

Chemung County Sheriff's Investigator Michael Theetge. On March 29, 2024, while protecting his community during a retail theft operation, Investigator Theetge was critically injured in the line of duty. His life was changed in an instant, yet his commitment to the citizens he serves has never wavered.

The recovery process for Investigator Theetge has been a testament to his incredible strength of character. Despite sustaining a traumatic brain injury, he has remained focused on ways to continue to serve his community. His perseverance in the face of adversity serves as an inspiration to his colleagues in law enforcement.

Beyond his primary duties, Investigator Theetge is an advocate for the first responder community. He has spearheaded initiatives to bolster specialized recovery resources throughout New York, turning his personal experiences into a catalyst for systemic improvement. His drive to effect positive change remains the cornerstone of his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring Investigator Michael Theetge for his service and sacrifice. We offer our full support as he continues his recovery. Our community is safer and stronger because of dedicated individuals like him.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MORRISANIA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone: the 70th Anniversary of the Community Church of Morrisania in the Bronx.

Founded in 1956 by the Reverend William E. Thompson, the Community Church of Morrisania became the first African American church in the neighborhood and has stood for generations as a beacon of faith, hope, and service. Reverend Thompson's legacy is forever etched into the Bronx, with Teller Avenue between East 169th and East 170th Streets proudly renamed Rev. Wm. E. Thompson Way in his honor.

For seventy years, this non-denominational congregation has done far more than open its doors on Sundays. It has uplifted families, empowered young people, comforted seniors, and strengthened the fabric of Morrisania through unwavering service to the community.

In 2000, Reverend Thompson entrusted Pastor Starling Churn with carrying forward this sacred mission. Under Pastor Churn's leadership, the church has continued to be a pillar of compassion, unity, and spiritual guidance for the Bronx.

Today, we honor not only a church, but a living institution whose impact reaches far beyond its walls. I congratulate the Community Church of Morrisania on seventy extraordinary years of ministry and community leadership.

May God continue to bless the Community Church of Morrisania and the people it serves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CORPORAL BLAKE REYNOLDS

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal Blake Reynolds, a devoted law enforcement officer of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office who lost his life in the line of duty on November 12, 2025. Blake's life was marked by faith, joy, and a deep love for the ordinary moments that quietly shape a meaningful life. He met his wife, Alison, online in their late twenties, though they later realized their paths had likely crossed many times before, including swim lessons as children. With more near misses than they could count, they came to see their story as one written by God's perfect timing, bringing them together when both were ready to build a life rooted in faith, laughter, and purpose.

Blake carried a playful spirit that made him instantly recognizable to those who knew him. He loved stories where good stands firm against evil, especially Batman and Star Wars—a love he lived out fully, whether by dressing as Batman for a child's birthday party or proudly hanging wife-approved Star Wars artwork in their home. He was goofy and ornery in equal measure, quick to laugh at the world around him, but most often at himself. His humor was never careless; it was generous, grounding, and deeply human.

Outside of his service, Blake found joy in simple, shared pleasures: loud '80s rock music, ice cream straight out of the container, long game nights with friends, and dreaming aloud about a backyard firepit and outdoor kitchen: a place where his wife could host and he could create warmth, both literally and figuratively. He was also a devoted "cat dad" to Nightwing, his black, dog-like cat who followed him faithfully and reflected Blake's gentle, attentive nature.

These personal joys were not separate from Blake's public service, but foundational to it. His faith, steadiness, and love for people shaped the way he served his community: quietly, consistently, and without expectation of recognition. Those same qualities were first nurtured by his loving family—his parents, Bruce and Melissa Reynolds, and his brother, Dustin—whose support and guidance helped form the character and compassion that defined Blake's life.

Long before the public knew his name, Blake Reynolds lived as a hero through faithful service, offering his life day by day to the people he was called to protect. We are deeply grateful for his dedicated service to Indiana's 5th Congressional District and the lasting impact he made on our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF OFFICER JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew who gave his life in the line of duty.

Officer Bartholomew embodied the very best of public service. Each day, he served Illinois with a commitment not only to uphold the law, but to safeguard the dignity, safety, and well-being of every member of his community. His courage was not defined by a single moment, but by a long career marked by acts of bravery, compassion, and integrity.

