

began his tenure at CBS Philadelphia as an investigative journalist. He later took the helm of the morning newscast, helping to relaunch it to one of the region's most-watched programs.

Outside of his outstanding career, Jim has been a community advocate since he planted his roots here in our community. He has advocated for several different groups, using his platform and his voice to bring awareness to a variety of causes. One such group is Bucks County's Autism Cares Foundation, which was founded in 2007 to focus on improving the life experiences of individuals with disabilities. Jim has been the emcee of many of their events including their annual CARES gala along with their Races 4 Resources annual charity 5k. He also has graced audiences and guests with his charming personality as the auctioneer for the gala's annual silent auction as well. Throughout his relationship with the Autism Cares Foundation, he has become a cherished member of their community, a strong voice and advocate, as well as a friend and role model to many of individuals the Foundation serves. It is without a doubt that he is a deserving recipient of the 2026 CARES Award.

As Jim begins his well-earned retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on not just an incredible career, but for his tireless efforts to serve our community. May he have many wonderful and restful years ahead of him.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
LILIANA CALLAHAN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Liliana Callahan, Staff Assistant and Constituent Advocate in my district office, and to thank her for the dedication and hard work she brought to serving residents throughout the 9th Congressional District of Illinois.

Liliana grew up in Maryland and came to Chicago to attend Loyola University Chicago, eventually deciding to put down roots here. Soon after graduating in 2023, she joined our team full time. Though she was the newest and youngest member of our staff, she quickly established herself as someone we could count on.

During her early time with our office, Liliana managed front-line constituent contact and oversaw all United States Postal Service casework across the 9th District. She also directed our district office intern program for several semesters, ensuring each group of interns had the resources and guidance they needed to succeed.

Over time, Liliana developed a specialization in immigration casework. She built a deep skill set and was an excellent advocate on behalf of constituents. Many people who reached out to our office feared for the safety and long-term security of their family members navigating our country's immigration system, and Liliana's compassion and expertise reassured them that we were on their side and ready to help.

Liliana worked extremely hard to help and advocate for constituents, while managing a

large workload. She made a difference in the lives of so many constituents. We heard from many of them who were grateful for her work, including the constituent who wrote to me: "I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your instrumental role in securing my father's I-485 approval. Your dedication and expertise made all the difference, and we are overjoyed to share the news of his successful adjustment of status. Thank you for your outstanding work. We appreciate your dedication to making a difference in our lives and look forward to your continued leadership."

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Liliana Callahan for her service. She did not grow up here, but she showed up, did the work, and made a real difference for the people of this district. I am proud of her accomplishments and confident she will continue to build on what she started here.

RECOGNIZING SAWYER ROSS AS  
CASS CITY'S 2026 JUNIOR CITIZEN  
OF THE YEAR

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sawyer Ross, recipient of the Cass City 2026 Junior Citizen of the Year Award, whose leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence have made a lasting impact on his school and community.

Sawyer has distinguished himself as a well-rounded student and accomplished athlete, participating in track and field, cross country, swimming, and soccer. His discipline and perseverance have led to significant success in track and field, where he has earned numerous medals. As a team captain for both track and field and cross country, he leads by example, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a consistently positive attitude.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Sawyer excels academically and is a member of the National Honor Society. His academic accomplishments include earning an economics academic pin, a GPA-based academic letter, and a Spanish I Certificate of Excellence.

Sawyer's involvement extends beyond the classroom and athletic field. He is an active member of the Saginaw Striders Track Club, American Marriage Ministries, and Youth for Christ Bible Study, where he also serves on the leadership committee team. He has further demonstrated his commitment to leadership through his work at Bay Shore Camp, where he served as a group leader and was recently promoted to activities coordinator, earning recognition for his contributions and being honored with the Best Cabin Leader Award.

