

HONORING GARFIELD VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER EDWARD KOVACH

HON. NELLIE POU

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward S. Kovach of Garfield, New Jersey, as he marks an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of active service as a volunteer firefighter and a lifetime of dedication to protecting others and strengthening his community.

A lifelong resident of Garfield, Ed joined Garfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 5 in 1976 at just 18 years old. From that moment on, he answered the call, time and again, whenever his neighbors needed him most. Over the decades, he has served with distinction in many leadership roles, including 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain, as well as Secretary, President, and Treasurer of the company, a position he continues to hold today.

Fifty years of service is a rare and remarkable achievement. Volunteer firefighters give their time, their energy, and place themselves in harm's way to keep their neighbors safe. They respond in moments of crisis and bring calm in the face of danger without asking for recognition in return. Their work requires courage, discipline, and an abiding sense of duty, all qualities Mr. Kovach has shown throughout his career.

Beyond the firehouse, Mr. Kovach has been an active and engaged member of the Garfield Fire Department's broader community, contributing to its traditions and friendship, including through years of involvement in the department's softball league and service in the Fire Department Relief Association.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Kovach's 50 years of service reflect the very best of New Jersey and of what it means to serve others. I am proud to recognize his extraordinary commitment and to thank him, along with his wife Jeanne and family, for the countless sacrifices they have made in support of his service and Garfield.

I wish Ed continued health and happiness in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIENNA COMMUNITY
CENTER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Vienna Community Center, a historic and enduring gathering place that has served the Town of Vienna and Northern Virginia for generations.

Since opening its doors in 1966, the Vienna Community Center has served as a shared space for residents of all ages to gather, learn, and stay active. Its creation was the result of a sustained community effort that began decades earlier, when local leaders and organizations came together to raise funds and support the vision of a shared space for the growing town.

Since its founding, the center has played a central role in the daily life of Vienna residents. As the home of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, it has provided space for educational programs, recreational activities, and community events that bring people together and strengthen local connections.

Over the years, the Vienna Community Center has evolved to meet the needs of a growing community. Through renovations and expansions, including a major modernization project that enhanced its facilities and services, the center has remained both a historic landmark and a modern resource for residents.

Today, the Vienna Community Center continues to serve as a gathering place where neighbors connect, families participate in programs, and community traditions are built and sustained. Its enduring presence reflects the values of collaboration, civic engagement, and community pride that define the Town of Vienna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Community Center on its 60th anniversary and in recognizing its lasting contributions to the Town of Vienna and the Northern Virginia region.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STATE OF
MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN
HAWAII

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical need to address seriously aging and increasingly failing physical infrastructure in Hawaii across all services. This can no longer be chalked up or explained away as deferred maintenance; it requires Congressional action considering the Department's negligent administration and budgeting to address clear risks to personnel safety, mission readiness, and ultimately our ability to deter and prevail in the Indo-Pacific.

Hawaii has served as a linchpin of our Nation's presence in the Indo-Pacific since 1875, when King Kalākaua granted the United States the right to enter Pearl Harbor and establish a coaling and repair station. Today, Hawaii is the Indo-Pacific home to every service—the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Space Force—along with a significant presence of our Nation's intelligence community. It is our Nation's Indo-Pacific headquarters, hosting U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Special Operations Command Pacific, Space Force Indo-Pacific and the National Security Agency Hawaii. It also has many key military installations including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Pōhakuloa Training Area, and various other locations. These installations support key operating forces based in Hawaii, including nuclear attack submarines, surface combatants, an Army infantry division, F–22s, MV–22s, C–17s, fuel tankers, Apaches, a Marine Corp regiment, and approximately 60,000 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel plus families.

This presence requires significant physical infrastructure investments that are sometimes difficult to maintain. Hawaii's geographic isolation makes everything from fuel to concrete significantly more expensive because they must be transported across thousands of miles of oceans. Our tropical location with buildings on or close to the ocean is also incredibly stressful on infrastructure. We face constant exposure to salt-laden air and high humidity, that can quickly cause metal to rust and lead to shorter lifespans than identical structures built on the mainland.

Despite generosity from the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in recent years, we must face the hard truth that the Department is not prioritizing critical repair and maintenance on its own. A 2023 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study found that Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam alone requires almost \$5 billion to properly renovate and modernize—twice that of the next closest Navy base needing major upgrades. A 2022 CBO study found that U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Fort Bragg essentially tied with a \$1.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog, and a 2024 CBO report noted that Marine Corps Base Hawaii was among the “top” three Marine Corps bases with the worst backlog of deferred maintenance. Failing to perform such maintenance will accelerate the degradation of real property and increase the cost of future renovations and repairs.

The effects of avoiding infrastructure investments for years are now having real world consequences in Hawaii. For example, our aging waste water treatment systems at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii have repeatedly spilled raw and insufficiently treated sewage into our oceans, and power outages and water main breaks have become all too real occurrences with potentially major impacts on service members' safety, especially when it affects Tripler Army Medical Center—the military's largest medical facility in the Indo-Pacific.

