

technologies helped propel the Army into a new era of digital warfare.

Sergeant First Class Leidlein's service also included several combat deployments. He led and trained soldiers during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, supporting critical security and nation-building missions that included facilitating Afghanistan's first national election. Later, he served with distinction in Iraq, embedding with the 5th Iraqi Brigade near Baqubah, and returned to Afghanistan to advance stability operations in some of the nation's most challenging provinces. For his valor and meritorious service, he was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Meritorious Service Medal, a NATO Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Following his retirement in September 2011, Sergeant First Class Leidlein left behind a legacy of courage, innovation, and selfless leadership. He mentored thousands of soldiers and cadets, contributed to groundbreaking Army modernization efforts, and helped shape the future of America's defense forces. His journey from the glaciers of Alaska to the deserts of Iraq reflects a career built on resilience, integrity, and an unyielding devotion to duty.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our sincerest appreciation to Sergeant First Class Leidlein for his outstanding military service and for his enduring contributions to our Nation's strength and security. His story is a testament to the American spirit of service, sacrifice, and excellence, and it is an honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING CADEN BEISER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

Caden 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 Caden, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Caden's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING LISA DEGENNARO

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 Lisa DeGennaro has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Lisa is the clinic's competent receptionist. She is the first to greet all who call and walk into the clinic, always with a smile. She is eager to assist and

direct patients to the right place. The clinic would not run smoothly without her diligent efforts.

It is clear Lisa DeGennaro 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 MAY AS HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Huntington's Disease Awareness Month. I want to take a moment to honor the courage and strength of families across the Nation who face lifelong hardships due to this disease—including one of my own constituents, Rachel Reising, and her family. It is so important for families like Rachel's for us to encourage dialogue and acknowledgement of Huntington's Disease so we can work to improve prevention and care of affected folks at the federal level.

Huntington's disease is a rare genetic disorder that slowly damages the brain over time. It leads to a progressive loss of control over movements, thoughts, and emotions. There is currently no cure. However, there is hope. Because of ongoing advancements in medical research and continued investments in biomedical science, we are closer than ever to the possibility of breakthrough treatments and perhaps even a cure in the decade ahead through gene therapy.

Rachel, my constituent, recently reached out to me to bravely share her story. As she grieves the loss of her father, whom she tragically lost to Huntington's, it has become her life's mission to advocate for proper care of those with Huntington's and for a cure. I am so moved by her strength and resilience.

In honor of Rachel's family and the tens of thousands of others who face Huntington's Disease, I am proud to lend my voice to this cause. May this month serve not only as a time of remembrance and education, but also a call to action. I ask my colleagues to do everything we can to help those living with rare diseases such as Huntington's Disease, and to fight for more research, better support, and even greater care.

HONORING THE HMONG AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hmong American community and commemorate May 14, 2025, as Hmong American Day, marking 50 years since the first Hmong families began their journey to the United States following the fall of Long Cheng in 1975. On this day, we recognize the legacy of service, sacrifice, and strength that defines the Hmong American experience.

From 1961 to 1975, more than 40,000 Hmong men and boys—many under the age of 18—were recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to fight in the Secret War in Laos, a critical but often overlooked chapter of the Vietnam War. Fighting alongside American forces, Hmong soldiers risked everything to defend freedom and combat the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. Following the end of the war, they and their families faced persecution and displacement, forcing thousands to flee Laos.

On May 14, 1975, the final airlift evacuated Hmong soldiers and their families from Laos to refugee camps in Thailand. From there, many resettled in the United States, including in California's Central Valley, where they rebuilt their lives with determination and hope. Today, communities like Clovis, Fresno, and Sacramento are home to some of the largest and most vibrant Hmong populations in the country. These families have contributed to the fabric of American society in countless ways by serving as educators, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, public servants, and community leaders.

We especially honor the Hmong veterans and their families, whose courage and loyalty to the United States must never be forgotten. Their stories remind us of the price of freedom and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

I commend the County of Fresno, the City of Clovis, and other local governments for formally recognizing Hmong American Day and paying tribute to the history, culture, and contributions of the Hmong people. I join them in encouraging all Americans to learn more about this rich legacy and to celebrate the extraordinary impact of Hmong Americans on our communities and our country.

RECOGNIZING CALEB GALLEGOS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

Caleb 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 Caleb, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Caleb's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING LORI VENTURA

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 Lori Ventura has made through her work with

the CARES Senior Clinic. Lori serves as Healthcare Ambassador for the CARES Senior Health Clinic. Lori helps coordinate the care for 1,200 patients, including frail, disabled, low income & homeless clients. She helps coordinate treatments and community resources to aide in the health and wellbeing of all in the community. She has helped save the lives of countless individuals.

It is clear Lori Ventura 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 THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the 100th anniversary of Detroit Memorial Park, Michigan's oldest Black-owned cemetery and a beacon of dignity, justice, and community for generations.

