

through his exceptional journalism and incredible eye for a great photo.” In addition to all of that, he was a genuinely nice guy. In a 2018 profile story in *Memphis Magazine*, Dr. Ajanaku expressed concern about the decline in newspaper reading and its impact on the quality of our democracy, “We’ve got people who are growing up that can’t read. And many who can, can’t read in context. They can’t comprehend stuff. If you’re going to live in a democratic republic, you’re going to live where the individual has to be informed, and if he doesn’t have the tools to take in the information and make informed decisions, you’ve got a problem. It’s a greater threat than Russia.” I express my condolences to his twin children, daughter Jamila Ajanaku, of Phoenix, Arizona, and son Karanja Ajanaku, Jr., of Nashville; a sister, Jacqueline Broadus of Reno, Nevada; two brothers, Randy Williams of Kansas City, Missouri, and Ronald Williams of Leavenworth, Kansas; and his six grandchildren; his former newsroom colleagues, his admirers and his many friends. His was a life well-lived. As Dr. Ajanaku himself said so often: The journey continues.

**RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL WORK
OF THE HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA PROGRAM**

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the crucial work of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, also known as HIDTA.

Far too many Americans have been tragically impacted by our nation’s opioid epidemic. Thankfully, there is hope. Overdose deaths dropped by 24 percent from September 2023 to September 2024, and while that’s something to celebrate, we have a long way to go.

The 33 regional HDTAs across the country are comprised of federal, state, and local partners, resulting in robust interagency coordination to respond to the most serious drug threats to the region. However, recent proposals to cut HIDTA funding by more than 30 percent, and even to remove the program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, threaten the effectiveness of HIDTA.

Without full funding, regional HDTAs will lack the resources needed to maintain this high level of coordination. That’s why I recently joined with my colleagues in urging House Appropriations Committee leadership to ensure that the HIDTA program receives the full funding and structural support needed to protect our communities.

Additionally, HIDTA’s placement in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, positioned within the Executive Office, ensures policy neutrality, cross-agency alignment, and a whole-of-government approach that is essential to countering complex drug trafficking networks.

When it comes to HIDTA’s great work, I speak with some experience. For years, I have held fentanyl roundtables that bring together educators, law enforcement, teenagers, health professionals, and more. At every single one of these roundtables, Midwest HIDTA

Executive Director Dan Neill has sat and listened to the tragic stories of loss and the challenges faced by our communities.

Having spent a career in drug and law enforcement, Mr. Neill connects with my constituents in the Kansas Third District, and all of those in his six-state region, to ensure that the Midwest HIDTA provides the top-notch coordination and leadership that is fighting the fentanyl epidemic and has led to a reduction in overdose deaths. But just as HIDTA has supported us, we must support HIDTA.

If we want to continue building on the progress we’ve made and continue saving lives, we must resist calls to reposition HIDTA or cut its funding. I am grateful for the heroic work of HIDTA and the program’s proven impact. I urge my colleagues in Congress to provide full support for this worthy and lifesaving program.

**RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE
SGT RICHARD LOUGHRAN
AS JULY 2025 VETERAN OF THE
MONTH**

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Sgt. Richard Loughran, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for July 2025 from Michigan’s 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to duty, excellence, and patriotism embody the very best of American service.

Richard Loughran answered the call to serve his country at the young age of 17—with his father’s permission—when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from the Detroit Institute of Technology in 1942 and enlisted in 1943. He began basic training and soon after completed training as a Private First Class, demonstrating his strong performance upon graduation. Richard continued to demonstrate his strong performance and high skill set when he was recruited to the Communication Intelligence Group as a Japanese Code Interpreter in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Over his three years of service, Richard was on the battlefields of Tinian, Saipan, Guam, and Okinawa. During these years, Richard also took part in the Wind Talkers Initiative. This initiative involved the use of the Native American language of Navajo by the U.S. military to create coded messages the Japanese couldn’t decipher. Being a part of this initiative highlights Richard’s high aptitude in languages and his deep dedication to serving our country.

