

RECOGNIZING MR. COLE McANANY
FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE
MATH OLYMPIAD

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Cole McAnany from the Ephrata Area School District for achieving a perfect score in the prestigious Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools.

A middle school student in the 11th Congressional District, Cole's accomplishment embodies the educational excellence found in Lancaster County. After competing in the Math Olympiad since he was in 5th grade, Cole was confident in his ability to score big. His hard work in and out of the classroom paid off, placing him among an elite group of just 201 students who also achieved a perfect score. He is in the top two percent of his peers.

Cole represents the high caliber of students in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. His dedication and remarkable abilities reflect his willingness to strive for excellence in everything he does. I congratulate him on this impressive achievement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING TAYLOR "TAY CHEESE"
AKHARUME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable contributions of Ms. Taylor "Tay Cheese" Akharume—a dynamic performer, visionary artist, and Mississippi native whose vibrant talent and trailblazing spirit have left an indelible mark on the world of entertainment.

Born in the heart of Mississippi, Tay Cheesy has risen through the ranks not by following the well-worn paths of the industry, but by forging her own. With deep roots in cities like Nashville, Baton Rouge, Memphis, and Jackson, each place has shaped and enriched her creative expression, culminating in a signature style that is bold, authentic, and electrifying.

Tay Cheesy's journey is one of grit, vision, and fearless determination. While others waited for opportunity, she created her own—eschewing traditional industry gatekeepers to build a name for herself on her own terms. Her raw talent and relentless work ethic have earned her coveted collaborations with legendary artists such as Willie Clayton, Uncle Luke, Grammy Award-winner Jon Batiste, West Love, and Cupid.

Yet, Tay Cheesy is more than just a performer. She is a choreographer, creative director, motivational speaker, and cultural ambassador whose work uplifts and inspires. Her performances are not simply artistic displays; they are storytelling in motion—celebrations of resilience, joy, and empowerment. With each step, she moves audiences and amplifies the voices of those too often left unheard.

In an industry that often demands conformity, Tay Cheesy stands out as a beacon

of authenticity. Her journey speaks to the power of self-belief and the impact of creating space for others to shine. Through her creativity and purpose-driven leadership, she continues to pave the way for future generations of artists to dream beyond boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Taylor "Tay Cheese" Akharume for her outstanding contributions to the arts, her unwavering dedication to her craft, and her enduring commitment to representing Mississippi with brilliance, pride, and purpose.

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGIA NEW
IVIES

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two esteemed universities in Georgia.

This year, Forbes Magazine introduced a list of 2025 "New Ivy" league schools.

The list highlights 10 public and 10 private institutions across the country that are at the Ivy-League-level of prestige.

Because of their academic rigor, competitive admissions, and strong career outcomes, Georgia Tech University and Emory University stood out.

Georgia Tech is renowned for its innovation and return on investment.

Their recent graduate career placement rates consistently hover above 90 percent, which is an impressive figure.

Emory has earned praise for its research programs and global health initiatives, with a history of groundbreaking medical discoveries.

One of these discoveries includes the first successful bone marrow transplant in a human patient.

The recognition cements both schools as academic powerhouses—and proves Georgia continues to rise as a destination for elite higher education.

We should all be proud of both universities for this tremendous accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD
HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act, which would give the mayor of the District of Columbia control over the D.C. National Guard. Representative JAMIE RASKIN is the co-lead of this bill in the House, and Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN is the sponsor of this bill in the Senate.

The governors of the states and territories control their National Guards while the president controls the D.C. National Guard. This bill would give the D.C. mayor, who knows D.C. better than the president, the same control over the D.C. National Guard that the governors of the states and territories have over their National Guards. The president would

have the same authority to federalize the D.C. National Guard that the president has to federalize the National Guards of the states and territories.

The attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, the events at Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, and the current deployment of the D.C. National Guard in D.C. are prime examples of why the D.C. mayor should control the D.C. National Guard. During January 6th, the D.C. National Guard was not deployed to the Capitol for several hours, likely costing lives and prolonging the attack. At Lafayette Square, the D.C. National Guard forcibly removed peaceful protestors. Currently, the D.C. National Guard is deployed in D.C. in response to a crime emergency declared by President Trump.

