

RECOGNIZING MICHELE SMITH ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Michele Smith of Avon, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Michele's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2030. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of her life. Michele brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Avon High School, she participated in National Honor Society, Orchestra, Leo Club, CLIMB Club, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Michele was involved in cross country, high school swim team, and club swim team, earning her varsity letter in swimming. I am confident that she will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michele Smith on her offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Michele will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

CELEBRATING DR. FRANK J. CALZONETTI'S RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a truly extraordinary human being, public servant, and scholar, Dr. Frank J. Calzonetti.

For decades, Frank has embodied the very best of what a university scholar and leader for our community and region can be. A patient, ingenious, and creative force for regional strength and national progress, he has built our community's resilience forward every step of the way—educationally and economically.

For 25 years at The University of Toledo, a quarter century, his leadership has transformed scientific research into real-world impact. He has advanced energy and engineering innovation, strengthened workforce development, created new age jobs in energy, advanced manufacturing, fresh water systems, and guided Northwest Ohio toward a more secure and prosperous future.

Even in his last months on the job, he helped deliver a \$19.2 million federal award

from the Department of Energy for nuclear workforce development, workplace safety, and advanced nuclear energy education. He told me this was the largest award in University of Toledo's history. His collaboration allowed a true team effort with over 20 organizations involved to bring home this major federal award. It would not have been possible with Frank's leadership and perseverance. Bravo.

Dr. Calzonetti has always understood that great educational institutions do not stand apart from their communities—they stand within them. His efforts to advance us all and lift our communities up to new horizons, including establishing relationships with our Nation's most advanced federal research facility.

Whether it was working together to advance clean energy initiatives, responding to crises like the Toledo water emergency, or helping position the University as a national research leader, Frank's historic work has left an enduring imprint that will never be forgotten, and exists to build forward.

What a privilege it has been to work alongside Frank, including on recent historic federal investments to shape the next generation of American energy and power leadership, to seize cutting-edge research to secure our region, to save, and change lives for the better. Whether is it photovoltaics or clean, nuclear advancements, Frank stands tall. His steady vision never lost edge.

Frank's life and career has been one of purpose, integrity, and lasting contribution. He has served our University, our State, and our Nation with distinction.

On behalf of a grateful Northwest Ohio region, and Americans from coast to coast, I want to thank him and congratulate him on a remarkable journey. His personable demeanor and acute intellect translates into progress at every threshold. I thank Dr. Frank J. Calzonetti for his immeasurable contributions to The University of Toledo and Beyond.

All of us are honored by his friendship and partnership in all these path-breaking efforts.

Bravo. Onward.

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY BECK

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ashley Beck for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ashley has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ashley, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ashley's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

HONORING LARRY MAYER AS APRIL'S "MONTANA INNOVATOR"

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Mayer as the "Montana Innovator" for the month of April. In honor of America's 250th birthday, Montana's congressional delegation is recognizing exceptional individuals who embody the spirit of our great state and Nation. This month, I am proud to highlight Montana's rich communities and the power of visual storytelling by celebrating a dedicated photojournalist who has spent decades documenting the people, places, and events that define the Treasure State: Larry Mayer.

Larry Mayer, a photographer with The Billings Gazette, has worked in photojournalism for nearly 50 years, capturing and preserving the stories of communities across Montana. Having worked with Larry during my time in Congress and previously as Montana State Auditor, I have come to admire his calm demeanor, kindness, and ability to connect with everyone.

Larry's commitment to photojournalism drew international attention when he identified the Chinese spy balloon as it crossed over Montana. Capturing both everyday moments and historic events is part of the very fabric of our state. With Larry Mayer behind the lens, those stories will continue to be told for generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize him this April, alongside eleven other individuals who represent what it means to be a Montanan.

HONORING ART GUERRERO

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Guerrero, a dedicated public servant whose integrity, courage, and commitment to justice helped free an innocent woman after more than two decades of wrongful imprisonment.

A native Austinite, Mr. Guerrero is an alum of Metz Elementary School, Allan Junior High School, and Johnston High School, Class of 1966. He went on to attend Southwest Texas State in San Marcos and left after his first year to enlist in the U.S. Air Force.

He continued his public service by working for a Justice of the Peace in Travis County and then as a deputy under Sheriff Raymond Frank. Then, after seven years with the Mueller Airport Police, Art was an investigator for the city until he retired in the 1980s. After retirement, Art decided to return to the Travis County Courthouse as a bailiff.

In 2005, Mr. Guerrero served during the trial of Carmen Mejia, who was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life in prison. While bailiffs are neutral observers at trial, Art recalled that this case deeply troubled him. Having witnessed many trials before, he worried that Mejia had not received adequate legal representation during her trial.

In 2022, Art connected with the Innocence Project and officials in the Travis County District Attorney José Garza's Office to share his

concerns and encourage a review of the case. His tireless advocacy helped initiate a reexamination of the conviction. In 2025 and 2026, District Judge David Wahlberg formally found Carmen Mejia innocent, and she was exonerated and freed after 23 years behind bars.

