

Winternationals race, and adding the Nationals race to the Indianapolis Raceway Park. Winternationals has been hosted by the Pomona Dragstrip since that time. In 1965, World Finals began to air on television, growing the sport's popularity beyond the U.S., and into England and Europe, and allowing it to secure membership in the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the Automobile Competition Committee of the United States (ACCUS).

Under the leadership of founder Wally Parks, the NHRA increased its annual events, year after year, until its schedule grew to 10 events by the end of the 1970s. Venues were developed throughout North America, enhancing its ability to host new events each year. The 1970s were marked by increased media coverage, corporate support, and on-track innovation, allowing for a more diverse, professional, and mainstream audience for the NHRA.

Even though the NHRA's first race was in Pomona and it later on moved elsewhere, premier motorsports could not stay away from the Inland Empire for long: in 1980, World Finals were at the Ontario Motor Speedway, and in 1984, the NHRA World Finals moved back to Pomona, which has hosted this prestigious event, with one exception, since that time.

Throughout the 1990s, motorsports continued to break more barriers by growing its online presence, developing multi-million dollar sponsorships, and hitting record speeds on the track. In the new millennium, the NHRA continued to work with multi-million dollar sponsors, partnering up with companies such as Powerade, ESPN, and Coca-Cola.

By the 2010s, NHRA's leadership continued the legacy of Wally Parks' founding mission, and focused on incorporating new safety and technology. NHRA partnered with FOX Sports in 2015, allowing the organization to air four-wide racing on national television. Just last year, both men and women set record-high speeds, showing that the sport continues to innovate and grow.

NHRA's impact is widespread: its focus on motorsports safety, vehicle standards, modernized rules, and continuously updated protocols that ensure the protection of drivers, teams, and fans, remains unparalleled. For the past 75 years, NHRA has been a driving force in American motorsports and car culture, ensuring it will continue to flourish for the coming decades.

For its remarkable legacy of innovation and growth, and key role in public safety, competition, and community, it is my honor to recognize the 75th anniversary of the National Hot Rod Association. Its deep roots in the Inland Empire and widespread popularity is worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING DEE ARMSTRONG
ON HER GEORGIA BROADCASTERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart full of gratitude and a voice that remembers the countless evenings when a fa-

miliar presence brought comfort to homes across Columbus and south Georgia—Ms. Dee Armstrong—on the occasion of her induction into the 2026 Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame on March 27, 2026, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

There are lives whose passing of time reads like a steady, comforting heartbeat in a community. Dee's life and career have been that steady pulse—a presence many of us leaned on in moments of joy and sorrow, a voice that announced births, mourned losses, celebrated triumphs, and called us to care for one another. She began that calling as a teenager, balancing high school classes with weekend shifts at Columbus, Georgia Radio Station WDAK, tutored by a demanding but kind mentor who saw in her something the rest of us would come to know as courage—the courage to stand, to speak, and to be counted.

At nineteen, while still finding her way as a young woman, Dee stepped into a television anchor chair and, with a clarity of purpose and a tenderness of spirit, she became the youngest television anchor in the country. That milestone was only the first of many. She moved through newsrooms with humility and grit—from WRBL in Columbus, Georgia, to WSBT in South Bend, and back home to WTVM in Columbus, Georgia—where she became more than an anchor. For three decades she was a companion for viewers, a steady hand on the tiller when storms came, a warm laugh at the start of the day, and a thoughtful voice at the close of evening. Families invited Dee into their living rooms, trusting her to tell their stories honestly and to hold their grief and their joy with equal care.

Dee was the first to bring a daytime talk show to our market, and in doing so she broke yet another barrier—not for the sake of records, but to give a stage to those whose voices needed to be heard. Her guests ranged from national figures to neighbors with quiet heroism. She used her platform not to show how bright she could shine, but to make others glow. Whether interviewing community leaders, championing health awareness through “Buddy Check 9,” or telling the stories of children whose futures we all should protect, Dee made us feel seen and made us, in turn, want to do better for one another.

Her career is studded with awards, but what lingers in the memory is far more human: the woman who knelt to help a child, who organized a ball to raise money for a wig so a little girl could smile again, who taught Sunday School with the same patience she used before a camera. She has been a mother to four sons, a grandmother of seven, a great-grandmother, a singer in choirs, a mentor, a stalwart friend. When life pulled her into unexpected chapters—repairing apartments with her own hands, selling life insurance, running a flea market—she met each turn with the same faith and industrious spirit that shaped her reporting. Nothing about Dee was showy; everything about her was real.

