

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ST.  
PAUL'S A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

## HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 100th year celebration of St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church and to welcome the Presiding Bishop, His Grace the Right Reverend George D. Crenshaw, and Missionary Supervisor, Mrs. Laureanna Crenshaw, to Western New York.

Founded by Reverend John Wesley Jackson in 1925, St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church stands as one of the oldest African American churches in the City of Buffalo. As they celebrate 100 years of worship, St. Paul's remains a shining beacon in this community. It is a place where history and hope walk hand in hand, and where the spirit of unity and progress has never wavered.

Under the spiritual leadership of Reverend Amos Goodwine, Jr., St. Paul's continues to thrive. Reverend Goodwine, Jr. brings a wealth of knowledge, compassion, and a vision to his ministry. To celebrate this occasion, St. Paul's A.M.E. has opened their doors to His Grace the Right Reverend George and Mrs. Laureanna Crenshaw. Bishop Crenshaw has served nearly four decades in ministry as Pastor, Presiding Elder, and as Bishop. His dedication in faith has led him to shepherd church members throughout the states of South Carolina and Georgia.

As they welcome visitors from across New York State to celebrate this remarkable milestone with uplifting worship services and highlighted events, St. Paul's A.M.E. reminds us that the power of faith brings people together and opens doors for community advancement.

Reverend Goodwine, Jr. and the entire St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church represent the very best of the City of Good Neighbors. Their work uplifts lives, unites neighborhoods, and strengthens the bonds that hold our community together. St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church continues its efforts to strengthen the Western New York region by continuously expanding its reach and creating even more spiritual connections throughout the community we cherish. Please join me in thanking St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church for a century of service to the public.

RECOGNIZING THE ALBANY,  
GEORGIA YOUNG MARINES

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Albany Young Marines of Albany, Georgia, who have been named the National Young Marine Unit of the Year. The group received this well-earned honor at the Young Marines 2025 Adult Leader's Conference in Dallas, Texas on April 26, 2025.

The Young Marines is a nationally renowned nonprofit organization focused on youth leadership and character development. Since its founding in 1959, it has expanded to

over 200 units, with 5,000 youth participants and 1,950 adult volunteers across 40 states, the District of Columbia, Japan, and beyond. Through this program, young men and women cultivate essential values such as leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline.

The Albany, Georgia chapter exemplifies excellence in service, community engagement, and leadership. Under the guidance of Unit Commander Eric Crump and his wife, Adriana, this distinguished unit of 30 youth members and six adult volunteers has devoted thousands of hours to serving their community and supporting local veterans' organizations. Their commitment and dedication earned them recognition as Unit of the Year in the tri-state (Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee) Southeast Regiment of the Year of Division 2, and most recently, National Young Marines of the Year for 2025.

The impact of this remarkable group extends far beyond their unit, bringing together a wide network of supporters. The Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, American Legion Post 30 and Post 512, VFW 2785, Albany State University, Albany Area YMCA, and numerous businesses and individuals have all rallied behind the Albany Young Marines. Moreover, off-duty United States Marines in the community have generously stepped up to mentor these young leaders, further enriching their experience and inspiring them to be the best they can be in service to others.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth." The Albany Young Marines truly embody this spirit, and their community is better for it. Their successes have been made possible by the unwavering support of their commanders, family members, dedicated volunteers, and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Albany Young Marines and their remarkable contributions to themselves and the Southwest Georgia community. Their dedication, leadership, and service are invaluable, and I am confident that this organization will continue to shape future generations of outstanding young leaders.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNTAIN'S EDGE COMMUNITY IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

## HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Mountain's Edge community in Clark County, Nevada.

Since its groundbreaking in 2005, Mountain's Edge has grown into one of the most vibrant communities in the southwest area of the Las Vegas Valley. Mountain's Edge sits at the foothills of the Spring Mountains, and was envisioned as a place where residents could live, work, and thrive with the surrounding natural beauty.

