

## RECOGNIZING JOHN MARRIOTT

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Marriott of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Policy Leader of the Year Award.

John Marriott began his public service in 2007 as a member of the Arvada Board of Adjustment. He was later elected to the Arvada City Council from 2013 to 2025 and served as Mayor Pro-Tem from 2017 to 2019. In his time serving the Arvada community, John spearheaded partnerships among Arvada, Jefferson County Schools, and Apex Parks & Recreation that created the Fitzmorris and Arvada Aquatic Centers. He also advanced major infrastructure projects like the Ralston Road and 72nd Avenue improvements. John has worked alongside community leaders and championed policies to ensure our local businesses have the resources and tools they need to serve our communities and drive economic growth.

The Policy Leader of the Year is awarded to a public official who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to helping Arvada businesses thrive, and John's dedication to strengthening our local economy, fostering public-private partnerships, and delivering real solutions for the community makes him a truly deserving recipient of this honor.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate John Marriott on receiving the Policy Leader Award and thank him for his contributions to the Arvada community.

## RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SOCIETY OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the Pennsylvania State Society of the Children of the American Revolution for their positive impact across the state and Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

The Pennsylvania State Society Children of the American Revolution (CAR) belongs to the National Society CAR, which was chartered in 1895 by author and Daughters of the American Revolution member, Harriet Lothrop. Harriet's vision was to instill patriotism and reverence for America's institutions and principles among future generations.

Any boy or girl under the age of twenty-two who has lineal descent from a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in the cause of American Independence is eligible for membership. As heirs of the American Revolution, the Pennsylvania Society educates its members on American history, assists in the preservation and recognition of historical places and figures tied to the revolution, and promotes American patriotism.

The Pennsylvania State Society CAR has over twenty societies, or chapters, across the

commonwealth. These include the George Ross Society in Lancaster and the Colonel Thomas Hartley Society in York, both of which are named after local figures who played an important role in America's founding.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in July, it is heartening to know that the Pennsylvania State Society CAR is keeping our history and heritage of liberty alive. I thank the leaders and the members of the organization for their positive impact, and I wish them continued success in all they do.

## CELEBRATING VETERAN ROBERT JAMES HAGARTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veteran Robert James Hagarty's 90th birthday and for his service to our country and the Tampa Bay community.

Robert Hagarty was born on February 28, 1936, in New Jersey, and spent his life rooted in the values of a veteran upbringing. Hagarty dedicated his life to building one of the largest private collections of war memorabilia in the world. His father, a World War I veteran, instilled in him a passion for service and patriotism. Hagarty recounted that, at age 10, his father gave him two decorative buttons from his uniform, and he traces his passion to that moment. "Those were like gold, to me, since they were from the war; instantly, I wanted more."

In 1966, Hagarty served in the 25th Infantry as a Vietnam Veteran, before being honorably discharged after four years in the Army. Later, Hagarty moved to St. Petersburg and not only found his hometown but also a reason to unite the community through his collection of war medals.

Hagarty's work is rooted in every part of the community, ranging from being a schoolteacher, historian and Army veteran. His pride in highlighting the heroism of soldiers, their families, and veterans is evident in his endless collection and preservation of war history. Today, Hagarty continues to forge connections to the patriotic past like the buttons sewn onto his father's uniform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the St. Petersburg community, it gives me great pride to honor and send many wishes to Robert Hagarty on his 90th birthday. Hagarty is a living testament to what you can do for your country and your neighbors. Through his leadership, perseverance, and commitment to honoring Veterans' heroism, Hagarty remains a shining example in the Tampa Bay area.

## HONORING DEREK SIMPSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for fifty-five years, the City of New Haven, Connecticut has been home to Derek Simpson Goldsmith,

a jewelry store offering unique pieces of all kinds designed by the remarkable artist, Derek Simpson. At the end of this month, the store will close and Derek will retire—a loss for Downtown New Haven and jewelry lovers everywhere. A beloved artist, small business owner, and community member, Derek and his exceptional craftsmanship will be missed by many.

