

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE MARILLA
COUNTRY STORE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Marilla Country Store, an institution that has truly stood the test of time.

Since opening its doors in 1851, this store has remained a constant in a world of change. Through generations, through wars, economic hardship, and even global pandemics, it has never once closed, serving as a steadfast presence in the heart of Marilla, New York and a symbol of resilience across Western New York.

But what makes this place truly special is not just its age, it's the people. For 175 years, only a handful of families have carried this store forward, preserving its character, its traditions, and its deep connection to the community. Today, that legacy continues under the leadership of Sandy Gingerich Grunzweig, whose family roots run deep in Marilla and whose commitment ensures the store remains a proud pillar of the community.

The Marilla Country Store is more than a business—it is a gathering place, a living museum, and a testament to what endures when community, family, and tradition come together.

As we celebrate 175 years, we honor not just the past, but the generations who will carry this legacy forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Marilla Country Store for its lasting legacy, and in celebrating the Grunzweig family as they carry this success long into the future.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK AND
HONORING AMERICA'S 911 DIS-
PATCHERS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Public Safety Telecommunicator Week and to honor the men and women who serve as 911 emergency dispatchers across our Nation.

America's 911 dispatchers are true first responders. Before a police officer arrives on scene, before an ambulance turns the corner, before a firefighter enters a burning building, there is a dispatcher on the line, gathering critical information, coordinating a response, and providing support. Without these workers, other public safety personnel would be unable to reach people in need and calls for help would go unanswered.

These dedicated professionals answer the call no matter the circumstances, through

blackouts, mass casualty events, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. They work in high-stress, fast-paced environments that demand steady composure and an unwavering commitment to the public they serve every day.

Yet for too long, 911 dispatchers have gone unrecognized for the work they perform. Despite being the critical link in our public safety infrastructure, they remain classified as administrative and clerical workers. This misclassification has fueled persistent underinvestment: insufficient pay, inadequate mental health resources, and staffing. Too many of these public servants experience burnout and emotional exhaustion from years of exposure to traumatic calls without adequate support. In some facilities, staffing shortages are so acute that dispatchers sleep at their posts rather than returning home.

At the same time, new technologies, including text-to-911, live video-to-911, and Next Generation 911 systems, are fundamentally changing the nature of this work. Congress has invested in these technologies, but those investments will fall short if we do not invest equally in those who operate them. Training, mental health resources, and fair compensation must keep pace with the demands we place on this workforce.

I am proud to stand with AFSCME and the nearly 100,000 public safety workers they represent in calling for the reclassification of 911 dispatchers as protective service workers. Reclassification is the foundation for the investment, resources, and dignity this workforce has long deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring America's 911 dispatchers during Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, and to commit to ensuring these vital public servants receive the recognition, support, and respect they are owed.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF THE TOWN OF ALABAMA

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Bicentennial of the Town of Alabama, located in Genesee County, New York. In the early 19th century, settlers began to gather in the region, appreciating the abundant resources the land offered. By 1828, the previously named town of Gerrysville was officially renamed Alabama. Within the town there are four hamlets: Alabama Center, Basom, South Alabama, and Wheatville.

For 200 years, Alabama has respected and maintained its strong farming heritage. The fertile land has proven Alabama and the surrounding area as one of the foremost agricultural regions within the State. Agricultural growers and producers continue to responsibly steward the land, providing fresh products to our region and country.

As the town celebrates its 200th anniversary, I join my colleagues in wishing its resi-

dents a wonderful year of celebration and many more future milestones.

HONORING DEPUTY PATRICK
SHELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Deputy Patrick Shell, a devoted public servant from Vicksburg, who was recently named Deputy of the Year by the Vicksburg Homecoming Benevolent Club. This distinguished honor reflects his decades of unwavering commitment to protecting and serving his community.

A lifelong resident of Vicksburg, Deputy Shell began his career in public service in 1991 with the National Park Service, where he served with distinction as an interpreter specialist before rising through the ranks to become Chief Ranger and later District Supervisor along the Natchez Trace Parkway. His leadership and dedication left a lasting impact on both his colleagues and the countless visitors he served.

