

HONORING THE NORTHWEST
GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION'S
65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CLAY FULLER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. FULLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65th anniversary of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, a remarkable milestone.

In the late 1950s, visionaries T. Harley Harper and Fred F. Starr championed a bold idea for regional cooperation. By 1961, that vision became a reality, launching the first multi-county organization of its kind in Georgia—and creating a model for the entire Nation.

What began as a pioneering association has evolved into the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission. Today, it proudly serves fifteen counties, forty-eight municipalities, and nearly one million Georgians. From economic development to workforce and aging services, the Commission tirelessly improves our citizens' quality of life. Furthermore, they operate with incredible efficiency, delivering a \$38 return on investment for every single local dollar received.

Please join me in commending the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission on sixty-five years of outstanding official service to our communities and the great State of Georgia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call No. 138, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended of H.R. 7959, IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act, and YEA on Roll Call vote No. 139, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended of H.R. 227, Clergy Act.

CELEBRATING PIMA AIR AND
SPACE MUSEUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of my district's signature attractions for residents and visitors alike—the Pima Air and Space Museum.

This incredible museum is a fun and informative tribute to our Nation's unstoppable determination to soar—literally.

The Pima Air and Space Museum opened its doors on May 8, 1976, but the idea for the museum started a decade earlier, when Air Force Colonel I.R. Perkin and the Tucson chapter of the Air Force Association established the Tucson Air Museum Foundation of Pima County.

Thanks to their dedicated efforts, the Pima Air and Space Museum began preserving the aircraft that helped us win World War II and other examples of our storied aviation past.

Several of the museum's founders were World War II veterans who witnessed firsthand a large part of our aviation history. The Pima Air and Space Museum took off as a way to give future generations a glimpse into our Nation's pioneering aviation advancements.

Since the museum's opening, it has grown to include several hangars and many compelling exhibits—it is home to around 400 examples of planes and aircraft equipment spanning more than 100 years of aviation history.

Pima Air and Space Museum is one of America's largest non-government funded aviation museums. It really is a must-see. Its collection of military and civilian aircraft is truly unique.

The Pima Air and Space Museum reminds visitors where we started in aviation, how far we've come, and how we as Americans refused to let anything hold us back.

I congratulate Pima Air and Space Museum on the past half a century. Here's to the decades ahead and many more visitors who will get to experience America's aviation history up close.

HONORING SEAN MCNAMARA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sean McNamara, whom I have named the California 4th District's 2026 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year for Solano County in recognition of his leadership in strengthening our community's commitment to a sustainable future.

Born in Winters, California, Mr. McNamara grew up working on his family's walnut farm in Solano County. He went on to graduate from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies. After completing his degree, he returned to his family's 300-acre farm which is the largest regenerative organic walnut farm in the world, Sierra Orchards in California. Mr. McNamara, along with his sister and farm team, manages Sierra Orchards.

After spending more time managing the orchards, Mr. McNamara was shocked by how conventional agricultural practices can devastate the microbes that enrich our soil. He was determined to adopt management plans that promote life and sustainability in his farming. Every crop he grows is planted with climate resiliency in mind. He began using sheep grazing instead of relying on pesticides, created an orchard recycling program in lieu of open burning, composted agricultural waste instead of discarding it, and took a regenerative approach to farming to ensure that the soil remained healthy. Under this management style, Sierra Orchards uses 30 percent less water and 50 percent less diesel than conventionally farmed walnut operations. Additionally, Sierra Orchards does not rely on off-farm agricultural inputs, which significantly reduces their carbon footprint.

Mr. McNamara shares the best practices utilized at Sierra Orchards with others to help promote sustainability. He regularly collabo-

rates with researchers from different University of California campuses, California Association with Family Farmers, the Solano County Farm Bureau, and Western Growers. Due to his openness and willingness to donate his time to these research-based organizations, significant breakthroughs will be made in the world of science and ecology.

Mr. McNamara is dedicated to supporting our Solano County community and serves as a board member of the Winters Chamber of Commerce, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, Putah Creek Council, and Rios to Rivers. Mr. McNamara married his wife, Sarah Ashkin, in March 2023. They are blessed with one son named Rylee.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McNamara's approach to ecology is incredibly effective and his willingness to share his discoveries with others makes him an invaluable asset to our community. His resilience, kindness, and unwavering dedication to ecological justice make him a powerful role model in Solano County and beyond. For these reasons and more, it is fitting and proper that we recognize him today as Solano County's 2026 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes in the vote series on April 27, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 139, final passage of H.R. 227, the Clergy Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 138, final passage of H.R. 7959, the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes on April 27, 2026, due to personal obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 138, and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

HONORING MARANA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of Marana Unified School District. For the past century, Marana Unified has excelled in its one very important mission: educating our children.

Marana Unified School District takes its responsibility seriously and over the past 100 years has forged a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence.

Marana's top-quality schools are high on the list of reasons that families want to live in Marana.

The district has grown to include twenty schools—Tangerine Farms K–8 and Marana Vista Academy opened just last year. It now serves 13,000 students from preschool through 12th grade and is home to 2,000 dedicated employees.

Ranked in the top 1 percent of Arizona districts for academic growth, Marana Unified provides an exceptional education to all its students, from kindergarten to high school.

The district offers a wide array of outstanding academic programs, including an advanced Special Education program, a Gifted and Talented Education program, and 21st Century Community Learning Center opportunities to foster college and career readiness.

In addition to academics, Marana Unified also excels in its athletic programs. Throughout the decades, the district has built a legacy of athletic excellence, from championship football and basketball teams to competitive volleyball, soccer, and tennis programs.

