

And as construction of the new tower starts to take shape, two concourses—one interior, one exterior—will be built to connect all the structures at the heart of the campus: the new tower, the Jefferson Building, the emergency department, the Conklin Building and the High Building—now the main entrance.

“The internal concourse allows patients, families, colleagues to move patients, products—everything—throughout the buildings without the need to access any other pathway,” Keith Grant, vice president of operations for the Hartford region of Hartford HealthCare, said. “It becomes the outer spine of the building.”

An exterior concourse will overlook redesigned landscaping, with a new “healing garden” the focal point. Honoring historic properties.

Up until a few years ago, Hartford Hospital came under intense criticism for its poor stewardship of historic structures on its campus and allowing them to become blighted.

The hospital met with strong opposition in 2023 from neighborhood leaders and preservationists when it moved to demolish a historic, yet decaying, 1920s apartment building at the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets.

Today, plans call for the building and two neighboring ones—primarily their facades—to be incorporated into a new community-based clinical space. Those plans are evidence that the hospital says respect the past while also looking to the future.

The hospital also points to the \$2 million-plus renovation 1879 Queen Anne-style house on Jefferson Street. The house, which had fallen into disrepair, was singled out as one of the most notable properties when the Jefferson-Seymour National Historic District was formed in 1979.

The hospital’s evolving perspective on historic structures also was evident in reversing a plan to demolish the historic, 1920s Hall-Wilson Laboratory in 2021. Instead, the hospital took the unusual step of converting the interior of the brownstone structure into an electrical substation plant, in a \$23 million project.

While most efforts at incorporating historic structures into a modern hospital campus have been focused along Jefferson, Ficara, Hartford Hospital’s president, said the hospital also is now looking along Retreat Avenue.

“All the buildings that we own that are historic and need work, if you will, it’s a partnership of making sure from a historic perspective, that we honor them,” Ficara said. “But, at the same time, renovate them and then use them for today’s day and age, and I think that is very possible.”

HONORING ANDY MARSH

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions of Andy Marsh as former CEO, and now Chairman of the Board of Plug Power. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Andy for many years, and I have had a front row seat watching Plug Power grow in Latham, New York and beyond under his leadership.

For decades, Andy’s leadership has shaped the hydrogen industry, helping to usher in America’s embrace of a clean hydrogen econ-

omy. I have long admired his deep appreciation for public policy and his recognition of the power of government to create economic opportunities and drive innovation. Andy understood early that building a hydrogen economy would need more than breakthrough technology—it would require advocacy, partnership, and a willingness to engage in the difficult work of shaping policy.

Andy championed the importance of hydrogen as a tool for decarbonization, energy security, domestic manufacturing, and job creation. His leadership was instrumental in some of the most significant policy achievements for clean hydrogen in our Nation’s history, including the development of the Section 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit.

Thanks in large part to Andy’s leadership, the United States has become a global leader in clean hydrogen development. Through strategic partnerships, expanded domestic manufacturing, and a steadfast commitment to American energy leadership, what was once seen as an emerging technology has become another tool to secure our Nation’s clean energy future.

Andy has inspired colleagues, industry leaders, labor partners, and public servants alike with his belief that innovation and economic growth can—and must—go hand in hand. I congratulate Andy for his decades of contributions to our Nation’s energy future and the lasting legacy he will continue to build as Chairman of the Board of Plug Power. I am confident that because of his leadership, clean hydrogen will play an important role in moving our Nation closer to a cleaner, more prosperous future.

RECOGNIZING HANCOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS’ HEROIC EFFORTS

HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary bravery of a group of middle school students from Hancock County, Mississippi, who stepped up in a moment of crisis and prevented what could have been a tragic accident.

