

HONORING TROY PARKER AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, firefighter Troy Parker was born and raised in Osceola County, Florida, and is a 2016 graduate of Harmony High School. At the age of 21, while returning home from his sales job, he came upon a serious motor vehicle accident. In that moment, he felt a profound calling to serve and protect others, a calling that led him to pursue a career in the fire service. Through two years of rigorous training and determination, he achieved his goal of joining Osceola County Fire Rescue.

Since that time, Firefighter Parker has earned multiple accreditations, enabling him to serve on the department's Special Operations and Hazardous Materials teams. He is an active member of the Benevolent and participates in numerous community and fire service outreach initiatives. Currently enrolled in paramedic school, he continues to advance his skills and his ability to deliver lifesaving care.

On March 3, 2025, while off duty, Firefighter Parker encountered a vehicle accident in which an occupant was trapped inside a car rapidly submerging into a retention pond. Without hesitation, he entered the water, striking the window with his bare hand until he could reach the driver. As the vehicle overturned and sank, pulling them both underwater, Firefighter Parker displayed exceptional courage and determination. With remarkable strength and selflessness, he freed the trapped occupant, swam them to shore, and remained by their side until Engine 52 arrived to provide further care. His decisive actions embodied the highest traditions of valor and service.

Firefighter Parker intends to dedicate his life to a full career of service within the fire service. His professionalism, heroism, and unwavering commitment to his community bring great pride to himself and to Osceola County Fire Rescue.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL OUT OF DARKNESS WALK

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia community that came together this past weekend for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk at the Mosaic District.

This annual event brings hope and healing to families across our region, offering space for remembrance, resilience, and collective action to end the tragedy of suicide.

Organized by the National Capital Area chapter of AFSP, the Fairfax Walk has become one of the most visible demonstrations of solidarity in the fight for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Each year,

survivors of loss, advocates, mental health professionals, and neighbors walk side by side to honor loved ones and to break the stigma that has for too long silenced conversations about mental health. The impact of this work cannot be overstated: in Virginia, more lives are lost to suicide each year than to car accidents, and the need for accessible, compassionate support is urgent.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, community partners, and sponsors, this year's Fairfax Walk has raised over \$125,000 to support prevention programs, research, advocacy, and resources for those in crisis. Local partners including Leidos, Intact, SPAN, Interstate, Wellsourced, Dutyfirst, Columbia Mental Health, Embark Behavioral Health, Bechtel, and the County of Fairfax joined AFSP in providing resources and encouragement to those walking this past Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Virginia's 11th Congressional District, I ask you to join me in extending my gratitude to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter for their leadership, and to every participant who walked Out of the Darkness in Fairfax. Their commitment ensures that no one has to struggle alone, and that our community continues to move toward light, compassion, and healing.

CONGRATULATING AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the Airport High School baseball team from West Columbia, "The Eagles," as they rallied to defeat Seneca High School in the 2025 4A South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) State Championship. This marks the first State Championship in team history.

In the best of three-game final, the Eagles defeated Seneca 4–3 in the first game, and 10–0 in the second game—a strong close to their winning season record of 15–1.

The Airport High team includes players Brayden Dinlap, Gabe Ingram, Charlie Jackson, Ayden McCauley, Isahia Clemons, Landon Jeffcoat, Hunter Epps, Saundiata Anderson, Harrison Shoffner, Cash Epps, Casen Hatfield, Brice Gillette, Braden Gross, Justin Sightler, Sean Feliciano, Rodrigo Rizo, Caleb Eubanks, Cooper Chavis, and Daniel Butts. Alongside the players are talented coaches Casey Bradwell, former Eagles player, and assistant coaches Kris Kirkland, Jermei Epperson, Cameron Zimmerman, Brandon Caughman, Nick Gooding, Ryan O'Hora, and Layne Turner. Three of my sons, Add, Julian, and Hunter are Airport graduates and former baseball Eagles.

On behalf of all South Carolinas, I congratulate the Airport High Eagles on this impressive achievement and I wish them the best of luck as they defend their title in the upcoming season. This victory of the Airport High Eagles is well-deserved for the team, coaches, families, and community for all their hard work and support, making their dream come true.

