

The Fire Department serves the Genesee township and the surrounding areas of Potter County, providing critical assistance to thousands of Pennsylvanians.

As a former volunteer firefighter with more than three decades of service, I know the dedication and commitment volunteers make to serve their respective fire departments and the surrounding areas. They truly are the backbone of many small rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the following individuals: Bill Baker for his half-century of service; Patty Ransom and Susie Calcote for each serving 30 years; and Monica Porcari, for her five years of service in the department.

Our communities are safer because of these brave men and women. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their service and selflessness.

RECOGNIZING EDEN RAYNE NEHLS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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

Eden Rayne 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 Eden Rayne, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Eden Rayne'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 Eden Rayne Nehls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING ROBERT A. "ROB" KRET ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert A. Kret on the occasion of his retirement after an extraordinary 35-year career in museum leadership, historic preservation, and public service. It is especially fitting that Rob retires at this pivotal moment in our Nation's history, as the United States prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. At a time when our country is reflecting on its past and looking toward its future, Rob's lifelong work preserving history, elevating community stories, and strengthening civic institutions has never been more important. His imprint on the museum field, and particularly on the role of state and local history organizations at this crucial national juncture, will endure for generations.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rob Kret has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to preserving our shared history, ex-

panding access to culture, and ensuring that museums remain vibrant institutions that educate and inspire future generations. Most recently, Rob has served with distinction as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, a role he assumed in 2019. During his tenure, he guided the institution through a period of remarkable growth and transformation. Under his leadership, the Museum successfully navigated the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, completed a strategic rebranding and name change, broadened statewide and national awareness, and launched significant expansion planning efforts.

Thanks to Rob's vision and dedication, annual visitation grew to more than 100,000 visitors, contributed revenue increased substantially, and both the Board of Trustees and professional staff expanded and diversified. He also helped secure two Community Project Funding awards totaling \$2 million, strengthening the Museum's ability to preserve and share Connecticut's rich and diverse stories. Through his efforts, the Connecticut Museum has become an even more dynamic and relevant institution as it celebrated its historic 200th anniversary as the Nation's 7th oldest history organization.

Importantly, Rob has been a leading voice in highlighting the indispensable role that state and local history organizations will play in the upcoming America's 250th anniversary as the institutions best positioned to connect Americans to our Nation's story and preserve it for generations to come. He has helped remind the Nation that the story of America is not told only through national landmarks or famous figures, but through the towns, neighborhoods, cultural institutions, and communities whose histories collectively define our democracy. His leadership has elevated the importance of investing in historical societies, museums, and archives so that every community can see itself reflected in this once-in-a-generation commemoration.

Before coming to Connecticut, Rob brought decades of leadership experience to some of the Nation's most respected cultural institutions. He served as Executive Director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he oversaw major capital projects, strengthened collections stewardship, and expanded public engagement. Earlier in his career, he led the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Miami University Art Museum in Ohio, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin, and the Ella Sharp Museum in Michigan. In each role, he left institutions stronger, more sustainable, and better positioned to serve their communities.

Rob's career has been marked not only by administrative excellence, but by a deep belief that museums are essential civic spaces—places where communities can see themselves reflected, where history is preserved with honesty and care, and where curiosity can flourish. His leadership has helped countless people connect more deeply with art, culture, and history.

As Rob steps into retirement, we recognize not only his many accomplishments, but also the integrity, wisdom, and generosity with which he has led. We thank him for his decades of service and for the lasting legacy he leaves in Connecticut and across the museum field.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my sincere congratulations to Robert A. Kret on his retirement and offer my best wishes for health, happiness, and continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING ELI CHEVALIER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL 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 Eli Chevalier of Sycamore, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Eli's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval 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 his life. Eli brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Mohawk High School, he participated in academic team, Spanish Club, Mentor Club, and was President of National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Eli was involved in football, basketball, and track and field, earning his varsity letter. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eli Chevalier on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Eli will excel during his career at the Naval Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ASAL SAYAS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Asal Sayas. Asal was a remarkable public servant, advocate, and friend, whose passing leaves an immeasurable void in the lives of all who knew her.

Asal was an extraordinary leader and a dedicated public servant in Congress and the Executive Branch. She served as the Director of Operations for my office, and in the Senate for Senator KLOBUCHAR. Asal was an invaluable member of my team who brought a deep sense of purpose to her work. She was someone you could always count on, driven by a genuine desire to serve others and a ready smile that she shared with us often. She also

shared her pride in Persian culture and traditions, helping us all learn more about this special part of the world. Like so many who had the privilege of working with Asal, I appreciated her presence and her commitment to public service. Because of her hard work and dedication, Indiana's 7th Congressional District is a better and stronger community.

