

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 southeastern 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

approximately 70 percent of all medical decisions rely on laboratory test results. Complex testing that occurs in labs is essential for the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, as well as for monitoring patient health.

Medical laboratory professionals often work behind the scenes, often without direct interaction with the patients. However, their work is fundamental to the delivery of safe, accurate, and timely healthcare services.

In Kentucky, dedicated teams exemplify excellence, professionalism, and commitment to high-quality, safe, and precise patient care every day. The employees of the Laboratory at Centerpoint Health—Georgetown, located in Kentucky's 6th District, are excellent examples of such dedicated professionals.

I am honored to extend my sincere appreciation to all medical laboratory professionals, including those at Centerpoint Health—Georgetown. Their dedication and service to the health and well-being of our communities is inspiring, and I recognize them during Medical Laboratory Professionals Week before the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA BASKETBALL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to recognize the University of Scranton Women's Basketball team, the Holy Redeemer Girls' Basketball team, and the Old Forge Boys' Basketball team for their outstanding achievements.

These young men and women represent the very best of Northeastern Pennsylvania, a region built on resilience, hard work, and determination. The University of Scranton women captured the Landmark Conference Championship and made an incredible run to the NCAA National Championship game. While their season ended in a hard-fought battle against Denison, their accomplishments will not be forgotten. I also recognize the Holy Redeemer Royals of Wilkes-Barre, who advanced to the PIAA 3A Championship game, becoming the first Wyoming Valley Conference girls' team to reach a state final since 2000, a testament to their determination and belief in one another.

I am proud to honor the Old Forge boys' basketball team, who won the District Two title and advanced to the state final for the first time in nearly 100 years. Their grit and teamwork inspired their entire community. To each of these athletes, I congratulate them. They have achieved excellence on the court and uplifted their communities along the way.

Northeastern Pennsylvania stands united in pride and gratitude for all they have accomplished. I have no doubt their best days are still ahead. I thank them for representing NEPA and making us all proud.

HONORING VATRICE HARMON,
FOUNDER AND CEO OF BORN TO
POP

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an outstanding entrepreneur, community leader, and woman of faith, Ms. Vatrice Harmon, founder and chief executive officer of Born to Pop, a thriving gourmet popcorn and nuts brand based in Byram, Mississippi.

Ms. Harmon is a visionary whose journey reflects resilience, faith, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Guided by her deep love for God and His Word, she lives by the principle found in Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much is required," and exemplifies the belief that through Christ all things are possible. Her life stands as a testament to faith in action and purpose fulfilled.

Affectionately known as "The Popologist," Ms. Harmon has transformed a simple concept into a flourishing enterprise, creating handcrafted gourmet products that bring joy and connection to communities across Mississippi and beyond. What began as a home-based dream has grown into a licensed manufacturing business, proudly recognized as a Genuine Mississippi-crafted product—symbolizing quality, creativity, and authenticity.

Beyond her entrepreneurial success, Ms. Harmon is deeply rooted in service. She serves as vice president of the board of directors for the Byram Chamber of Commerce and contributes actively to the Byram Mayoral Health Council, helping to lead impactful community initiatives. Her dedication to service is further reflected in her membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and her involvement at Redeemed Christian Ministries, where she serves on the Praise and Worship team.

A proud graduate of Provine High School and Alcorn State University, Ms. Harmon is also a devoted wife of 29 years to her husband, Mr. Norris Harmon, and loving mother to her two sons, JaNorris and T.J. She embodies the values of family, faith, and community leadership.

For Ms. Harmon, Born to Pop is more than a business—it is a ministry. Through her work, she inspires others to trust God, dream boldly, and walk confidently in their purpose. Her story is a powerful reminder that with faith, perseverance, and vision, extraordinary achievements are possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Vatrice Harmon for her remarkable contributions to entrepreneurship, community development, and faith-based leadership. Her impact continues to uplift and inspire, and she is truly deserving of our highest recognition.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DONATE
LIFE MONTH

HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as National Donate Life

Month and to recognize the historic life-saving contributions of Gift of Life Donor Program. Donate Life Month is a time to honor organ and tissue donors, donor families, transplant recipients, caregivers, medical and donation professionals, and the thousands of Americans waiting for a second chance at life through transplantation.

For more than 50 years, Gift of Life Donor Program has led the Nation in saving lives through organ donation, driven by an unwavering determination to end the transplant waitlist. Founded in 1974 and headquartered in Philadelphia, Gift of Life is the nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) serving 11.3 million people in the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

As one of the most active OPOs, Gift of Life coordinated the most life-saving organs transplanted in U.S. history in 2025. The program also has coordinated the most kidney transplants in the U.S. for ten years in a row—bringing its cumulative total to 22,756, the highest number of kidney transplants facilitated by any OPO in U.S. history and helping to address a critical public health issue. Overall, Gift of Life has coordinated the most donor heroes (15,586) and organs for transplant (43,108) since the start of our national donation system in 1988.

Yet the work is far from finished. Today, more than 100,000 Americans—including approximately 4,500 people in Gift of Life's region—need a transplant to survive. Working around the clock in partnership with 123 hospitals and hundreds of transplant centers nationwide, Gift of Life's staff meets this urgent public health crisis every day. A global leader since the early days of transplant, Gift of Life continues to advance the field, championing organ recovery and preservation technologies that have greatly increased the possibility of donation for families who want to create a legacy of hope for their loved one.

In addition, Gift of Life provides the most comprehensive array of services available to the U.S. donation and transplantation community. Its affiliates—Gift of Life Institute and Gift of Life Howie's House—extend this impact globally and locally. For more than 20 years, the Institute has served as an international training center for organ and tissue donation professionals. Gift of Life Howie's House, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, is a 32-room lifeline for transplant families, providing temporary affordable lodging, meals and professional supportive services for thousands of patients and caregivers during their transplant journey.

Each of us can support the Gift of Life mission. A single organ donor can save up to eight lives; a tissue donor can heal as many as 100 others with gifts that restore health, mobility and sight to patients in need. Every person has the potential to save and heal lives through donation regardless of age, health or medical history. Registering takes less than one minute. This simple act is a profound expression of generosity and shared responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Donate Life Month, honoring the extraordinary generosity of donors and donor families, giving hope to our fellow citizens waiting, and encouraging all Americans to register as donors. Together, we can help Gift of Life achieve its vision of ending the transplant waitlist.