Through his participation in school and community activities, Sawyer has shown a strong sense of community spirit and engagement. His character, work ethic, and willingness to serve others truly set him apart as a role model among his peers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sawyer Ross for his outstanding accomplishments and for the leadership he has demonstrated as a representative of the Cass City community.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE SMITH

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary contributions of one of my constituents, Christine Smith, who has devoted nearly five years of service to Habitat for Humanity of the Nature Coast. Over that time, Chris has volunteered more than 1,200 hours—an incredible commitment that has helped countless Habitat partner families receive the keys to their new homes. Many of our regular customers fondly know her as the "Book Lady," as she continues to volunteer in the media department at the Inverness ReStore, carefully organizing books by author and genre. Chris approaches every task with passion and dedication, often staying late or arriving early to ensure the work gets done.

Even in retirement from a long career in school administration, Chris continues to serve her community, supporting her peers and sharing her talents. She is also an active member of a local chorus, bringing joy to others through her music. Chris is not only a committed volunteer but also a cherished member of the Habitat family.

It is clear that Christine Smith has made a profoundly positive impact on our community. I am deeply grateful for her dedication and service, and I am proud to recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES  
ARMY SGT. MICHAEL DEBONIS  
FOR HIS PUBLIC AND MILITARY  
SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional individual from my district—Bucks County's own, Sgt. Michael DeBonis. A courageous U.S. Army veteran and dedicated public servant, Sgt. DeBonis assisted thousands of veterans in our community in receiving the benefits they earned, organized trips to war memorials, and led seminars with local law enforcement to better assist veterans in crisis. I proudly commend him, following decades of committed service to not only the people of Bucks County, but to our Nation as well.

Drafted into the U.S. Army on May 7, 1968, Michael served in Vietnam, specializing as a Military Policeman. Through his resolute dedication to our Nation, he earned the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Overseas Bars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with a Silver Star for five campaigns, and the Good Conduct Medal. Returning home to his wife Lynne in December of 1969, Michael devoted his career to serving the brave veterans who served alongside him.

As Senior Commander of VFW Post 6393 and Member of the VA Advisory Board for the Horsham, Pennsylvania Clinic, Sgt. DeBonis provided strategic guidance, advisory services,

event organization, and VA assistance to countless veterans throughout my district. The friendship and camaraderie with his fellow veterans remain unwavering and given without reservation. Sgt. DeBonis was not only dedicated, but he was also selfless. While serving as Vice President of the Bucks County Tour of Honor, he organized free trips for thousands of veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their respective war memorials.

In his free time, Sgt. DeBonis is an avid lover of the outdoors. On land, he is an ardent bird photographer, woodworker, astronomer, and restaurateur. On the water, he is a passionate fly fisherman. Through these pursuits, he not only enriched his own life, but also fostered a deep appreciation for nature, craftsmanship, and his community above all.

Most notably, Sgt. DeBonis is known as a trusted mentor and leader. He is always willing to assist a fellow veteran, being the right person to turn to for invaluable guidance and support. His indispensable knowledge, veteran advocacy, and sound judgement are just a few of the hallmarks that make Sergeant Michael DeBonis the outstanding man he is today.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt recognition to Sgt. Michael DeBonis for his ongoing veteran advocacy and thank him for his decades of distinguished service to the citizens of Bucks County and beyond. His leadership and dedication will leave a lasting mark on the community he so faithfully serves.

HONORING THE GEORGETOWN GRADUATION OF JADEN OCHS

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jaden Ochs, who stands at a remarkable intersection of compassion, discipline, and purpose—qualities that define an exceptional nurse as well as an extraordinary human being.

Having earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University, Jaden has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence in one of the most demanding and meaningful professions. Her academic achievement alone is impressive, but it is her journey, the lives she has touched, the environments she has served in, and the leadership she has shown that truly sets her apart.

Throughout her clinical training, Jaden gained invaluable experience as a student nurse resident in labor and delivery, where she supported mothers and families during some of the most profound moments of their lives. She further honed her skills at St. Joseph's Hospital, deepening her expertise in labor and delivery while also caring for the most vulnerable patients in the neonatal intensive care unit.

As a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Jaden has been recognized for her academic achievement and leadership in the field. She has also given her time selflessly as a student nurse volunteer, embodying the true spirit of service that lies at the heart of nursing.