In neighborhoods across Chicago, Officer Bartholomew was a trusted presence, a source of reassurance, and a symbol of stability. Whether responding to emergencies or building relationships with the community, he carried out his duties with professionalism and humanity. His loss is felt deeply not only by his fellow officers, but by the countless individuals whose lives he touched.

We must also recognize the profound sacrifice made by his family, who shared him with a profession that demands so much and carries severe risk. Their grief is shared by an entire city and state that will not forget Officer Bartholomew's service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer John Bartholomew. May his memory be a blessing, and may we carry forward his legacy of service and courage.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF BOB WALSH

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Walsh, a distinguished member of the Bernardsville community, as he celebrates his 100th birthday—a milestone that reflects a century of service, character, and devotion to country and community.

Bob Walsh is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, having served honorably as a radio telephone operator and radar operator in the Pacific Theater during World War II. In answering our Nation's call, he demonstrated the courage, duty, and sacrifice that define the American servicemember. His exemplary service earned him the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Following the war, Bob Walsh continued to embody the highest ideals of citizenship. Through his integrity, kindness, and quiet leadership, he has earned the admiration of all who know him. He remains an active and proud member of the Bernardsville VFW Memorial Post 7858, continuing a lifetime of commitment to fellow veterans and community members.

Bob Walsh's life stands as a testament to the spirit of the Greatest Generation—a generation whose strength of character and unwavering patriotism shaped our Nation. His story inspires all of us and serves as a reminder of the enduring values that strengthen our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Bob Walsh's 100 years of life, honoring his distinguished military service, and expressing our profound gratitude for his contributions to our Nation. We extend our warmest wishes to him and his family on this remarkable occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN LEGACY TO AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the lasting legacy of Zoroastrianism and acknowledge its significant contributions to human thought, which encompass early concepts of moral responsibility, justice, and the ongoing conflict between good and evil.

July 4, 2026, signifies the 250th anniversary of the Zoroastrian legacy that has shaped the perspectives of the American Founding Fathers, the creators of the Declaration of Independence, and the architects of the United States Constitution in establishing principles for governing a society that is multi-religious, multiracial, multi-ethnic, and multilingual, fostering peace and prosperity.

We recognize the rich cultural and philosophical heritage of Zoroastrian communities globally and their ongoing contributions to diverse societies. The broader human pursuit of freedom, ethical governance, respect for human dignity, and women's equality—as well as legacies in trade, international commerce, and innovations such as early postal and passport systems—embody timeless Zoroastrian values that resonate throughout civilizations.

These principles are reflected in America's role as a symbol of freedom, democracy, commerce, equality, and justice to the world.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Zoroastrians around the globe and honor their vibrant traditions, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the progress of humanity, history, and civilization on this significant occasion, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Zoroastrian legacy in connection with American independence.

HONORING JOSÉ LUIS ORTIZ, AND IRAD ORTIZ JR., PUERTO RICO'S CHAMPION BROTHERS WHO CONQUERED THE 152ND KENTUCKY DERBY

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two extraordinary sons of Puerto Rico whose achievements on May 2, 2026, at Churchill Downs resonated far beyond the finish line of the 152nd Kentucky Derby. Puerto Rican jockey José Luis Ortiz, riding the longshot Golden Tempo, crossed the wire first, surpassing by a matter of strides his own older brother, Irad Ortiz, Jr., who piloted Renegade to second place. In doing so, these two brothers from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, gave the world of thoroughbred racing one of its rarest family tableaux, and gave the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico one of its proudest moments in sports history.

Born and raised in Trujillo Alto, in the metropolitan area of San Juan, Irad, Jr. on August

11, 1992, and José on October 2, 1993, both brothers grew up in a family where racing was not a career but a calling: their grandfather add an uncle were jockeys before them, and a legendary Puerto Rican Hall of Fame rider served as an early inspiration and later a mentor to them both. Both brothers are proud graduates of the Escuela Vocacional Hípica Agustín Mercado Reverón, the government-funded, tuition-free jockey academy on the grounds of Hipódromo Camarero in Canóvanas. Puerto Rico, widely regarded as the premier jockey school in North America. Its alumni have earned nine Eclipse Awards for Outstanding Jockey and have produced some of the sport's most celebrated riders, with approximately 80 percent of graduates going directly to United States racetracks and the school's reach extending to draw students from the mainland as well.

