

Commissioner Wheeler became a strong voice nationally with regard to tax reform. In our state, he fought to keep taxes low. He fought hard for our state's tobacco farmers. He formed the first-ever Governor's Council on Agriculture and Forestry, an important step that brought key stakeholders to the table. That, I suspect, will be his enduring legacy, bringing growers and producers into the same room as policymakers. That collaboration continues to have a major impact on our state's leading industry, agriculture.

Commissioner Wheeler also served as the Southern United State Trade Association President, where he represented 17 states and territories. He served on the Tennessee Board for Economic Growth and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. The list goes on.

In 2000, he was named Man of the year in Service to Tennessee Agriculture by Progressive Farmer Magazine.

He helped neighbors outside the agriculture industry as well. He served the Maury County United Way, the Columbia Kiwanis Club, the Maury Regional Hospital Foundation, and the First Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Columbia, Tennessee on their Board of Directors. His life is an example of a life well lived, a life dedicated to others, and a life that truly made a difference.

He leaves behind a wife of 59 years, Carol, and two sons, Jim and David, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I want to thank Commissioner Dan Wheeler and honor him for his many contributions to our great state of Tennessee.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA BARLEY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Victoria Barley has made through her volunteerism with Youth and Family Alternatives. For more than 15 years, Victoria Barley has been a remarkable champion for Youth and Family Alternatives (YFA), leaving a lasting legacy that will continue to shape lives for generations to come. Her journey with YFA began at the RAP House youth shelter, where she selflessly volunteered her time to create meaningful opportunities and provide vital resources to support and uplift the youth we serve. Driven by a bold vision, Victoria imagined a large-scale annual event in New Port Richey—one that would not only generate funds for the RAP House but also raise community awareness and engagement with YFA's mission. Despite having no prior experience in organizing a 5k race, her determination and passion quickly rallied a team of dedicated volunteers around her dream. From that vision, the RAP River Run was born. Today, it stands as one of Tampa Bay's premier running events, drawing thousands of participants and volunteers each year. Thanks to the continued enthusiasm and support behind this event, the team is excitedly preparing for the 2025 RAP River Run, scheduled for June 14th in downtown New Port Richey. Through sponsorships, donations, and registration fees, the RAP River Run has raised over \$1 million in

support of the RAP House. Because of Victoria's relentless dedication and can-do spirit, hundreds of runaway, homeless, and foster youth have found safety, stability, and hope during their most difficult times. Victoria Barley's impact is immeasurable. Her heart, her leadership, and her unwavering support have made her a true hero to YFA and to every young life touched by the RAP House.

It is clear Victoria Barley 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 RANDALL S.
FERNANDEZ FOR HIS YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randall S. Fernandez, who is retiring after twelve years of dedicated service as the City Manager of Marysville, Michigan. His unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership have greatly impacted our community.

Mr. Fernandez's tenure as City Manager was marked by numerous accomplishments that have left a lasting effect on the Marysville community. Under his leadership, the city made significant progress in Marysville. He was instrumental in streamlining municipal operations, fostering strong relationships with local businesses, and supporting projects that enhanced the quality of life for Marysville residents.

Prior to his service in Marysville, he also served over 28 years in many governmental positions within the city of Port Huron, Michigan. He began his career as a Community Development Specialist, City Treasurer, City Assessor, Water Office Supervisor, Director of the Downtown Development Authority, and later as General Manager of McMorran Place Sports and Entertainment Center.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fernandez has been known for his problem-solving mindset, collaborative leadership style, and ability to bring people together to achieve common goals. Whether revitalizing downtown spaces or ensuring financial accountability, he has consistently gone above and beyond for the communities he served.

His contributions have also been shaped by a strong academic foundation. Mr. Fernandez holds a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Michigan, and a Masters of Arts degree in Management and Supervision with a concentration in Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Mr. Fernandez's work ethic, experience, and devotion to civic duty have made a profound difference in the lives of countless Michigan residents. His legacy is one of progress, leadership, and a genuine desire to improve his community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Randall S. Fernandez for his outstanding public service and in extending our best wishes as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.