Over the past two decades, that vision has become a reality for the more than 40,000 people that call Mountain's Edge home Today,

its residents can enjoy outdoor living with 700 acres dedicated to open green spaces, parks and trails. This award-winning community is home to over 70 diverse neighborhoods with convenient access to strong schools, shopping centers, and other amenities. Not only does its outdoor recreation set it apart, but Mountain's Edge offers its residents a strong sense of community.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Mountain's Edge Master Association, local businesses, schools, first responders, and all the residents who have helped shape the community's success over the last 20 years. I wish its residents continued success and community spirit for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING WADE WITMER  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

## HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Wade Witmer on his retirement after decades of dedicated and exemplary service to the American public. Mr. Witmer's commitment to public safety is unparalleled, and our country is significantly safer today because of his tireless work throughout his career.

Mr. Witmer began his federal service at the White House Communications Agency, where he served with distinction under four U.S. presidents—George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald J. Trump, and Joseph R. Biden. Among his many contributions, Mr. Witmer played a critical role in developing the secure mobile communication system, known as the "Traveling Secure Cell Phone System", housed in the presidential motorcade vehicle. This remains vital to the security operations of the United States Secret Service.

Mr. Witmer was later called upon in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to address a gap in emergency communication capabilities in the U.S. Mr. Witmer was hired to deliver what would become the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). He led a rapid modernization of the Federal Emergency Alert System, successfully implementing the capability to seize all television broadcasts for presidential alerts and ensuring that broadcast control could be reliably returned to civilian networks following a national alert. Mr. Witmer currently serves as Deputy Director of IPAWS.

After the Presidential Alert System was shown to work as planned, Wade Witmer turned his focus to other public alert systems to further protect civilian lives during emergency and disaster scenarios. He developed and deployed nationwide systems for Tornado Alerts in coordination with the National Weather Service in Oklahoma, Amber Alerts to aid in the recovery of abducted children, and Silver Alerts to help locate missing seniors.

Wade's commitment to public safety extends beyond our borders, as he traveled extensively throughout his career to support emergency agencies around the globe in establishing their own cell phone-based emergency alerting capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Wade Witmer for his years of service. Mr. Witmer's retirement marks the

loss of one of our foremost experts in emergency management communications. May his retirement be filled with health and happiness.

**CONGRATULATING ASSOCIATED GROCERS, INC. OF BATON ROUGE ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JULIA LETLOW**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of Associated Grocers, Inc. of Baton Rouge. For 75 years, this organization has been a steadfast partner to locally owned supermarkets, supporting small businesses, sustaining local jobs, and fostering economic growth across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Associated Grocers was founded in 1950 by a group of visionary independent grocers who understood the power of collaboration in a competitive marketplace. Over the decades, this cooperative has grown to serve more than 200 independent retailers, a model that strengthens local economies and ensures that consumers have access to fresh, quality foods, even in rural and underserved areas.

Congratulations to Associated Grocers, Inc. of Baton Rouge on this milestone anniversary. May their legacy of service, partnership, and community leadership continue to inspire future generations.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call votes 125 through 129. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 125; NAY on Roll Call No. 126; NAY on Roll Call No. 127; NAY on Roll Call No. 128; and YEA on Roll Call No. 129.

**REMEMBERING OFFICER DANIEL CANDELARIO, SR.**

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Daniel Candelario, Sr., a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and community law enforcement officer whose legacy of love, compassion, and devotion to his family and the Weston New York community inspired all who knew him.

Born on July 26, 1990, in Buffalo, New York, to Modesto and Lucy (Hernandez) Candelario, and brother to Victoria (Richie) Vasquez, Officer Candelario was surrounded by love from the very beginning. In 2012, he continued that legacy when he married the love of his life, Dariana, affectionately known as "Dottie" after being together since they both were 15 years old. Shortly after, the couple became parents to Daniel "Danny", Jr., Dominic, and Diana Candelario.