Not only does presidential control over the D.C. National Guard violate D.C. home rule, it also may create a loophole in the Posse Comitatus Act, which limits the military's involvement in civilian law enforcement. The Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel has opined that when the D.C. National Guard is operating for non-federal purposes, even though it is an exclusively federal entity, it may be used for civilian law enforcement without violating the Posse Comitatus Act.

In the 117th Congress, the House passed this bill as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the FY 2023 NDAA.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AUREO
IVAN CARDONA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Aureo Ivan Cardona, a proud son of Puerto Rico and a tireless champion for the South Bronx.

Born in Arecibo and raised in Hunts Point, Aureo dedicated his life to building community through housing, youth sports, and public service. He helped rebuild the Bronx after the fires of the 1970's, served as the youngest District Leader in New York City, and led with compassion as president of the South Bronx Housing Corporation and Chairman of the Sports Foundation.

His work extended far beyond our city from supporting Cuban refugees in Florida to empowering underserved communities around the world. Through it all, Aureo remained deeply grounded in faith, family, and service.

He leaves behind a legacy of justice, creativity, and love and a Bronx that is stronger because he called it home.

May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING CHAIRWOMAN OPICI'S
LEADERSHIP AT WINE AND SPIRITS
WHOLESALEERS OF AMERICA

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, since her historic appointment as WSWA's first Chairwoman in September 2024, marking a milestone for women's leadership in a historically male-dominated industry, Ms. Opici has led with vision and resolve, advancing the interests of multi-generational, family-owned distributors across the Nation.

During her tenure, Chairwoman Opici has been a steadfast advocate for critical tax and trade policies, including securing 199A permanence in the One Big Beautiful Bill, championing the repeal of tariffs on imported wine and spirits, and empowering grassroots advocacy from all three-tiers of the beverage alcohol industry.

Chairwoman Opici's tenure was defined by dynamic leadership—uniting the wholesale distribution community, elevating advocacy, and securing policy victories that empower family-owned businesses nationwide. Under her guidance, WSWA continues to strengthen the industry's infrastructure, amplify its voice in Washington, and lay the groundwork for sustained, responsible growth.

We requested that a flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol as a tribute to her transformative contributions to the legacy of America's family-owned wine and spirits wholesalers.

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Georgia Ports Authority for their decades of servitude to Georgia, the United States, and the entire world.

Georgia Ports authority operates the national gateway ports of Savannah and Brunswick, allowing customers to compete and succeed in global markets.

The Savannah Port is one of the most connected ports in the United States with over thirty-five ships, forty-two double stack trains, and sixteen thousand trucks moving in and out every week.

Consisting of more than six hundred and nine thousand jobs throughout Georgia, they look towards the future with enriching intern and community involvement programs that pave the way for future generations.

In the picture next to me is one of Savannah's own, Ross Goodman, a rising senior at the University of Georgia, who is interning at the Savannah Port.

Over the next decade, Georgia Ports Authority will invest \$4.5 billion in port and inland infrastructure to ensure that the state and entire southeast region continue to have the most competitive ports in the Nation.

Today, we honor Georgia Ports Authority for their unwavering effort in providing a strong future for American commerce.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ATTACK ON
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, nearly 60,000 of my constituents in Maryland's beautiful Eighth District woke up every morning to serve their country in the federal government. Today, thousands of professional civil service employees, among them cancer researchers, climate experts, food safety inspectors, air traffic controllers and civil rights lawyers, have been illegally fired or forced to retire from a job they loved and in which they excelled. They are victims of the Trump Administration's drive to gut our government and sell it for parts while replacing the professional civil service with unqualified political sycophants.

