

Under the leadership of Head Coach Claude Mathis and a dedicated coaching staff, DeSoto student-athletes have shown what is possible when high expectations are matched with strong mentorship and community support. These young men excel not only on the field, but also in the classroom and throughout their community, embodying the values of hard work, accountability, and perseverance.

DeSoto High School's athletic program has long been a source of pride, producing not only elite competitors, but young leaders prepared to succeed beyond athletics. This achievement reflects the commitment of student-athletes who balance rigorous academics with demanding training schedules, as well as the coaches, educators, and families who support them every step of the way.

I congratulate the students, coaches, faculty, staff, and families of DeSoto High School on this historic achievement, and I wish the Eagles continued success in every season ahead.

CONGRATULATING PRIME
MINISTER SANAE TAKAICHI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with elections yesterday in our valued ally Japan, it is reassuring for Peace Through Strength that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has been re-elected. American allies across the Indo-Pacific region are building defenses to deter Chinese Communist Party aggression. We all support stability for all citizens of all nations, including China, for peace and prosperity. This achievement deserves recognition. I include in the RECORD the following editorial from The Wall Street Journal:

TAKAICHI ROLLS TO A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN JAPAN

Who says every political leader in the free world is unpopular? Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi defied that stereotype on Sunday by leading her Liberal Democratic Party to a sweeping victory in the lower house of Parliament.

Returns show the LDP on a path to win a comfortable majority on its own, which amounts to a landslide. The party had lost support in recent elections and needed a coalition partner to form a government. With her new coalition partners, Ms. Takaichi will have a two-thirds majority that will be able to overrule opposition in the weaker upper house.

The result is in part a personal victory for the 64-year-old Ms. Takaichi, Japan's first female Prime Minister, who has a 67% approval rating that buoyed the rest of the party. It's true she faced weak opposition, but her recent LDP predecessors weren't able to capitalize as she now has.

Credit also goes to Beijing, which has tried to punish Japan with export and tourist bans after Ms. Takaichi told the truth by saying publicly that a Chinese takeover of Taiwan would threaten Japan's security. Beijing's bullying backfired again, as it previously has in Taiwan and Australia. President Xi Jinping could send his wolf-warrior diplomats to his infamous reeducation camps, except they were probably taking orders from him.

Ms. Takaichi comes out of the LDP's conservative, pro-American wing. She favors more defense spending, which is urgently

needed given China's vast military buildup. So far she has managed President Trump's unpredictable behavior as well as anyone can. She'll try to stabilize trade ties, and Mr. Trump would be wise to make that happen instead of treating the country as a zero-sum trade adversary.

Less certain is whether her agenda will address the frustrations of the Japanese public on inflation. She has called for a two-year moratorium on Japan's 8% consumption tax on food. But the roots of Japan's inflation are monetary, as the Bank of Japan attempts to normalize its policy after years of negative interest rates.

Ms. Takaichi also campaigned on a new burst of government spending, a Keynesian remedy that has failed in Japan many times in the past. A non-defense spending burst is also riskier in the current environment of high global government debt. Investors may raise their asking price to finance Japan's rising debt load.

Japan's economic problem isn't a lack of demand. It's on the supply-side, in a dearth of animal spirits and domestic competition. Ms. Takaichi's mentor, the late Shinzo Abe, pursued some deregulation that has helped growth, and that is the policy avenue the prime minister can best pursue.

The best news is that the clear LDP majority will give Ms. Takaichi running room to govern with a mandate. The U.S. and the free world need a strong and confident Japan as an ally against the Chinese Communist Party's imperial ambitions.

CELEBRATING BALLAST POINT EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Year Anniversary of Ballast Point Elementary School in Tampa, Florida. For 100 years, Ballast Point Elementary has educated students and provided the foundation of success in life.

Ballast Point Elementary was originally housed in a small, three-room wooden building with each grade level of students seated in a single row. A new Ballast Point Elementary School was opened at the beginning of the 1925 to 1926 school year amidst the significant population growth and development of the 1920s. The talented educators, custodians, nutrition experts, counselors, the Parent Teacher Association and South Tampa neighbors have provided dependable support throughout the years in lifting the school and students every step of the way.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Glenn Hinson, Ballast Point Elementary's first library opened in 1963 with a collection of approximately 12,000 books, providing roughly 11 books per student. As Principal Hinson noted, "We have a good community interest and a strong PTA support." In addition to the PTA's donation of several hundred dollars worth of books, the school board also granted \$1,500 to the library. This early development proved Ballast Point Elementary's unwavering commitment to its mission: fostering a learning environment where students feel valued, challenged, and inspired.