He is survived by many who loved him, including his niece and nephew, friends, and his brothers at the Buffalo Police Department. His love for his family and his desire to be there for his community left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Officer Candelario dreamt to become a police officer for more than ten years before he took the leap and joined the Buffalo Police Department, serving more than three years and rising to the rank of MP5 in the department's C District, supporting and protecting community members on the East Side of Buffalo. Officer Candelario is remembered as a dedicated and devoted protector of our community.

Anyone who knew Officer Candelario knew that he had many passions outside of his family and career. He was passionate about fitness, motorcycles, and an avid Buffalo Bills fan. Whether cheering for his home team of sharing his love for motorcycle riding with his wife, Officer Candelario brought joy to those around him.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Daniel Candelario, Sr. lived a life of devotion to his family, his community, and his faith. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Officer Candelario was a man who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to provide for and support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and the warmth of his heart will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: service, sacrifice, and above all, love.

**CONGRATULATING JEROME NEWELL ON HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Jerome Newell on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 50 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the United States Army and the American public.

Mr. Newell has been nominated for the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his exceptional performance and leadership throughout his tenure with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

He currently holds an Unlimited Contracting Officer's Warrant and has successfully executed many contracts supporting a variety of mission partners, including Fort Belvoir Base Operations Services, Rivanna Station, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Walker, and the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems at Fort Belvoir.

He served with distinction as the Director of Contracting at Fort Meade for two years. He was later selected by the Department of the Army to serve on the Commanding General's Staff as the Army Industrial Property Administrator and Contracting Officer Representative on the first Base Operations Support (BASOPS) contract awarded by the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Mr. Newell's service also extended beyond our borders. During the Cold War, he served as Deputy Comptroller of Palmerola Air Force

Base in Honduras. There, he took on the critical role of expeditionary Contracting Officer for Joint Task Force Bravo, successfully terminating and re-awarding contracts essential to mission continuity across Central America.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, Mr. Newell was entrusted with the responsibility of establishing the East Coast viewing site for families and members of the media during the Guantánamo Bay federal trials.

He also served as the Department of the Army and Mission and Installation Contracting Command Headquarters' Procurement and Contracting Subject Matter Expert during inter-agency planning meetings for the trial and court-martial of former Private First-Class Chelsea Manning.

As Mr. Newell embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he will recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States Army and our Nation. His dedicated service will leave a lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Jerome Newell for his many years of service to our armed forces and our Nation. I congratulate Mr. Newell on his retirement. May his life be filled with health and happiness.

**RECOGNIZING MR. BOB SANDERS FOR CYCLING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

**HON. JANELLE S. BYNUM**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts made by one of my own constituents, Mr. Bob Sanders. Mr. Sanders' feat of cycling across the continental United States at the age of 85 is a true accomplishment. I include in the RECORD the following article, written by Peyton Thomas in the Central Oregon Daily, highlighting the 44-day journey.

**85-YEAR-OLD BEND MAN BIKES ACROSS AMERICA, EYES WORLD RECORD**  
(Peyton Thomas, Reporter)

BEND, ORE.—After 44 days, thousands of miles and every imaginable type of road, Bob Sanders is back home in Bend.

The 85-year-old just finished biking across the country, becoming the oldest man to complete the feat from coast to coast. Sanders started in San Diego and wrapped up his ride in St. Augustine, Florida, relying on sheer determination and a couple of close companions to get there. "Jack, and then Kathryn. It couldn't have been done without," Sanders said.

His longtime friend Jack Hoker served as his support driver for nearly a month, following Bob's every move across the U.S. "He said, 'Jack, I'm thinking about biking across the United States. Would you be interested in being my support vehicle?'" Hoker recalled. "I thought it over and got back to him and said, 'Yeah, I'll do it.'" The ride wasn't just about miles. It became a journey of connection with the country and its people.

"I have a good feeling about America now because people were so kind and helpful and friendly," said Bob's wife, Kathryn Sanders. "The very best thing about it is to realize