Asal was a fighter. She faced her unexpected cancer diagnosis with courage, strength, and creativity. Some people might have been afraid to try experimental treatments, but not Asal. She researched them, pursued them, and kept her village of friends and supporters updated on how things were going, and how we could help her with her battle. Even in her most difficult moments, she embraced resilience, which inspired everyone around her. But her legacy extends far beyond her personal battle. She dedicated her life to fighting for others, especially those navigating some of life's most difficult journeys.

As President Biden's Senior Advisor on Health Outcomes and Cancer for the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, Asal helped lead a national effort to reduce cancer deaths and improve the lives of patients and their families. She was deeply committed to uplifting the work of scientists and doctors to advance early detection, address health disparities in cancer research, screening, and treatment, and push forward research to one day end cancer as we know it.

Asal was a passionate and powerful voice within the cancer community, raising awareness about early-stage colon cancer, advocating for younger and underserved populations, and ensuring that no one facing this disease felt alone. Through her work with national colorectal cancer organizations and as co-founder of Colorectal Cancer Change (CRCC), she empowered patients, educated families, and built a legacy of advocacy that will continue to shape lives for years to come.

Her service also spanned nearly a decade as Director of Government Affairs at amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, where she championed expansion and improvements in HIV/AIDS research.

In honoring Asal's legacy, we must also carry forward the mission she championed. Today, colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men under 50 and the second leading cause among women under 50, a deeply concerning reality that demands urgent action. Early detection saves lives, yet far too many are diagnosed at later stages, especially younger Americans.

That is why I urge my colleagues to continue investing in lifesaving medical research, to fully fund cancer initiatives like the Cancer Moonshot, and to expand access to early screening and preventive care. This is how we honor Asal—not only in words, but through our actions, our policies, and by our votes to fully fund lifesaving research and health services.

To know Asal was to know compassion, brilliance, and purpose. She touched countless lives, including my own, not only through her extraordinary professional accomplishments, but through her warmth and kindness. Today, we mourn her loss, but we also celebrate her amazing life defined by service and love.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, her friends, and all who are grieving this loss. May they find comfort in the legacy she leaves behind, and in knowing that her work and voice will continue to inspire generations to come.

May her memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING EVELYN LUNA
AVALOS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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

Evelyn 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 Evelyn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Evelyn'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 Evelyn Luna Avalos on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY ANNUNCIATION MA-
TERNITY HOME

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 25 years of service by Annunciation Maternity Home, an extraordinary ministry dedicated to affirming the dignity of every human life by caring for both mother and child during and after pregnancies.

Since opening in Georgetown in 2001, Annunciation Maternity Home has become a vital pillar of support in the community, providing stability, compassion, and opportunities to mothers and babies in need. Through its comprehensive services, the organization offers safe housing and basic needs assistance for up to two years following the birth of a child, tailoring care to each mother's unique circumstances. Rooted in a deep commitment to the sanctity of life, the organization provides not only a safe home, but also the spiritual, emotional, and material support necessary for mothers to choose life and flourish alongside their children.

Through a faith-driven, holistic approach, Annunciation walks with mothers every step of the way, offering housing, access to prenatal and postnatal care, counseling, life skills training, and opportunities for education and employment. Their work reflects a profound belief that caring for a child begins with caring for the mother, equipping women with the stability and confidence needed to build strong, loving families. As it marks this remarkable milestone, Annunciation Maternity Home continues to broaden its reach through the addition of new residential homes, a community center, and expanded childcare services, extending hope and opportunity to even more families in Central Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their extraordinary contributions

and steadfast commitment to uplifting mothers and children, strengthening families, and enriching the entire community with compassion and dignity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on April 27, 2026. Had I been present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted aye on: Roll Call No. 138, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 7959, IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act, and Roll Call No. 139, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 227, Clergy Act.

RECOGNIZING IRA ARORA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

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

Ira 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 Ira, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ira'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 Ira Arora on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING JOHN LAUGHTER ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. John Laughter on his retirement from Delta Air Lines after more than three decades of distinguished service.

Over the course of 32 years, John has built a remarkable record of leadership and service that has left a lasting mark on one of our Nation's leading airlines and on the thousands of employees he has guided and inspired.

John began his career at Delta TechOps as an aircraft liaison engineer. From those early days, he steadily rose through the ranks, leading teams through some of the most challenging and exciting periods in the company's history. He helped rebuild the airline following Delta's emergence from Chapter 11, playing a critical role in restoring the strength and reliability of the airline's operations. He also steered the integration of Delta and Northwest