When their school bus driver suffered a medical emergency and lost consciousness, these young students did not panic—they acted. Sixth graders Jackson Casnave and Darrius Clark helped take control of the school bus, easing the bus to a safe stop, while eighth graders Kayleigh Clark and Destiny Cornelius, and sixth grader McKenzy Finch, worked together to call for help and administer lifesaving medicine to their bus driver.

Because of their quick thinking and teamwork, nearly 40 students and their driver were protected from tragedy. That kind of courage and composure is remarkable at any age—but especially from students so young. They did not wait for someone else to act. They stepped up, took responsibility, and made a difference. These students represent the very best of Mississippi—strong character, leadership, and a willingness to help others in a moment of need.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these young heroes for their actions.

They make our state proud, and they remind us all that courage knows no age.

FREE YEMEN FROM IRAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year I appreciated meeting the President of Yemen, Rashad al-Alimi, during the Munich Security Conference. We both identified Iran as the head of the snake of terrorism.

Yemen deserves independence from Iran and its Houthi puppets. War criminal Putin and the Chinese Communist Party support the Houthis. Sanctions of President Trump on Houthis promotes sovereignty of Yemen with Saudi Arabian aid. Free Yemen from Iran.

As a grateful native of Charleston, South Carolina, which was named in honor of King Charles II, along with Mayor William Cogswell, I was honored to be on the Escort Committee for King Charles III and for having met Queen Camilla earlier at the British Embassy, promoting the most British City in America—Charleston, South Carolina.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating Peace Through Strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, welcoming mass murdering Iranian officials to St. Petersburg this week.

Our sympathies to the family and friends of Citadel Cadet Evan Greenleigh, upon his death last weekend.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICK LAFRANCHI

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rick Lafranchi, who passed away on April 13, 2026. A beloved cheesemaker, coach, and community leader, Rick was a positive force for many.

Rick was the second oldest of six siblings in the Lafranchi family of Nicasio, a multigenerational ranching family whose roots date to his grandfather’s immigration from Maggia, Switzerland and the founding the Lafranchi Dairy in 1919. He helped establish and serve as the public face of the award winning Nicasio Valley Cheese Company, a farmstead creamery cofounded with his brother Scott in 2010 and renowned for its production of organic cheeses.

Rick often spoke about the importance of protecting West Marin’s working landscapes, and he matched those words with action through his service on the board of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), including as chair from 2012 to 2014. He credited MALT’s conservation tools with helping his family expand its pasture and build the family’s creamery.

Long before cheesemaking, Rick invested in the development of future generations as a high school baseball coach at his alma mater, Archie Williams High School. He also owned

and operated a local video rental store franchise, Silver Screen Videos, which became neighborhood fixtures in the North Bay.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Lafranchi is survived by his wife Debby, his children, Christie and Rick, as well as his grandchildren. I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring his extraordinary life and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and customers who remember him for his character and kindness.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TERRELL'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in my hometown of Terrell, Texas. Founded in 1875 in borrowed quarters, this congregation has been a local institution of faith for over a century.

The church constructed a simple sanctuary on land purchased from R.A. Terrell in 1881, solidifying its presence and influence in my community. Although initially bare, the land was quickly developed. A tall frame building sufficient to accommodate the growing congregation was erected at the corner of Adelaide and Asylum in 1895. This building, ornamented with a bell tower and spire, stained glass windows, and a baptistery, became a symbol of unwavering faith. The present brick parsonage was built next door in 1958, replacing the old frame structure. In 1988, the Charles E. Mull Christian Family Center was dedicated, providing a multi-use space for classrooms, offices, a conference room, and athletic facilities.

I congratulate and thank the clergy and staff on this milestone—Pastor Craig Rutherford, Lisa Cross, Mary Kay Cole, Jerry Vick, and Donna Best. The First Christian Church of Terrell will continue to be a source of faith, service, and strength for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH CRANE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I unintentionally voted against the Bentz Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 7567, Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. I want to reflect that I support this amendment and intended to vote YES.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2026, THROUGH MAY 17, 2026, AS 'NATIONAL AMERICAN BIRDING WEEK'

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bipartisan resolution that I am in-

roducing with my Ohio colleague, Representative Robert E. Latta, proclaiming May 8, 2026, through May 17, 2026, as National American Birding Week.

