

## HONORING GENE DODARO

(Mr. COMER of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gene Dodaro, the Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Mr. Dodaro will complete his term as the Nation's eighth Comptroller General at the end of 2025. This year will conclude Mr. Dodaro's distinguished 52-year career at GAO, Congress' nonpartisan investigative arm.

For over more than five decades, Mr. Dodaro has worked tirelessly to help safeguard American taxpayers from fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs.

Mr. Dodaro directed the first-ever audit of the Federal Government's consolidated financial statements in the 1990s. This was a landmark effort that underscored the need for better financial management and accountability governmentwide.

Throughout his career, Mr. Dodaro has testified before Congress more than 200 times and has played a pivotal role in advancing major reforms. These reforms include the Government Performance and Results Act, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act, and various other governmentwide improper payments and financial integrity reforms.

Under his leadership, GAO estimated its work has produced more than \$1.2 trillion in financial benefits for the American people and driven tens of thousands of improvements in Federal operations and programs.

Having spent more than half his career as either the Comptroller General or GAO's Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Dodaro has shaped the GAO into the institution that Congress depends on every single day. He strengthened the agency's science, technology, and cybersecurity expertise, ensuring GAO remains well positioned to oversee Federal investments in these emerging and rapidly evolving fields.

Under his stewardship, GAO's High Risk List and duplication reports became an essential roadmap for congressional oversight and reform. The Oversight Committee has relied upon this expertise to enhance its monitoring of agencies' progress toward addressing Federal IT acquisition reforms, preventing improper payments and fraud, and the Department of Defense's financial management practices, among other efforts.

Mr. Dodaro embodies GAO's values of nonpartisanship, objectivity, reliability, and professionalism. He is deeply respected across the government and the oversight community for his integrity, candor, and dedication.

His knowledge of Federal programs and operations has made him one of

the most trusted and sought-after witnesses before Congress. Time and time again, he has impressed Members with his ability to explain complex issues, often without a single note in front of him. Yet, despite his immense expertise, he remains one of the most humble public servants.

Mr. Dodaro's leadership has also inspired a culture of excellence within GAO. The agency has consistently ranked among the best places to work in the Federal Government throughout his tenure as Comptroller General. This is a reflection of the loyalty and admiration he has earned from the GAO workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gene Dodaro, who truly defines what it means to be a public servant. For more than half a century, he has helped Congress fulfill its constitutional responsibilities with integrity, honor, and steadfast commitment to the American people.

On behalf of Congress, I thank Mr. Dodaro for his remarkable service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING BOYLE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
REBELS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Boyle County Rebels, a football powerhouse in Kentucky's First Congressional District, upon winning the Class 4A State championship, marking their fifth straight title in the last 6 years.

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to the program's hard work, discipline, and excellence, both on and off the field. Under the leadership of Coach Justin Haddix, the Class 4A Coach of the Year, and standout player, Seneca Driver, the Class 4A Player of the Year, the Rebels overcame an early-season setback to finish strong and capture another State title. Their perseverance and focus exemplify the spirit of champions.

I congratulate the players, coaches, faculty, and supporters of Boyle County High School on this extraordinary milestone. The Rebels have built a legacy of excellence that continues to inspire pride and unity throughout the Boyle County community.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO BRIDGE  
STRIKES

(Mr. LATIMER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my new bill to tackle the issue of bridge strikes.

Throughout the country, highways and local roads with low-clearance bridges are vulnerable to strikes by large trucks. In my home State of New York, there were 350 bridge strikes in 2024 alone, including many in Westchester and the Bronx. However, these strikes are preventable, and I am committed to reducing incidents.

As Westchester County Executive, I worked with State and local leaders to find creative solutions to this problem, but Federal action is necessary.

My bill, the Bridges Not Bumpers Act of 2025, would direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Bridge Strike Working Group whose work will provide recommendations to prevent future strikes. It will also create a national clearinghouse to serve as a central location for data collection and circulation of best practices to prevent strikes.

I thank Congressman BRESNAHAN for his partnership in developing this commonsense, bipartisan solution. We have both Republican and Democratic cosponsors to this bill. I look forward to moving this proposal forward with my colleagues.

## HONORING JILL AXELROD

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service contributions of Jill Axelrod, who has completed two terms and 8 years as the Town of Rye's councilwoman. A resident of Rye Brook with her husband Brett and two daughters, she is a lawyer by profession and has been a member of the executive team of the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

Elected in 2017 to the town council and reelected in 2021, Jill led the town board's important legislation and law committees, playing an integral role in all facets of local laws from development to passage. Her intergovernmental roles in county and town government have helped provide wise counsel to the Town of Rye as part of an effective team.

Her public service continues. We recognize her current and past achievements and await the next chapter of her service.

## EXCHANGE CLUB OF YONKERS HONOREES

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I salute the honorees recognized at the recent Awards Gala of the Exchange Club of Yonkers.

These individuals have given exemplary service to the people of Yonkers as recognized by one of the most outstanding organizations in the city:

Dr. Jim Bostic, senior pastor and author recognized with the Literary Achievement Award;

Dr. Rosalba Corrado DelVecchio and Carol McEwen Daly, designated Women of Distinction Awards;

Alan R. Gray, Jr., Esquire, Exchangeite of the Year;

Yosef Unger from the San Souci Rehabilitation and Nursing Center received the Distinguished Service Award;

Ann Muro, the longtime president of the Exchange Club of Yonkers, Outstanding Leadership and Community Service Award.

All of these individuals deserve our respect and our congratulations. We wish them all the very best as they are honorees this year.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF RYAN WHITEHOUSE

(Mr. BOST of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ryan Whitehouse, who tragically passed away earlier this fall in an accident in Michigan. He was just 43 years old.