And so, this Hall of Fame honor is, at its heart, recognition of a life that belonged to others. It honors the nights she spent preparing scripts so a community could be informed, the hours she gave to causes that saved lives, the long conversations with young people who needed a word of encouragement. It honors tears shared and wiped away, and the countless ordinary moments when she chose kindness over convenience.

Every newsroom has its stars, but few become family. For Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley, Dee Armstrong became family. Her voice soothed anxious parents, her reporting spurred action, and her compassion taught us how to be better neighbors. Her induction into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame is not merely about a career well executed; it is a community's way of saying thank you to a woman who gave her talents away freely and asked for nothing in return.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in celebrating Dee Armstrong—not only for the accolades, but for the grace, the courage, and the relentless, tender care she has shown a region that loves her dearly. May her example continue to remind us that true greatness is measured in service, in small mercies, and in a life lived toward others.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF NORMA M. WELKER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone in the life of an incredible constituent from my district, Mrs. Norma Welker, who has recently turned 100 years old.

Born on April 9, 1926, Norma grew up in Coal Township, Pennsylvania as the daughter of a schoolteacher. She spent her childhood enjoying all the surrounding countryside in rural Pennsylvania, instilling in her a passion for nature that would last a lifetime. Her childhood memories camping in the wilderness are to this day some of her most cherished. In addition to camping and exploring nature, she found herself drawn to cosmetology, enjoying the latest fashion trends of her time during the interwar period.

In 1944, she graduated from Coal Township High School and later attended beauty school in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. During her time there, she stayed in a YMCA to save money while she got her education. Her wise financial decisions and frugal living paid off when she was finally able to open her own beauty shop out of her family home in Shamokin, PA at 19 years old. Named My Lady's, her beauty shop was a staple in her community, bringing in individuals from Shamokin as well as the neighboring towns. She brought joy and kindness to all who shopped with her.

A few short years later, Norma married the love of her life, Clifford H. Welker, a World War II veteran, on August 15, 1948. Together, they had two children, Glenn and Lynn, and soon after moved to Morrisville in Bucks County when Clifford took a job as a blacksmith at American Bridge in Philadelphia. She continued her hair styling work in Trenton, New Jersey, before ultimately deciding to focus full time on raising her family. Even still, she enjoyed occasionally doing the hair of her friends and neighbors in her free time.

In her later years, Norma fully pursued her passion for the great outdoors and traveling. She was able to visit all 50 states in the U.S., with the highlight of her travels being her

cross-country road trip to Alaska in 1976 where she camped for 3 months in a tent. She has an adventurous spirit, and her travels and exploits certainly demonstrate that deep desire to experience all that our Nation has to offer.

Now, in her 100th year of life, Norma remains an incredible source of kindness and warmth, enjoying her time with her daughter Lynn and two grandchildren. She continues to brighten the day of every individual who is lucky enough to cross her path and is always looking forward to the next gathering of her family and friends.

As we celebrate Norma's 100th birthday, we honor her enduring dedication to our community as a traveler, mother, stylist and a woman of enduring love and joy.

RECOGNIZING ISABELLE
SCHINDLER AND HER SERVICE
TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Isabelle Schindler for her outstanding service to my office and the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District.

A native New Yorker, Isabelle graduated from University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy. She has worked for Congressman Eliot Engel and served as a Senate Page for Senator CHARLES SCHUMER from New York. Isabelle worked on a variety of voter engagement projects in both New York and Michigan before joining my staff in the House of Representatives.

In 2023, Isabelle became my Scheduler while I was serving as the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. She did an excellent job coordinating appointments with constituents, stakeholders, Members of Congress, House Leadership, and members of the Judiciary Committee staff. She quickly took on more than scheduling and expanded her role in the office, earning her a promotion to DC Operations Manager.

Isabelle was a team player and was always willing to step up and take on more responsibilities. She assisted our press operation, held legislative meetings with constituents and interest groups, and covered the arts portfolio for our office. She was instrumental in the introduction of the American Royalties Too (ART) Act and worked with our team on the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act (HEAR) Act to make it easier to recover artwork lost or stolen between 1933 and 1945 because of Nazi persecution. During the annual appropriations process, she registered my support for hundreds of legislative programs and initiatives including critical Community Project Funding requests which brought tens of millions of dollars into our New York district.

