

years. Their dedication has helped build a thriving community that will continue to flourish for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Mount Olive Baptist Church on its 208th anniversary. I am honored to represent the families and individuals who make up this caring and loving community, and I look forward to celebrating their continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING TYLER KEMP ON BEING NAMED THE 2026 MISSOURI SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. MARK ALFORD**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tyler Kemp, owner and CEO of MK Machining, on being named the 2026 Missouri Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. This is an outstanding achievement, and one that reflects Tyler's hard work, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

Based in Mid-Missouri, MK Machining represents the very best of American manufacturing and entrepreneurship. Through innovation, precision, and a dedication to quality, Tyler has built a company that not only contributes to our local economy but also supports the skilled workforce that keeps Missouri competitive and growing.

As a Member of the House Committee on Small Business, I have seen firsthand the critical role small businesses play in driving job creation, strengthening local communities, and powering our Nation's economy. Business leaders like Tyler Kemp embody the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our country so strong.

I congratulate Tyler, his family, and the entire MK Machining team on this well-deserved recognition. Missouri is proud of his success, and I look forward to seeing his continued impact in the years ahead.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. JOHN S. RUTKAUSKAS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of Dr. John S. Rutkauskas, Chief Executive Officer of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

For more than 27 years, Dr. Rutkauskas has led the AAPD with a singular focus: ensuring that every decision is guided by one fundamental question: what is best for children. Under his leadership, the organization has become not just member-driven, but truly child-driven, shaping the future of pediatric oral health across our Nation and around the world.

Since assuming his role in 1999, Dr. Rutkauskas has strengthened the AAPD into a globally recognized authority, with approximately 11,000 members and an impressive retention rate of nearly 94 percent. His commit-

ment to excellence has elevated continuing education, advanced evidence-based guidelines, and expanded policies and best practices that now define pediatric dentistry and are utilized by providers, institutions, and policymakers worldwide.

Dr. Rutkauskas has also played a critical role in public policy, establishing the Academy's first political action committee and increasing its presence here in Washington. Through the AAPD Foundation, he has helped secure vital resources to provide dental homes for underserved children, ensuring access to care for those who need it most.

A trained clinician, educator, and executive, his career reflects a deep commitment to improving the lives of children, particularly those with complex medical needs.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rutkauskas' leadership has made a lasting difference in the oral health and well-being of children across the globe. On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank him for his decades of service and dedication.

HONORING THE FALLEN OFFICERS OF CLAY COUNTY

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fallen officers of Clay County.

There is a moment at every police memorial that always stands out to me. It is the moment when the names are read. No applause. No music. Just a voice, speaking each name slowly into the quiet.

In that moment, something powerful happens. Those names stop being lines on a page and return to us as lives once lived—fathers and daughters, partners and friends. Men and women who once pinned on a badge, stepped into the unknown, and chose service over self. I include in the RECORD, twelve of those names from Clay County, Florida:

Sheriff Josephus A. Peeler; Sheriff Charles M. Wilson; Sheriff Theodore S. Cherry; Sergeant Richard Watkins; Auxiliary Deputy Arthur Caton; Deputy Wilson Walker; Sergeant Eddie Hayes; Detective David A. White; Deputy Ben Zirbel; Sergeant Eric Twisdale; Deputy Clint Seagle; and Chief Derek Asdot.

Each of these men served the people of Clay County with courage, integrity, and a deep sense of duty. Each answered the same call that law enforcement officers across America answer every day—a call to stand between danger and the community they serve. They knew the risks of the badge, and they accepted them anyway.

Behind every one of these names is a story of service. Long shifts. Missed holidays. Quiet acts of courage that most people never see—a commitment to protect their neighbors and uphold the law even when it demanded the ultimate sacrifice. Their legacy continues today through the deputies and officers who still serve Clay County with honor.

