

COMMEMORATING TAMPA BAY  
DOWNS

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Tampa Bay Downs, in celebration of its 100th year of Thoroughbred Racing in the Tampa Bay area.

Tampa Bay Downs was built in Oldsmar, Florida, by Ransom Eli Olds, who created the Oldsmobile and developed the area of Oldsmar. Ownership passed to the West Coast Jockey Club, which opened the track and held its first race on February 18, 1926.

In the early days, Tampa Bay Downs faced economic hardship due to the Great Depression and World War II. During the war, the U.S. Army took over the track, which served as a jungle-warfare training facility for troops preparing to fight overseas. By the end of World War II, a renewed interest in Thoroughbred racing developed and Tampa Bay Downs underwent new ownership by Tampa attorneys Milo Vega and Frank Hobbs.

In the early 1950s, legendary sportswriters who frequented the area to cover baseball's spring training spent their days off at the racetrack. Renowned writer Grantland Rice began referring to the Downs as the Santa Anita of the South, a comparison taken with great pride in racing circles.

As the Tampa Bay region continued to grow, the racetrack produced two remarkable young female jockeys who trained and won their first races at the Downs. Diane Crump, from Oldsmar, was the first professional female jockey in America. She was the first woman to ride in a pari-mutuel race in 1969 and, a year later, the first female jockey to race in the Kentucky Derby. Julie Krone, who lived with her grandparents in New Port Richey while an apprentice jockey, went on to have over 3,700 career wins and be the first female jockey inducted into the prestigious National Museum of Horse Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Under the present ownership of Stella Ferguson Thayer and her brother, Howell Ferguson, who took the reins in 1986, Tampa Bay Downs has become a steadfast institution in the Tampa Bay region with an ever-growing stakes schedule and a commitment to giving back to the community. Stewards uphold integrity and fair competition to provide transparency in decisions made during the racing events. Few embody that commitment more than Charlie Miranda, one of Tampa City Council's longest-serving members and a steward for more than four decades. Charlie Miranda has helped champion a family-friendly environment for guests of all ages for generations to come. The jockeys, trainers, and dedicated employees are the pillars that support the continued movement for thoroughbred racing to thrive in the Tampa Bay area.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Tampa Bay Downs for a century of contributions to the racing industry and for being a destination for neighbors and visitors alike. Tampa Bay Downs has grown from a humble racetrack into a century of tradition built on speed, champions and cherished memories.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL  
DONALD K. "DK" CARPENTER

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable service of Major General Donald K. "DK" Carpenter, a native son of Illinois and a leader whose career exemplifies the very best of American military service.

General Carpenter's journey began in 1983 when he enlisted as a jet engine mechanic in the United States Navy. Answering our Nation's call with honor and dedication. After transitioning to the Illinois Air National Guard, he continued to serve with distinction, rising through the enlisted ranks to Master Sergeant before earning a commission as an officer, a testament to his leadership, perseverance, and commitment to excellence.

Throughout his career with the Illinois Air National Guard, including many impactful years with the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, General Carpenter led Airmen in multiple deployments overseas, oversaw complex and critical maintenance operations, and helped strengthen vital partnerships with allied forces. His leadership elevated the readiness and capabilities of the units he served.

In June 2023, his exceptional service and skill were recognized when he was promoted to Major General and selected to lead logistics and sustainment for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program, managing critical global operations that keep our Nation's most advanced fighter aircraft in the air.

From enlisted Airman to Major General, and from Peoria to the global stage, DK Carpenter's career embodies dedication, leadership, and the enduring spirit of the United States military. I thank him for his decades of selfless service to our Nation and to the people of Illinois, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP LAKOTA

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following proclamation recognizing the 75th Anniversary of Camp Lakota:

Whereas, Camp Lakota, a Scouting America camp operated by the Black Swamp Area Council in Defiance County, Ohio, has faithfully served the youth and families of Northwestern Ohio since 1951; and

Whereas, for 75 years, Camp Lakota has provided a setting where young people develop leadership skills, build strong character, and form lifelong friendships through outdoor adventure and shared experience; and

Whereas, Camp Lakota has played a vital role in shaping generations of Scouts, instilling the values of service, responsibility, and community engagement; and