Perhaps most inspiring is her role as the founder and president of the American Veterans Society Military Outreach. Through this

initiative, Jaden has demonstrated a deep commitment to those who have served our country, bridging healthcare and advocacy in a way that reflects both courage and compassion.

Jaden Ochs represents the very best of what the nursing profession aspires to be—skilled, driven, and guided by a profound sense of purpose. Her journey is only just beginning, and there is no doubt that her impact will continue to ripple outward, touching lives, strengthening communities, and inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.

RECOGNIZING SEAN GERRY

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sean Gerry, a resident of Jackson County, North Carolina, whose quick thinking and selfless actions helped save the life of a young woman in Buncombe County.

On the morning of December 23, 2025, Ms. Brittany Teeters suffered a devastating head-on collision when an impaired driver, traveling at approximately 100 miles per hour, struck her vehicle. In the moments leading up to the crash, Mr. Gerry observed the driver's reckless behavior and immediately contacted 911 to report the danger. His awareness and initiative ensured that emergency responders received critical, realtime information even before the accident occurred.

When Mr. Gerry arrived at the scene, his unwavering composure and clear direction helped reduce response time by first responders significantly. As other bystanders gathered and attempted to assist, Mr. Gerry prevented anyone from moving Ms. Teeters in her vehicle until trained emergency personnel could safely remove her from the wreckage. This decision proved critical. Due to the severity of her injuries, including trauma caused by her seatbelt, premature movement could have resulted in fatal damage to her vital organs.

Mr. Gerry's actions reflect the very best of our North Carolina values: courage, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to the well-being of others. His calm judgment in a moment of crisis made a life-saving difference and stands as another example of how Western North Carolinians can perform extraordinary acts of service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Sean Gerry for his heroism and in expressing our gratitude for his actions, which helped save a life and positively impact his community. May we all strive to serve others with the same sense of responsibility and care.

RECOGNIZING PHIL NICHOLS AS CASS CITY'S 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary member of the Cass

City community, Phil Nichols, as the recipient of the Cass City 2026 Citizen of the Year Award. His leadership, dedication, and lifelong commitment to service have made a profound and lasting impact on our community.

Phil has devoted much of his life to mentoring and supporting the youth of Cass City, encouraging their growth, achievements, and involvement in community service. Through his guidance and example, he has inspired young people to reach their potential and contribute meaningfully to the community around them.

In addition to his work with youth, Phil has been actively involved in numerous community and service organizations, helping strengthen these institutions through his reliability, leadership, and selfless dedication.

Phil's character has also been shaped by a lifetime of service, including honorable military duty beginning in 1968. During nineteen months of service, he demonstrated extraordinary courage and patriotism, earning distinguished honors such as the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Even beyond his military service, Phil has continued to serve his community through volunteerism, mentorship, and leadership, embodying the spirit of servant leadership.

Above all, Phil's contributions reflect a life devoted to helping others, strengthening Cass City, and setting an example of integrity, generosity, and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Phil Nichols for his exceptional contributions to the Cass City community. His leadership, character, and dedication set a standard for all, and his legacy of service will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING LINDSAY TOZER

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Lindsay Tozer, a volunteer advisory board member for the Service Dog Alliance of Florida, where she also serves as chair of its public awareness campaign.

Ms. Tozer has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to advancing accessibility, dignity, and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities who rely on service animals in their daily lives. While Florida Statutes 413.08 and 413.081—enacted in 2015—provide important legal protections for service animals, including coverage for animals in training and penalties for misrepresentation or interference, these safeguards have historically been under-recognized by the public and even by some in law enforcement. Recognizing this gap, Ms. Tozer led a comprehensive effort to improve public understanding and compliance with these critical laws. As campaign chair, she convened a diverse group of community leaders and stakeholders to develop a clear and effective public awareness toolkit, including rack cards, door decals, and posters. Initially piloted in Citrus County, these materials were designed for use by businesses and local governments to reduce service animal misrepresentation while reinforcing both the rights and