Ryan was the Illinois Farm Bureau's Director of National Legislation, a friend, and great advocate of Illinois agriculture.

As family, friends, and colleagues mourn his passing, we also reflect on the lasting impact he made on farming families across the State of Illinois.

Ryan joined the Illinois Farm Bureau in 2013 and quickly set a high standard for service. In his role leading the Nation's legislative work, he made sure every county's interest was represented and respected.

When he visited Washington, he brought with him the voice of the farmers he cared so deeply about and he made sure their voices were heard.

Ryan treated everyone like a friend. He had a way of making you feel valued. Even through this tragedy, he continues to serve others through the Gift of Life Organ Donor Program.

I also appreciate Ryan's dedication to Illinois agriculture and for the way he strengthened every community he touched.

Mr. Speaker, the world would be a better place if we all carried the same spirit, kindness, and commitment. May his soul find peace and may God bless his family.

#### CELEBRATING DR. ALLISON BRASHEAR

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to celebrate a dear friend and pillar of our community upon her election to the National Academy of Medicine, Dr. Allison Brashear, dean of the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

This prestigious honor is reserved for those who have truly advanced the field of medicine, which is exactly what Dr. Brashear has done for over three decades as a neurologist, researcher, professor, and a leader shaping the next generation of medical professionals.

Her journey started at the Indiana University School of Medicine where she completed medical school and her residency before joining the faculty in 1991.

She later became an endowed professor and chair of neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine, served as dean at the UC Davis School of Medicine, and now in western New York, she is the dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Buffalo.

Over her distinguished career, she has received numerous awards and accolades, led more than 40 clinical trials, and earned continuous NIH funding since 2008.

Her early breakthrough, using botulinum toxin to treat spasticity in stroke survivors, opened the door to multiple FDA-approved therapies that patients across the country now rely on.

She also identified rapid-onset dystonia-parkinsonism, advancing our understanding of rare neurological diseases, and she remains one of the Nation's leading experts on neurological disorders.

However, what truly sets Dr. Brashear apart is her commitment to connecting healthcare to the communities that need it most.

As dean of the Jacobs School, she serves on boards of the Western New York Women's Foundation, the Great Lakes Health System, and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, strengthening the links between cutting-edge research, accessible care, and the everyday health needs of families in western New York and beyond.

Dr. Brashear's life's work reminds us of a simple truth: Our healthcare system is only as strong as the people who choose to serve in it. Dr. Brashear shows us what is possible when we invest in talent and when we open doors for smart, compassionate people to pursue careers in medicine. Her success is a testament to what happens when opportunity meets dedication.

Mr. Speaker, may we honor Dr. Brashear's extraordinary career by ensuring the next generation of healthcare practitioners have the chance to follow in her footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Allison Brashear. Western New York and our entire Nation are stronger because of her, her leadership, and her commitment to our Nation and to future generations in healthcare.

#### TRIBUTE TO FUZZY ZOELLER

(Mrs. HOUCHIN of Indiana was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fuzzy Zoeller, a legendary PGA golfer and a beloved figure in southern Indiana.

Born in New Albany, Fuzzy never forgot where he came from. He remained deeply connected to our community throughout his life, and southern Indiana was always home.

Fuzzy made history by winning the Masters Tournament in 1979, one of only a handful of golfers to capture this title in their first appearance. He went on to win the U.S. Open in 1984, cementing his place upon the greats, but Fuzzy's impact reached far beyond golf. He has been a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Through his generosity, his local businesses, and his support for community events and charities, he strengthened southern Indiana in countless ways. His willingness to invest in people, especially young athletes, reflected the kind of leader he was.

Fuzzy Zoeller showed that excellence and humility can go hand in hand. His

legacy will continue through his children and grandchildren who loved him dearly.

CONGRATULATING TRINITY LUTHERAN COUGARS

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Trinity Lutheran Cougars on defending their IHSA Class 1A state volleyball championship.

After graduating five of six starters last season, these young women came back with heart and grit to win again. They defeated Faith Christian Eagles in four sets to secure their second straight title.

This win isn't just about a trophy. It is about resilience. It is about proving that dedication and belief can keep a championship legacy alive. Their work ethic, team spirit, and poise under pressure deserve recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every Cougar on that court for showing us what it means to fight and to win together.

Congratulations to Trinity Lutheran.

INDIANA HOOSIERS ARE BIG TEN CHAMPIONS

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with tremendous pride to celebrate a historic achievement for my alma mater, Indiana University. For the first time in program history, the Indiana Hoosiers are Big Ten Champions.

This victory reflects more than a great season. It represents the discipline and heart of a team that refused to be counted out. Week after week, these young men demonstrated what it means to compete with character, to fight through adversity, and to rise to the moment when it mattered the most.

Hoosier Nation is built on tradition and excellence. This championship is a testament to the leadership of the coaching staff, the commitment of every student athlete, and the passion of fans across Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of Indiana University, I could not be more honored to recognize this extraordinary milestone. I congratulate the players, coaches, and the entire IU community. They have made history and have made Indiana proud.

#### HONORING MAYOR VICTORIA WOODARDS

(Ms. STRICKLAND of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Victoria Woodards, who is retiring as Tacoma's 39th mayor.

A graduate of Lincoln High School, she proudly served her country in the U.S. Army, thinking she would see the world and ended up right back home at Fort Lewis. She also pursued a long career in public service as a parks commissioner, as a city councilmember, and as mayor of Tacoma.

I congratulate Victoria on an exemplary and distinguished career of more than 15 years serving the people of Tacoma. Under her leadership, the city