

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 PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable, and I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 277; YEA on Roll Call No. 278; and YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, by mistake, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 282 on September 19, 2025, which was the resolution honoring the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk. I would have voted in favor of this resolution, as Charlie was a valiant warrior for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our great country.

RECOGNIZING ARVADA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of Arvada High School.

For more than a century, Arvada High School has been a central part of the community, empowering students with the tools they need to succeed in their future education. When the school first opened in 1899, only seven students were enrolled. Today, Arvada High has over 700 students enrolled and is now a leading institution for families in Jefferson County. Through its 125-year history, the school has adapted to meet the changing needs of its students through initiatives like the Empowerment Academy, which provides specialized support to students who require additional resources and increases equitable access to education.

The school's dedicated teachers and staff have guided generations of students and made Arvada High a cornerstone for community development in Jefferson County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Arvada High School on its 125th anniversary and for its dedication to students in our community.

CELEBRATING PATRICIA McARDLE PONTICELLO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia McArdle Ponticello, 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 September 23, 1925, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Patricia has experienced a full century of history, change, and milestones. Her life story stands not only as a testament to longevity, but also to stubbornness, grit, and an ability to outlast just about everyone.

Patricia graduated from St. Mary's High School in Haliswood, Pennsylvania, before perfecting her skills at Beautician School, where she went on to cut and style for the Mellon Family.

She later served as a Guidance Counselor at the Gilmory Catholic School for Wayward Girls, which gave her the unique skills to manage her own sons, David, Bill, and Christopher.

Later, she made her home and spent many years in Clinton, Pennsylvania after marrying her husband, William David Ponticello. William served in the U.S. Navy, WWII, from 1942 to 1994 on an LST at the Normandy Invasion and later went on to work as a design engineer.

Her endless love and support filled the household with joy, laughter, and just enough discipline to keep everyone in line.

In 2003, Patricia moved to Bucks County to help her son raise his three boys. Beyond her dedication to her family, Patricia remained steadfast in her commitment to her faith. Patricia is a devout Catholic and is a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hilltown, Pennsylvania. 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, at 100 years old, Patricia enjoys family, strolls around her Dublin, Pennsylvania property and continuing her legendary reputation as "The Hawk." She loves an ice-cold beer, a strong margarita, and the occasional cigarette—because apparently that's the real secret to a long life.

Her idea of the perfect birthday? A pig roast surrounded by family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in raising a glass—preferably a cold one—and extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's blessings to Patricia Ponticello on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING LUCIA COLINDRES

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 recognize an outstanding leader from Rochester, New York, Lucia Colindres.

Originally from El Salvador, Lucia Colindres came to the United States in 1989, bringing with her a spirit of resilience and service that has defined her life's work. Since that time, she has established herself as a beacon of light in Rochester, devoting her career to championing equity and addressing the most pressing needs of the Latino community.

As Chief Program Officer of the Ibero-American Action League, Lucia leads with vision

and determination, overseeing vital health initiatives that strengthen families across the region by addressing social determinants such as access to care, nutrition, and housing. Previously, in senior leadership at Rochester Regional Health, she spearheaded innovative pro-Medicaid programs that prioritized prevention and compassion by tackling the root causes of health crises. Through her leadership, Lucia has ensured that Latino families in Rochester are not only supported in times of need but also empowered to build healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Lucia's influence extends beyond institutions into the broader community. As a founding member of the Community Health Workers Association of Rochester, she has worked tirelessly to advance and professionalize a workforce that is indispensable to the well-being of families. Through every role she has held, Lucia Colindres has exemplified what it means to lead with both vision and heart by strengthening Rochester, uplifting families, and building a legacy of service that will endure for generations.

It is an honor to recognize Lucia Colindres during Hispanic American Heritage Month. Her leadership has strengthened our community, advanced equity, and created opportunities that will endure for generations.

COMMEMORATING THE FINAL FLIGHT OF THE BRAVO COMPANY, 7-158TH CHINOOK HELICOPTER GENERAL SUPPORT AVIATION BATTALION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the final flight of the Bravo Company, 7-158th Chinook Helicopter General Support Aviation Battalion based out of the New Century AirCenter on September 7, 2025. As a result of the Army Transformation Initiative, the unit was officially deactivated on September 15, 2025.

Based at New Century Airport for more than 40 years, this unit has become a staple in Gardner, Kansas and the surrounding community. From the familiar sight of the Chinooks flying over Gardner, to the generations of families brought to our community through their service at New Century, the unit leaves behind decades of memories.

I am deeply grateful to the soldiers and their families who were a part of this unit, especially those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our nation and communities are better and safer because of their service.

Furthermore, I want to express my strong support for the current service members who are facing uncertainty in the aftermath of the unit's deactivation. I urge Army leadership to keep these dedicated service members in mind as they continue with the Army Transformation Initiative. After all our service members and veterans have done for us, we must have their backs.