

perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sienna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sienna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sienna Kittles on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WARD
BEECHER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and Navy veteran, Ward Beecher, who passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Ward lived a life grounded in love, service, family, and country, and he will be deeply missed.

Ward was a true patriot. His love for this country wasn't just spoken—it was lived. From 1956 to 1960, Ward proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the MSO-490 minesweeper. That service was a defining part of who he was, and he carried the values of duty, loyalty, and quiet strength with him for the rest of his life. Ward was married to his wife, Diane Beecher, for 69 beautiful years. Together, they built a family that became his greatest pride—his three daughters, Lori, Lynn, and Jann; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

At home, Ward was known for his warm sense of humor. He loved joking around with his grandkids, managed to give everyone in the family a nickname, and ended every visit by saying 'toddles.' He found joy in life's simple pleasures: cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners, listening to 50s music, enjoying an In-N-Out burger, and reminiscing about his time growing up on the family farm in Oklahoma. Those stories were part of who he was, and he loved sharing them with anyone who would listen.

I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Beecher family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Ward. Although he may be gone, the many contributions he made to his family and country have left an enduring legacy.

HONORING THE WORK OF MICHAEL
T. HERMAN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Michael Herman on his work with Chicago House as acting Chief Executive Officer for seven years, serving communities impacted by HIV/AIDS in Chicago.

Mr. Herman grew up in a large Irish, German, Lithuanian, and Catholic family that put an emphasis on family, faith, and education.

Living in Chicago's Southwest side, Mr. Herman attended school at the church across the street from his childhood home. He entered the seminary at a young age, eventually attending college seminary at Loyola University, and moving on to getting his Master of Divinity. In 1989, Mr. Herman was ordained as a Catholic priest and went on to serve the Hispanic communities of Chicago.

Valuing service but wanting to live as a gay man, Mr. Herman left active ministry and became Chicago House's Chief Development Officer (CDO), serving the LGBTQ+ community and those vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. During his time as CDO at Chicago House, Mr. Herman also became Vice President of Philanthropy at Kohl Children's Museum. In 2019, Michael took the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Chicago House.

Mr. Herman's work with Chicago House has improved the lives of thousands of Chicagoans affected by HIV and AIDS. Serving as CEO, he led Chicago House's efforts to end the AIDS epidemic in Illinois by 2030, while also providing housing support, healthcare, employment counseling, and care for transgender individuals. Continuing to embrace his lifelong values of family, faith, and education, Mr. Herman's work has touched vulnerable communities across Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me to congratulate Michael T. Herman on his seven years as the Chicago House CEO. Mr. Herman is a striking example of leadership and service to one's own community.

RECOGNIZING SARAH ROBERTS
FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL
SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah Roberts, an incredible Girl Scout from Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, for demonstrating remarkable leadership, inspiring 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 quantifiable, dependable, 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 enduring change. Sarah helped bridge the digital gap by empowering senior citizens and individuals with accessibility challenges to use computers more efficiently and with more confidence than before. Ms. Roberts provided workshops that enabled individuals to adjust their computers to meet their needs by teaching dynamic computer skills and introducing useful tools and resources they could rely on for continued support.

Sarah's achievement is an inspiration across our Commonwealth and beyond, reminding us of all of what it means to be a servant leader. As she continues her journey, I have no doubt that Ms. Roberts will build

upon this strong foundation to accomplish even greater things. We are very proud of her contributions today and look forward to the many ways she will continue to positively shape her community and our Nation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah Roberts of Troop 1004 for this outstanding accomplishment. On behalf of Virginia's 1st Congressional District, I commend her for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts and thank her for making such a positive and lasting impact in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. ROY RAMIRO BARRERA,
SR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Roy Ramiro Barrera, Sr., who passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026. A legal giant in San Antonio and across the state of Texas, Mr. Barrera helped pave the way for Hispanic excellence in the legal profession. He is survived by his children, Yolanda Barrera Arellano, Roy Barrera, Jr., Gilbert Barrera, Carmen Barrera Ramirez, and Robert Barrera, along with many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As a child, Mr. Barrera demonstrated an undeniable work ethic and worked numerous jobs throughout the San Antonio community. While in high school at San Antonio Vocational and Technical School, Mr. Barrera met Carmen Zendejas, where the two sparked a relationship that would last over seven decades, including 67 years of marriage.

Upon graduation from San Antonio Vocational and Technical School in 1944, Mr. Barrera joined the U.S. Army and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II. While overseas, he received two overseas service bars and a good conduct medal.

Following his honorable discharge in 1946, using G.I. Bill benefits, he enrolled in the St. Mary's University School of Law. He would go on to earn his Juris Doctorate in 1951. That same year he joined the Bexar County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney. In 1957, at the age of 28, he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Alcorta v. Texas*. In that same year, he and fellow prosecutor, Anthony Nicholas, started their own firm, Nicholas & Barrera.

As Mr. Barrera built his legal career, in 1968, Texas Governor John Conally appointed him to become the first Hispanic Secretary of State. In 1973 he served as the first Hispanic President of the San Antonio Bar Association and remained a State Bar of Texas Foundation Fellow until his death. Mr. Barrera continued to practice law into his nineties, remaining a constant, invaluable resource for generations of attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and remarkable legacy of Mr. Roy Barrera, Sr. He inspired many. He was a true leader, and I am grateful for his decades of service to our San Antonio community.

RECOGNIZING JOE HARVEY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Police Chief Joe Harvey for his service to the City of Golden, Colorado, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Joe served the Golden community for more than 11 years, culminating a distinguished law enforcement career that spanned nearly 40 years. Under his leadership, the Golden Police Department oversaw significant reductions in crime and historic employee retention. With popular policies like a four-day workweek and the Community Engagement Group, Joe helped strengthen the community's trust in the police force and made Golden home to one of the few fully staffed police departments in the State.

Those who have worked with Joe know him for his genuine nature and warm demeanor. He has cared deeply about his officers, helping lead the department in responding to the tragic loss of Officer Evan Dunn and the injury of Officer Bethany Grusing while responding to a traffic accident. Though Joe will be missed for his kind, steadfast leadership within the Department and City, his retirement is well-deserved.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Police Chief Joe Harvey on his well-earned retirement from a distinguished career of public service to the City of Golden.

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 28, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-124

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Biden Health Officials and COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signals.

SD-342

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the American Entrepreneurship for 250 Years: Driving Innovation, Growth, and Opportunity.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, S. 1127, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, S. 3000, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify and report instances of disability benefit questionnaire fraud, S. 3098, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, S. 3170, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3286, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs, S. 3311, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, S. 3395, to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3591, to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a notice detailing benefits available to veterans, and to require employers to display such notice, S. 3647, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to address bowel and bladder care needs for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, S. 3653, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, S. 3706, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of produce prescriptions to veterans, S. 3726, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, S. 3988, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, S. 3992, to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3993, to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, S. 3999, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, S. 4043, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, S. 4108, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial and funeral expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of death from a service-connected disability, S. 4140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities, S. 4197, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to certain State entities to expand access to structured outdoor recreation programs for veterans that enhance veteran wellness, S. 4220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Novel Therapeutics, an original bill entitled "Optimizing the VA Workforce for Veterans Act", an original bill entitled "Veteran Acquired Brain Injury Caregiving Act", and an original bill entitled "Maternal Health for Veterans Act".

SR-418