CONGRATULATING YMCA OF THE
ROSES CEO AND PRESIDENT
LARRY RICHARDSON ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Larry Richardson on his retirement as President and CEO of YMCA of the Roses.

Prior to his time with the YMCA, Mr. Larry Richardson was an educator and football coach. He joined the York YMCA in 1994 during a difficult time for the organization, which has since seen tremendous positive change under his leadership. During his tenure, the York YMCA expanded to include a technology center, the Graham Aquatic Center near Kiwanis Lake, a branch in Shrewsbury, and much more. He also strengthened the York YMCA's impact on housing insecurity and homelessness—a mission exemplified by the affordable housing programs and homeless shelter they operate.

What was formerly known as the York County YMCA merged with the Lancaster County YMCA in 2021 to become YMCA of the Roses. Mr. Richardson was instrumental in this merger. At a time when the Lancaster YMCA was financially struggling, his leadership saved the organization from closure. Since then, the YMCA of the Roses has continued to focus on housing, social responsibility, and healthy living in both York and Lancaster County.

As President and CEO for the YMCA of the Roses, Mr. Larry Richardson has provided an invaluable service to the community. The YMCA of the Roses has transformed lives under his leadership, and I am proud and thankful to have such a strong community-minded organization in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. I wish the best in his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING DELANO, CA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Delano, California as it celebrates its 110th anniversary.

Incorporated in 1915, Delano was originally established as a railroad town, serving as a hub for hundreds of workers building the southern terminus of the Southern Pacific railroad. Over the years, Delano has been the site of several historically significant events, particularly during World War II. The Voice of America Delano even operated as a vital broadcasting facility, relaying news and information to VOA stations across the Pacific, including Hawaii, Okinawa, and the Philippines.

In more recent history, the Delano Municipal Airport gained distinction as the home of a squadron of Northrop P-61 Black Widow aircraft—twin-engine fighters that played a key role in defending the Pacific Coast during the war. Today, Delano is best known for its thriving agricultural industry. The city is a major

producer of grapes, oranges, almonds, pistachios, and cotton. Alongside its agricultural success, Delano has experienced steady commercial growth, attracting major businesses such as Wonderful Citrus, the company behind the widely popular Halos brand.

Delano is also a culturally rich and diverse community, shaped by generations of residents from around the world. Since the arrival of early settlers under the Homestead Act, Delano has welcomed people from Latin America, Asia, and Europe, each contributing to the city's distinct character and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in celebrating Delano on its 110th anniversary, and to honor its rich history, diverse community, and the spirit of those who call it home.

RECOGNIZING HENRY FLOYD WELLS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize the life and service of Mr. Henry "Floyd" Wells who will celebrate his 105th birthday this month—a milestone few ever reach. I join his family, friends, and this grateful nation in celebrating not only the years he has lived, but the legacy he has built through courage, service, and unwavering patriotism. On June 9, 1944—his 24th birthday—Floyd stepped onto a beach in Normandy, France, carrying only a .45 pistol and a sawed-off shotgun. He was one of nearly 133,000 Allied troops who took part in the D-Day invasion. That historic day changed the course of World War II and, ultimately, the course of world history. But behind that massive operation were brave individuals like Floyd—young Americans from small towns like Wauchula, Florida—who answered the call to serve without hesitation. Mr. Wells' bravery, and the bravery of all who fought beside him, helped secure the freedom we enjoy today. He was part of a generation that stared down tyranny, defended liberty, and rebuilt a shattered world. And for that, we are eternally grateful. Floyd's service didn't end when the war did. He came home, built a life, raised a family, and continued to live with honor, humility, and strength. His son, Mike, speaks with great pride about the man he is, and that pride is deeply deserved.