I congratulate Marana Unified School District, Superintendent Dr. Dan Streeter, teachers and staff, and students and families on 100 years of academic excellence.

Their commitment to learning and growth has made education in Marana what it is today. If it is true that education is the key to a better future—and I firmly believe it is—then Marana is where those keys are made.

May they enjoy this accomplishment. Here is to the many years ahead and generations of Marana students to come who will be impacted by their work.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF DARRELL FISHER OF NEW HOLLAND EMS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Darrell Fisher, Chief of the New Holland EMS, for being named the recipient of the 2026 Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Outstanding Contributions to EMS Award.

Chief Fisher has been an EMT since 2001 and has served as Chief of New Holland EMS, based in eastern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, since 2006. Beginning in 2016, Chief Fisher has also served as president of the Lancaster County EMS Council. In these roles, Chief Fisher has been instrumental in the development and support of pilot projects and education initiatives, as well as the implementation of innovative technology, both in Lancaster County and the region.

During his tenure, New Holland EMS has seen tremendous growth. In 2024, he oversaw the creation of a mental health symposium and support program for EMS providers and their family members. In 2019, New Holland EMS merged with Leola Ambulance, was upgraded to an Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) Agency in 2025, and became the fourth paramedic level agency in the state to be able to carry and administer whole blood.

The Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Outstanding Contributions to EMS Award is named after Dr. George Moerkirk, the past president of the Pennsylvania EMS Council, who was a pioneer of emergency medical

services in the state. For the innovation and dedication that he provides to the field, whether in New Holland, Lancaster County, or the state, Chief Fisher is more than a worthy recipient of this prestigious award. I congratulate Darrell Fisher and the New Holland EMS on their statewide recognition, and thank them for all they do to keep our communities safe.

HONORING DR. RUIHONG ZHANG

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ruihong Zhang, whom I have named the California 4th District's 2026 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year for Yolo County, in recognition of her leadership in strengthening our community's commitment to a sustainable future.

Born in Inner Mongolia, China, Dr. Zhang graduated from the Inner Mongolia Engineering College of China in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science. She then went on to pursue her Master of Science in 1986 at the Northeast Agricultural University of China. After obtaining her degrees, she moved to the United States of America to pursue her Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She then served as a Postdoctoral Research associate at UIUC and as an Assistant Professor at Iowa State University. She moved to Davis, California in 1995 and joined the University of California, Davis, faculty in 1995.

Dr. Zhang has helped transform the ecological health of Yolo County through her research. She led the charge to develop the UC Davis Renewable Energy Anaerobic Digester (READ), which converts 20 to 50 tons of waste into renewable energy and biofertilizers every day, diverting 20,000 tons of waste from local landfills each year. This technology has been widely recognized across the Bio-Agricultural sector for addressing critical environmental and economic challenges. READ not only protects our climate by disposing of waste sustainably, but it also benefits our economy by providing cheap electricity, fuel, and fertilizer. The READ facility received the American Biogas Council's Biogas Project of the Year Award in 2015.

Dr. Zhang is dedicated to educating all, especially those who run our government. She has provided policy briefings at both the California State Capitol and the U.S. Capitol on sustainable waste management. Her work has contributed to the passage of meaningful legislation like the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant legislation.

Her work across the Agricultural, Environmental, and Ecological sectors has been recognized by countless organizations and groups. Her work was listed as one of the "100 most influential contributions" during the UC Davis Centennial. She was also recognized as a Phenomenal Faculty member by UC Davis in 2014, as an Engineer Innovator by UC Davis's College of Engineering in 2012, and she received the New Holland Young Researcher Award in 2023. She has also been honored with a Distinguished Career Award from the Association of Chinese Agricultural

Biological and Food Engineers, an Achievement Award from California Bioresources Alliance, and CleanTech Innovator of the Year award from Sacramento Regional Technology Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ruihong Zhang, has spearheaded research that has diverted thousands of tons of waste from California landfills while transforming how we understand our environment. Her contributions have made Yolo County and the United States a better place to live. For these reasons and more, it is fitting and proper that we recognize her today as Yolo County's 2026 Climate Crisis Champion of the Year.

RECOGNIZING COACH LORI FORD

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lori Ford, who has spent the last 36 years as a dedicated ski coach, during which time she has left a profound and lasting impact on students and young athletes in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Lori began her coaching journey in 1990 at Okemo Mountain in Vermont, where she worked as a coach and instructor for 13 years. In 2003, she joined the coaching staff at the Holderness School, which partners with the Franconia Ski Club, and quickly established herself as a widely respected mentor to young athletes and a reliable colleague to her peers. After 23 years, she remains a dedicated coach at Holderness School, doing the honorable work of developing young minds and helping students discover their passions, both on the slopes and beyond.

Lori's passion for skiing and coaching runs through her blood. Before she became a coach, she was a competitive ski racer for Middlebury College, where she excelled. She also shares her passions with her family. Her husband, Duane, has also dedicated his career to guiding the next generation, working as a teacher and coach at Holderness School. Her daughter, Julia Ford, shares her mother's love for skiing and proudly represented the United States on the Olympic Ski Team at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Those who know Lori best laud her for having an unparalleled commitment to helping young athletes become better people, with a love for skiing that is exceeded only by her desire to help young people grow and develop. The Holderness School, Franconia Ski Club, and the states of Vermont and New Hampshire all owe Lori a debt of gratitude. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I thank Lori for her incredible work to support young Granite Staters as they pursue their dreams. I wish her all the best in her continued coaching and in all her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for Roll Call votes on April 27,