On May 7, 2026, the Clay County Sheriffs Office gathered to remember these heroes who gave their lives in the line of duty. Their

families, fellow officers, and community stood together to ensure that their service is never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, a grateful Nation remembers. Their watch has ended, but their example lives on, and in Clay County, Florida, their names will always be called.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2026, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 38.

HONORING JENNIFER MARGARET YEZAK

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer Margaret Yezak for more than 40 years of extraordinary contributions to agriculture, the State of Texas, and our Nation. A proud graduate of Texas A&M University, Jennifer's career reflects deep expertise in federal policy and public administration.

From serving as a legislative assistant to U.S. Senators to her leadership as Deputy Commissioner of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Jennifer has consistently championed the needs of rural America. Her distinguished federal service includes senior roles at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs, strengthening vital ties between the White House, Congress, and state officials.

Earlier in her career, she advocated for all 50 state agriculture departments at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and held key roles within the Texas Department of Agriculture and the Texas House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

Throughout her distinguished tenure, Jennifer has been an indispensable asset to my office, serving as a vital bridge between complex federal policy and the practical needs of our agricultural community. Her profound expertise is matched only by her graciousness; she is an accomplished professional who consistently exceeded the call of duty to support my staff, the university, and the countless Texans who depend on her guidance. Jennifer's dedication has left an unforgettable mark on all who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

Beyond her professional accolades—including the 2017 Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Distinguished Alumna Award—Jennifer remains deeply rooted in her community and her Polish heritage. Growing up in a family that founded the *Bremond Press*, she carries forward a legacy of civic engagement through her active support of local leadership and the annual Polish Pickle Run. Jennifer has "planted trees" through her career that will provide

shade for generations of Texas Aggies, farmers, and ranchers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jennifer's exceptional service and wishing her continued success in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. ELLA  
MUSSEY ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize superintendent Dr. Ella Musser on her retirement from Cocalico School District.

Dr. Ella Musser began her career with Cocalico School District, which is based in the northern corner of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1991. Dr. Musser worked across three of the district's elementary schools as a teacher, reading specialist, and literacy coach. After being promoted to Director of Reading and then Curriculum Director, she became Assistant to the Superintendent in 2012. Four years later, in 2016, Dr. Musser was named as the Superintendent of Cocalico School District. As superintendent, Dr. Musser's tenure overlapped with significant facility renovations, exceptional academic progress, greater integration with STEM and computer technology, as well as statewide and national recognition.

Beyond her role as superintendent, Dr. Musser currently serves as a trustee for the Cocalico Education Foundation, as a member of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Professional Development Committee, and as an advisory board member for Lancaster County STEM Alliance. Dr. Musser also holds a Master of Education from Kutztown University, a Doctorate in Education from Immaculata University, and certifications from Millersville University and Immaculata University.

Dr. Ella Musser leaves Cocalico School District after three decades of positive impact. As we celebrate her well-earned retirement, I thank Dr. Musser for all the work she has done in making both Cocalico and Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District a great place to live and raise a family. I wish her the best wherever her future takes her.

HONORING THE MUNSSELLE  
VINEYARDS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Munselle Vineyards and the Munselle family on their 150th anniversary of farming in Sonoma County, California.

Since 1876, the Munselle family has farmed the Alexander Valley in North Sonoma County, California. Over six generations, they grew high quality crops in our community's rich soil and ideal climate. The family's first ventures were in wine under the labels Lone Pine Cellars and Red Winery. Over time they expanded their business into other crops and

livestock. These included grapes, hops, prunes, and dairy cattle. In 1972, the family returned to their roots and began growing wine grapes again. For the last five decades, the Munselle family has focused on producing premium wine grapes, which have in turn been made into many award-winning wines by wineries throughout our Sonoma County community.

In 2006, Bret and Kristen Munselle partnered with Bret's parents, Bill and Reta Munselle, to launch the limited-production wine label, Munselle Vineyards. Today, Munselle Vineyards produces up to 1,000 cases of hand-crafted wine annually which are enjoyed by their customers throughout the seasons.

