

district, Ms. Fischhoff has been an outstanding advocate for higher education reforms, particularly with regard to investment in student aid and greater professional development opportunities for students. I first met Ms. Fischhoff when she came to my office to discuss legislation regarding higher education, and I was struck by her poise and professionalism, as well as her personal story. I'd like to congratulate Ms. Fischhoff on an outstanding academic career and to wish her the best in all her future endeavors. It is my pleasure to include in the RECORD, her personal account of her work and advocacy, from her time as an undergraduate student:

My name is Rebekah Fischhoff, and I am currently a senior at Rutgers University graduating from Rutgers-Camden on May 21st, 2025, with a degree in Business Administration. I simultaneously work at Two River Wealth Management Group at Ameriprise Financial as a Client Service Manager three days a week, while studying to become a financial advisor. I was invited to and was inducted into the Rutgers-Camden Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society, (an honor by invitation afforded to the top 10% of business students). In addition, this spring as was the case last year, I was again selected to join the Rutgers Advocacy Corps, to lobby and advocate on Capitol Hill for increased investments in federal financial aid. I previously served as the Graduate Trustee on Brookdale Community College's Board of Trustees. My path that led me to Brookdale was fortuitous but was far from planned. My father's health downturn and subsequent long-term rehabilitation, coupled with his income loss, altered my original plans to attend either the College of William & Mary or the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, forcing me to change plans. I was fortunate to qualify for the New Jersey STARS Program, a program that allows academically qualified students to attend tuition-free for up to five semesters. It wasn't long until a fortuitous introduction led me to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) and the Honors Program. Soon after I was appointed Vice President of Scholarship for PTK, we were challenged by Brookdale President Dr. David M. Stout to help develop a Peer Mentoring Program for incoming students. As a result of our efforts, I earned a Distinguished Chapter Officer designation at the regional and International PTK Conventions. Feeling the obligation to repay Brookdale for the successes it afforded me, I saw that opportunity presented if I were able to win the election for the Graduate Trustee position. With the good fortune of being supported by those who believed in me, I won the election and by taking Rutgers classes here at the Brookdale campus, I found a way to stay engaged in the school that I love and to repay in a small way, my gratitude.

After I took office as a Graduate Trustee, I actively engaged with Brookdale's student body and advocated and championed various interests. This included promoting awareness of the transferability process and requirements, enhancing the expansion and marketing of our Honors Program, the ongoing growth and development of the peer mentoring program, improving financial literacy resources for all students, ensuring student satisfaction with the advising department, and emphasizing the importance of soft skills and interpersonal abilities. With the help of President Dr. David M. Stout, we revived the Graduate Trustee Advisory Council on campus. This initiative will play a pivotal role in enhancing student involvement and engagement in the college's decision-making processes. The purpose of this council is to

bring together a diverse cohort—dedicated and committed—fostering multiple perspectives of the student body. By amplifying student voices, this initiative ensures their concerns are heard but also prepares future leaders, providing them with invaluable experiential learning opportunities. Serving on this council could serve as a catalyst for inspiring students to pursue the Graduate Trustee position themselves, ensuring a succession of well-prepared and confident representatives on the Board. This program will enhance the effectiveness of serving as Graduate Trustee by adequately hearing the voice of the student body while also affording members the opportunity to engage in the process. The Board of Trustees has been very supportive of this program, and it is set to become a permanent fixture of the college, ensuring the serving Graduate Trustee is better equipped to bring the voice of the students to the table.

Among the various initiatives that I advocated for during my term, the importance of the transferability of credits process was especially important to me. Community colleges and four-year institutions need to be better aligned to ensure a streamlined process of the transferability of credits. Many students go to community college for affordability, proximity, or the desire to explore programs and interests, but students need transparency early on about whether these credits will transfer. Students may take courses at the community college but later find out that those courses won't transfer to the four-year institution, wasting students' time, money, energy—and if the students are on financial aid, they're also wasting federal funding. Students are essentially using the federal funding twice if they need to retake a course because the credits would not transfer.

One bill that had been introduced last Congress, H.R. 2957, "Utilize Accountability and Transparency Policies that Reflect Needs of Community Colleges could help this issue because this bill would hold the four-year institutions accountable for how many credits will transfer and how much won't. There are limited resources online regarding the transferability of credits, highlighting the significance of this bill being enacted. This lack of transparency affects many areas including student satisfaction, how long they'll stay in school, how much federal aid they'll use, the cost of college, and when they'll graduate. Students are hard-pressed for time and needing and using this federal funding twice is a waste. Similar legislation will encourage and influence these four-year institutions to accept more credits and transferability pathways because they will be held accountable.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
JESSE TAYLOR OF ANDERSON,
SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. SHERI BIGGS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable American, a decorated combat veteran, and a steadfast advocate for our Nation's heroes—Staff Sergeant Jesse Taylor of Anderson, South Carolina.

Mr. Jesse Taylor was born in Waycross, Georgia, where he grew up enjoying the outdoors and playing sports. After graduating high school in 1963, he enlisted in the United States Army. He completed his Basic and Ad-

vanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, earned his Airborne wings at Fort Benning, and joined the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He later completed jungle warfare training in Panama before deploying to Vietnam in 1967. Serving with Cutthroat Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, Staff Sergeant Taylor fought in some of the most difficult terrain and combat conditions of the war, including operations in Phan Rang and the Central Highlands.

For his extraordinary bravery in combat, Mr. Jesse Taylor was awarded the Silver Star—the third-highest military decoration for valor—presented to him by then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey. It is a recognition few receive, and one that speaks volumes about his courage and sacrifice.

When Staff Sergeant Jesse Taylor returned home, like so many Vietnam veterans, he carried the weight of war with him. But instead of turning away from that burden, he chose to turn toward others. He founded Vets Helping Vets Anderson, a grassroots group that brings veterans together every Wednesday morning. What began as a small circle of 14 has grown into a community made up of hundreds of men and women from every branch of service, bound together by shared experience and mutual support.

Through this effort, Mr. Jesse Taylor has helped build a place of healing and strength for veterans across Upstate South Carolina. His steady leadership, honesty, and compassion have made a profound difference in the lives of those who served—and I want to say personally, it's made a difference in mine as well.

Hearing the stories shared in that room and seeing the way Mr. Jesse Taylor uplifts others simply by showing up with open arms and a listening ear, has deepened my own understanding of what service truly means. It's not just about what we do in uniform—it's how we carry that spirit forward into our communities, day after day.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Jesse Taylor embodies the highest ideals of service not only in battle, but in how he continues to serve others with dignity, humility, and heart. I am honored to represent him in Congress, proud to recognize his life and legacy in the official record of this chamber, and even prouder to call Mr. Jesse a close friend.

May God bless Jesse Taylor, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICA-
TIONS VALOR AWARD RECIPI-
ENTS

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 Department of Public Safety Communications Valor Award recipients, recognizing the extraordinary dedication of who serve as the critical first link in emergency response. These awards reflect the calm, skilled, and courageous actions of these professionals, often the

unseen first responders, who ensure help is dispatched swiftly and accurately in our community's most urgent moments.

Each recipient exemplifies what it means to act with valor, remaining composed under pressure, coordinating life-saving responses in real time, and providing reassurance and guidance to those facing crisis. These individuals demonstrate extraordinary focus, compassion, and professionalism.

Their efforts strengthen public trust and ensure that every emergency begins with clarity, care, and swift action—fostering a safer community. Today, we recognize and celebrate their critical role and exceptional commitment to public service, often carried out behind the scenes but never without impact.

We are deeply grateful for their service and proud to honor the Prince William County Department of Public Safety Communications for their unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

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

RECOGNIZING MERCEDES ANDERSON-BRANDO

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 Mercedes Anderson-Brando has made through her volunteerism at Gulf Highlands Elementary School. Mercedes supports the school in so many ways. She is at every School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting, supports all extra-curricular events, and consistently pitches in whenever needed. The students know her and look forward to seeing her around campus.

It is clear Mercedes Anderson-Brando 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 JOHN POST

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of John N. Post—a patriot who was and still is truly committed to service, community, and country. John moved to Westfield, New Jersey, at age ten and graduated from Westfield High School in 1958. He attended St. Peter's College, where he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class program. On the day he graduated in 1962, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. John went on to study at Georgetown Law School and was admitted to the bar in both New Jersey and the District of Columbia. He served for three years as a legal officer in the Marine Corps, advising commands both in the U.S.

and in Vietnam. In 1966, while still on active duty, John married his wife, Mary. After completing his service, he founded the law firm now known as Post Polak, P.A., where he served as managing partner until 2008.

Today, I am pleased to join the Borough of Mountainside in honoring John Post as he serves as a Co-Grand Marshal of the Mountainside Memorial Day Parade. His life is a testament to the core principles that define our Nation: service, commitment, and integrity.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT WENDY WINTERSTEEN FOR HER SERVICE TO IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize President Wendy Wintersteen, a longtime champion for Iowa's students and a nationally respected leader in higher education, as she moves on from her role as the 16th President of Iowa State University.

Wendy's leadership has shaped the future of Iowa State and made a meaningful difference across our state. She has led with vision, investing in entrepreneurial learning, strengthening research programs, and opening up new resources for hands-on learning in agricultural sciences and beyond.

As the first woman to serve as president in the university's history, she has inspired not only students and faculty, but future leaders across Iowa. Her commitment to innovation has helped position Iowa State as a national leader in preparing students to solve real-world challenges, grow our economy, and serve our communities.

It was always a pleasure to run into Wendy on the early morning flight from Des Moines to D.C., where she has been a tireless advocate for the Cyclones and for our state's land-grant mission. It's been an honor to work alongside her and an even greater honor to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking President Wendy Wintersteen for her years of distinguished service to Iowa and Iowa State University. We are excited for all that lies ahead and confident that her next chapter will be just as impactful as the last.

RECOGNIZING MONICA GURELL

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 recognize a remarkable leader and educator in our Rochester Jewish community: Monica Gurell.

Monica Gurell serves as the President of Temple B'rith Kodesh, where she has led with passion, humility, and inclusiveness. She began her journey at TBK by nurturing young minds—teaching a class of four-year-olds—and later, with her husband Dan, advising the youth group for five years. Her sustained commitment and deep sense of purpose led her to

the board in 2010 and eventually to her current leadership role.

A veteran teacher in the Rochester City School District, Monica has also volunteered extensively throughout the Jewish community, including service on the board of Jewish Family Services. Her experience in the Wexner Heritage Program—a prestigious two-year leadership initiative—helped her forge deeper bonds across our city and champion unity across diverse Jewish organizations.

It is an honor to recognize Monica Gurell during Jewish American Heritage Month. Her unwavering dedication to faith, education, and community has enriched the lives of countless others and continues to serve as a beacon of strength.

RECOGNIZING MIKA ROTUNDA

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 Mika Rotunda has made through her work with Habitat Tampa Bay Gulfside. Born and raised in Brooksville, Mika Rotunda is a dynamic professional with a background in media and real estate. With years of experience in broadcasting and content creation, Mika has developed a unique ability to connect with her audience, community and customers. Her passion for people and the desire to empower others, translates seamlessly into her real estate career. Combining her media expertise and real estate knowledge, Mika has a broad and unique perspective to the Habitat Board, which she was voted onto in 2024. Habitat Tampa Bay Gulfside has been working to create lasting relationships in Hernando County. Mika has played a key role in making introductions and working alongside our Hernando County Executive Director to provide information and dispel myths about the Habitat mission. Mika has used her social media platform of over 100 thousand followers to help spread Habitat's mission and promote the Habitat program to Hernando County individuals and families. Mika has worked with Habitat's external relations team to create social media videos to promote major events and invite people to apply to the Habitat program. Habitat will celebrate the completion of its first home in Hernando this June. When that happens, Mika will be one of the first in line to congratulate the new homeowner and welcome them to the area.

It is clear Mika Rotunda 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 STATE SENATOR MARK WALCZYK

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 State Senator Mark Walczyk from New