Following his retirement from the National Park Service, Deputy Shell answered the call to serve once more, joining the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Now in his eight year with the department, he continues to demonstrate exemplary service as a bailiff, while also carrying out critical responsibilities such as delivering summonses, escorting inmates, and patrolling the historic Vicksburg National Military Park, where he resides.

Throughout more than three decades in law enforcement and public safety, Deputy Shell has encountered both the profound challenges and meaningful rewards that define a life of service. He has provided comfort in moments of tragedy, including assisting a young boy in coping with the loss of his father, and has also been instrumental in life-saving efforts, such as aiding a man experiencing a heart attack—an act that contributed to the man's survival. These experiences underscore his compassion, professionalism, and steadfast dedication to others.

Deputy Patrick Shell's recognition as Deputy of the Year is a testament not only to his exceptional career, but also to the enduring values of integrity, selflessness, and dedication that he embodies. His continued service stands as an inspiration to his fellow officers and to all who are fortunate to call Vicksburg home.

Deputy Shell's commitment to service is matched by his devotion to family. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Carolyn, since 1981, and together they have built a life grounded in faith, family, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deputy Patrick Shell for his outstanding service and congratulating him on his well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize and commend the exceptional accomplishments of the Pace High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program, a group of young leaders who continue to make Northwest Florida proud.

Recently, the cadets of Pace High School NJROTC competed at the NJROTC National Championship held in Pensacola, Florida, where they earned an outstanding second place finish among the very best programs in the Nation. This achievement reflects not only their hard work and determination, but also the countless hours of preparation, discipline, and teamwork they have demonstrated throughout the year.

The NJROTC program is a nationally respected initiative dedicated to developing leadership, citizenship, and character among high school students. With more than 580 units across the country, only a select number advance through rigorous regional competitions to reach the national stage. Pace High School's continued success at this level is a clear testament to the strength and consistency of its program. It also reflects the spirit of Northwest Florida's proud military tradition, where homegrown talent rises to meet the highest standards of service, leadership, and excellence.

Over the past five years, Pace High School NJROTC has distinguished itself as a national powerhouse, earning three national championships and multiple top three finishes, including this year's impressive second-place result. This sustained excellence speaks volumes about the commitment of the cadets, the leadership of their instructors, and the strong support of their school and community.

I am especially proud of these cadets. They exemplify the very best of Northwest Florida and act as outstanding ambassadors for Pace High School, Santa Rosa County, and the State of Florida.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pace High School NJROTC cadets, their instructors, and their leadership team on this extraordinary accomplishment. I wish them continued success as they carry forward this proud tradition of excellence.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDANT JAMES EMORY MACE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Carolinians are grateful to express appreciation for the life of Commandant James Emory Mace, Sr., of Hampton County. He not only served our Nation as a decorated Army Officer but was the beloved father of Congresswoman NANCY MACE. I include in the

RECORD the following obituary provided by The Citadel Alumni Association:

J. EMORY MACE, SR., '63

James Emory Mace, Sr., of Mount Pleasant, the decorated Army officer who led The Citadel through a dramatic transition from an all-male institution to a co-ed military college, has died. He was 85.

Mace, a Vietnam War veteran, was among the most decorated graduates in The Citadel's history. He served as the school's commandant from 1997 to 2005—a period marked by cultural upheaval, internal reforms and national scrutiny.

Mace took over the role in February 1997, months after the first woman, Shannon Faulkner, enrolled at the formerly all-male military college following a protracted legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

While Faulkner's stay was brief, his daughter, now-U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, would eventually succeed in becoming the school's first female graduate.

She confirmed his death on the night of April 14. A cause was not immediately announced.

"Rest in peace, Dad. I love you and I'll see you again," she wrote on social media the following morning.