Across our Nation, nearly 96 million birders contribute more than \$90 billion in job income each year. That is not just recreation, that is an economic engine rooted in conservation.

Each spring, an estimated 3.5 billion birds, representing over 350 species, make their journey north, many pausing along the shores of our Great Lakes to rest and refuel before crossing those vast freshwater horizons. In Northwest Ohio, we are blessed to witness this living miracle.

Our Great Lakes region becomes a gathering place for people from across the globe—environmental stewards, scientists, families, and visitors—drawn by the beauty and wonder of migration. Events like the Biggest Week in American Birding, hosted by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor, showcase what is possible when conservation and economic development work hand in hand. These efforts sustain local communities, support small businesses, and deepen our understanding of the fragile ecosystems that sustain life.

In Ohio, we are proud to welcome visitors from near and far. We cherish this freshwater kingdom and the life it sustains. And we remain committed to protecting it, so that generations to come may stand beneath open skies, watch the wings overhead, and know that nature still endures.

RECOGNIZING THE LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of impressive students from Oregon's 1st Congressional District—Lincoln High School's Constitution Team. Earlier this month, the Lincoln High School Constitution Team placed sixth at the annual We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national finals.

This annual competition allows hundreds of students from around the Nation to demonstrate their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, government, and Supreme Court decisions by arguing historical and contemporary constitutional issues. The knowledge, critical thinking, and civic engagement demonstrated through this competition underscores the importance of programs that prepare students to understand and participate in democracy. These students consider and debate contemporary issues through a constitutional lens.

They have learned from their teachers, coaches, and importantly, from each other. Their accomplishment is a testament to their hard work and analytical skills and exemplifies the importance of civics education.

The constitution team at Lincoln High School has consistently placed among the top teams in the Nation. Over the years they have established a tradition of excellence that has been nurtured by dedicated educators and volunteer coaches, administrators, students, and their families.

As a senior member of the Education and Workforce Committee in the House of Rep-

resentatives. I am committed to a system of public education that provides every student with the opportunity to thrive academically and engage deeply in the study of government and constitutional principles.

The Lincoln High School Constitution Team's commitment to civic engagement gives me hope for the future of our country. I am proud to recognize their ongoing success and to celebrate their strong finish in the 2026 competition.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODLAND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the Rotary Club of Woodland, and to recognize their one hundred years of service to the Woodland community. This celebration honors the Rotary Club of Woodland's commitment to advancing service, leadership, and community investment.

The Rotary Club of Woodland was founded on April 29, 1926, by seventeen local Woodland community leaders, and officially chartered on July 9, 1926. The group now includes three active clubs, Rotary Club of Woodland, Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club, and Woodland Luna Vista Rotary Club. Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who come together to create positive, lasting change in communities locally and around the world. The Rotary Club of Woodland is committed to "service above self," leadership development, and investing in projects that enhance the quality of life for our Woodland community.

Throughout its history, the Rotary Club of Woodland has played a vital role in supporting local initiatives, funding community improvements, and fostering leadership among its members. As the organization reaches its hundred-year milestone, it continues to build on its legacy through impactful projects and collaborative partnerships that strengthen the fabric of our Woodland community.

The Rotary Club of Woodland has played a foundational role in shaping the community through hands-on service, financial contributions, and long-term civic investment. Such service includes contributing thousands of volunteer hours to build and maintain community projects such as weekly Meals on Wheels delivery, monthly Rotary Readers, planting of trees within our community, and the Christmas Parade clean-up on Woodland's Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Rotary Club of Woodland for its dedicated service to our community. The organization's contributions are undeniable and have made a lasting impact on the lives of many. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.