

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Adalina 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 Adalina, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Adalina's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING MARTHA NARVAEZ
AND VINCENT LEANDRY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Martha Narvaez and Vincent Leandry have made to our community through their volunteer service at the American Red Cross, Mid-Florida Chapter. Every now and then, we encounter volunteers who not only serve with dedication but inspire everyone around them. Martha and Vincent are such a team. Partners in life and in service, this dynamic Army Veteran duo continues to embody the very best of the American Red Cross. After a lifetime of service in the military, they chose to extend that calling with the American Red Cross for the last five years—and we are truly grateful. Every day, they give their time, energy, and hearts to advance the mission of the organization. Whether responding to house fires in the middle of the night, supporting major disaster operations, or assisting at Yellow Ribbon events for deploying service members, their commitment never wavers. They are always the first to raise their hands and often step in before the need is even spoken. Their compassion knows no bounds. Fluent in Spanish, they ensure no one is left out of critical recovery conversations—like when a displaced family in a shelter needed urgent help. A FaceTime call quickly turned into a 60-mile drive to provide in-person support, gifts for the children, and hours of comfort and reassurance. Their actions transformed a moment of isolation into one of connection and healing. In the wake of hurricanes and amid logistical challenges, they've served hundreds of meals, including stepping up at the last minute to support a community feeding event for an elected official. They showed up with no expectation of recognition—just a desire to help. Whether at Moon Lake Park or on a roadside in rural Florida, Martha and Vincent bring warmth and hope wherever they go. Their service touches every corner of the Red Cross: Disaster Action Team (DAT), Disaster Relief Operations (DRO), Service to the Armed Forces (SAF), and countless outreach events. You'll find them at Homeless Veteran Stand-Downs, the Mexican Consulate, VA hospitals, and more. They respond with empathy, uplift fellow volunteers and staff with kind words and hugs, and lead with quiet strength. Team SAF can always rely on them to take initiative, represent the Red Cross with profes-

sionalism, and bring their signature warmth to every event. They give so much of themselves and ask for nothing in return. Their dedication, humility, and boundless compassion serve as a beacon for what it truly means to be part of the Red Cross family. Martha and Vincent don't just serve—they show up, wholeheartedly and without hesitation.

It is clear Martha Narvaez and Vincent Leandry have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING GEORGE R.
CUNNINGHAM

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George R. Cunningham, a dedicated public servant who passed away at age 80 on May 7, 2025 at his home in Tucson, Arizona.

George moved to Tucson as a boy with his family from Nashua, New Hampshire and it didn't take long for him to immerse himself in the civic affairs of his new home. His successful run for class president at Catalina High School was a clear indication of the path he was destined to take.

Over the decades that followed, George rose through the ranks like few others. He went from working as an intern for the city manager of one of Arizona's smallest municipalities to the top of state government. He served in the executive branch of government and he served in the legislative branch of government. He worked for Democrats and he worked for Republicans.

George never stopped serving and working for Arizona.

George was a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Arizona when he started as an assistant city manager for the City of South Tucson. He helped run this one-square-mile city as he earned a Master's Public Administration from his alma mater. This, too, was a sign of the path George was destined to take. He would go on to be a master at public administration.

Still in his twenties and now married, George left the city to become the executive director of the Tucson Urban Area Regional Review Committee. Under his leadership, the organization wisely streamlined its name to the Pima Association of Governments. This was 1970 and George was making \$11,700 a year.

Opportunity knocked a year later and George took a position as an assistant to William Jacquin, a Tucson Republican who served as president of the Arizona Senate. George's salary went up to \$13,200 a year and George moved up to Phoenix. When Jacquin stepped down to run for governor, George stayed on to work for his successor, Bob Stump, who would go on to serve 26 years in Congress. Stump at the time called George a hard working guy—"maybe the hardest working guy in the building."

George's thorough understanding of the legislative process led to his next post, as an assistant to the president of the University of Ari-

zona. Here, too, he rose through the ranks. He would go on to serve in a number of key positions at the university and play a leading role in shaping the institution we know today. One of his principal duties was lobbying state lawmakers—a task George understood and did well.

George was a UA vice president in 1988 when he was tapped to serve as chief of staff to Governor Rose Mofford, Arizona's first female governor and one of only three female governors in the country. It was a tremendous source of pride in Tucson at the time to have one of our own in such an influential position. According to a front-page profile in the Tucson Citizen, they suggested George could well be "the most powerful man in all of state government."

George was back in Tucson a couple years later and in 1992 launched his career as state lawmaker. He served in Arizona's House of Representatives until 1997 and in the Arizona Senate from 1997 to 2001.

After running for Congress and the Arizona Corporation Commission, George became Governor Janet Napolitano's Deputy Chief of Staff for Finance and Budget. And then, in what his son Paul says he considered one of his greatest accomplishments, George created the Grand Canyon Institute, a non-partisan think tank focused on public policies that affect the future of Arizona.

The future of Arizona mattered to George Cunningham. He served our state well.