Whereas, the camp is located near the historic site of Fort Defiance, established by General Anthony Wayne prior to the Battle

of Fallen Timbers in 1794, connecting it to a vital chapter in our nation's early history; and

Whereas, Camp Lakota shares a proud connection to Neil Armstrong, an Eagle Scout who attended the camp and went on to become the first person to walk on the Moon, inspiring countless young people to pursue excellence and exploration; and

Whereas, the continued success of Camp Lakota is made possible by the dedication of its volunteers, leaders, and staff, including the exceptional service of longtime Ranger Patrick Bohn, whose more than 25 years of stewardship have preserved and strengthened the camp's legacy; and

Whereas, the traditions, natural beauty, and enduring spirit of Camp Lakota have created lasting memories and meaningful experiences for all who have attended, strengthening the fabric of communities throughout the region; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Marcy Kaptur, Member of Congress representing Ohio's 9th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and honor Camp Lakota on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, and commend its enduring contributions to the development of young leaders and the betterment of our communities; and be it further resolved, that I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
GRANT MALONE

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of Grant Malone, who is retiring in May after five exemplary years as President of the Rochester Building & Construction Trades' Council. In this role, he proudly represented more than 11,000 unionized construction workers and stood as a tireless advocate for working families. Grant is widely recognized as a towering figure in our construction community, bringing with him an additional 20 years of service as District Manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Throughout his career, Grant has embodied the highest ideals of service, leadership, and dedication to community. His deep pride in Rochester's growth is reflected in contributions that have shaped both its physical landscape and its enduring spirit. From overseeing landmark projects, such as the Susan B. Anthony Bridge and the Louise Slaughter Train Station, to ensuring that progress created opportunity for the people of upstate New York, his leadership consistently placed community first.

A steadfast champion for local labor, Grant worked to protect local hiring requirements and expand apprenticeship programs that opened doors for young people pursuing meaningful careers in the skilled trades. Through his vision, the building trades became a pathway to long-term community strength, fostering economic opportunity and encouraging sustained investment across our region.

It is my great privilege to congratulate Grant Malone on his well-earned retirement and to wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life. His legacy will continue to shape our community for generations to come.

## HONORING RANDY BLACK

**HON. JEFF HURD**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Black of Durango, Colorado, for his outstanding commitment and contributions to the people of Durango.

Chief Randy Black has devoted more than three decades to the safety and well-being of the Durango community. Beginning as a volunteer firefighter, he rose through the ranks to lead the department as Fire Chief of the Durango Fire Protection District.

Under Chief Black's guidance, the department has prioritized community engagement, ensuring that fire and emergency services remain visible, responsive, and closely connected to the people of Durango. In recognition of his continued commitment to community well-being and addiction prevention, Chief Black was recently honored with the Mothers for Awareness and Prevention of Drug Abuse Leadership Award.

On behalf of the Durango community, we extend our deepest thanks to Chief Randy Black for his compassionate work addressing addiction and overdose and for his commitment to protecting public health. His leadership has strengthened the safety and resilience of the community he so faithfully serves.

## HONORING THE CAREER OF BRET JACOBSON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Bret Jacobson, who selflessly served our country and retires today from his position as Director of the Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center at CT State Community College Three Rivers. The Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center has innovated various streamlined paths for individuals to pursue a career in advanced manufacturing and possesses a key role in workforce development in Eastern Connecticut.

Mr. Jacobson has been a steadfast champion of the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI), a nationally recognized manufacturing-focused workforce training program managed by the Manufacturing Apprenticeship Center. Mr. Jacobson utilized a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor awarded to Three Rivers in 2016 to create and develop MPI. Now, a decade later, MPI comprises 150 instructors who have taught over 250 classes and prepared more than 2,500 students. Thanks to Mr. Jacobson's leadership and dedication to the program, MPI stands as a national model for workforce development programs.

Before joining CT State, Mr. Jacobson led a 30-year career serving in the Coast Guard as a mechanic-by-trade at duty stations in Hawaii, Michigan, and Key West. His final five years of service were spent at the Coast Guard Academy, serving as a Lead Laboratory Technician where he supported Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture stu-

dents in operating equipment needed for their capstone projects.

