

embodied the highest ideals of the legal profession and has served the people of Virginia with wisdom, fairness, and deep respect for the rule of law.

A proud graduate of The University of Virginia for both undergraduate and law, Justice Powell began her legal career in private practice in Richmond, Virginia. Her professionalism and legal acumen quickly established her as a respected figure in Virginia's legal community.

In 1993, Justice Powell made history by becoming the first African American woman to serve as a judge on the District Court for the County of Chesterfield. During her tenure, she earned widespread respect for her fairness, thoughtful deliberation, and commitment to ensuring that every person who appeared before her court was treated with dignity and respect.

Her exceptional judicial service led to her election to the Chesterfield Circuit Court in 2000 and to the Virginia Court of Appeals in 2008, where she continued to distinguish herself as a jurist of remarkable intellect and sound judgment. In 2011, the Virginia General Assembly elected her to the Supreme Court of Virginia, where she again made history as the first African American woman to serve on the Commonwealth's highest court.

During her tenure on the Supreme Court, Justice Powell has been widely recognized for her careful legal reasoning, principled approach to the law, and deep understanding of the profound responsibilities entrusted to the judiciary. Her opinions reflect a thoughtful balance of legal scholarship, respect for precedent, and a commitment to ensuring that the law serves all Virginians fairly.

Now, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Justice Powell assumes an even greater leadership role within the Commonwealth's judicial system. Her historic appointment reflects not only her exceptional qualifications and experience, but also the trust and respect she has earned from her colleagues and the broader legal community.

Justice Powell's journey is one of perseverance, dedication, and service. Her achievements have opened doors and expanded opportunities for future generations of attorneys and judges, particularly for young people who may now see themselves reflected in the leadership of Virginia's highest court.

Mr. Speaker, Justice Cleo E. Powell's appointment as Chief Justice marks a proud and historic moment for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her leadership will undoubtedly continue to strengthen our judiciary and uphold the principles of justice and equality that are foundational to our democracy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Justice Cleo E. Powell on this historic achievement and in thanking her for her extraordinary service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" MULHOLLAND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Robert "Bob" Mulholland to our community.

Bob Mulholland was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in December 1946. Shortly after

graduating from high school, he responded to his draft notice and served in the Vietnam War with the 101st Airborne Brigade. Mr. Mulholland was severely wounded during his service in Vietnam during the Tet offensive and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Mr. Mulholland returned to California to study at Los Angeles City College for three years, later moving to Chico to study engineering at California State University, Chico. At Chico State, Mr. Mulholland sought out a community of Vietnam War veterans and attended student meetings led by then-Student Body President, Jane Dolan. Mr. Mulholland later helped Jane with her campaign for a seat on the Butte County Board of Supervisors, and, along the way, they fell in love and married.

Mr. Mulholland's passion for advocacy led to him becoming part of the formation of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He joined countless veterans in fighting to end the war, which led to his lifetime mission of fighting injustice everywhere. He honored and helped countless Vietnam Veterans, participated in the U.S. reconciliation with Vietnam, supported the construction of the Vietnam Wall and brought replicas to communities across America.

Mr. Mulholland was also a powerful political advocate, displaying a deep commitment to working-class people and veterans in our community. He served as political director for the California Democratic Party and was a member of the Democratic National Committee, helping to elect good people to local, state, and national offices. While working with the state Democratic Party, Mr. Mulholland saw Bill Clinton become the first Democrat to win California since 1964, and two Democrats, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, win their Senate seats. Mr. Mulholland's work was critical in making California a Democratic stronghold.

Bob Mulholland is survived by his sisters, Sandy, Jackie, and Candace, as well as his brother Andrew, all sharing the last name Mulholland, as well as his beloved wife, Jane Dolan.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Bob Mulholland for his dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING THE 2026 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPION, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER'S MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University of Denver's men's hockey team, who just won their 11th NCAA national championship—their third in five years—extending their lead as the most decorated program in college hockey history.

As a proud Denverite, I have had the distinct pleasure of witnessing six of those eleven championships during my time in Congress, and this one is no less special.

Head Coach David Carle won his third championship with the school at just 36 years old. The standard at Denver is unlike anywhere else in college hockey, and this team met it.