HONORING DOROTHY "DOT"
ROGERS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the honorable life of Dorothy "Dot" Rogers. Her daughter, Ann Rogers, Deputy Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives, is a dear friend, and we appreciate her service to the country. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends.

Her loving obituary has been published by the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home:

"Born in Metairie, Louisiana, on January 12, 1930, to Harold and Mae Iley, Dorothy Iley Rogers (known throughout her life as Dot) quickly blossomed from a Depression-era baby to a Renaissance woman. As a child, Dot was a swimmer and scholar-athlete in New Orleans. She received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Chemistry from Tulane University. She went on to coach swimming and taught chemistry before meeting her future husband while visiting her uncle, a Navy Chaplain, on the south coast of France. Dot married Lieutenant James Rogers in 1954.

As a proud Navy wife, Dot handled her husband's frequent deployments with determination and lots of chocolate milkshakes. While living in Carmel, California, Dot modeled for local fashion stores and discovered her talent for art. She excelled in many media, including acrylics, oils, water color, charcoal, and pastels.

Perhaps Dot's proudest achievements came from raising her two children, David and Ann. She assumed the roles of tutor, cheerleader, coach, PTA president, and all-around

volunteer, taking her children on innumerable trips to the Smithsonian museums. Favorites included the museum of Natural History, home to the ooey gooey (the human anatomy display), and the Air and Space Museum where she was a docent on opening day.

She was also a skilled seamstress, sewing a significant amount of clothing for her children—even after they left for college. Halloween costumes were her favorite projects.

Dot's interests were wide and fascinating. When James was transferred to the Pentagon, Dot continued her art education through Arlington Adult Education classes. She and James enjoyed ballet at the Kennedy Center, Harry Belafonte at Wolf Trap, and Bruce Springsteen concerts (13 of them) wherever he was playing. One of her favorite memories was when Patty Scialfa noticed her from on stage, smiled and waved. It's an E Street thing.

Dot never met a dog or a cat she did not love and had that love returned. In her early 70s, she went to a local Jeep dealer to finally buy her dream car and took her Golden Retriever, Babe. She informed the dealership that she needed to make sure whatever she selected was a comfortable fit for her Babe. Ever after, she was proud and happy to drive around town in her fire engine red Jeep Cherokee with Babe looking majestic buckled up in the passenger seat.

Dot lived a full, beautiful, and fulfilling life which she enjoyed sharing with those close to her. She is survived by her son, David, his wife, Betsy, and their son, Weston, and her daughter, Ann. She is also survived by five nieces, one nephew, a host of friends, and a glorious and diverse fanbase through the tales and pictures shared by her loving children and friends."

RECOGNIZING ADRIENNE VAN BRUGGEN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

Adrienne 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 Adrienne, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Adrienne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Adrienne Van Bruggen on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MARIA WILKINSON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Maria Wilkinson has made through her 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 Maria Wilkinson has made a profoundly positive impact on our community through her work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING STEVEN DYKE

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, almost four years ago, I was a brand-new Member of Congress.

I didn't have an office yet, I had hired no staff, and I was just getting started here in Washington.

One of my first hires was Steven Dyke, who joined our team and started handling everything from managing vote times to setting up our office's phones so the people in our district could reach our team.

Steven has been with the office for three and a half years. During that time, he dedicated himself to working hard and supporting the interests of the people of Ohio—15. I will certainly miss his sharp sense of humor and infectious laugh.

He played a key role in advancing legislation to expand access to family resource centers and helped us make a real difference for families across Ohio.

And even though he's a Michigan State Spartan, I can say he has a good heart and a dedication to service.

I thank Steven for his service and wish him the best for what's next.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF SECRETARY ALEXIS HERMAN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Alabama-native, Civil Rights activist, and trailblazing public servant, former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, who passed away on April 25, 2025, at the age of 77.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Secretary Herman was born on July 16, 1947, to Alex Herman and Gloria Caponis. The daughter of Alabama's first African American ward leader, she became involved in the Civil Rights Movement at an early age. As a sophomore, Herman was suspended from Heart of Mary High School for a week for taking a stand against the Archdiocese of Mobile's exclusion of Black students from religious pageants.

After graduating, she continued her educational journey at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, and Spring Hill College in Mobile before transferring to Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. There, she became an active member of the Gamma Alpha Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1969.

A dedicated advocate for civil rights and workers' protections, Secretary Herman's commitment to service was the throughline of her career. Shortly after earning her degree, Secretary Herman returned to Mobile where she helped desegregate parochial schools, including her alma mater, and persuaded the city shipyard in nearby Pascagoula, Mississippi, to give apprenticeships to young Black laborers. She later moved to Atlanta to lobby corporations to hire Black women for white-collar jobs before working at a New York-based consulting firm where she led programs to provide apprenticeships for women in nontraditional careers.

Her successful career advocating for labor rights and workers' protections gained the attention of United States President Jimmy Carter, who appointed her to serve as director of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau.