

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

York. State Senator Walczyk started his political career in 2007 as an intern for the New York State Senate while he was a student at SUNY Albany. After graduating, he worked on then-State Senator Patty Ritchie's campaign before being named her Legislative Director and eventually becoming District Director in 2013.

Mark successfully ran for Watertown City Council in 2015, serving for three years before his election to the New York State Assembly for the 116th Assembly District in 2018, and his subsequent reelection in 2020. In 2022, when State Senator Patty Ritchie retired, Mark announced his candidacy for the seat and won the general election unopposed.

State Senator Walczyk serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate's Elections Committee, Cities 2 Committee, and the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. Additionally, he sits on five other committees which are the Banks, Telecommunications, Internet and Technology, Energy, and the Housing Committees.

Mark enlisted in the Army Reserves in 2012 and currently serves as an U.S. Army Reserve Engineer Officer and team leader for the 791st Forward Engineer Support Team with the rank of Captain. In 2024, Mark was deployed to a base in Kuwait spending 290 days in the Middle Eastern theater, participating in multiple engineer reconnaissance missions throughout the theater, including sites in Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iraq. Upon completing his mission, Mark returned home to Watertown in December 2024 where he lives with his wife Jessica and their children.

Mark is well known as a man dedicated to his family and his country. He is a leader to his constituents delivering results for his district and fighting for the future of New York State. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank Mark for his years of dedicated public service to his constituents and our country.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA FIRE 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 Fire Department Valor Award recipients, recognizing the extraordinary bravery and selfless service demonstrated by its firefighters, paramedics, and rescue personnel. These awards reflect the courageous actions of the department's dedicated men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve the community in its most critical moments.

Each recipient exemplifies what it means to act with valor—facing danger without hesitation, responding swiftly in times of crisis, and placing the safety of others above their own. Whether battling intense fires, delivering life-saving medical aid, or navigating complex emergency situations, these professionals demonstrate unwavering resolve and deep compassion for those they serve.

Their heroism builds trust and deepens the connections that hold our community together,

fostering a shared sense of safety, resilience, and unity across neighborhoods, schools, and families. Today, we recognize and celebrate the collective courage and commitment of these individuals, whose actions inspire us all and uphold the highest ideals of public service.

We are deeply grateful for their bravery, and proud to honor the Prince William County Fire Department for their outstanding 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 Fire Department for their remarkable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING PRICILLA CRUZ-SEADO

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 Pricilla Cruz-Seado has made to our community through her work with New Beginnings Youth Shelter, which serves homeless kids aged 10–17 who are between foster homes, abandoned, or homeless. The whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else looking out for them. They teach kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team really cares, and each member is deeply invested in the kids' long-term success.

It is clear Pricilla Cruz-Seado 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.

TRIBUTE TO DEACON RONALD LEVESTER SEWELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great man of faith and a true community servant leader, Deacon Ronald Levester Sewell. Deacon Sewell, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Although he is no longer with us in person, his legacy lives on through his life of service.

Deacon Sewell attended C.A. Johnson High School, graduating in 1965. He furthered his academic journey at Benedict College, earning his degree in 1973. He later went on to obtain a Master of Education degree from Cambridge College.

Over an extraordinary 35-year career, he transformed countless lives and was a pivotal member of his community. Deacon Sewell served as an educator, coach, and an athletic administrator within Richland School District One, igniting a passion for learning and excellence in his students.

Beyond his notable contributions in education, Deacon Sewell proudly served six years in the U.S. Air Force, followed by several years in the Air Force Reserve at McEntire

Joint National Guard Base. His dedicated service included a tour during Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War, where he exemplified unwavering bravery and dedication to his country.

The morals and values that were the foundation of his life were rooted in his faith in God. A devoted member of First Calvary Baptist Church, Deacon Sewell's faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was baptized there and later ordained as a Deacon in 2007 under the leadership of Dr. Reverend Samuel K. Lewis.

Throughout his journey he has been empowered by the encouragement and support of his beautiful family. Deacon Sewell was married to Maxine Cunningham for 50 years, and was a devoted father to four children: Dr. Kenya Sewell (Randy) James, Dr. Candace Sewell Hannah, Warren M. Sewell, and Sharon E. Lowman.

Mr. Speaker, Deacon Sewell spent his lifetime as a military pioneer and humble servant to his fellow citizens of South Carolina and to the United States of America. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring Deacon Sewell's commitment to service, sacrifices for, and contribution to this great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132, and YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: MEMORIAL DAY 2025

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the United States of America. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District, I am proud to recognize our brave service members' courage, sacrifice, and valor as we come together this Memorial Day.

All gave some, and some gave all. Memorial Day is more than a long weekend—it is sacred time for a grateful Nation to reflect on the cost of liberty. We owe our freedom to those who answered the call and never returned. In America—the greatest country on Earth—our founding promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is preserved only through the sacrifice of our heroes.

The American flag flies in red, white, and blue—each color rich with meaning. Blue stands for vigilance and justice, a call to remain steadfast in our values. White reflects our Nation's ideals and purity of purpose. Red honors the valor and the blood shed by those who died defending our rights.