The final game was a testament to the Pios' grit. Coming from behind in the third, DU had been outshot 25–6 when three NHL prospects changed the story. Garrett Brown and Kristian Epperson helped Rieger Lorenz tie the game with just the seventh shot on the Badger net. Less than seven minutes later, Brown found his second point of the night, getting the puck to Boston Buckberger, whose shot toward the net allowed Kyle Chyzowski to redirect in the tournament's final goal.

The Pios were backstopped throughout by freshman phenom Johnny Hicks—who stepped into the starting role in January after the team's No. 1 goalie went down to injury and never looked back. Named Most Outstanding Player after making 29 saves in the final, he had previously turned aside 49 shots in the double overtime semifinal win against Michigan. He went undefeated in regulation, finishing his debut season 16–0–1.

Saturday's championship capped a tournament run that included a 5–0 shutout of Cornell, a 6–2 dismantling of defending champion Western Michigan, and that unforgettable double-overtime battle with Michigan.

The championship reflects not just extraordinary talent, but the hard work, teamwork, and dedication that define this program—a team that finished 29–11–3 and ends the season on top of the college hockey world.

I am happy to recognize Coach Carle, the DU men's hockey team, and the entire DU community for this well-deserved achievement. These young athletes have bright futures ahead, but no matter where their careers take them, I hope they never forget the feeling of fighting for Denver.

They have not only made Colorado proud but made history in college hockey, and I look forward to celebrating many more championships to come.

I congratulate again the 2026 NCAA men's hockey champions—the University of Denver Pioneers. Or, as we say in Denver, "Go Pios."

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 15, 2026, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on April 15 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to

include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Joseph Aceto, Lawrence Acre, Dale W. Adolfsen, Marc Albertario, Peter T. Alexander, Ricardo P. Almaguer, Benjamin G. Baldwin, Jr., Herbert E. Banach, Russell E. Becker, Richard Beintum, Robert J. Beran, Francesco A. Bertolli, Peter H. Billing, Charles B. Bosko, James W. Cebulski, Richard E. Chapman, Peter R. Conboy, Walter E. Counts, Jose Cruz, Thomas J. Czajka, John E. Davenport, Alfonso Ferreira, Sr., Lynn A. Ferris, Leon W. Francis, Robert J. Gilmore, Edward J. Glenney, Michael E. Granberry, Clifford D. Hall, Clifford E. Hall, James A. Hanson, Adrian W. Harries, Joseph H. Heater, Edward Hines, Gary L. Hoffman, Burnell Holman, Michael E. Hurst, Richard A. Jensen, Robert G. Jeropke, Edward L. Johnson, Robert V. Johnson, Jr., Stanley J. Joswiak, Joan E. Kateiva, John J. Kelly, Jr., Eugene R. Kirk, Patrick E. Kitching, James J. Klimes, Jr., Dale A. Kriesel, William T. Kucharzyk, Eugene R. LaFleur, Kenneth J. Laning, Brandt L. Leischner, John H. Lindemulder, Arthur R. Lubben, Willie Lucas, Jr., Frederick C. Mark, Joseph C. Marshall, Robert J. Mathisen, Jr., James M. McKee, Joseph J. Medveskas, Herman Mendez, Jerry F. Meredith, Kenneth J. Michalak, Melvin C. Murray, John E. Musial, Joseph Nootens, Richard O'Brien, Joseph F. O'Connor, Richard L. Partlow, Jr., Gloria J. Patterson, Maurice A. Patterson, Lothar Perignon, James V. Polich, Frank P. Qualtier, Billio D. Riley, Charles C. Robinson, John W. Rost, James C. Russell, Robert J. Russell, Sr., Alfred A. Russo, Donald E. Scheidt, Jerome Schmidt, Raymond M. Schmitz, Glen R. Schwartz, Roy V. Silvester, Michael C. Sims, Dennis R. Singer, Robert K. Slevnik, Terry L. Snyder, Jay A. Stob, John T. Storrs, Martin C. Strausberger, Herman G. Taylor, Warren F. Tejes, Lucian S. Tessmann, Gary G. Todd, Walter P. Trock, III, Joe Vance, Lawrence F. Vasquez, Sidney M. Victor, Robert H. Voss, James J. Wall, Terry D. Welch, William W. Westerhof, Scott C. Whelan, John H. Whiteside, Henry B. Winkler, William M. Wolff, Harley Woodhouse, and Aloysius J. Zupancic.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH
ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in the commemoration of the recent Blessing of the Fleet, which was conducted on April 11, 2026 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Passed down through generations of sailors, fishermen, merchant mariners, and navies around the world, the centuries-old Blessing of the Fleet ceremony is intended to safeguard crews and their ships. It is said to protect them from the danger of the seas through a traditional blessing given by a clergyman at the water's edge.

