

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, Agrology, 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

in Washington, D.C. He also demonstrated a deep commitment to community development as the first African American President of League Management Corporation in Yazoo City, providing essential housing services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

In public office, Senator Thomas continued to make history as the first African American State Senator from Yazoo County, representing Mississippi State Senate District 22 with integrity, vision, and dedication to his constituents.

Senator Thomas embodies the very best of public service—breaking barriers, uplifting communities, and paving the way for future generations. His life's work stands as a testament to perseverance, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senator Joseph C. Thomas, Sr. for his remarkable contributions and for the legacy he has created for the people of Mississippi and our Nation.

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COMMEMORATING NATIONAL  
POLICE WEEK

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Police Week.

As we honor the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of our Nation's law enforcement officers, we pay special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their selfless service and devotion to protecting our communities will never be forgotten.

As a Representative from Pennsylvania, I am especially honored to recognize the 19 fallen officers from our Commonwealth whose names were added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall. Their commitment to serve and protect stood above all personal interest, reflecting the very best of our Nation.

In my district, we are fortunate to be served by exceptional law enforcement professionals. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Blair County Sheriff Jim Ott, whose leadership in coordinating Pennsylvania's annual law enforcement memorial service in Hollidaysburg demonstrates the deep respect owed to those who have fallen in the line of duty. His example reminds us that honoring these heroes is not simply a responsibility—it is a solemn privilege.

I offer my enduring gratitude and appreciation—this week and every week—for every man and woman who wears the badge.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 155.

HONORING PEORIA POLICE CHIEF  
ERIC ECHEVARRIA

**HON. ERIC SORENSEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria who is retiring from the City of Peoria Police Department. Chief Echevarria is a pillar of the Peoria community and will be truly missed.

Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria oversees and directs all activities of the Peoria Police Department, which has almost 250 employees, the majority of them police officers. His work focuses on reducing serious crime, fostering community partnerships, improving traffic safety and promoting employee development. His achievements have been significant—driving violent gun crime down, improving the quality of life in Peoria's neighborhoods, expanding community policing, establishing a social services unit co-responder program, increasing the number of sworn personnel in the department, expanding the department's use of technology, and significantly increasing grant funding.

Chief Echevarria's goal when he arrived in Peoria five years ago was simple: to leave the department and community better than he found it. He certainly has done that. It is because of selfless leaders such as Chief Echevarria that I am especially proud to serve the Illinois 17th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Chief Echevarria on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

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HONORING CAPTAIN NOAH  
FRAHER

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Noah Fraher, who served as the congressional Green and Gold aide in my office for the past two years.

Noah transformed how my office engages with Arizona's veteran community. From his first days in our Mesa office, he worked to ensure veterans across the East Valley knew they had an advocate in Congress who would listen to their concerns and help connect them with the support they earned through their service. He attended countless meetings, events, and community forums with veterans and military families, always bringing compassion, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to service.

One of Noah's most lasting contributions was transforming and improving our office's Veterans Advisory Board, which has become a trusted and respected forum for local veterans to engage directly with my office. He also helped organize our first Veterans Resource Fair and Salute to Service military sendoff ceremony, creating meaningful opportunities for servicemembers, veterans, and military families to access resources and build community. Because of Noah's work, our of-

fice built stronger relationships with veterans across Arizona's 4th Congressional District and became better equipped to serve them.

Noah brought the same sense of duty to our office that he demonstrates every day in uniform. As an active member of the Arizona Army National Guard, he served both at home and abroad, including training Ukrainian soldiers in Germany as they prepared to defend their country against Russian aggression. He also supported operations in Afghanistan and helped coordinate National Guard missions across Arizona. Through every assignment, Noah demonstrated a deep commitment to others.

Even while balancing military service, weekend drills, and training responsibilities, Noah worked tirelessly for constituents and for Arizona veterans. And anyone who knows Noah knows he has never been afraid to take a big bite out of a challenge. Throughout his service, Noah's husband, Mikey, stood alongside him with constant support and encouragement.

A lifelong Arizonan, Noah represents the very best of our state. His service strengthened my office, deepened our connection to Arizona veterans, and left a lasting impact on the community we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Noah Fraher for his service to our Nation, to Arizona veterans, and to the people of Arizona's 4th Congressional District.

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RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF  
CRIME COMMISSION EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR BRYAN TUMA

**HON. MIKE FLOOD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant and leader in Nebraska law enforcement, Bryan Tuma.

Over nearly 45 years of service to the State of Nebraska, Bryan built a legacy defined by integrity, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to keeping Nebraska safe. From beginning his career with the Nebraska State Patrol to later serving as superintendent, Bryan earned the trust and respect of law enforcement officers and communities across our state.

Bryan's duty and legacy was earned through leadership roles with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and as Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Whether strengthening emergency preparedness, supporting law enforcement training, or guiding the Crime Commission with steady leadership, Bryan's work and tenacity helped keep Nebraskans safe and prepared in times of need.

While his retirement marks the close of an extraordinary career in public service, Nebraska is stronger because of Bryan Tuma's dedication and sacrifice. I congratulate him on a truly remarkable career and thank him for his service to our state. Happy retirement.