Tampa is a patriotic community, and Ballast Point Elementary has served many students

from nearby MacDill Air Force Base military families through the years. It is a true point of pride.

Ballast Point Elementary has a distinguished record of achievement, receiving both the Florida 5-Star School Award and the Golden School Award for the past 14 consecutive years, along with recognition as a Grade "A" Florida School for 16 consecutive years. Ballast Point Elementary's inclusive goal of a minimum of one year's growth for all students aligns with the Hillsborough County School's overarching vision of preparing students for life. Ballast Point Elementary embodies an educational institution that allows students to thrive and feel inspired.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly proud to support the high-quality public schools and talented teachers in Tampa and Hillsborough County. On behalf of my neighbors who value high quality education and talented teachers, I celebrate Ballast Point Elementary on 100 years of educating thousands of young students in a community that loves the spirit of a Ballast Point Bulldogs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BAYARD
RUSTIN STAMP ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Bayard Rustin Stamp Act. This bill would direct the United States Postmaster General to issue a forever stamp to commemorate the life and work of Bayard Rustin. Representative RITCHIE TORRES is co-leading this bill.

Born in 1912, Rustin became one of the most important leaders in the 20th century civil rights movement. At a young age, Rustin learned the values of nonviolence and peacekeeping from his grandparents' Quaker faith, and he would continue to build these values into his life as a civil rights movement leader.

Rustin attended City College of New York, where he joined a progressive club that aimed to remedy racial issues during turbulent times. His time with the club was short-lived, but it inspired him to join the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization that became a champion for labor rights, equity and world peace.

Rustin's time with the Fellowship of Reconciliation led him to become a leader in the 1947 "Journey to Reconciliation," where white and Black people across the South rode buses together to challenge segregation laws, a precursor to the Freedom Rides.

Rustin was an advisor in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle as King advocated pacifism and nonviolence for achieving equal treatment for African Americans. Rustin applied his brilliant strategic mind to execute aggressive, peaceful action in the civil rights movement and throughout his life as an activist.

Rustin's most important role was as the chief organizer of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the largest demonstration ever organized at the time, in which a quarter of a million people turned out to demand civil rights for African Americans.

In the years after the civil rights movement, Rustin, a gay man, inspired others to advocate for and achieve rights for LGBTQ+ people. He

remained a strategist and public speaker for workers' rights movements, including co-founding the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization for Black trade union members. Rustin remained committed to promoting social good, and advocating for the disenfranchised, until his death.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING YOUNG MARINE
CORPORAL CHASE MUCHMORE
ON BEING NAMED THE PENNSYLVANIA
REGIMENT JUNIOR
YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Young Marine Corporal Chase Muchmore on being named the Pennsylvania Regiment Junior Young Marine of the Year.

Chase Muchmore is a current student at Manor Middle School and is a Corporal with the Young Marines of Lancaster County. As a member of the organization's color guard, he has spoken and posted the colors for events such as graduations, sporting events, and a Cold War Veteran Recognition Ceremony that I held in November 2025. He has also led community service efforts, such as donation drives, and organized a Veterans Day program for his hometown.

The Young Marines is a national youth program that focuses on community service, leadership, and a drug-free lifestyle. To be the Pennsylvania Regiment Junior Young Marine of the Year, YM/Cpl Muchmore completed Junior Leadership School, fulfilled requirements for rank, education, and community service, wrote an essay, and completed an interview process before being selected by the state board.

By being named Pennsylvania Regiment Junior Young Marine of the Year, YM/Cpl Muchmore has demonstrated leadership qualities and a heart for service not frequently seen by children his age. Congratulations to YM/Cpl Muchmore and to the Young Marines of Lancaster County, and I look forward to seeing what his bright future holds.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
SERVICE OF DELEGATE
CHARLES POINDEXTER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my friend and former colleague of the Virginia House of Delegates, Delegate Charles Poindexter, who passed away on February 4, 2026, at the age of 83.

Delegate Poindexter was born on February 27, 1942, in Roanoke, Virginia. His upbringing in rural Virginia included graduating from Franklin County High School. Delegate Poindexter's academic interests led him to nearby Lynchburg College, where he secured a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics,

before he earned a Master of Science Degree in Administration in Management from George Washington University.