Richard was also a part of the radio deception that led to the 1942 Battle of Midway. In this operation, codebreakers successfully deciphered Japanese naval codes and intercepted messages detailing an attack, which was later confirmed to be targeting Midway. Richard’s group also contributed to the Buckner Bay capture of a German Enigma Code Machine. Being involved in such critical turning points in United States history is a testament to Richard’s intelligence, bravery, and impact.

After his service, Richard earned an Associate’s Degree in Engineering from Valparaiso Institute, using that knowledge to become a manufacturer’s representative. In 1961, he launched his own business—Data Electronics—which grew across five states and demonstrated his entrepreneurial drive and success in the field.

In the years that followed, Richard pursued a wide range of interests, from photography to the art of stage makeup. He even revitalized a struggling makeup studio in Chicago, turning it into a thriving business. More recently, he continued his service to others through volunteering for the Marine Corps. Richard helped run the Toys for Tots program in Illinois and served as an ombudsman for local nursing homes. His dedication earned him the title of Volunteer of the Year, further demonstrating his compassion and commitment to community.

Richard is also a frequent guest speaker at local elementary and middle schools, where he shares his World War II experiences with younger generations, ensuring that the legacy of service and sacrifice lives on.

Above all, Richard is a loving husband and devoted father. Together with his wife, he raised three children. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday, surrounded by over fifty family members including seventeen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, a remarkable milestone befitting a remarkable man.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our sincerest appreciation to Richard Loughran for his outstanding military service and for his excellent acts of valor that have protected our country and our freedoms in our great nation. His story is a testament to the American spirit of service, sacrifice, and resolve, and it is an honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL’S
GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM
FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III
STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school track and field team in Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Coldwater High School Girls Track and Field Team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Track and Field Title. The team overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in their effort to surpass all other teams at the 2025 OHSA Division III State Track and Field Championships.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Cavaliers defeated their outstanding competitors to win with an impressive 65.5 points. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Coldwater High School Girls Track and Field Team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUE PACIFIC ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Boosting Long-Term U.S. Engagement in the Pacific (BLUE Pacific) Act, co-sponsored by 14 of my colleagues.

Scattered across the three traditional Pacific subregions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are over two dozen jurisdictions collectively known as the Pacific Islands, including twelve independent states, countries in free association and territories. Though small in land area and population, the land plus maritime exclusive economic zones of all these jurisdictions combined exceed the land areas of China and Russia combined, comprising a significant part of the vast Pacific Ocean and our Earth's surface.

In 2019, a number of us came together to create the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, the first such group of Members of Congress dedicated to this dynamic and diverse part of the world. We believe that the Pacific Islands region remains critical to our national security interests in the Indo-Pacific which advises greater U.S. engagement with this region to advance our shared interests and values, particularly in the context of growing geopolitical competition and threats by our shared adversaries to endanger the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Over the last three Congresses, we have introduced versions of the BLUE Pacific Act, which would advance a comprehensive, long-term U.S. strategy in the Pacific Islands region. Much of the previous versions of the BLUE Pacific Act has been enacted or implemented as a result of our efforts in previous Congresses, but key provisions remain and are included in this version, in addition to provisions from other bipartisan U.S.-Pacific Islands bills introduced in the 118th Congress, including the Pacific Partnership Act and the Engage the Pacific Act. It also adds provisions that incorporate various developments in the Pacific Islands over the last few years, including goals and needs articulated by the Pacific Islands themselves that are in line with U.S. interests.

The current version of the BLUE Pacific Act expands U.S. diplomatic and development presence in the Pacific Islands by recommending that the administration increase the number of staff working on Pacific Islands issues and in the region, authorizing the Secretaries of State and Commerce to hire locally employed staff in the region, establishing a workforce development program, codifying a media program and more.

It increases U.S. security assistance to address regional maritime security, transnational crime and law enforcement issues by authorizing the Secretary of State to provide assistance to build the capacity of civilian and national security institutions in the region and ex-

panding existing reports on transnational crime on the Pacific Islands.