After I announced my decision not to seek re-election, Isabelle worked diligently to organize my vast collection of physical files to ensure they could be properly reviewed and archived for future generations.

Isabelle was a fantastic intern coordinator and managed 18 interns during her time in my office. She took her leadership responsibilities

seriously and went out of her way to provide interesting educational opportunities for the interns both on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington, D.C., including tours of the White House and various government agencies. Several of her former interns have returned on visits to the office and have gone out of their way to express how influential Isabelle has been in their career development and how they still haven't had a supervisor who was as kind, encouraging, and empowering as she was.

I will miss her cheerful presence, her ability to anticipate the needs of the office, and her diligence in completing projects on time or ahead of schedule. She was a trusted, reliable professional member of my staff, and I deeply appreciate her service.

Isabelle was invaluable to the office in ways that went beyond her defined role. Each and every staffer she worked with grew to appreciate how much she contributed to the office culture. She went above and beyond to make sure everyone felt welcome and supported, birthdays were celebrated, we showed our appreciation for one another as we hit career milestones and transitions, and we cared for one another during stressful times. She did this with grace, positivity, and humility. I hope she realizes how lucky we all feel to have worked with her and how jealous we are of the people she will work with in the future.

One cannot speak about Isabelle, without mentioning her sweet dog, Ginger, who became the unofficial mascot of NY-12.

In her free time, Isabelle enjoys travelling the world with her family—including trips to Brazil, Japan, Mexico City, Paris, the U.K. and Thailand. The staff love hearing about her trips and her perspective on the people, the food, and culture of the places she visits. She is a joy and an inspiration to us all. I hope she continues to find opportunities to see the world.

As Isabelle moves on to a new opportunity in another Congressional office, I wish her the best of luck and lots of future successes. I thank her for her service and commend her for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF GENE JANIKULA

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gene Janikula for his many decades of public service on the Woodland Township board in Wright County, Minnesota. For 61 years, Gene has honorably served his community and fellow citizens with diligence and integrity. His lifelong dedication has left a legacy that will endure for many years to come.

Gene's service began in 1965 when he was first elected to the Woodland Township board as constable on March 9, 1965. On March 25, 1970, he was appointed treasurer to fill out a term. After that, he was elected treasurer every two years, ultimately serving as treasurer for 38 years. In 2008, he ran for and was elected supervisor, serving in that position for over 18 years. Throughout his time on the Woodland Township board, he was a very active member of the Wright County Township

Officers. He has also served as Chairman of the Watertown Fire Department Board, Director of Wright County Economic Development Partnership, and Chairman of the Minnesota Association of Townships Legislative and Research Committee.

In gratitude for his service, the Woodland Township board unanimously passed a resolution to establish March 17, 2026, as Gene Janikula Day in Wright County. In addition to the recognition from Wright County, it is an honor to highlight Gene's dedication to Woodland Township from the U.S. House of Representatives.

His service has left a lasting impact on both the community and its citizens. Gene's leadership has been a pillar of Woodland Township for decades, and those who follow in his footsteps will continue to build on the strong foundation he leaves behind. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN CLUB

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

The Appalachian Mountain Club was founded in 1876 in Boston, Massachusetts with the mission to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors and is the Nation's oldest conservation and recreation organization.

For 150 years, the Appalachian Mountain Club and its 90,000 members and 11 Chapters have led efforts to protect forests, waterways, wildlife habitats, and public lands, while fostering responsible and joyful outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.

The Appalachian Mountain Club's first testimony before Congress in 1895 contributed to the creation of land that later became Mt. Rainier National Park. In 1911, it helped secure passage of the Weeks Act, leading to the creation of the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine. Nearly 80 years later, the Appalachian Mountain Club supported the creation of the Forest Legacy program to conserve critical forestlands across the country and advocated for protections from acid rain that contributed to the adoption of the landmark 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act.

Today, AMC continues to do irreplaceable work on conservation. Since 2003, it has protected over 130,000 acres as part of its Maine Woods Initiative, helped create the Highlands Conservation Act to conserve natural resources in the 3.4 million acres of the Highlands Region across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, and advanced the designation of the New England National Scenic Trail. It has also supported the adoption of the Great American Outdoors Act and the EXPLORE Act, to ensure outdoor recreation access for generations to come.

And AMC has played an essential role in making the Appalachian National Scenic Trail the truly one-of-a-kind trail it is today. The Appalachian Mountain Club has been a champion of the Appalachian Trail since its conception in 1921, its construction from 1923 to