José Luis Ortiz has built a career for the ages. In 2017, he won the Belmont Stakes and earned the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey. In 2022, he captured the Preakness Stakes. On May 2, 2026, he completed a rare sweep of all three American Triple Crown races, guiding 23-1 longshot Golden Tempo to victory in the Kentucky Derby, one of thoroughbred racing's most celebrated career milestones.

Irad Ortiz, Jr. has been equally relentless in his pursuit of greatness. He has led all North American riders in wins for nine consecutive years, from 2017 through 2025, a span of dominance without parallel in the modern era. His Triple Crown victories include the Belmont Stakes in both 2016 and 2022. A five-time Eclipse Award winner for Outstanding Jockey, he became in 2025 the first jockey in history to surpass \$40 million in single-season earnings, a record that speaks to the unshakable trust that the sport's top trainers and owners place in him.

Mr. Speaker, the name Ortiz finishing first and second at the 152nd Kentucky Derby was no accident. It is the culmination of a multigenerational family's sacrifice and the transformative, tuition-free education of the Escuela Vocacional Hípica Agustín Mercado Reverón. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating José Luis Ortiz and Irad Ortiz, Jr. on their extraordinary careers, and in recognizing that institution and its dedicated faculty and leadership for the work they do every day for young people from Puerto Rico and beyond who dare to dream of crossing the finish line first.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WELLSPAN HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO ROXANNA GAPSTUR

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor retiring WellSpan Health President and CEO Roxanna Gapstur for her distinguished legacy of career achievement in the healthcare industry.

Roxanna was appointed to her executive leadership role at WellSpan in 2019. During her tenure, WellSpan has grown from a \$2.5 billion to a \$4.7 billion system, expanded from eight to 12 hospitals, and extended its reach from five to 12 counties.

WellSpan's Medical Group has grown from 1,500 to more than 2,700 providers, and the system's patient base has expanded from approximately 630,000 to more than one million, reflecting increased access and community trust.

Also under Roxanna's direction, the health system has emerged as a leader in clinical artificial intelligence, supporting more than three million patient conversations to enhance access, experience, and care delivery. Roxanna's leadership philosophy is service-oriented. Notably, she said, "The work we do at WellSpan has always been about people—our patients, our team members and the communities who trust us with their care."

I congratulate Roxanna Gapstur on successfully instituting her vision of a human-centered approach to leadership in an increasingly complex healthcare environment and extend best wishes for limitless joy and contentment in all future endeavors.

HONORING TONIA SIMS

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 Mrs. Tonia Sims, a visionary event producer, creative director, and entrepreneur whose work has elevated the standard of excellence in the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

As the founder and driving force behind TLS Weddings & Special Events, Mrs. Sims has distinguished herself as a leader in the event production industry, known for curating sophisticated, experience-driven celebrations that blend modern elegance with cultural authenticity. Through her keen eye for luxury aesthetics and her unwavering commitment to client experience, she has transformed countless weddings, milestone celebrations and large-scale social events into unforgettable moments marked by precision, creativity, and intentional design.

Under her leaderships the TLS brand has expanded beyond traditional event services to include signature event series, high profile day parties, and immersive social experiences that attract diverse audiences and set a new benchmark for elevated entertainment in the region. Her productions ranging from upscale cocktail festivals to themed experiential gatherings are widely recognized for their vibrant energy, premium quality, and attention to detail.

Mrs. Sims' contributions extend well beyond her professional achievements. She has demonstrated a deep and ongoing commitment to community engagement and youth empowerment. Through the TLS Delta Entrepreneurial Scholarship, her organization awarded \$10,000 in scholarships in 2025 to aspiring young entrepreneurs and is poised to continue this impactful initiative. Additionally, TLS provides scholarships to local high school seniors, reinforcing her dedication to education, economic growth, and the development of future leaders.

Her excellence and influence have earned recognition from respected organizations and institutions, including the Delta Business Journal, Higher Purpose Co., Alpha Kappa Alpha