It is clear that Mr. Henry "Floyd" Wells represents the very best of America—commitment, sacrifice, and love of country. I am proud to represent a district that includes heroes, like him. May we never forget that freedom is never free—and that behind every American flag is the story of someone, like Floyd, who defended it. I wish a happy 105th birthday to Mr. Wells. May God bless him and his family, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DAVID GARRISON FROM DELTA AIR LINES

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, Mr. David Garrison of Georgia, on the occasion of his retirement from Delta Air Lines after 34 years of service to one of our Nation's most respected airlines and a cornerstone of our state's economy. An accomplished business and civic leader, David was recognized as a Delta Chairman's Club honoree—the airline's highest employee recognition—and serves as a Trustee on the Board of Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. Garrison began his distinguished career in 1991 as a Propulsion Engineer with Delta TechOps, having earned degrees from both Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Throughout the decades, David brought deep technical expertise, unwavering integrity, and a profound sense of responsibility to every role he held.

Over the years, David's leadership and vision helped shape Delta's engineering and maintenance operations into a world-class operation. From rebuilding after bankruptcy to navigating the complexities of a major airline merger, his steady hand and commitment to excellence were essential in moments of both great challenge and great progress.

As Senior Vice President of Delta Connection and CEO of Endeavor Air, David led with a heart for people—responsible for more than 20,000 employees. His ability to lead through change while maintaining Delta's standard of excellence earned him the respect of his colleagues and the trust of Delta customers across the country.

In his final role as Delta's Senior Vice President of Corporate Safety and Security, David carried one of the greatest responsibilities at the airline: the safety of over 100,000 Delta team members and millions of travelers worldwide. Under his leadership, Delta strengthened its safety systems and culture, reinforcing its long-standing commitment to making every flight as safe as possible.

Mr. Speaker, David Garrison's career reflects the very best of Georgia values—hard work, humility, and care for others. He has left an indelible mark not only on Delta Air Lines but also on the broader aviation community and on countless lives he has touched throughout his career. On behalf of Georgia's 6th Congressional District, I thank David for his outstanding contributions to Delta Air Lines and to aviation safety and security. I wish him and his family health, happiness, and continued blessings in this next chapter of life.

TRIBUTE TO CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my dearest friends, John Sharp, as he

retires from his role as Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

Texas A&M holds a special place in my heart. While I did not have the opportunity to attend A&M, I consider myself an honorary Aggie, having married into a committed, Aggie-loving family. My father-in-law, Lowry Mays, dedicated much of his life to Texas A&M. I will never forget looking into his eyes as he beamed with pride when I told him I would be representing College Station. Lowry was on the Texas A&M Board of Regents when Chancellor Sharp came on as University Chancellor. Though he passed away a couple of years ago, I know he would be overwhelmed with joy and pride to see all the ways A&M has grown and changed in recent years—and that is because of Chancellor John Sharp's leadership.

When A&M was drawn into my district, Chancellor Sharp and I immediately hit it off. We not only created an incredible partnership between the University System and the United States Congress, but we also forged a powerful friendship. He and I made a great team, and it has been an honor to work with him and Texas A&M to bolster our national defense. Together, we helped establish the Texas A&M Semiconductor Institute, expand both the RELLIS Campus and the Bush Combat Development Complex, and most recently, secure congressional funding to build the Ballistic, Aero-optics, and Materials Range facility, which will dramatically strengthen our military's understanding of war strategy and defense tactics. Within the last year alone, I've had the privilege of helping A&M execute Chancellor Sharp's vision, providing nearly \$40 million in Congressional funding for dozens of essential services and research opportunities throughout the system.

Everyone who knows Chancellor Sharp knows he is a man of extraordinary vision—and he is just as much "action" as he is "talk." He knows how to execute visionary ideas with excellence and purpose. He also has a great sense of humor and a very unique vocabulary.

No one has done more to transform, expand, and elevate the Texas A&M University System than Chancellor John Sharp. His visionary leadership has ensured Texas A&M will lead the Nation in academics and national security for decades to come. He leaves behind a strong legacy, with a profound and lasting impact on the A&M system, the hundreds of thousands of students who studied during his tenure, our Nation's military and defense sectors, and so much more.

On behalf of myself, my wife Linda, and the entire Aggie community, let me say, "thank you." While his leadership will be greatly missed, his impact on Texas A&M will live on for generations. Gig 'Em Aggies.

HONORING PETER DEBIASI AND A CAREER OF SERVICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary career of an eastern Connecticut stalwart public servant, Peter DeBiasi, and celebrate his retirement from Access Community Action Agency.