

Episcopal Upper School, Austin, Texas, United States Naval Academy, Annabelle G. Evans, Cole High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Military Academy, Ryan Palmer Farhoudi, Tivy High School, Kerrville, Texas, United States Air Force Academy. Lauren Taylor Andrion Fuentespina, Claudia Taylor Johnson High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Military Academy. Christian Ray Gonzales, Claudia Taylor Johnson High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Military Academy. Olivia Grace Hanson, Regents School of Austin, Austin, Texas, United States Military Academy. Noah Craig Hernandez, Boerne Champion High School, Boerne, Texas, United States Naval Academy. Preston Michael Longhurst, MacArthur High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Lillian Page Marrou, Fredericksburg High School, Fredericksburg, Texas, United States Air Force Academy. Madison Faith Mendez, Great Hearts Northern Oaks/Texas A&M, San Antonio, Texas, United States Military Academy. Storm St. John Pena, Davenport High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy. Emelia Marie Storey, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy. Caden James Spradling, Smithson Valley High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy. Reagan Nicole Turmin, Pieper High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Merchant Marine Academy. Kaden James Vincent, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and young women.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DAVID CARON

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of David Caron as he retires after over eight years of service as Town Administrator of Derry. Throughout his tenure, Dave has been a tremendous public servant in his role, overseeing all the day-to-day operations of Derry Town Departments.

Dave has managed numerous projects to improve the lives of Derry citizens, including renovating and constructing long-awaited roads, conserving land, and expanding police and fire stations. Throughout his 43 years of working in local government, David consistently ensured Granite Staters received the support they deserved, greatly helping residents across the state in Jaffrey, Londonderry, North Hampton, Belmont, and Gilford.

Dave is not only a diligent public servant but a man of outstanding character and passion. His own family full of hockey players, Dave spearheaded the Belmont-Gilford cooperative hockey team, cultivating the 16-year-old program that put numerous players on the ice.

In all, Dave Caron represents the very best of America's public servants—dedicated, attentive, and unwaveringly committed to the

service of others. On behalf of a grateful district, I want to congratulate Dave on a well-deserved and replenishing retirement.

RECOGNIZING MIKE PHILLIPS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Mike Phillips has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Phillips was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Mike Phillips 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.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF CARTER FORREST

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carter Forrest of Cumming, Iowa, for her achievement in graduating from Drake University Law School. This is a milestone she should be incredibly proud of, as years of determination and intellectual rigor have led to this proud moment for Carter and the entire Forrest family.

Carter is a proud Iowan whose journey has exemplified both academic excellence and a spirit of civic responsibility. In addition to her legal education, she has already engaged in a range of professional roles, including legal research, legislative policy, and campaign work in both the private and public sectors. Through these experiences, Carter has distinguished herself as a thoughtful, capable, and principled leader.

It has been a privilege to witness Carter's growth and academic development, and I am incredibly proud of what she has already achieved. She has approached each challenge with humility, purpose, and a strong work ethic that exemplifies the very best of Iowa's values. I am certain Carter has a bright future in the legal profession, wherever her journey might take her next.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Carter Forrest on her graduation from Drake Law School and in wishing for her continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA POLICE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Prince William County Police Department Valor Award recipients, recognizing the exceptional bravery and selfless service demonstrated by its officers. These awards reflect the courageous efforts of many dedicated men and women across the department including officers, detectives, sergeants, and specialists alike, who put their lives on the line to protect our community.

Each recipient represents a powerful example of valor and commitment, embodying the highest ideals of public service. Whether responding to immediate threats, conducting investigations, or supporting victims in moments of crisis, these individuals demonstrate unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the people they serve.

Their heroic actions strengthen the bonds between law enforcement and the community, building trust, security, and resilience. Today, we recognize and celebrate the collective courage and sacrifice of these officers, whose service uplifts us all and sets a powerful standard of integrity and compassion.

We are grateful for their bravery and proud to honor the Prince William County Police Department for their outstanding commitment to justice and public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Prince William County Police Department for their remarkable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING RABBI ALAN KATZ

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month to pay tribute to a remarkable spiritual leader and community advocate from Rochester, NY: Rabbi Alan Katz.

Rabbi Katz served with grace and wisdom as the rabbi of Temple Sinai from 1986 to 2020, and now holds the distinguished title of Rabbi Emeritus. Throughout his decades of service, Rabbi Katz has been a moral compass and unifying force in our community, fostering interfaith dialogue, social justice, and compassion.

He has held leadership roles with numerous organizations including the Rochester Board of Rabbis, Jewish Community Federation, the Levine Center to End Hate, and the Commission of Christian-Jewish Relations. His commitment to promoting peace and understanding transcends borders, exemplified by his work with the Partnership Together program connecting Rochester and Modi'in, Israel, where he served as co-chair for four years.

In 1995, Rabbi Katz was awarded the State of Israel Peace Award, a fitting recognition of

his life's work. Today, he continues his service through the National Rabbinic Council of ARZA and World Union for Progressive Judaism, guiding the global Reform Jewish movement.