As a tribute to our Nation's rich maritime heritage and the men and women who have contributed to its growth and success, the United States Navy Memorial hosts its annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony each spring.

During the ceremony, sailors from the U.S. Navy's Ceremonial Guard proceed across the

Granite Sea on Navy Memorial Plaza to pour water from the Seven Seas and Great Lakes into the surrounding fountains. This element of the ceremony charges the fountains with life, as they usher in the spring season.

On behalf of constituents throughout the 13th Congressional District, I express gratitude to the men and women of the Seas Services—past and present—for their devotion to duty and defense of liberty. May their service be forever remembered.

HONORING RODNEY "ROD"
DIRIDON, SR.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues Representative RO KHANNA, Representative JIMMY PANETTA, and Representative SAM LICCARDO representing Santa Clara County, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rod Diridon, Sr. of San Jose, California, a devoted public servant whose impact on the Santa Clara Valley will last for generations.

Mr. Diridon was born and raised in northern California before attending San José State University. He later attended Naval Officer Candidate School and served two combat tours in Vietnam. Following his military service, Diridon returned to California and was elected in 1973 as the youngest-ever member of the Saratoga City Council. From 1975 to 1995, he served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, including six terms as Chair.

Even after his career in public service, Mr. Diridon remained committed to improving the quality of life for others through transportation and regional planning. He chaired the American Public Transit Association (APTA) in 1992, and Governor Gray Davis appointed Mr. Diridon to the California High Speed Rail Authority in 2000.

Mr. Diridon's work emphasized sustainability, regional cooperation, and the importance of accessible public transportation in everyday life. Working closely with the Honorable Norman Mineta through the Norman Mineta Transit Institute, Mr. Diridon led the institute and helped advance a shared vision for modern, integrated transit systems such as light rail development, Caltrain improvements, and the expansion of BART into Silicon Valley. Under his leadership, he was able to work with both the U.S. Department of Transportation and California Department of Transportation to identify research priorities on transit system security, transportation financing, and land use policies related to transportation. Mr. Diridon's vision consistently highlighted the connection between transportation, environmental responsibility, and connecting community.

He was also deeply rooted in family life, which remained an important part of his personal and professional journey. The son of Italian immigrants, Mr. Diridon was married to Dr. Gloria Duffy, a national leader in public policy. He was the father of two children, Rod Jr. and Mary Margaret, and a grandfather of four. His family shares and carries the same commitment to civic engagement that defined his life and career.

Rod Diridon, Sr. helped bridge generations of leadership and redefine how communities approach mobility and growth. His forward-thinking vision and dedication to public service have and continue to leave a lasting impact on the region and beyond. His legacy of leadership, innovation, and commitment to the public good will be remembered with deep gratitude.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT DOLSON AS
2026 ATHLETE DIRECTOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Indiana leader, Scott Dolson, who has been named the 2026 Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Mr. Dolson has made history as the first athletic director of Indiana University to receive this honor. This award is a testament to his dedication, leadership, and the remarkable success of Hoosier athletics under his guidance.

Over seventeen years at Indiana University, including six as Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, he has helped elevate programs across the board. That includes leading one of the most remarkable turnarounds in college sports, culminating in Indiana Football reaching the top of the sport and earning a national championship—an achievement that brought pride to the entire state. At the same time, student-athletes across programs continue to excel both on the field and in the classroom.

Mr. Dolson's contributions to athletics do not stop with Indiana University. He is active in shaping the future of leadership of collegiate sports, including participating in a White House roundtable discussing the future of college athletics, serving as Chairperson of the Big Ten Athletic Directors group, and a part of the NCAA Division I Baseball Selection Committee.

I congratulate Scott on this well-deserved honor. I thank him for his contributions to IU athletics, Hoosier athletes, and to our home state of Indiana.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. On April 13th, we joined Jewish communities across South Florida and the world to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, to honor the survivors, and to reflect on the immense courage of those who resisted oppression.

In South Florida, the Committee of the Yad Vashem USA Foundation hosted a Community-Wide Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus in North Miami Beach. This solemn program brings together civic leaders, clergy, survivors, and