

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.

RECOGNIZING MICHELE MANATT FOR HER SERVICE TO THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL MANAGEMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF THE COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Michele Manatt for her service at The George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM), where she has served on the board since 2021, and for her contributions to our Nation.

A native Washingtonian, Ms. Manatt graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied political economy. After graduation, she returned to the District of Columbia to begin her career in public policy and international affairs.

Ms. Manatt served as a professional staff member on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where her portfolio included oversight of the United States' relationships with Canada and Mexico and countries throughout Central and South America. She went on to serve as Senior Policy Advisor to three consecutive Assistant Secretaries of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, helping to manage policy in the region. She continued her public service as Director of Legislative Affairs at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Since 2006, Ms. Manatt has worked as an independent consultant, providing strategic insight into hemispheric policy and social integration. She contributed to a multiyear initiative with the Americas Society/Council of the Americas to document and explore successful models of Hispanic integration in midsized American cities.

Ms. Manatt has been a leader in public diplomacy. She currently serves on the board of the Diplomacy Center Foundation, the private partner supporting the completion of the National Museum of American Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State's headquarters campus. She was the founding chair of the Council on Women's Leadership at the Meridian International Center, fostering dialogue and leadership development for women in support of Track II diplomacy. She has always been fascinated by the power of fashion. She says diplomats defend U.S. interests not in uniforms, but in suits, blouses, ties and, in her case, scarves.

As a member of the GSPM board, Ms. Manatt has provided strategic counsel to ensure that students benefited from a strong, bipartisan academic environment and were exposed to diverse career paths. Through her family's philanthropy, she has also supported other parts of The George Washington University, including the law school, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, the Elliott School of International Affairs and the Textile Museum.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Manatt concludes her service on the GSPM board, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her contributions to The George Washington University and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE EVERGREEN HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragic shooting at Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colorado, that occurred on September 10, 2025.

This senseless act of violence has left students, educators, and the greater Evergreen community in shock and grief. Two victims were hospitalized, and countless others are coping with the trauma of that day.

The courage of first responders, educators, staff, and community members helped prevent further harm and demonstrated the strength of our community in the face of crisis. Students and faculty at the school promptly followed safety protocols that saved lives, and a nearby recreation center employee sheltered more than 70 students until the danger had passed. The vigilance and quick action of community members inside and outside the school helped ensure the safety of students and staff.

The Jefferson County Sheriff, Reggie Marinelli, and the entire Police Department quickly responded with extraordinary service, arriving in under two minutes. That swift response saved lives and provided reassurance to the Evergreen community in its greatest moment of need.

In the aftermath of the incident, the Evergreen Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) mobilized to provide on-the-ground support for the community, including mental health resources, warm meals, and safe spaces. These community volunteers—in addition to many other supportive groups and organizations—have played a critical role in connecting families with needed services and ensuring the entire community has everything they need to re-enter their school.

Like far too many communities across Colorado and the Nation, this is not the first time the Evergreen community has been touched by gun violence. Yet, in the aftermath of this tragedy, Evergreen has demonstrated extraordinary resilience, uniting in support of one another as the process of healing begins.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I stand with the Evergreen community, offer my condolences to the victims and their families, and reaffirm my commitment to ensuring every child can go to school without fear for their safety.

HONORING RICHARD "DICK" KEIGWIN

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman KEVIN MULLIN, I rise today to honor the life of Richard "Dick" Keigwin, a loving father and an employee of Nabisco and Kraft Food for 35 years. Richard was born on May 8, 1944, and passed away on September 5, 2025, at the age of 81. It is my honor to recognize a man who spent his life uplifting young people and caring for his family.

Richard served his Marlborough, Massachusetts community in a multitude of ways. He coached Marlborough Little League, Northborough Little League, Boys Club Basketball, and CYO Basketball. His devotion to coaching and mentoring earned him the title of "Father of the Year" by the Marlborough Boys Club. He was also awarded Man and Boy of the Year 1987.

Richard was adored by his family. He and his wife Cheryl Keigwin were married for 59 years. He is survived by Cheryl and his sons, Richard Keigwin, Jr., Bryan Keigwin, and Adam Keigwin, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren. Richard loved spending time with his family and especially enjoyed watching History Channel and National Geographic.

Adam and the Keigwin family are lifelong friends, and it is an honor to recognize Richard and his contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES NAVY RADIOMAN PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS NATALE "NATE" JOHN SCARPELLI

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep respect and admiration to recognize the remarkable service of Radioman Petty Officer 3rd Class Natale "Nate" Scarpelli, a proud veteran of the United States Navy and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for October 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His courage, dedication, and sacrifice during World War II reflect the very best of the American spirit.

Radioman Scarpelli answered his country's call to service in 1942. He enlisted in the United States Navy and was assigned as a Radioman Petty Officer 3rd Class aboard the USS *Moreno* (AT-87). He joined his ship in North Africa, becoming the youngest member of a seasoned crew.

The USS *Moreno* played a critical role in the war effort, carrying out dangerous missions that included firefighting, towing disabled warships, deploying depth charges, underwater welding, and escort operations. Radioman Scarpelli's skill as a radioman, communicating through Morse code and signal lamp, kept the crew connected during critical engagements. He also served as the ship's marksman, helping set sights on its 5-inch cannon, 40mm guns, and long-range weapons.

Radioman Scarpelli's service brought him to the frontlines of some of the war's most pivotal campaigns. The USS *Moreno* supported the Allied invasion of Sicily, clearing the coastline for advancing Army units. Later, it provided support during the Invasion of Southern France. During combat, Radioman Scarpelli was wounded by land artillery and treated at a field hospital before rejoining his ship, where he continued his duties, including cutting mine cables and neutralizing deadly sea mines.

In one remarkable mission, the USS *Moreno* captured a German one-man submarine armed with a torpedo. The vessel was brought aboard for inspection, drawing the attention of senior military leadership eager to study its design.