Born and raised in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, Derek earned a national design diploma upon his graduation from the School of Silversmithing at Sheffield College of Arts and Crafts. His undergraduate success was rewarded with a scholarship for post-graduate study at the Royal College of Art in the School of Silversmithing and Jewelry. Derek began his career working for renowned American jeweler, Bert C. Gore in Paris before returning to England where he was a professor of metalwork at the Rotherham School of Art and later the head of metalwork at Mid-Cheshire College of Art and Design. He enjoyed great success as a designer and educator; however, his true dream was to open his own jewelry store. It was a dream that he would fulfill here in America.

With relatives in the area, Derek relocated to the New Haven, Connecticut, area in 1970. Just a year later, the owner of a bookstore on Park Street in City's downtown agreed to lease him a small space at the front of his business. It was here that Derek Simpson Goldsmith took root and Derek's dreams of owning his own business were realized. It was not long before both the business and inventory grew requiring Derek to seek a larger storefront. The design and creation of jewelry pieces is an art in and of itself. As a master jeweler, Derek is a brilliant artist. It is that nexus of art and jewelry that inspired former Yale President Henry Broude to offer Derek a retail space at the Yale Center for British Art while it was under construction in 1974. Designed by architect Louis Kahn, the Yale Center for British Art was a perfect fit and thus Derek Simpson Goldsmith found its second downtown New Haven home. Twenty years later, Derek later moved the business to its current downtown location on Chapel Street where it has remained since.

Derek's mastery of design and his artistry have been recognized by local jewelry lovers and international celebrities alike. In addition to the incredibly popular and adored collections he has designed and sold in his stores, Derek has also been commissioned to create special pieces. Shirt studs for composer Leonard Bernstein, cufflinks for architect Philip Johnson, a pin and an earring respectively for American tennis greats Chris Evert, and Andre Aggasi, and necklaces for Olivia Newton-John and Patty Smith—all designed and created by Derek Simpson. In 1976, Derek was commissioned by the City of New Haven to design a silver pillbox, its lid etched with nine squares depicting New Haven original city plan. During the U.S. Bicentennial festivities in New Haven, the specially commissioned pillbox was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, II to commemorate the Nation's anniversary and her visit.

On a more personal note, I have been a fan and customer of Derek's for decades. I have always been in awe of his talent and creativity. I am especially grateful to Derek for the engagement ring and wedding bands he designed for myself and my husband. His imagination and creativity are just astounding. We

have been fortunate to have had him call New Haven home for so long.

Though we are all sad to see the doors of Derek Simpson Goldsmith close, I am honored to have this opportunity to rise and thank him for sharing his talents with us for so many years. As he begins this new life chapter, I am honored to extend my very best wishes to Derek, his wife, Pamela, as well as their family, for many more years of health and happiness. I thank him for bringing so much joy to so many lives.

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RECOGNIZING DAN WILLIAMS

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams for receiving the 2025 Wagon Boss Award from the Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's highest honor, the Wagon Boss Award, is given to those with a lifetime of service defined by integrity, mentorship, and civic leadership. From his youth mentorship to nonprofit leadership, Williams embodies these principles.

Dan is a highly decorated, 30-year combat veteran and servant leader who has honorably served his country through multiple overseas deployments and continued that commitment by serving his community at home. As a County Commissioner, he has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and been a staunch advocate for fellow veterans. Dan has been an active member of the community, serving on a variety of boards and organizations, including the Colorado Wildlife Council, VFW Post 6051, El Pomar Foundation, and the Congressional District 7 Veterans Advisory Board. His vision for the future has helped drive year-over-year economic development, a drop in crime, and infrastructure investments that prepare Teller County for the future.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Teller County Commissioner Dan Williams for his recognition as the Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Wagon Boss.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. ADKINS

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. William "Bill" Adkins as he departs service to this body to assume the role of Principal Deputy Director for the National Reconnaissance Office. Over the past 40 years, Bill has honorably served the United States in both the executive and legislative branches as well as in the private sector. As we "snap the chalk line" on this chapter of Bill's service, I am pleased to honor his dedicated service as a professional staff member for the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense.