As commandant, Mace moved quickly to reshape cadet life. Known for his blunt, disciplined leadership style, he implemented sweeping reforms: prohibiting harassment during meals and study periods, eliminating sophomore rank authority over freshmen, banning physical contact with first-year cadets, limiting "knob knowledge" requirements and shortening the military orientation period.

In 1997, cadets lived by a new Citadel creed written by Mace. It read, in part: "I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor and high esprit de corps of The Citadel and the South Carolina Corps of Cadets . . . Under no circumstances will I ever embarrass The Citadel and the South Carolina Corps of Cadets."

The changes marked a significant shift in the school's culture as it worked to integrate women into a traditionally rigid system, including his daughter.

He would hold the role as third-in-command at the school for eight years.

When he told the school's board of visitors he was stepping down, he said he had accomplished what he came to do—help men and women cadets coexist at the college.

"I feel I made a small difference in the life of The Citadel," Mace said in 2005 when announcing his retirement.

That year, when state lawmakers recognized Mace for his contributions at the state's military college, the resolution noted that under his leadership some 95 women had graduated from the Corps of Cadets.

The year Mace retired as commandant, the 1,900-member body included about 120 women.

Born in Hampton County, Mace attended The Citadel and earned the nickname "Bulldog." He graduated in 1963.

He became something of a living legend. In her memoir, Nancy Mace wrote that her father built a near-mythic reputation at The Citadel for his extreme backwoods antics, including poaching alligators to pay for school and using them to intimidate freshmen.

In one story, he allegedly threw a live alligator into a cadet's room to make a point about discipline, while in another, he chained a gator to the parade field overnight, leaving officers scrambling to remove it the next morning.

The stories, she wrote, cemented his image as both feared and legendary among cadets.

The persona he cultivated as a cadet was later reinforced by his record in combat.

RECOGNIZING APOSTLE FELIX REVILLS AND CELEBRATING HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, reverence, and admiration, to recognize a man whose life has been a living sermon, Apostle Felix Revills, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his ascension to the leadership of Evangelical Faith Vision Ministries, Incorporated. An event to celebrate this singular event will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at Evangelical Faith Vision Ministries in Albany, Georgia.

There are leaders whose names are known; and then there are leaders whose lives are felt. Apostle Revills is the latter. For two decades, he has not only shepherded a congregation, he has tended the hearts of a people, mended broken spirits, and lit lamps in dark places. He leads a network of more than twenty churches across our Nation, and into the streets and homes of Port-au-Prince and the Dominican Republic, his ministry has reached far beyond brick and mortar. It has gone where the pain is raw, where hope is fragile, and where the promise of new beginnings is most desperately needed.

Born into a legacy of faith nurtured by Chief Apostle Dr. Isaiah and Dr. Ullainee S. Revills, Apostle Felix inherited more than a name, he inherited a charge to care. But he did not rest on inheritance alone. He answered his country's call in the United States Marine Corps, learned the discipline of service, and then translated that discipline into spiritual warfare against despair and injustice. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Albany State University, not merely to add letters after his name, but to steward resources wisely and create sustainable change for those he serves. I think of the faces who have walked through EFVM's doors and found God's Amazing Grace. They are the living, breathing proof that Apostle Revills' calling is not theoretical, it is incarnational.

Apostle Felix leads with a rare combination of fierce conviction and tender humility. He preaches with passion, yes, but he also sits at hospital bedsides, shows up at kitchen tables, and listens in the silent hours when prayer is the only currency left. He founded the New Visions Community Development Corporation and the Young Lions Mentoring Program because he knows that salvation is both spiritual and practical. He built institutions that teach, feed, mentor, and uplift, because faith without works is dead, and he will not allow emptiness to stand long where he can build.

He stands with his beloved First Lady Andrea Revills in a partnership forged in Christ and deep affection. Their marriage, a true covenant of friendship and sacrifice, has nurtured four remarkable children and welcomed the joy of a grandson. Their home has been a refuge for families, for weary ministers, and for young people seeking counsel. In their love you see the Gospel lived in the ordinary moments, in prayers before meals, in the laughter that follows mistakes, and in quiet steadiness when storms come.