

RECOGNIZING CAÑON CITY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cañon City High School in Cañon City, Colorado, for their well-deserved recognition by the Carnegie Foundation as an innovative school and member of the Future of High School Network.

Cañon City High School has established a model of education that prioritizes meaningful learning over seat time in the classroom. During the 2024–2025 school year, 698 students participated in concurrent enrollment, earning over 10,218 college credit hours, and 243 students earned industry-recognized credentials in construction management, welding, engineering, automotive technology, healthcare, food service, and business software. As an additional requirement of the graduation process, students must complete an internship with local community partners to gain practical experience in a career pathway of their choice. It is these types of programs that set the school apart and help prepare students to thrive, no matter what they choose to do after graduation.

As one of only twenty-four schools across the Nation to receive this recognition, Cañon City High School has become a national model of public education through its commitment to offer concurrent enrollment, industry-recognized credentials, and work-based learning.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate this school, staff, administration, and board members for this accomplishment and thank them for their commitment to our kids and our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, upon casting my vote, I departed the House floor without realizing the voting system did not register my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 282.

HONORING THE VISIT OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Eastern Orthodox Church to Washington, D.C.

Since 1991, Patriarch Bartholomew has served as the spiritual leader for the approximately 300 million Orthodox Christians world-

wide. In the face of tremendous obstacles, Patriarch Bartholomew has remained a steadfast leader, promoting religious freedom and tolerance in Constantinople and around the world.

Dedicated to the pursuit of interreligious understanding and cooperation, His All-Holiness is often referred to as the "Patriarch of Peace." Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to the United States coincides with his reception of the Templeton Prize, the foremost award in religion and science, in honor of his curiosity and lifelong commitment to exploration.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, including the congregants of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Manchester and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Portsmouth, I warmly welcome Patriarch Bartholomew and congratulate him on his award. We wish him all the best and look forward to his next visit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL SCOTT SCHUERLEIN

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Scott Schuerlein, who passed away on June 12, 2025, at the age of 81.

Michael was born in Berea, Ohio, and was the only child of Frederick and Adah Schuerlein. He graduated from Baldwin Wallace College, where he was a proud member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. After moving west in 1967, Michael and his first wife built a home on Lake Sammamish and raised their children in Washington state.

Over the course of more than 50 years as a homebuilder, Michael's creativity and commitment to craftsmanship shaped communities across the region. His work was showcased in the "Street of Dreams" homes of the 1990's, and his passion was evident in his Whidbey Island home, which he filled with antiques and personal treasures.

Michael's life was also defined by service to others. He relentlessly dedicated his time and talents to advancing affordable housing on Whidbey Island, including his work with the Tiny Houses in the Name of Christ (THINC) project and as a member of the Island Roots Housing board. His belief that affordable housing is critical to the well-being of the Langley community continues to guide local efforts today.

Beyond his professional work, Michael was an avid sailor and a generous friend. He was known for his weekly reflections and encouragement to those around him, often sharing the motto he lived by: "Thoughts become things . . . Choose the good ones."

Michael is survived by his daughters, stepdaughters, granddaughter, companion and a wide circle of friends and colleagues. He will be deeply missed by his family, his fraternity brothers, his sailing community, his fellow Langley Coffee Curmudgeons and all who benefited from his generosity and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Michael Scott Schuerlein, whose creativity, generosity and service strengthened communities across Northwest Washington and beyond.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES ARMY CAPTAIN MIKE RETZLAFF

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Captain Mike Retzlaff, a proud veteran of the United States Army whose dedication, leadership, and commitment to duty reflect the highest traditions of military service.

Born and raised in Holly, Michigan, Captain Retzlaff pursued higher education at Cedarville University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and completed the Army ROTC program. In 2017, he was commissioned as an Armor Officer in the United States Army, marking the beginning of a career of honorable service to our Nation.

Captain Retzlaff's first assignment was as a Tank Platoon Leader with 3rd Platoon, Battle Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 2019, he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where his leadership made a significant contribution to the mission's success. Upon returning, he served as the Headquarters Company Executive Officer, managing company operations, resources, and readiness. His performance and dedication during this period earned him induction into the prestigious Order of St. George.

Following his time at Fort Carson, Captain Retzlaff attended the Maneuver Captain's Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, graduating in 2022. He was then assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment, where he served as an Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC) Tactics Instructor, training the next generation of Army leaders.

In August 2022, Captain Retzlaff assumed command of Lightning Troop, 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment. As Troop Commander, he led more than 100 soldiers and was responsible for executing live-fire gunnery training for all new Armor Officers in the United States Army—an essential mission he carried out with distinction.

Upon completion of command, Captain Retzlaff returned home to Michigan, where he served at the Detroit Military Entrance Processing Station. During his tenure, he enlisted more than 1,000 applicants into their respective branches of service, shaping the future of America's Armed Forces.

Over the course of his military career, Captain Retzlaff completed numerous schools, including the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course, the Army Reconnaissance Course, Air Assault School, the Advanced Situational Awareness Course, the Maneuver Leaders Maintenance Course, and the Maneuver Captain's Career Course. His service has been recognized with the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and several other awards and decorations. He is also a proud Silver Spur holder and recipient of the Order of St. George.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Retzlaff's career reflects a legacy of leadership, professionalism, and patriotism. His service to our Nation has strengthened our armed forces and inspired those who served alongside him. It is my

honor to recognize his contributions and extend our deepest gratitude for his dedication to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING DAISY RIVERA-
ALGARIN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic American Heritage Month to honor an extraordinary advocate from Rochester, New York, Daisy Rivera-Algarin.

