For approximately 150 permanently displaced residents, they implemented a housing eligibility process, with the intent of ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources. By securing placements at facilities like Pasco Hope, the team supported individuals and families along a pathway to rebuild their lives. Between September 28 and October 18, 2024, the team managed an overwhelming volume of calls—1,194 through their direct line and another 1,214 through work phones. Yet every call was met with care, professionalism, and actionable solutions, reflecting the team's deep commitment to being a lifeline for the community. The Pasco County Human Services Team exemplifies what it means to serve with excellence, compassion, and innovation. Their remarkable achievements during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, coupled with their dedication to long-term recovery and cutting-edge approaches to disaster management, have left an indelible mark on Pasco County.

It is clear Kyle Smith has made a profoundly positive impact on our community with his work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2025, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

In 2022, the FRTIB launched a new recordkeeping system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There were widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service. I, along with several colleagues, asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the implementation of the new system. GAO found that FRTIB "did not fully implement key acquisition management practices . . . [which] significantly increased the risk of a problematic rollout of the new system."

TSP has approximately 7.2 million participants and \$937 billion in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Federal employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has oversight responsibility for TSP, as it does for private sector 401(k) plans, there is no IG for the FRTIB. The problems

with the rollout of the recordkeeping system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING DULCE VILLEGAS
MENEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

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

RECOGNIZING KIMBERLY GODDING
BROOKS

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. Kimberly Godding Brooks has made to our community through her volunteerism. Since 2008, 17 years, Kimberly Godding Brooks has volunteered her time and talents to support Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Grief Services for children. Kimberly started as a Volunteer Coordinator, for Camp Good/Teen Encounter, a grief support camp for kids and teens who have experienced a loss. Trained volunteers provide therapeutic activities, in a camp setting, and help children share their stories with peers, whereby strengthening their ability to cope. Kimberly was Branch Manager with a local bank which donated backpacks to all campers. When Kimberly married Robert Brooks, she quickly recruited him to become a Camp Volunteer. Kimberly and Robert use "Lifelines", an exercise using strings and dark glasses, that block vision, to help children build self-confidence and "find their way". When Kimberly's mom, Lynn Godding, moved to our area, Kimberly quickly recruited her as a volunteer for the camp "kitchen team." In 2018, Kimberly and Robert's daughter Coral was born. She began attending volunteer events, meetings, workshops and camps with her parents. Coral became an official volunteer at age 6 and serves as a role model for other camp kids. She participates in local fundraising activities. Kimberly is still employed as a bank Branch Manager. She serves on the organization's Advisory Board, actively participates in fundraising activities and continues to advocate for Camp Good Hope/Teen Encounter and other grief