After developing strengths in these spaces, Delegate Poindexter maintained a very successful career as an IT systems engineer. His work is credited for supporting the U.S. Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and American intelligence systems.

Later, Delegate Poindexter would return to his farming roots in Franklin County, where he would devote himself to the betterment of a community that his family called home for generations. His first venture in public office included eight years serving the Franklin County Board of Supervisors.

In 2007, he won election to the House of Delegates. Through more than a decade in state government, Delegate Poindexter represented the rural communities of Franklin County, Henry County, and Patrick County.

As Majority Leader of the House of Delegates, I enjoyed working with Delegate Poindexter. His service on the Agriculture Committee, where he shared his perspectives on critical issues pertaining to rural Virginia. He also served on the Counties, Cities and Towns Committee, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee, and Appropriations Committee to help shape policy discussions and developments in Richmond.

Additionally, Delegate Poindexter served his community in other ways. He regularly sang in the church choir at home and made contributions on the Board of Directors for the New College Institute in Martinsville, Virginia.

Delegate Poindexter is survived by his loving and supportive wife, Janet.

I join my House of Delegates friends and rural Virginia in mourning the loss of this dedicated public servant. As one Franklin County community member put it, Charles Poindexter's passing is a huge loss to Franklin County and the Commonwealth. May others who aspire to represent rural Virginia look to the exceptional service of Delegate Poindexter as a model of respect, dedication and conservatism.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF RICHARD "RICK" ALLEN HAGGARD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and service of Richard "Rick" Allen Haggard, a School Resource Officer with the Lee County Sheriff's Department, who tragically passed away in the line of duty on February 2, 2026, at the age of 52. His passing marks the loss of a devoted public servant, loving husband and father, and respected member of the Mooreville community.

Born on February 5, 1973, in Macon, Mississippi, Rick lived a life defined by integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to serving others. A graduate of Sturgis High School and Mississippi College, Rick demonstrated a strong work ethic from an early age. In 2003, he answered a calling to enter law enforcement, beginning a career dedicated to protecting and supporting his community.

Throughout his service, Rick held several important roles, including Deputy, Animal Control Officer, and School Resource Officer. His work in local schools was especially meaningful, as he was committed to the safety and well-being of students and staff. Rick approached every responsibility with professionalism, kindness, and a genuine desire to help others.

Rick married the love of his life, Jana, on November 11, 2006. His family was the center of his world, and he took great pride in his wife and their two daughters. Rick and his family were also faithful members of Boguefala Baptist Church, where he lived out his values of faith, service, and compassion.

Rick Haggard will be remembered for his servant's heart, his dedication to duty, and the lasting impact he made on his family, his colleagues, and the community he so selflessly served. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Rick is survived by his wife, Jana Haggard; daughters, Alex and Ava Haggard; his mother, Susie Featherston Noble, and stepfather, Charlie Noble; and extended family who will cherish his memory. He was preceded in death by his father, Larry Wesley Haggard, and other beloved family members.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. DAVID J. "DAVE" SCHRENK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an extraordinary constituent from my district, Mr. David J. "Dave" Schrenk, who has recently turned 90 years old. Born on May 14, 1935, Dave has spent the last 9 decades of his life exemplifying philanthropy, selflessness, and the value of hard work.

Born in Philadelphia and raised by his single mother, Dave knew early on that he had a passion for working with his hands, leading him to attend and ultimately graduate from the Williamson College of the Trades in 1954. He then began his career as a Union Bricklayer for the John B. Kelly Brickwork Company, where he helped to build the foundations of our community at the height of its post-war growth. After receiving his journeyman's card, he traveled north to find work and continue refining his skillset.

By 1959, Dave's entrepreneurial spirit and passion for homebuilding brought him back to our district where he started his own masonry business, David J. Schrenk Masonry Co. He eventually evolved this business into D.J.S. Custom Home Builders & Landscapers, which he based in Bucks County to specialize in single-family homes and land development. His conviction in his business' success was so strong, in fact, that he sold his own home shortly after moving into it to finance his first sample home.

Dave accredits much of his business' success to the reinvestment of funds back into his company, his passion for the trade, and unwavering support of our community. Over the years, he has given back tenfold in several different ways, including serving as a member of the Upper Makefield Business Association, the Newtown Businessmen's Association, the