HONORING TIM JONES AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Tim Jones was born in the Bronx, New York, in the 1970's, and from a young age knew he wanted to be a firefighter. Growing up, he admired the courage and sacrifice of firefighters, and as a child, he often told friends and family that one day he would drive fire trucks. September 11, 2001, profoundly shaped Tim's path, reaffirming his commitment and lifelong calling to public service. Two years later, on September 11, 2003, he officially began his career with the Orange County Fire Rescue Department. From that day forward, he has dedicated his life to protecting others, serving his community, and honoring the legacy of sacrifice and courage that inspired him.

Driving and operating fire engines quickly became his passion, while training and teaching emerged as his gift. Tim has trained hundreds of new recruits as a recruit training officer and guided experienced firefighters, engineers, and lieutenants through advanced instruction on the fire ground. He has helped design and administer the department's driver-operator promotional exam and has been a consistent leader in professional development.

Beyond technical training, Tim has invested deeply in the health and well-being of his fellow firefighters. As a certified peer fitness trainer, he has supported personnel in maintaining physical readiness. As a founding member of the Peer Support Team and Dog Therapy Program, he has championed mental health resources for firefighters and their families. His leadership, loyalty, and compassion have made him a cornerstone of the department and community. His fellow firefighters know they can count on him at any hour, on or off duty, and his community knows him as a trusted friend. It is not uncommon for neighbors, residents, or even strangers to stop him to thank him for the many ways he has touched their lives—whether through saving a loved one, offering comfort during hardship, or simply showing up when he was needed most and simply being a steady and trusted presence.

Tim lives by the words of Muhammad Ali: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." His career exemplifies that service, sacrifice, and commitment.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDEES

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Awards were established in 1988 in honor of former board member Ellamae Doyle's many years of outstanding service. Recipients have also been selected for the Eakin Philanthropy Award, named in honor of the family that donated the first parcels of parkland to the park authority more than 50 years ago; the Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship, named in honor of a celebrated local historian and military veteran; the Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award, named in honor of a local champion of environmental education and protection; and the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award, named for the former Sully District representative on the Park Authority Board. In addition, a special recognition will be given to Park Authority volunteers, who play an integral role in the agency's success.

It is my honor to congratulate all the recipients of the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards and to include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals:

Elly Doyle Special Recognition: Cynthia Glakas, Paul Gross, Brian Keith, and Christina Tyler Wenks.

Elly Doyle Park Service Award: Tim Bowers and Carolyn J. Gamble.

Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award: Marc Kohn.

Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award: Sara Holtz.

The Mayo Stuntz Cultural Stewardship Award: Mary Lipsey.

Fairfax County Park Foundation Eakin Philanthropy Awards: Helen L. Kafka (posthumously), McLean Central Park Playground Team, Pohanka Automotive, and the Scott A. & Phyllis P. Crabtree Family Foundation.

Chairman's Choice Award: Ken Quincy and Aimee Vosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this year's awardees. Fairfax County is regarded as one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and our nationally recognized park system has played a key role in that distinction. Our community has a strong commitment to promoting and preserving our environment, including our public parks and outdoor spaces, as the efforts of the individuals and organizations recognized tonight reflects. These are truly selfless actions done for the benefit of all and merit our highest praise.

CONGRATULATING GARRETT ILLERBRUNN'S CAREER IN THE U.S. ARMY'S 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer Garrett Illerbrunn for his dedicated service in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Chief Warrant Officer Illerbrunn, a native of North Dakota, with a love of the outdoors and dedication to farming, started his service in the U.S. military in 2005 and is now retiring after more than twenty years of service.

Garrett served honorably for those twenty years, as an Apache AH64 crew chief before becoming a pilot and officer. He is retiring as Chief Warrant Officer 4, where he provided

leadership and support to units from the battalion to the corps and beyond.

At the end of 2023, Garrett suffered a life-altering injury to his skull during a drone attack in Iraq. He's accomplished great strides in his recovery with his family by his side, even learning sign language from his son Tucker, and I look forward to seeing further successes in his future.