Throughout this process, Mr. Guerrero has remained humble about his role, emphasizing that he simply followed his conscience and his belief that justice must always be pursued with honesty and fairness. His willingness to come forward demonstrates the importance of integrity in public service and reminds us that safeguarding our liberties requires vigilance from everyone. When the powers that be are wrong, our Nation relies on the moral integrity of everyday citizens like Art Guerrero to set things right.

As the United States Representative for the 35th District of Texas, it is my great privilege to recognize Art Guerrero for his years of service to the people of Texas and for his principled commitment to fairness and accountability. His example reminds us that the strength of our democracy depends not only on laws and institutions, but also on the courage of those willing to challenge those institutions for the sake of justice.

I am grateful for his decency, his tenacity, and his commitment to the pursuit of fairness for all Texans.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DELL INGRAM-WALKER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and legacy of Dell Ingram-Walker, an extraordinary healthcare leader and dedicated public servant, whose impact on pediatric healthcare and her community will not be forgotten.

Dell Ingram-Walker served with distinction as the Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and President of McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple, Texas. A pioneering leader, she made history as the first Black Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the institution, breaking barriers and setting a powerful example for future generations. Throughout her career, Dell led with both excellence and compassion. Her organizational style was defined not only by operational success, but by her deep commitment to people. She actively engaged with staff at every level, fostering a culture where every voice was valued and every team member felt empowered. Through initiatives focused on connection and mentorship, she worked tirelessly to uplift those around her and ensure the highest standard of care for patients and families.

A proud alumna of the University of Alabama, Dell carried her passion for leadership and grace into every role she held. She was known for encouraging professional growth, inspiring others to pursue their goals, and creating opportunities for advancement within the healthcare field. Her influence extended far beyond the hospital walls, touching the lives of colleagues, patients, and the broader community.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dell will be remembered for her kindness,

warmth, and the genuine care she showed to everyone she encountered. She built meaningful relationships and left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Dell Ingram-Walker represents the very best of guidance in healthcare. She was truly compassionate for others and deeply committed to service. On behalf of a grateful community, I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues, and I honor her remarkable life and enduring legacy.

RECOGNIZING DELYLAH HAWK

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delylah Hawk for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Delylah has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Delylah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Delylah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

CELEBRATING BELLARMINA COLLEGE PREPARATORY'S 175TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative RO KHANNA and Representative ZOE LOFGREN, to celebrate Bellarmine College Preparatory on the extraordinary occasion of its 175th anniversary. As the oldest Jesuit secondary school in California, Bellarmine embodies a tradition that uniquely combines academic excellence, moral formation, and enduring contributions to the broader community and the world. Founded in 1851 as Santa Clara Preparatory, part of what was then Santa Clara College, Bellarmine grew alongside the City of San José. For nearly two centuries, the school has rooted its mission in the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—with a deep commitment to service. Through extensive service-learning programs, the school encourages students to engage meaningfully with the world around them. Bellarmine students contribute thousands of hours each year to community service—supporting local shelters, tutoring underserved youth, assisting food banks, and partnering with nonprofit organizations throughout the region. These efforts cultivate in students a lifelong dedication to justice, compassion, and civic responsibility.

The school's emphasis on forming "men for and with others"—core to the Jesuit mission—

guides its daily work. Bellarmine cultivates generations of leaders who go on to serve in public office, education, business, and the nonprofit sector. I am one of three Bellarmine alumni to have served as mayor to San José's one million residents. Numerous others have demonstrated their leadership as founders and C-suite executives of major Silicon Valley companies, as executive directors of impactful non-profit organizations, as educators at top universities, as California legislators, as Rhodes Scholars, as gold-medal-winning Olympians, and as NFL and MLB all-stars. More than their achievement, however, Bellarmine alumni have stood out for their service to the world. This legacy reflects Bellarmine's ability to inspire young people to pursue lives of purpose and service.

Bellarmine also demonstrates an impressive commitment to access and opportunity. Through financial aid programs and institutional support, no student who meets Bellarmine's rigorous academic standards for admission is turned away for his family's inability to pay tuition. The school's extensive scholarship program opens its doors to talented students from socioeconomic backgrounds, building a student body that increasingly reflects the extraordinary diversity of San José. This commitment strengthens both the school community and the broader region, as graduates embrace values of inclusion and equity in their professional and civic lives.

At Bellarmine, Jesuits actively teach, mentor, and guide students, creating an environment where young people feel known, receive support, and embrace challenges that foster growth. Through classroom instruction, campus ministry, retreats, and weekly Mass, the school fosters reflection, ethical leadership, and spiritual development that continue to shape students long after graduation. Bellarmine's academic, athletic, and extra-curricular programs further enrich the cultural and civic fabric of the community. Bellarmine students routinely excel in statewide and national competitions across a wide variety of pursuits: athletics, speech and debate, robotics, chess, National Merit Scholarships, and every other means by which students can learn to overcome life's barriers to excel, and to inspire others to do so.

Mr. Speaker, for 175 years, Bellarmine College Preparatory has upheld the highest ideals of Jesuit education—academic rigor, moral integrity, and a steadfast commitment to service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire Bellarmine community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and families—on this remarkable milestone. May Bellarmine continue to inspire and form future generations of leaders dedicated to building a more just and compassionate world.

RECOGNIZING THE GENESEE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Genesee Township Volunteer Fire Department and the numerous officials who have served for many years.