In addition to the family's personal achievements, they are helping pioneer the future of farming in our community. Munselle Vineyards is a pilot farm in the Sonoma County Winegrowers' Farm of the Future initiative, an initiative connecting local farmers with cutting-edge agriculture technologies from John Deere, Agrolgy, and Wilbur-Ellis. Munselle Vineyards is a living laboratory for next-generation agriculture and is pioneering farming practices that enhance sustainability, efficiency, and long-term viability of family farms. In addition to this innovative spirit, the Munselle family are leaders beyond their own vineyards. They have stepped up as officers for both the Alexander Valley American Viticulture Area and Sonoma County Winegrowers, helping to shape the future of wine growing in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Munselle Vineyards and the Munselle family for their contributions to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING AMTC JASON VAUGHN  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
THE UNITED STATES COAST  
GUARD

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aviation Maintenance Technician Chief Jason Vaughn of the United States Coast Guard for his outstanding service to our Nation and his steadfast commitment to the Grand Traverse community as he retires from his distinguished military career.

Throughout twenty years of distinguished service, Chief Vaughn has exemplified the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Since being assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City from 2020 to 2026, he has served faithfully as maintenance Control Chief, acting as the airworthiness authority for twenty-two heavy maintenance cycles, forty-eight functional check flights, and more than 200,000 maintenance labor hours. In addition, he has managed a \$7.9 million parts inventory and \$1.1 million support equipment inventory, helping to ensure mission readiness.

Chief Vaughn's steadfast leadership has extended well beyond the confines of a hangar. He has successfully coordinated complex operations, displaying Coast Guard capabilities for three consecutive National Cherry festival

airshows while strengthening partnerships and enhancing public trust.

Additionally, his contributions to the testing and implementation of the ATLAS emergency rescue device have helped improve safety for Coast Guard aircrews across the Northern Michigan Fleet. Equally commendable is Chief Vaughn's commitment to service beyond the uniform. He has dedicated more than 1,000 volunteer hours to the Grand Traverse community, supporting veterans, local organizations, and families in need. From organizing food pantries and community projects to serving as an Honor Flight guardian, his efforts earned him the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Chief Vaughn for his dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard and for his steadfast commitment to the Grand Traverse community.

HONORING JOSEPH C. THOMAS, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life, service, and extraordinary achievements of Senator Joseph C. Thomas, Sr., a trailblazer, public servant, and devoted family man whose legacy has left an indelible mark on the State of Mississippi and beyond.

Born on June 25, 1949, Senator Thomas has dedicated his life to breaking barriers and opening doors for others. He is married to Elizabeth Wilburn, and together they have raised three children—Joe Thomas, Jr., Kirk Thomas, and Whitney L. Thomas—and are blessed with grandchildren who continue his proud legacy.

Senator Thomas' professional journey is one defined by courage, excellence, and historic accomplishment. He became the first African American hired to work at a bank in Yazoo City, Mississippi, marking the beginning of a distinguished career in banking and finance. On May 1, 1972, he made history again as the first African American hired at Delta National Bank. His leadership and dedication led to a series of groundbreaking achievements: he became the first African American Loan Officer in the State of Mississippi, the first African American Assistant Vice President at Delta National Bank, and later the first African American Vice President at Deposit Guaranty National Bank. After 30 years of exemplary service, he retired from an institution now known as Regions Bank.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Senator Thomas has been a pioneer in education and public service. He was the first African American to serve as President of the Yazoo City Municipal School District and the first from Yazoo County to serve on the State School Board Association. His leadership extended into regulatory and civic roles, where he became the first African American Vice-President of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board and served as Vice Chairman of the Public Service Commission in Yazoo City.

His influence reached the national stage as well, serving as the first African American from his community on the National Board of Directors of the American Public Power Association