Garrett has many accomplishments in his time of service, including being awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and many more. But it's clear his most beautiful life accomplishments have been marrying his wife, Lorna, and becoming a dad to Tucker.

I hope Garrett celebrates with a Miller High Life and Jimmy John's and I'll be sure to do the same to honor his service today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Chief Warrant Officer Garrett Illerbrunn for his dedicated service to our great country. I wish him the happiest retirement with his family.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEPHEN D. AUSTIN, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Stephen D. Austin, Assistant Chief of Army Reserve, on his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserve as a Department of the Army Civilian, Senior Executive Service Tier 3.

Mr. Austin's career is a testament to unwavering dedication and distinguished service. Over the course of 26 years in uniform and 19 years as a civilian leader, he has served in positions with increased responsibilities, culminating in his role as Assistant Chief of Army Reserve. A native of Oregon and a proud graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Mr. Austin has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless Soldiers, Army civilians, and their families.

Even after retiring as a Colonel in the U.S. Army, Mr. Austin's passion to serve endured. In June 2015, he returned to the Army Reserve as a member of the Senior Executive Service, where he represented the Army Reserve in the formulation and synchronization of policy and strategy at the national, departmental, and service levels. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping the development of policy, resourcing, and plans that generate, sustain, and integrate Army Reserve capabilities in support of our Nation.

Mr. Austin's professionalism, integrity, and tireless commitment to service have been evident in every role he has held. His legacy is one of excellence, and his contributions have strengthened the foundation of our military and its future.

I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to his children—Sarah, Grace, Naomi, Camille, and Nate—for their unwavering support throughout his career. The sacrifices made by military families are profound, and their strength and resilience are vital to the success of our armed forces.

As Mr. Austin embarks on this next chapter, I wish him and his family a future filled with

peace, joy, and well-deserved rest. The United States Army Reserve—and indeed, our Nation—is better because of his service.

I thank Steve for his extraordinary career and your enduring commitment to our country.

COMMEMORATING HICKORY FARMS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Hickory Farms.

Established in 1975, Hickory Farms is a community made up of 198 single-family homes in the Braddock District. Fairfax County is full of history, and this community's history has been well documented by local historians, including resident Robert Cosgriff. Through research, Cosgriff found that Hickory Farms is situated on a piece of land that some scholars believe is the largest private land holding in history. In 1672, Charles II of England granted proprietary rights to approximately 5 million acres to Henry Earl of Arlington and Thomas Lord Culpeper, Baron of Thorsway, for their support of Charles' claim to the throne during the period of the Commonwealth under Cromwell. The rights to the property were passed through descendants, and the first owner to reside on the 21,996-acre estate, the largest single land holding in what is now Fairfax County, was William Fitzhugh. The estate was named "Ravensworth" after an ancestral home in England. Their property was approximately nine percent of the total area of Fairfax County, and included the land now known as Hickory Farms.

Fairfax County contains over 1,500 homeowners' and condominium associations, each one performing similar functions for residents, but some associations, like Hickory Farms Community Association (HFCA), go above and beyond for their members. While much of HFCA's functions are standard, such as ensuring owners maintain their properties and ensuring the common areas are maintained, they also make a conscious effort to encourage a deep sense of community within Hickory Farms.

This sense of community starts right when new homeowners or tenants move into the neighborhood. HFCA's Welcome Wagon Representatives welcome new residents, hand them a welcome packet, and collect contact information to make sure they are able to take full advantage of everything HFCA has to offer. Throughout the year, residents can gather with their neighbors for social events like children's parades, Halloween parties, summer kickoffs, and more. Many of these events take place throughout the large common areas within Hickory Farms. The common areas comprise over 20 acres of wooded land and open areas, including a number of maintained walking trails.

It takes countless volunteers to maintain the common areas, greet new neighbors, put on social events, and support the necessary functions of the HOA. Not only does Hickory Farms recognize people's contributions in the monthly newsletter, but a number of active volunteers have been recognized on an even