

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

families in a shared moment of reflection and resilience.

The date of Yom HaShoah, April 14th, was intentionally chosen for its proximity to the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It is a powerful symbol that the history of the Holocaust is not only one of tragedy and loss, but also of dignity and resistance.

As our community gathers, we reaffirm our collective responsibility to stand against anti-semitism, hatred, and indifference in all its forms. The work of the Yad Vashem USA Foundation is more critical than ever, ensuring that Holocaust education remains a priority and that the lessons of the past continue to guide future generations.

It is a privilege to represent a community so dedicated to the promise of "Never Again." I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of the victims and in thanking the South Florida Committee of the Yad Vashem USA Foundation for their tireless commitment to keeping the light of remembrance alive.

RECOGNIZING GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS FROM THE COLONIAL COAST

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several remarkable Girl Scouts from Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast for demonstrating extraordinary leadership, refreshing creativity, and a commitment to making a lasting impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are trailblazers who address the most pressing issues facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

I congratulate and include in the Record following outstanding young women:

- Lydia Winstead, Troop 1579
- Noor Swanson, Troop 495
- Marley Fenley, Troop 76
- Sarah Williams, Troop 322
- Nomi Reins, Troop 679
- Lana Janas, Troop 25

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Virginia, I congratulate them on their achievement of the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank them all for their leadership and for making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. NATHANAEL ETZWEILER

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Mr. Nathanael Etzweiler on earning the Royal Rangers Gold Medal of Achievement with Merit.

Nathanael has been a valued member of the Royal Rangers Outpost 242 for the past ten years, where, in line with the Four Gold Points on the Royal Ranger Emblem, he has grown mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially. His time in the Royal Rangers has helped him focus on his physical health, grow his social network through the church and sports, and strengthen his relationship with God through prayer and scripture.

Nathanael's service in the Royal Rangers has allowed him to give back to the local community in myriad ways; to name a few, he has served Christmas dinner and provided gifts to children and staff of the York Youth Development Center, he regularly serves meals at local Veterans' breakfasts, does yardwork/cleanup for elderly families in his area, volunteers at the Christian Life Assembly church as a greeter at concerts and holiday services, and is a part of the Food Bank Prayer Team.

Throughout each level of Royal Rangers, Nathanael has received high honors, including the Ranger Kids Gold Trail, the Discovery Gold Eagle, and the Adventure Gold Medal. To earn these awards, he completed nine Leadership Merits, 232 Bible Lessons, and 35 various Skill Merits. He has read the entire Bible and, with the guidance of a mentor, has completed the Royal Rangers Capstone project—a self-evaluation and goal-setting study using Doug Marsh's book *A Guy's Journey to Manhood*.

Outside of Royal Rangers, Nathanael enjoys studying God's Word and praying. He loves the peace of the outdoors and enjoys hunting and trail walking with his father. He plays football, and is a natural leader and teacher who is patient and thorough. Nathanael aspires to continue to serve and grow in honoring God with his life.

On May 2, 2026, Nathanael will receive both the Gold Medal of Achievement and the Gold Medal of Achievement with Merit. These awards are a profound testament to his hard work, his passion for God, his "service before self" attitude, and his commitment to the Royal Rangers Code.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Nathanael Etzweiler on his auspicious and impressive achievements thus far in his life. His service to our community and love for the Lord will have a profound and lasting impact, and I wish him Godspeed on his future successes and adventures.

HONORING THE GILA VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniver-

sary of the Gila Valley Arts Council, an organization whose enduring commitment to the performing arts has expanded and inspired the lives of countless residents across south-eastern Arizona.

Founded in 1985 by Cecilia Roudebush, Mary Hartung, Monika Ragland, and Mary Barmann, the Gila Valley Arts Council was established to support and sponsor visual and performing arts in Arizona's Gila Valley. Over the past four decades, the Council has remained steadfast in its mission: to promote, support, and sponsor performing arts in south-eastern Arizona, with a particular emphasis on reaching young people through its School Residency Program and public performances.

The Council's impact has been profound. Through partnerships with schools and community organizations across Graham and Greenlee Counties, the Gila Valley Arts Council has opened doors for students to experience world class artistry. In the 2025–2026 season alone, the Council reached a total of 4,689 students and community members.

A pivotal moment in the organization's history came in 1991 with the involvement of Dr. Jack Kukuk, whose long and distinguished tenure as Artistic Director expanded the Council's reach and elevated its programming for more than three decades. Through his guidance, internationally renowned performers graced stages in the Gila Valley, bringing global culture to the local community. Dr. Kukuk concluded his service as Artistic Director in 2025, leaving behind a lasting legacy of artistic excellence and expanded opportunity for generations of students and residents to come.

The Gila Valley Arts Council's dedication to cultural enrichment has not gone unnoticed. In 1995, the organization was honored with the Community Award at the Arizona Governor's Arts Awards, recognizing its outstanding contributions to arts education and community life.

Today, the Council continues its work under the leadership of a dedicated Board of Directors led by President Tom Green. Together, the Board carries forward a legacy of service, creativity, and opportunity.

For 40 years, the Gila Valley Arts Council has brought inspiration to Arizonans, expanding horizons, nurturing young talent, and strengthening community through the arts. Their work reminds us that access to culture and creativity is a vital part of a thriving and connected society.

It is with great honor and deep appreciation that I recognize the Gila Valley Arts Council on this remarkable milestone and commend all those who have contributed to its enduring success.

HONORING MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vital contributions of medical laboratory professionals to the healthcare system and acknowledge Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, observed from April 19 through April 25, 2026.

The professionals who work in medical laboratories play a critical role in patient care, as