

For 45 years, Susan Harkins has been a fervent supporter of Lower Bucks businesses—providing education, creating networking opportunities, and championing advocacy on areas impacting business. It is a privilege to celebrate someone who brings enthusiasm, good humor, endless support, and hard work to everything she does. We celebrate Susan on this incredible milestone and thank her for 45 years of remarkable commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING RASMUSSEN UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rasmussen University on their 125th anniversary.

Founded in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 1, 1900, Rasmussen University has spent 125 years building a powerful legacy of opportunity. What began as a small business school has grown into a regionally and nationally recognized institution committed to career-focused education that transforms lives and strengthens communities.

Rasmussen has long served students who are often underrepresented, underserved, or overlooked by traditional higher education—providing the support, flexibility, and access they need to pursue a brighter future. Over the last 125 years, they've helped students prepare for careers that truly matter in health care, business, public service and beyond.

I am proud to represent Rasmussen's Eagan campus, recognized as a national leader in nursing education. They are a Minnesota staple with other locations in Bloomington, Eagan, Brooklyn Park, Mankato, St. Cloud, and Moorhead.

Rasmussen University serves more than 3,000 currently enrolled Minnesotans and has proudly graduated over 28,000 students from across the state.

I congratulate Rasmussen University and I look forward to their continued success.

HONORING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE RICHMOND-LENOX EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Richmond-Lenox Emergency Medical Service (REMS) for its remarkable 50 years of unwavering dedication to the communities in Michigan's 9th Congressional District. Operating across cities such as Richmond, Memphis, New Haven, and several townships—including Casco, Columbus, Riley, and Wales—REMS has been a cornerstone of public safety and compassionate care.

Since its inception, REMS has exemplified excellence in emergency medical services, consistently delivering prompt and professional care to those in need. Their commitment ex-

tends beyond emergency response. They also provide non-emergency medical transportation, a vital service for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. They have ensured that all members of the community have access to necessary medical care.

Additionally, REMS demonstrates a profound commitment to community well-being through its involvement in programs such as the Richmond Township Senior Citizens Program. By offering CPR and first aid courses, they empower residents to assist their neighbors in times of crisis, fostering a culture of preparedness and mutual support.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and immense pride that we honor and congratulate the Richmond-Lenox Emergency Medical Service on its 50 years of service to the local community. They stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of public service. Their contributions have not only saved lives but have also strengthened the fabric of our community. As they celebrate this significant milestone, we express our deepest gratitude and look forward to their continued service in the years to come.

HONORING JUDGE CARMEN BROOKS DRAKE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Judge Carmen Brooks Drake.

Carmen is a proud native of Adams County and a member of the last historic graduating class of South Natchez High School in 1989. She is married to Reginald Drake, and together they have a beautiful daughter, Shelby.

Carmen earned her undergraduate degree from Jackson State University in 1993, before obtaining her Juris Doctor from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., in 1996.

After law school, Carmen returned to Mississippi to begin her legal career. She served as a law clerk for Justice Leslie D. King at the Mississippi Court of Appeals. She later had the honor of working as a Special Assistant Attorney General under Mike Moore.

When General Moore retired in 2004, Carmen embraced the opportunity to enter private practice in her hometown of Natchez. She credits her mentors—the late, great Judge Patricia Dunmore and Judge Deborah McDona— for instilling in her the confidence to be fearless in any courtroom, boardroom, or room she enters.

Over the years, Carmen built a dynamic legal career, serving as a Municipal Court Judge, City Attorney, General Counsel for both private and governmental entities, and a dedicated Public Defender. On November 5, 2019, she made history as the first Black person and the first woman elected to serve as Adams County Prosecutor. Three years later, she was elected Circuit Court Judge representing Adams, Amite, Franklin, and Wilkinson Counties—a position she proudly holds today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Carmen Brooks Drake for her distinguished service and outstanding

contributions to the Natchez, Mississippi community.

RECOGNIZING HELEN BIRKHEAD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Birkhead, a remarkable constituent from my district. It is my honor to celebrate her on her 100th birthday—a day marking a hundred years of love, laughter, and commitment to her family, friends, and community.

Born on August 30, 1925, in Trenton, New Jersey, Helen has experienced a century full of changes and milestones. Her life story stands not only as a testament to longevity, but also to unwavering character. Throughout her ten decades of life, Helen has remained deeply committed to her faith and her family, living each day with purpose, grace, and quiet strength.

Helen graduated from Trenton High School, in Trenton, New Jersey. Later, she made her home and spent much of her life in Ewing, New Jersey after marrying her husband, Ken Birkhead. Ken was a United States Navy veteran who went on to serve as an Ewing Township Police Officer and work in construction. As a devoted homemaker, Helen created a warm and loving home where she and Ken raised their two children, Kathy and Kenny. Helen's endless love and support filled her household with everlasting joy.

Beyond her dedication to her family, Helen remained steadfast in her commitment to her faith. Helen is a devout Catholic and was a member of the Incarnation Catholic Church in Ewing, New Jersey. Her Catholic faith has served as a guiding light in her life—shaping her values and offering strength and clarity through life's many trials and triumphs.

Today, Helen enjoys her daily walks and gathering flowers from the community gardens to create beautiful floral arrangements for her suite. A woman of few words, Helen loves sipping a good, hot cup of tea while reminiscing on her past. Helen's ideal way to spend her birthday exemplifies her ability to find joy in life's simplest blessings—attending a quiet luncheon savoring her favorite treat: ice cream.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's blessings to Helen Birkhead on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

HONORING SGT. JONATHAN K. "DOC" PENEY

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and ultimate sacrifice of Sergeant Jonathan K. "Doc" Peney, a U.S. Army Ranger, combat medic, and friend

whose dedication to his country embodies the best of the American spirit.