Bill's road to the House of Representatives began with completion of his undergraduate degree at The George Washington University here in Washington, D.C., where he majored in mechanical engineering. Bill worked for four years as a spacecraft systems engineer for the Naval Research Laboratory on various defense research space programs before joining the National Reconnaissance Office, for the first time, as a project manager and systems engineer in 1990. In these roles, Bill oversaw numerous classified research and development projects, matured technology across several intelligence methods or "INTs", including geospatial intelligence, signals intelligence, and measurement and signature intelligence. Perhaps as importantly, Bill learned firsthand that the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community are "consistently inconsistent" in the administration of policies and procedures, and that the legendary United States Navy Admiral Hyman Rickover may have been right when he testified that program managers, "have only the shallowest knowledge of the theory of the techniques they much deal with and little experience with the practical problems involved."

Bill culminated his initial tour at the National Reconnaissance Office with a fellowship in the United States Senate for Senator Spencer Abraham of Michigan. After overseeing defense and national security issues for the senator, in 2000 Bill joined the House of Representatives as the staff director for the Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. It is in this capacity that Bill's path first crossed my own. As my principal advisor on all matters of civil space, Bill was my eyes, ears, and voice on the annual budget request for the National Aeronautic and Space Administration—better known as NASA—and other civil space agencies, which totaled over \$16 billion at the time.

After six years of service to the Committee on Science, Bill ventured into the private sector and started a consulting business. For nearly a decade, he advised aerospace and defense chief executives on policy and legislative strategy, business development, and strategic planning.

In 2016, Bill again heeded the call to service in the House of Representatives. This time for the Committee on Appropriations, where our paths would again cross. Bill began his tenure on Surveys and Investigations, a unique bipartisan team charged to deeply review topics raised by both the chair and ranking member of an appropriations subcommittee. In this role, Bill investigated several Department of Defense programs and drafted reports, recommendations, and studies based on the results. After two years, Bill was hired onto the Subcommittee on Defense. Over his eight years with the subcommittee, Bill oversaw an expansive and critical portfolio that included the United States Space Force, National Reconnaissance Office, National Security Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and United States Space Command. In total, these programs account for over \$50 billion of the annual defense appropriations act.

As the committee's subject matter expert on space, Bill provided me, and the chairs before me, with sage counsel on the creation and development of the Space Force. "The problem with space is on the ground," was Bill's refrain at many a meeting with members of the committee and senior department officials alike,

And as pithy as it sounds, Bill is right. The Space Force, or any department or agency, cannot adequately provide for the Nation's defense if it hasn't invested in the critical infrastructure and foundational capabilities necessary to ensure exquisite technologies actually work for the warfighter.

As Bill begins his new role, I would be remiss if I did not note the tremendously positive impact he has had on me, other members of the committee, and the entire defense appropriations staff. Bill's positive attitude, infectious spirit, and deep knowledge have been critical to the committee over some of the most challenging appropriations cycles in recent memory. Bill has often said that there is nothing that cannot be accomplished in the Pentagon with the right memo over the right signature. I expect that Bill is now that "right signature" and I look forward to seeing what he will accomplish for the National Reconnaissance Office, the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community, and a grateful Nation. I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Bill for his service to our country and wish him the best in his new role.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELLIE THRELKEL

**HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable public servant from Winter Haven, Florida, Ms. Ellie Threlkel, who passed away in February 2026 at the age of 88.

Ellie Threlkel was more than a former mayor and city commissioner. She was a pillar of the Winter Haven community and a woman who truly embodied servant leadership. Ellie served on the Winter Haven City Commission from 1988 to 1996 and was appointed mayor from 1991 to 1994. During her time in office, she demonstrated steady leadership and a deep commitment to the people she served. Her husband of 68 years, Dr. Jim Threlkel, once said that Ellie was "the city employees' commissioner and mayor." They knew she genuinely cared about them.

Her impact on Winter Haven is still felt today, particularly in the world of sports and economic development. When the Boston Red Sox left spring training in Winter Haven, it was a significant blow to the local economy. Ellie refused to let that chapter close without a fight. Following the devastation of Hurricane Andrew, she worked tirelessly to bring Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians—now the Cleveland Guardians—to Chain of Lakes Park for spring training.

From 1993 through 2008, that partnership brought jobs, visitors, and pride to our community. Each year, Ellie proudly threw out the first pitch, often wearing her now famous gold sequined Cleveland baseball cap—just one piece of her legendary hat collection that earned her the affectionate nickname, "The Hat Lady."

But Ellie's service extended far beyond City Hall and the baseball field. She was a Girl Scout leader, a charter member of the Junior League of Greater Winter Haven, a leader in