One of my constituents working at the National Institutes of Health wrote this summer about what it's been like to be a federal worker during a period of administrative chaos and vicious attacks on federal workers. This achingly beautiful and stirring essay drives home how the loss of her service and the service of her colleagues will affect all Americans. I include in the RECORD her essay as we return to session this September, so that my colleagues and all Americans can read it and reflect on the enormity of President Trump's attack on the federal workforce.

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE
IN 2025

(Commentary published in the Federal News Network on June 13, 2025)

I remember driving with my father down Rockville Pike in Bethesda, Maryland as a little girl. We would pass a large campus of impressive buildings called the National Institutes of Health. I told my dad I would work there one day. He said no, that place was for doctors and scientists. I knew I would find a way.

Many years later, I did. In March 2008, I began my journey at NIH, working with several institutes until I found my home at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. I stated in the Division of Translational Research, then moved to the Division of Clinical Research, where I remain today.

How proud I have been to work alongside titans of the scientific community. Dr. Francis Collins, physician and former director of the National Institutes of Health and the National Human Genome Research Institute, led the NIH with vision, dedication and hope. Dr. Anthony Fauci, physician and immunologist, served as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Medical Advisor to seven different presidential administrations.

NIH scientists have made major contributions to health and medical science for over 100 years, including 163 Nobel laureates, 214 winners of the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and more than 200 members of the U.S. National Academies of Science and Medicine. Non-scientists like myself are essential to NIH's day-to-day operations and key to understanding the institution's history and mission. It had been the happiest and proudest time in my long career.

Everything changed in 2025.

The Trump administration cut billions of dollars in biomedical research funding, re-

sulting in dire consequences for the scientific research community, including universities and medical centers. This action has crippled lifesaving research and innovation. I was once so proud to say I worked for the world's premier biomedical research facility. All of that has changed.

Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives were scrubbed away at the direction of this new administration, as though they were dirty words. Donald Trump created the Department of Government Efficiency and put Elon Musk at its head. In record time, Musk moved from disrupting social media and automotive industries to targeting the federal government itself.

The indignities were swift and demoralizing. We were required to provide weekly accounts of "five things" we accomplished, as though our decades of service meant nothing. They dictated what we could use in our email signatures and instilled paranoia in every aspect of our jobs—all with the support of the man elected to lead our country.

In a shocking turn of events, Musk shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development. The impact was immediate: food and crucial medications abandoned in warehouses, vital programs closed, workers laid off. The U.S. government, once known for humanitarian assistance, quickly transformed into something unrecognizable. It is estimated that over 300,000 people, including children, have died because of this decision. But that would not be their worst offense.

The Trump administration canceled grants at NIH, fired intramural researchers, and planned to cut billions in indirect costs. What they fail to understand is that federal funding for biomedical research is central to healthcare innovation. The dismantling of this once-great institution will adversely affect American and global lives for years to come. They stripped away vital departments like human resources and acquisitions. There is no one to answer personnel questions, and we are expected to perform without basic supplies. This is not a well-thought-out plan, but something executed with malice by an organization supposedly focused on eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.

On February 14, 2025, scientists and medical researchers began to be dismissed by President Trump's administration. They were told it was due to probationary status and poor job performance. Nothing could be further from the truth. I know because one of them was my son.

This is as much his story as mine. He worked as a contractor for nearly twenty years at NIH, helping to run a lab at the National Cancer Institute. He devoted himself to cancer research after watching my father die from lung and brain cancer. While not a scientist himself, he was popular, well-respected and beloved for his hard work and dedication.

Less than two years ago, in recognition for his service, he was converted from contractor to federal employee. We were so proud. On a day ironically devoted to love, my son was yanked from the position he cared about and discarded like garbage. He was a dedicated worker with the highest possible rating on his yearly performance appraisals. His staff and senior leadership were shocked, dismayed and bereft at losing such an important team member.

My son delivered this news with a crack in his voice, something that will bring any mother to her knees. He felt as though a piece of his soul was destroyed. He immediately filed an appeal with the Merit Systems Protection Board. Four months later, he has heard nothing.

For these four months, my once cheerful, talkative son has become withdrawn, sad and