Mr. Jacobson is a resident of Waterford, Connecticut, and a native of northern Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member serving the 2nd District of Connecticut, I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Jacobson to build the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative in Eastern Connecticut. The program's award-winning success has been recognized both locally and nationally at a time when the demand for skilled metal trades workers is at an historic high level. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Mr. Jacobson's contributions during his service with Three Rivers. I join Mr. Jacobson's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him all the best in retirement.

**BILL (H.R. 7567) TO PROVIDE FOR THE REFORM AND CONTINUATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2031, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

SPEECH OF

**HON. DEREK SCHMIDT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2026*

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, No. 43, which would direct the secretaries of agriculture and health and human services to enter into a memorandum of understanding to conduct collaborative research related to increasing the domestic production of crops that can be used to produce natural food colors. With growing interest among consumers in foods containing no synthetic food dyes, the demand for natural alternatives is increasing. Currently, the United States lacks domestic production of natural food dyes, requiring these dyes to be sourced from overseas.

This increased demand for natural food colors presents an opportunity for American agriculture to step into the gap and grow the crops necessary to produce the brightly colored foods that so many of us enjoy. Working together, under the direction of my amendment, USDA and HHS will work to identify the barriers that exist to producing these crops domestically and processing them into the natural dyes that can be used by American food companies.

I am grateful to Chairman THOMPSON and the Agriculture Committee staff for working with me on this amendment and for including it in the en bloc amendment. I am also grateful to the industry groups who worked with us on this issue. I include in the RECORD a letter of support for my amendment signed by seven industry groups.

Mr. Chair, thank you for your consideration. I urge the adoption of my amendment as part of the en bloc package, and passage of the long-overdue Farm Bill.

APRIL 28, 2026.

Hon. DEREK SCHMIDT,  
Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SCHMIDT: As representatives of food and ingredient manufac-

turers and suppliers, we write to share our support for your Amendment #204 to H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to coordinate activities to enhance the capacity of domestic producers to increase production of crops used in naturally derived food and beverage colorants.

The U.S. food industry is currently managing a complex, system-wide shift in how color ingredients are sourced, produced, and incorporated into finished products. This transition is being driven by evolving regulatory frameworks and supply chain realities that will require alignment across agricultural production, ingredient processing, manufacturing systems, and distribution and retail channels. Coordinated federal engagement between USDA and HHS is essential to ensure that these interconnected elements develop in a practical, efficient, and economically viable manner.

Enhancing the capacity of domestic producers to increase production of colorant crops presents a meaningful opportunity for U.S. agriculture, but doing so at scale will require deliberate planning, sustained research, and targeted investment. Key considerations include agronomic suitability across regions, identification of crops most effective for reliable colorant production, crop genetics, and the need to address barriers to scale such as pest and disease pressures, harvesting technology, and other production challenges. In addition, investment in processing and extraction infrastructure—such as juicing and extraction facilities—and the development of stable, predictable markets for growers will be essential. In the absence of coordinated efforts, these factors may limit the pace, efficiency, and affordability with which domestic production capacity can be developed.

At the same time, the current supply chain for many naturally derived colorant inputs is global in nature. U.S. manufacturers rely on established international sourcing channels, which introduces exposure to trade dynamics, regional production variability, and logistical constraints. Federal coordination that considers both domestic production capacity and global sourcing dependencies can help support continuity of supply as domestic capabilities are developed over time.

From a manufacturing perspective, incorporating naturally derived colorants involves significant operational considerations. These ingredients often require different handling, processing conditions, and quality control approaches than traditional alternatives, and their successful integration may necessitate capital investments, process modifications, and updated supply chain management practices. Coordinated research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies, along with information sharing across stakeholders, will be important to support efficient implementation while maintaining product consistency and regulatory compliance.

Your amendment appropriately recognizes that this is not a single-agency issue. By establishing a framework for interagency coordination, competitive and merit-reviewed research, and collaboration across federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and industry partners, the amendment creates a strong foundation for advancing this work. Support for research infrastructure, workforce development, and public-private collaboration will be critical to translating research into scalable, real-world outcomes and sustaining progress over time.