Sgt. Peney demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness, running toward danger to care for our wounded under enemy fire. His sacrifice is a reminder that freedom is secured by the brave men and women willing to lay down their lives for their comrades and country. For more than fifteen years, his name has lived on in the memorial bracelets I wear on my wrist every day, and I'm proud to say that his name will now live on as the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade rededicates the "Peney First Aid Station" at Fort Benning, Georgia. It's a renewal of our promise to never forget someone who gave his all in defense of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and heroism of Sergeant Jonathan K. "Doc" Peney and in offering our deepest gratitude to his family, whose sacrifice we can never repay.

CONGRATULATING R2P
INNOVATIONS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize R2P Innovations for being ranked number five on the 2025 Inc. 5000 list of the fastest-growing private companies in America.

Those on this annual list are ranked according to their percentage revenue growth over three years from 2021 to 2024, a further testament to R2P Innovations for their unique and much-desired product.

The Ladson, South Carolina-based company is the 'leading developer and manufacturer of the world's most advanced bulletproof doors, specifically designed to blend seamlessly into office and school settings.'

Notably, R2P Innovations is currently manufacturing and installing secure door systems in the U.S. Capitol Building historic Rotunda. The beautifully crafted doors of simulated mahogany add to an already magnificent center of tribute to American democracy.

Led by R2P Innovations Founder and CEO, Tony Deering, and joined by South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, just last week I received an informative tour of the company where I was able to witness its state-of-the-art technology.

I appreciate Tony Deering and the R2P Innovations team for their dedicated work in protecting lives and offer the company my best wishes for success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NESHAMINY SCHOOL
DISTRICT CORE CREEK ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BRIAN
KERN FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible individual from my district. Brian Kern of Bucks County, Pennsyl-

vania has served the Neshaminy School District for the past 32 years. On July 1, Principal Kern retired from his career in public education, closing a chapter marked by educational leadership, unwavering support for students, and dedicated service to his community.

In August 1993, Principal Kern began his career in education as a Music Teacher at Maple Point Middle School. Six years later, he rose to the challenge of administrative leadership, serving as Assistant Principal at Neshaminy High School and later at Neshaminy Middle School. In 2004, he became Principal of Oliver Heckman Elementary School, a role he held for 11 years. In 2015, he took on the position of Principal at Pearl S. Buck Elementary School—which recently transitioned to Core Creek Elementary School—where he has served for the past decade.

Principal Kern's service extends well beyond his three decades of educational leadership within the Neshaminy community. From 2011 to 2013, he served as President of Friends of Steinert Jazz, a group dedicated to supporting the Steinert High School Jazz Band Program. In this role, he helped organize events and fundraisers for these students. Between 2014 and 2017, he volunteered with the music program at Princeton High School. Additionally, for the past decade, he has volunteered as a docent for Cranbury Historic Home Tours. Throughout his entire professional journey, Principal Kern has seamlessly combined his passion for music, arts, and culture with his work in educational administration.

Beyond his professional achievements, Principal Kern is a devoted husband and father. His wife, Diane, is a full-time realtor, and the couple celebrated their 35th anniversary in July before traveling to Europe together this fall. Together, they have raised two sons and a daughter, all of whom have excelled in their respective fields: nursing, aerospace engineering, and special education.

Principal Brian Kern is truly a remarkable figure in our district. We commend him on his retirement after 32 years of dedicated service to public education in Neshaminy. He soon will be working at Darianna Bridal and Tuxedo in Warrington as manager of the tuxedo department, focusing on business development and community connections. Congratulations again to Principal Kern.

HONORING OFFICER LARRY
BLACKSMITH

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Officer Larry Blacksmith of the Lakeview Police Department. On July 15, 2025, while on his way to protect and serve the people of Lakeview, Officer Blacksmith was called home to be with our Lord.

Officer Blacksmith lived a life defined by duty, service, and sacrifice. A proud veteran of our United States military, he later retired as a deputy with the Harris County Sheriffs Office. But even in retirement, his calling to serve never faded. He answered that call once

more by joining the Lakeview Police Department, continuing his mission to protect his fellow citizens.

But he was more than his uniform and badge. He served with heart. He mentored others with patience and purpose, encouraging young men and women to walk the noble path of public service. He had a calm, steady hand and a clear voice, always leading with grace, even in the toughest of circumstances.

Over the course of his remarkable 45-year career in law enforcement, Officer Blacksmith treated everyone he encountered with dignity, compassion, and respect. He stood firm in his convictions and lived out the values represented by the badge, integrity, courage, and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Chamber join me in lifting up Officer Blacksmith's family and the entire Lakeview law enforcement community in prayer. We mourn this tremendous loss, and we thank God for the life of this good and faithful servant. May his legacy inspire others to serve with the same dedication and heart.

HONORING MARGAUX SAUVAGE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Margaux Sauvage, for her work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this summer.

Margaux is from San Diego, California and attends Georgetown University. Margaux is entering her second year at Georgetown where she plans to study Global Business and National Security.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Margaux was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic. It was a pleasure to work with Margaux, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office.

Margaux exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Margaux on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

HONORING ENCHANTED HILLS
CAMP FOR THE BLIND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Enchanted Hills Camp for the Blind as it celebrates 75 years of service to our community. For generations, this organization has provided blind, low vision, and deafblind individuals with opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive environment designed specifically for their needs.