Founded in 1925 by visionary Black leaders Charles C. Diggs, Sr. and Aaron C. Toodle, Detroit Memorial Park was born out of necessity, at a time when Black families in Detroit were denied basic dignity in burial. These trailblazers cleared sacred ground where all people, regardless of race or faith, could be laid to rest with respect.

From offering fresh vegetables to families during the Depression to providing low-cost transportation for mourners, Detroit Memorial Park has always led with care and compassion. Today, with cemeteries in Warren, Redford, and Flint, they continue this legacy across over 170 acres. As we celebrate this historic milestone, I offer my deepest gratitude to Detroit Memorial Park for a century of unwavering service and dignity.

The 12th District honors the Detroit Memorial Park and celebrates this momentous occasion for our community.

HONORING ANGELA Y. CARSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Angela Y. Carson, a dedicated leader and community advocate, for her outstanding service as Executive Director of Pine Grove Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Canton, Mississippi.

Founded in 1992 by Rufus and Aggie Carson, Pine Grove Association has been a cornerstone of the Canton community for over three decades. The organization is rooted in a mission of empowering individuals and families by fostering mobility, advocating for social justice, and promoting diversity and inclusion.

Under Ms. Carson's visionary leadership, Pine Grove Association continues to offer impactful programs and services that serve

both youth and adults. Among these is the Madison Area Global Innovation Collaborative (MAGIC), a transformative initiative designed to promote global learning opportunities for middle school students. Through education and innovation, MAGIC equips the next generation with the skills, values, and global perspective necessary for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

The mission of Pine Grove Association—to empower individuals through value-centered leadership, talent development, and community well-being—remains steadfast. Ms. Carson has further advanced this mission by exploring cutting-edge strategies, including the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) to scale the organization's operations. Her goals include developing a scalable business model, optimizing internal processes through AI applications, and preparing for future funding through AI-driven data analysis.

Ms. Carson's commitment to innovation and equity in community building exemplifies the forward-thinking leadership that uplifts and transforms lives. Through her stewardship, Pine Grove Association remains a beacon of empowerment and inclusion for the citizens of Canton and surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Angela Y. Carson for her tireless work and in celebrating the ongoing impact of Pine Grove Association, Inc. on the lives of Mississippians.

RECOGNIZING DEVONTE BONGGAS-ELLENBURG

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Devonte Bonggas-Ellenburg for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

RECOGNIZING MARY "ADAMS" ADAMCZEWSKI

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 Mary "Adams" Adamczewski has made to our community as a volunteer with People Helping People (PHP) as its Treasurer of the Board of Directors since 2016. Her budgeting and accounting skills alone make her a wonderful ad-

dition to PHP, but she brings so much more. Mary's heart for helping those who are hungry is huge. She is at PHP's HELP Center nearly every day it's open, cooking, preparing, and serving food to the thousands of neighbors the organization feeds each year. This woman can make a meal out of typical pantry items that tastes gourmet. In addition to weekdays, you can count on Mary to be at the facility almost every Sunday, along with a loyal team of other volunteers, ensuring those that are unhoused or unable to afford much food receive a wonderful, hot meal. In addition to those who enjoy the sit-down meals on Sunday, she makes sure that two families with a combined total of nearly two dozen children also receive a nutritious and delicious Sunday meal. Because of the length of time she's been with PHP and her deep involvement with PHP's mission, Mary also serves as an "unofficial" historian. Mary digs in with whatever needs to be done, even making the weekly run to the Recycling Center with the recyclables accumulated at PHP. And there's more. If a client needs a haircut, Mary brings her electric razor, and in no time, someone has a fresh new look. One of PHP's long-time clients was recently hospitalized. He had no family but he and Mary had a special relationship, and he considered her his "family". Mary was the one to visit him in his final days and made sure that he was well taken care of to the end. Another gentleman is not only unhoused, but has Huntington's Disease. Mary assists him with making sure he always has food and other necessities, and takes him to his medical appointments. Her kindness and energy knows no bounds. She is respected by everyone at PHP and wears so many different hats. Mary does all this with the support of her loving family.

It is clear Mary "Adams" Adamczewski 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 THE POLYNESIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Polynesian Association of Alaska (PAOA), a non-profit organization that is celebrating their 20th Anniversary. Over the span of two decades, this organization has committed itself to educating Pacific Islanders across various domains, including health and social services, employment, culture, language, voting, education, immigration, and more.

PAOA was founded on November 16, 2004, in Anchorage, Alaska, following a Samoan Computer Language Senior Class led by Lusiana Tuga Hansen. This non-profit entity was formally established and registered in the City of Anchorage and the State of Alaska on February 1, 2005, and achieved 501(c)(3) status on June 16, 2006. Since its establishment, it has functioned as the leading organization for the Pacific Island community in Alaska from 2005 to 2025.