

I would like to congratulate Dr. Smith on his inauguration and thank him for spreading the Word of God and serving students at the University of Mobile.

CELEBRATING FAGER'S ISLAND'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend John Fager on the 50th Anniversary of Fager's Island. A small business he started with simple grit, determination and the aspiration of living the American Dream.

Fager's Island is an Island personified. It has its own personality and spirit, a living breathing entity created by John Fager and his patrons and employees. People come to Fager's Island to enjoy some of the best moments of their lives professionally and personally. Engagements, Family, the Beauty of the Bay, Food and Drink, Sunsets. It's never nostalgic but grounded in a deep respect for its past, the men and woman who built it into the iconic operation now celebrating its 50th year. Fager's Island creates a deep emotional magic with people. It's the place they have lived their "glory days".

John Fager built Fager's Island. Sheer will, determination, foresight, tape measure, tractor. He is a Laid-Back Trailblazer, a Humble Maverick, An American Patriot. He is years ahead of his time and always evolving, yet forever mindful of the past. He possesses a ferocious work ethic but always still has time for people, a kind word, a warm greeting, a welcome smile. All of the meaningful things about Fager's Island stem from his unwavering code, his devotion to faith, family, people, and his staff.

HONORING KAREN BIERNACKI AND
CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF LA PORTE COUNTY
FAMILY ADVOCATES

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to honor Karen Biernacki and her lifetime of service to children and families across Northwest Indiana and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of La Porte County Family Advocates.

In 1990, Karen founded the La Porte County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program to assist abused and neglected children in need of services through the court system. Starting from humble beginnings with a minimal budget, Karen built the foundation of CASA out of her own home, where she trained volunteers to provide essential support to ensure the protection of these vulnerable children. Since its inception, the La Porte County CASA program has trained over 425 volunteers, who collectively spent more than 1.5 million hours advocating for children who suffered abuse and neglect.

Through her meaningful work in the Community, Karen saw the need for a safe and nurturing space for families to reconnect and heal. In 1999, under Karen's leadership, La Porte County CASA partnered with the Swanson Center, a local community mental health agency, to create a safe environment for supervised family visitations. Harmony House served our community for over 20 years, allowing for 56,000 hours of supervised visitation in an authentic setting where family members can cook meals, eat together, and play games. Recognizing the need for greater collaboration and strength in their mission, La Porte County CASA and Harmony House merged their boards in 2004. The organization became known as La Porte County Family Advocates, further enhancing their capacity to serve the community of Northwest Indiana. Although she retired as Chief Executive Officer of La Porte County Family Advocates in 2021, Karen's service to the community continues to serve as an inspiration to us all, and she is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Karen Biernacki for her lifelong service to children and families throughout Northwest Indiana and in recognizing the invaluable contributions of La Porte County Family Advocates on their 35th anniversary.

HONORING NAPA POLICE CHIEF
JENNIFER GONZALES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Police Chief Jennifer Gonzales upon her retirement after 32 years of service in law enforcement. Chief Gonzales' career exemplifies commitment to community, service, and excellence, and her legacy in Napa will continue to inspire future generations.

Born in Santa Clara, California, Chief Gonzales attended California State University, Chico, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies with a minor in Health Science. She later earned a Master of Arts in Behavioral Science, specializing in Negotiation and Conflict Management, from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Committed to continuous professional development, she further honed her leadership skills by graduating from the FBI National Academy, both the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Command College and Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, and the Executive Leadership Institute at the Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University.

Chief Gonzales began her law enforcement career in 1993 as a Community Service Officer and Dispatcher with the CSU Chico Police Department. She became a sworn officer in 1995, serving in the Chico Police Department for 20 years, and rose through the ranks to the level of Lieutenant. In 2015, she joined the Napa Police Department as Captain and was named Chief of Police in 2021.

Throughout her career, Chief Gonzales has been deeply involved in community service and law enforcement leadership. She has

served on the boards of Nurturing Empowerment, Worth, Safety (NEWS) Napa domestic violence and sexual abuse services organization, the Napa Special Investigation Bureau, the California Massage Therapy Council, and the Women Leaders in Law Enforcement Mentor Committee. She was also appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the State of California 9-1-1 Advisory Board. Additionally, Chief Gonzales has been a representative on the Napa County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Napa Opioid Safety Coalition, and the Napa Valley Community Leaders Coalition.

Chief Gonzales has also made significant contributions to officer wellness and professional development. As a certified member of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation team, she traveled to New York City after the September 11th attacks to assist with first responder recovery efforts. She also served as the founding Napa Police Peer Support Coordinator and was a part-time lecturer in the Political Science Department at CSU Chico, where she helped prepare future law enforcement professionals.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Jennifer Gonzales has dedicated her career to strengthening public safety, building community trust, and mentoring the next generation of law enforcement professionals. It is fitting and proper that we recognize her service and leadership here today as she enters her well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CARMAN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a true patriot and beloved member of our South Jersey community, John "Ghost" Carman. John recently passed away after an incredibly courageous fight with cancer that began November of last year. John fought until the very end with incredible strength and grace. At the age of 18, John married the love of his life, JoAnn. They shared 47 beautiful years together and raised two children, Cherie and John the third. He was a hardworking man who made his mark in Atlantic City's construction industry, contributing to many of the city's major casino projects. John showed his love for the community by serving in public office, including positions on Egg Harbor Township Committee and Town Board for Municipal Authority. He was devoted to our country, serving most recently as the Treasurer of the American Legion Post in Somers Point, South Jersey. As John's friends and family would say, "to know John was to love him," and he will be greatly missed, but we are eternally grateful for his lasting legacy and love he left behind. God bless John and God bless our United States of America. The greatest country in the world.

