

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

support services in our community, along with her husband, mom and, of course, Coral. Volunteering has become a Godding/Brooks “family affair”! Kimberly is truly an example of an outstanding volunteer and a Hero in our Community.

It is clear that Kimberly Godding Brooks 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 THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN & COUNTY CLUB

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Town & County Club in the historic Asylum Hill neighborhood of Hartford, Connecticut. Over its storied 100-year history, the club has grown into the premier location for members to enjoy organized social, intellectual, and artistic gatherings.

On May 21, 1925, just five years after the 19th Amendment guaranteed women's suffrage, 400 women founded the Town & County Club as Hartford's first private women's club. The club's first President, Miss Anne Eliot Trumbull, helped draft their Articles of Association. The Articles state that the club was formed with the purposes of “creating an organized center for women's work, thought and action; advancing the interests of women, promoting science, literature, and art; providing an accessible place of meeting for its members, promoting social intercourse by such

means as the members of the corporation shall deem expedient and proper for that purpose, and for acquiring and maintaining and club house and grounds.”

The pioneering women who founded the Town & County Club at a time when membership at most private clubs was exclusive to men created an organization worthy of its storied 100-year history. It is my honor to celebrate the Town & County Club of Hartford, Connecticut.

RECOGNIZING LAURIE SWINK

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 Laurie Swink has made to our community through her work with Selah Freedom. Laurie's passion, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to fighting human trafficking have not only impacted the lives of thousands but have sparked systemic change across the Nation. With over 7,000 survivors of human trafficking having found hope, healing, and a new chance at life through Selah Freedom's programs, Laurie's legacy continues to shape a future where survivors are empowered and human trafficking is eradicated. Laurie Swink co-founded Selah Freedom in 2011, with a clear mission to address the growing crisis of human trafficking and to restore freedom and dignity to those trapped in it. Since then, her leadership has been a catalyst for change, and her vision for Selah Freedom has transformed the organization into a national leader in anti-trafficking efforts. Laurie has worked tirelessly to create programs that provide more

than just temporary relief; she's built a holistic, long-term framework that addresses the multifaceted needs of survivors. Under Laurie's leadership, Selah Freedom provides survivors with safe housing, trauma-informed counseling, legal advocacy, life skills training, job readiness programs, and educational opportunities. This comprehensive support system has allowed victims to heal, regain independence, and lead successful lives beyond the trauma of trafficking. The impact Laurie has made is visible not only in the numbers but in the individual success stories of survivors who are now thriving—getting jobs, going to school, and, in many cases, becoming advocates themselves. Laurie is a compassionate leader who connects with survivors on a personal level, understanding their unique challenges and walking alongside them every step of the way. Laurie's deep empathy and ability to listen, care, and offer practical solutions have empowered survivors to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles they face. Laurie has become a powerful voice in the fight against human trafficking, using her platform to raise awareness, educate communities, and advocate for change at the policy level. Laurie has worked with law enforcement, legislators, and local leaders to strengthen laws, increase resources for trafficking victims, and ensure that survivors have the support they need to rebuild their lives. She has played a key role in transforming how society understands and addresses human trafficking, ensuring that the issue is no longer hidden or overlooked.

It is clear Laurie Swink 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.