The bill deepens bilateral and multilateral trade between the U.S. and the Pacific Islands by authorizing a trade capacity building initiative, authorizing the U.S. Trade Representative to work to expand and diversify trade and directing the Secretary of Commerce to allocate additionally Foreign Commercial Service Officers to the region.

Further, the BLUE Pacific Act supports regional economic and social development by providing assistance in multiple sectors such as public health, education, infrastructure, environmental resilience, digital connectivity, disaster mitigation and more.

Finally, the bill promotes shared values like freedom of the press, gender equality and freedom of religion, including by establishing an interagency committee on engagement with civil society organizations in the Pacific Islands and authorizing the President to provide assistance to promote freedom of the press.

These initiatives support the significant strides we have made in recent years towards fully reengaging the Pacific Islands region across a range of common values and interests and in response to specific Pacific Islands' needs. The United States must make clear to the region that we are a partner they can trust and rely upon in the long term.

For these reasons, I ask that you support our bill. Mahalo.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL RUBIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Daniel Rubin for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives, to the House Judiciary Committee, and to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District.

Daniel Rubin is an exceptional talent, with years of experience working at the highest levels of Congress on the most crucial legal issues of the day. He has a razorsharp mind, an inquisitive nature, and a unique ability to accurately identify the key question that must be addressed in any given situation.

Daniel Rubin has worked directly on the Judiciary Committee and the Ways and Means Committee and has worked with Members who served on the Budget, Oversight, and Education and the Workforce committees. It is truly rare to find someone with his breadth and depth of experience working in the House for as long as Daniel has. That is a testament to his commitment to public service and his ability to gain the trust of multiple Members of Congress from diverse backgrounds.

Not all positions on the Hill are equal, and Daniel has had perhaps the toughest assignment. He routinely handles the most challenges questions put to lawmakers by the Capitol Hill press corps. They are trained to find vulnerabilities in any argument and expose them to the public. They are tenacious and intelligent, and Daniel does an excellent job working with them every day to get them the information they seek and to do so in a way that is most beneficial to the Members

and Committees he is working for. It is not an easy task, but Daniel does it with exceptional skill.

While working with us he has maintained excellent relationships across a broad spectrum of writers, editors, and producers. He reads voraciously and is always well informed and well prepared for the challenges presented by his work. He is an excellent writer and a master communicator.

I enjoyed working closely with Daniel on the House Judiciary Committee and in my personal office for the past several years. Together we worked with dozens of Members of Congress to help shape our strategy, messaging, and legal approach in countless hearings and markups. We identified the most powerful messages and amplified them in the press and on social media.

Daniel built the greatest social media operation of any Committee on Capitol Hill—training and supervising staff that were nimble, provocative, and engaging. Under his supervision the number of subscribers and their level of engagement with our content far outpaced the traditional House committee.

Daniel has been at the epicenter of all of our crisis communications, tackling difficult questions with a level head, and providing excellent advice. My senior management team and I have always trusted Daniel's judgment and strategic thinking. While working separately on my campaign, Daniel helped propel me to a 30-point victory over a fellow Democratic Committee Chair in a tough New York primary. He was essential in debate preparation and worked with me to anticipate questions and ensure that I was ready to respond in the most powerful way possible. He led the communications team during the primary and helped me secure the New York Times endorsement.

I wish Daniel the best of luck as he continues to fight for the rights and liberties of all people and I thank him for his service.

HONORING THE LIVERMORE STOCKMEN'S RODEO ASSOCIATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association (hereinafter the "Association") on the occasion of its well-earned induction into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this Saturday, July 12, 2025.

The Livermore Rodeo has been a valued part of California's Tri-Valley community for over a century. Founded in response to a national call for help during World War I, the Livermore Rodeo began as a local fundraiser and effort to support the American Red Cross and wounded soldiers overseas. The first event, held at James Anderson Ranch, raised over \$1,200.00, an extraordinary sum for the time. Its success caught national attention after being filmed by Universal Studios and displayed in theatres across the country, turning a community fundraiser into a cherished annual tradition.

The event earned the nickname, "The World's Fastest Rodeo," and since moving to Robertson Park in 1967, it has continued to