RECOGNIZING KLOEY KEHL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

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

Kloe has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Kloe, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kloe'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 Kloe Kehl on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING RONNIE HUTTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Ronnie Hutton 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. Hutton was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Ronnie Hutton 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 YASMINE CURTIS OF
TWO FISH CRAB SHACK**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and celebrate the remarkable entrepreneurial spirit and culinary success of Ms. Yasmine Curtis, the visionary owner of Two Fish, a thriving and beloved food business on the Southside of Chicago. Ms. Yasmine's dedication and the flourishing of Two Fish exemplify the vital role that local, independently owned enterprises play in strengthening our communities and enriching the lives of our constituents.

In the competitive landscape of the food industry, Ms. Yasmine has carved out a significant niche, building a successful business that not only serves delicious fare, but also contributes significantly to the economic and social fabric of the Southside.

Her commitment to excellence has earned Two Fish a reputation for outstanding cuisine and a loyal following. The success of businesses like Two Fish is paramount to the vitality of neighborhoods across the Southside of Chicago. They create jobs, foster local pride, and provide unique culinary experiences that reflect the rich culture and diversity of the area. Ms. Yasmine's journey with Two Fish stands as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through hard work, innovation, and a deep connection to one's community.

She has demonstrated how a local food business can become a cornerstone of its neighborhood, drawing people together and contributing to a vibrant local economy.

Ms. Yasmine's entrepreneurial prowess and her commitment to delivering exceptional food have made Two Fish a true success story. She has not only built a profitable enterprise but has also cultivated a space that brings joy and sustenance to her patrons. It is with great honor and admiration that we acknowledge Ms. Yasmine and the outstanding achievements of Two Fish. Their success is a beacon for local entrepreneurship and a powerful example of how small businesses can make a monumental impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our deepest congratulations to Ms. Yasmine Curtis for her outstanding contributions. May her success continue to inspire us all.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
LIFE OF A.E. "PETER" PIERCE**HON. MIKE EZELL**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Mississippian, A.E. "Peter" Pierce of Helena, who went home to be with the Lord in the early morning hours of May 24th.

Peter was the very best of us—a devoted husband to his beloved Grace for nearly 69 years, a U.S. Army veteran, a hardworking father, grandfather, and public servant, and a man whose quiet faith was lived out in every act of service.

From the shipyards of Pascagoula to the halls of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, from coaching little league to mowing the church lawn even after his diagnosis—Peter gave his time, his energy, and his heart to others.

He was a faithful member of Escatawpa Assembly of God, a friend to the forgotten, and the kind of man who cooked Christmas breakfast for a house full of grandkids, always reminding them: he was the most blessed man on earth.

We grieve his loss, but we celebrate a life well-lived, and we thank God for the example he gave us.

CELEBRATING MICHAEL PRICE
FOR HIS HONORARY TONY AWARD**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Mr. Michael Price of Essex, Connecticut, for his outstanding achievements in the realm of American theatre and the arts. On June 8, Michael will receive special honors for his lifetime achievements at the prestigious 2025 Tony Awards ceremony. Michael holds the record as the longest serving Executive Director of an American theatre, leading the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut for 47 years from 1968 to 2014. The impact of his tenure on the Goodspeed Opera House has reverberated all across the world, and thus this honor is well deserved.

Michael was born on August 5, 1938, to William and Sylvia Price in Chicago, Illinois. From a young age, he was introduced to the theatre through family members who worked in the industry. Michael got a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, followed by a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a master's in fine arts from the Yale University School of Drama.

Michael's career included many different jobs at theatres throughout the country. Early in his career, he worked as a stagehand and electrician at the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut. Other jobs took him around the country, serving in different roles at theatres and performances before he settled at the Goodspeed Opera House.

In 1968, Michael started as the Executive Director of Goodspeed Musicals in East Haddam, Connecticut. After years of disrepair, Michael helped rebuild the reputation of the Goodspeed Opera House as one of the best venues to develop musicals in the country. Goodspeed became internationally recognized for their distinguished performances.

During Michael's time as Executive Director, he produced over 250 classic and forgotten musicals, 100 new musicals, and transferred 19 shows to Broadway, which earned 13 Tony Awards. The Goodspeed Opera House was honored with two special Tony Awards during his reign.

Michael's valuable contributions to the theatre industry have been recognized before. He was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame, which honors lifetime achievement in the American theater. Michael's involvement in theatre is not limited to his time at the Goodspeed Opera House. He is also the founder of the League of Historic American Theatres and a founding member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre. Michael currently serves on the Executive Committee of the American Theatre Wing and as a member of the Tony Administration Committee. Michael is also a board member for the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, the Johnny Mercer Foundation, the ASCAP Foundation, and numerous charitable and non-profit organizations.

Now, Michael will receive one of the Tony Honors for Excellence in the Theatre, a well deserved honor that he will share with his wife Jo-Ann, children Daniel and Rebecca, and grandchildren Ezra and Ari who have been