It is with profound respect and admiration that I recognize Rabbi Alan Katz this Jewish American Heritage Month. His legacy of leadership, advocacy, and deep spiritual care continues to bless our community and beyond.

RECOGNIZING MIKE LASTRA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Mike Lastra has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Lastra was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Mike Lastra 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 TRACEY WILLIAMS-DILLARD

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Tracey Williams-Dillard, CEO and Publisher at the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder—our state's oldest Black-owned newspaper. In 2025, Ms. Williams-Dillard was inducted into the esteemed Half-Century Club by the Minnesota Newspaper Association. This prestigious honor celebrates her 50-plus years of dedication to the newspaper industry, highlighting her unwavering commitment to the legacy of the Spokesman-Recorder and her vital role in amplifying Black voices in media.

Ms. Williams-Dillard's lifelong journey in journalism started at age eight when she began working after school to print addresses at the Spokesman-Recorder, her family's newspaper. It was here that she first learned the importance of hard work, responsibility, and the value of earning a living—lessons that would become the foundation of her career. Over the next decades, Ms. Williams-Dillard performed various roles at the newspaper including as a receptionist, in billing and advertising, and as office manager. Her path to becoming the president and CEO was not straightforward, and her journey reflects her versatility, adaptability, and a deep commitment to both personal and professional growth.

In 2001, she was named President and CEO of the newspaper, and, in 2007, Ms. Wil-

liams-Dillard became its proud owner. Under her leadership, the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder has exemplified excellence, never missing a deadline, a testament to her meticulous attention to detail and steadfast dedication to journalistic integrity.

Ms. Williams-Dillard's leadership is rooted in the strong foundation laid by her predecessors—one built on respect, deep ties to the African American community, and a steadfast commitment to integrity with readers. She has not only maintained these values but has expanded them, ensuring the paper remains a vital and respected voice for historically marginalized communities and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Williams-Dillard today for her extraordinary contributions to our community, and for her recent honor from the Minnesota Newspaper Association. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Williams Dillard—and the whole Spokesman-Recorder team—on this remarkable achievement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPLAR HILL MANSION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Poplar Hill Mansion in honor of their upcoming 50th anniversary on August 25, 2025.

The Poplar Hill Mansion is the oldest home in Salisbury, Maryland. As an historic house museum, the Poplar Hill Mansion has served our community through its historic preservation efforts, educational opportunities, and charitable works.

As the representative of Maryland's Eastern Shore, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Poplar Hill Mansion and wish it the best of luck as it works for another prosperous 50 years.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" BURNEY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" M. Burney and his years of service to his community.

Bob was born on December 17, 1965, graduating from New Hartford High School in 1984. Bob attended Mohawk Valley Community College and Utica College, graduating in 1988. After graduation, Bob briefly served as campus security for the State University of New York at Cobleskill before joining the New York State Police in 1989.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Bob was assigned to aid in the search and recovery efforts at Ground Zero in New York City. Unfortunately, it was this assignment that would later cost Bob his life as he was diagnosed with cancer stemming from his assignment there. As a member of Troop D, Bob was also assigned to special assignments including the Hurricane Katrina recov-

ery efforts in New Orleans and Hurricane Sandy clean-up in New York City.

Retiring in 2017, Bob remained active in his community as a member of the Covey-Pashley American Legion Post No. 893 and the Old Forge Council of the Knights of Columbus. Bob's love of golf and hockey was well known, and he actively participated in benefit games in both sports. New York lost one of its best when Bob passed on December 9, 2023.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am proud to recognize the legacy of Trooper Robert "Bob" M. Burney and honor him for his service.

RECOGNIZING MERLYN LEWIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Merlyn Lewis has made to our community through her work as an exceptional volunteer for Service Dog Alliance, an all-volunteer non-profit, which promotes and supports the rights and responsibilities of service dog teams, businesses, and the community.

Merlyn Lewis exemplifies servant leadership by empowering volunteers, the community, and individuals with disabilities to ensure safe and unfettered access for service animal handlers. Volunteering more than 10,000 hours, Ms. Lewis has served as President of the Board and Lead Trainer for the organization. She currently serves on the Executive Board as Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. Lewis and her service dog, Sterling, have traveled throughout Florida as role models of what to expect from a well-trained team. She has assisted individuals with disabilities in becoming better handlers and in understanding how to follow state and federal law. Her training for health care professionals, first responders, government staff, and private businesses about the vital work service animals perform has reduced barriers to access in housing, employment, and places of public accommodation and increased community partnerships to combat the misrepresentation of service animals. Service Dog Alliance achieves its mission because Merlyn Lewis is on the front lines and in the trenches, doing whatever is necessary to ensure the organization and those served have all that is needed to be successful.

It is clear that Merlyn Lewis 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 REBEKAH FISCHOFF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Ms. Rebekah Fischhoff, graduates today from Rutgers University at Camden.

As a student at Rutgers-Camden and before that at Brookdale Community College in my