For far too long we have also ignored the need for major new construction. The Marine Corps' three-star command headquarters for the Indo-Pacific operates in the 1940s era 'Aiea Heights Naval Hospital that lacks sufficient classified spaces and secure connections. Special Operations Command Pacific, which serves as the functional component for all special operations missions throughout the Indo-Pacific, has personnel spread across 19 locations in O'ahu due to facility space limitations at its primary headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith. Space Forces Indo-Pacific is operating out of temporary buildings, which are little more than trailers. The 25th Infantry Division's Headquarters lacks sufficient Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility spaces and a modern headquarters facility. Failing to invest in these headquarters units now will make command and control more difficult in a time of war.

Further, the modern equipment used by our troops is in desperate need of new modern buildings to house them. The 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment does not have a magazine for the new weapons it needs, lacks sufficient climate-controlled facilities for its modern equipment, and has insufficient classified workspaces. Army helicopters operate out of World War II era hangers without modern climate control that often lead to spare parts being rusted and unusable. The Air Force's runways

and taxiways at Hickam Field have gotten so bad that waivers are requested for all routine landings, and aircraft stationed in Hawaii have longer depot periods because there is not even an adequate aircraft wash facility. Piers throughout Pearl Harbor should have been fully replaced years ago as many cannot support the cranes needed to maintain our vessels, and most piers and wharves cannot be used to refuel our vessels.

Finally, housing remains a major concern for too many. The barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Marine Corps Base Hawaii do not meet modern standards, and there is a strong desire from both the military and State of Hawaii to move more service members back onto base to alleviate high stress on the civilian housing supply, yet military housing is essentially full and many older buildings face ongoing maintenance issues, especially related to air conditioning that leads to dangerous mold when left unaddressed.

Mr. Speaker, the failure to address these infrastructure issues is placing our Nation's presence and mission in the Indo-Pacific at risk, and I ask for your help to address it. Given the depth of the problem, it will likely take many years and actions to address the challenge, but some of our first steps can include:

Investing in Critical Conflict-Related Infrastructure. The FY 2026 NDAA conference report mandated a study on the infrastructure investments required to support potential conflict-related needs in Hawaii. Congress must carefully review this forthcoming report and act on recommendations that can prepare Hawaii for any future contingency.

Funding Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM). Congress has wisely required the military to no longer short-change FSRM accounts. We must ensure this happens over multiple years and prevent further backsliding.

Support Unfunded Priorities. Far too often the military has been reluctant to fund projects in Hawaii because they are expensive. However, many projects make the unfunded priorities list, a sign that the military needs Congressional help to address critical shortfalls. When justified and executable, we must authorize these projects.

Reforming Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI). Despite the need for investments to support U.S. military power in the Indo-Pacific, rarely do Hawaii construction projects carry a PDI "label." The Government Accountability Office reviewed the DoD's PDI budget and concluded that the PDI does not consistently reflect department-wide priorities or requirements and generally presents an inconsistent mix of programs and funding. We need to reform the PDI budget presentation rules so readiness projects critical to the Indo-Pacific are properly considered and funded.

Creating Infrastructure "Tiger Teams." Given workforce shortages in key public works departments, we need small, specialized, and cross-functional group of high-level experts assembled temporarily to investigate and develop actionable plans to address our infrastructure woes in Hawaii. These teams bypass standard slow-moving hierarchies and create plans for action.

Resolving Joint Infrastructure Issues. Much of the military's infrastructure in Hawaii has a joint element especially since the services need to share installations given the limited

land available in our islands. For example, Pōhākūloa Training Area is used by all the services and could use improvement to its airfield and temporary barracks. However, there are often disagreements over how to move forward in a joint manner as illustrated by ongoing disagreements over how to prioritize and fund Air Force infrastructure needs at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam that have remained unresolved for years. Given the joint nature of Hawaii's military infrastructure, it needs leadership from a joint perspective to ensure all interests are considered and supported.

We must face the hard truth that the status quo for military infrastructure in Hawaii is unsustainable. We can no longer expect our service members to project 21st-century power from 20th-century infrastructure. The fiscal and operational costs of continued neglect far outweigh the investment required to modernize these aging facilities. The steps I have proposed today represent a roadmap to restoring our regional readiness, but I stand ready to work with my colleagues to ensure the FY 2027 NDAA and appropriations bills provides the necessary resources to rebuild and protect our Nation's most critical Indo-Pacific location.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLPORT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the historic 100th anniversary of the Millport Volunteer Fire Company, a vital institution of safety and service in Chemung County. For a century, this dedicated department has stood as a courageous shield for the residents of Millport and surrounding communities.

Throughout its storied hundred-year history, the Millport Volunteer Fire Company has been defined by the selfless spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. Since its founding, the company has remained unwavering in its mission to protect life and property. The bravery of members, both past and present, is a testament to the enduring strength of the volunteer fire service in Chemung County.

Under the steadfast commitment of its officers and volunteers, the company has fostered a legacy of reliability, integrity, and sacrifice. Their tireless efforts have not only ensured the safety of their district but have also deepened the sense of community through active civic engagement and local leadership. These volunteers routinely leave their homes and families to answer the call, embodying the very best of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring the Millport Volunteer Fire Company on this momentous milestone, and in thanking its members for a century of heroic service to the community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Commerce.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine federal boxing laws.

SR-253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine China's ongoing theft of U.S. innovation.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for