As a founding member of Latinas Unidas, Daisy Rivera-Algarin has long recognized the vital importance of representation, equity, and cultural pride in community leadership. When she saw that Latina voices were underrepresented in positions of influence, she took bold action, bringing together a group of Latina activists to chart a new path forward by creating Latinas Unidas. Today, the organization stands as a powerful testament to her vision of uplifting Latina women, connecting them with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive, and celebrating the enduring richness of their cultural heritage.

Daisy's leadership was also instrumental in creating La Marketa, serving as a vibrant marketplace and community gathering space where food, art, and culture unite. More than just a place to shop, La Marketa serves as a beacon of Rochester's Hispanic community, honoring traditions and offering a cultural home where generations can come together to celebrate their shared identity. It is a living legacy of Daisy's belief that culture is not only to be preserved but to be celebrated openly and proudly.

For nearly 25 years, Daisy carried this same commitment into public service through her work with Rochester city government. She began as a Business Development Associate and rose to become Director of Neighborhood Service Centers, where she worked tirelessly to ensure that residents had both a voice and a champion in City Hall. In 2024, her leadership and dedication were recognized with the NYS Women of Distinction Award. Across every role, Daisy combined professional expertise with a cultural perspective and compassion deeply rooted in her heritage.

It is a privilege to recognize Daisy Rivera-Algarin during Hispanic American Heritage Month. Her dedication to public service has made an immeasurable impact on our community and will continue to inspire future generations.

RECOGNIZING APPLEWOOD SEED
COMPANY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Applewood Seed Company on their 60th year in business in Colorado.

Since their founding by Gene and Dee Milstein in 1965, the Applewood Seed Company has served countless local and inter-

national customers including professional growers, landscapers, retailers, and more. Over the past 60 years, Applewood Seed has emerged as a top flower seed supplier in the Nation, all while staying true to its roots as an employee-owned company.

In addition, Applewood Seed has evolved into a company dedicated to innovation within its field with research and development gardens, an extensive network of seed growers, and a state-of-the-art seed testing laboratory. They use new methods and human ingenuity to continue to create custom seed blends that fit the needs of any customer. As we continue to build a thriving and sustainable future, we look forward to having businesses like Applewood Seed at the forefront of our state's economic success.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Applewood Seed Company on their 60th anniversary and for their hard work and lasting impact in our community.

RECOGNIZING SARAH KAPLAN
FEINMANN

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with gratitude and affection to recognize the contributions of Sarah Kaplan Feinmann to Texas' 7th Congressional District, to the United States House of Representatives, and to the United States of America.

Sarah arrived in Washington, D.C., in 2011, after graduating cum laude from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Arts in Middle East Studies and International Relations. Sarah brought her passion and deep commitment to public service to her work at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. That commitment guided her to the Hill in 2013, where she worked over the years to help develop and implement meaningful policy through her work on the staff of the New Democrat Coalition and later her work in the Office of Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, where she served as a senior legislative assistant, senior advisor, and inaugural director of Future Forum. During that time, Sarah also earned her Master of Arts in Security Studies from Georgetown University.

At the start of the 116th Congress, in January 2019, Sarah joined my office as my first Chief of Staff for Texas' 7th Congressional District, serving her hometown and the people who live there enthusiastically and tirelessly. Sarah dedicated herself to building a team to serve the residents of Texas' 7th Congressional District at all times, and has done so during times of great challenge in the district and the country. Sarah led our office in efforts to ensure that our team is ready and able to do all it can for constituents in every possible circumstance, that our community's priorities are reflected in our work, and that our work delivers meaningful progress for people at home and across the country.

Sarah has been a partner and friend who has demonstrated her dedication to our district, to our staff, and to our country each day for nearly seven years. She has built lasting and meaningful relationships across the Hill.

She has served as a mentor for many. And she has made meaningful and lasting contributions that will continue to shape our office and our district in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas' 7th Congressional District, I express my deep and sincere gratitude, and my very best wishes, to Sarah Kaplan Feinmann and her family as they begin their new chapter off the Hill.

HONORING ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on his receipt of the Templeton Prize this September.

The Templeton Prize has been awarded to other prominent philanthropic figures including Jane Goodall, Desmond Tutu, and Mother Theresa. Established in 1972, the Prize was created by Sir John Templeton to recognize prominent spiritual discoveries and insights. 55 Laureates from all major faiths and numerous countries have received this prestigious award. Recipients of this prize have gone on to win the Nobel Peace Prize, with one even becoming a canonized saint.

As the leader of the Eastern Orthodox church, Ecumenical Patriarch has been working to achieve religious and ecological equality since he was elected in 1991. From holding interfaith seminars after 9/11, to cosponsoring international peace conferences, his leadership has exemplified humility and the inclusion of people from all backgrounds. His Holiness has also focused on climate issues and protecting our environment. As Ecumenical Patriarch, he organized symposiums with world-renowned scientists and was able to secure grants to combat the destruction of Europe's marine areas—efforts that landed him the title of "the Green Patriarch".

Before becoming Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios Arhondonis was born in Turkey and received his elementary and secondary education in Istanbul. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Theological School of Halki in 1972, before completing graduate studies at three different universities in Europe. He also obtained a doctorate from the University of Athens. After being ordained to the Diaconate and, years later, to the Priesthood, he became Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki before being appointed as the Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios. These educational milestones were enhanced as he has been awarded over 10 honorary doctorates from globally recognized universities.

It should come as no surprise that after 36 years of leading the Eastern Orthodox church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is receiving this award. It is with great respect that I honor his Holiness and his tireless efforts for equality and peace.