

RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER  
JOSEPH BUSCEMI

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Hernando County Fire Rescue Firefighter Joseph Buscemi, whose service exemplifies duty, honor, and an unwavering commitment to those he serves. Firefighter Buscemi has made a significant and lasting impact on the department through consistent performance, sound judgment, and exceptional professionalism across a wide range of emergency incidents. He demonstrates superior ability under pressure and embodies the very qualities expected of a top-tier line firefighter. He is widely described by his peers as a firefighter of integrity, resilience, and deep responsibility toward both the department and the community. In the most challenging and high-stress situations, Firefighter Buscemi remains calm, levelheaded, and focused, ensuring the best possible outcomes for those in his care.

Throughout his service, Firefighter Buscemi has consistently demonstrated leadership, discipline, and sound judgment. He leads by example, sets a high standard for those around him, and routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty. His commitment to excellence is evident not only in emergency response, but in his daily approach to training, teamwork, and service. This recognition reflects not only his technical skill, but also his character and steadfast dedication to protecting life and property in Hernando County. He represents the very best of Hernando County Fire Rescue and the fire service as a whole.

I commend Firefighter Joseph Buscemi for his exceptional service and proudly recognize him as the 2026 First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District. His professionalism, courage, and commitment to excellence embody the highest ideals of public service.

HONORING THE HUNTER'S CREEK  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR  
THEIR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hunter's Creek Community Association. The Association has faithfully served the residents of Hunter's Creek for four decades, establishing itself as a cornerstone of community governance and neighborhood excellence since its founding in 1986.

The Association has successfully managed and maintained common areas, amenities, and infrastructure of one of Central Florida's premier large-scale residential communities, enhancing property values and the quality of life for many thousands of residents. Through dedicated volunteer leadership and professional management, the Hunter's Creek Community Association has fostered a strong sense of community pride and belonging, with neighborly cooperation from its diverse membership.

The Hunter's Creek Community Association has also demonstrated fiscal responsibility and sound governance practices throughout its 40-year history, ensuring long-term community sustainability and financial health, while maintaining reasonable assessments.

Additionally, the Association has served as a model for other homeowner associations through its innovative programs, community events, and its commitment to transparent communication with its members. The Association has successfully balanced the preservation of the community's initial vision and character with thoughtful adaptation to accommodate changing demographics, technologies, and resident needs, and has significantly contributed to the broader area through its partnerships with local government, participation in regional planning efforts, and its role as a responsible steward of the area's natural resources.

The commitment of countless board members, committee volunteers, staff members, and engaged residents over a 40-year span has established a legacy of community service that continues to benefit both current and future generations of Hunter's Creek.

CELEBRATING DON BOTT'S EX-  
TRAORDINARY CAREER IN EDU-  
CATION

**HON. JOSH HARDER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary career of Mr. Don Bott as he retires after 41 years of dedicated service as an educator in Stockton, California.

For more than four decades, Mr. Bott has shaped the lives of countless students through his unwavering commitment to education, mentorship, and personal growth. He spent over 30 years teaching English and journalism at Stagg High School, where he inspired generations of young people with a deep appreciation for literature, writing, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. His classroom was more than a place of instruction—it was a place where students were challenged to discover their voices, build confidence, and strive toward their full potential.

In addition to his work in the classroom, Mr. Bott served for 27 years as advisor to the nationally recognized and award-winning Stagg Line newspaper. Under his leadership, student journalists developed not only exceptional writing and reporting skills, but also the confidence and discipline necessary to succeed in college, careers, and civic life. Through journalism, Mr. Bott empowered students to tell meaningful stories, pursue truth, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bott became known not only as an exceptional educator, but as a mentor whose influence extended far beyond graduation. Former students regularly returned to his classroom to share their experiences and offer guidance to younger students—a testament to the lasting impact of his mentorship and the strong community he cultivated over the years. Thousands of students benefitted from his encouragement, compassion, and belief in their ability to succeed.

In the final years of his career, Mr. Bott continued his service to Stockton Unified School District as a teacher's coach, helping support and mentor fellow educators so that future generations of students could continue to receive the highest quality education. His leadership and experience strengthened not only individual classrooms, but the broader educational community across Stockton.

Mr. Bott's legacy is one of service, excellence, and unwavering advocacy for students. He has been a champion for the art of writing, a passionate advocate for reading and journalism, and a transformational figure in public education. His awards and honors include: San Joaquin County Teacher of the Year, National Scholastic Press Association Pioneer, and Journalism Education Association Medal of Merit. His impact on Stockton will continue to be felt for generations through the students, teachers, and community members whose lives he touched.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Don Bott for his remarkable 41-year career and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. The people of Stockton and the entire Central Valley are deeply grateful for his decades of dedication and service.

RECOGNIZING EMS PROVIDER  
CAMERON EAMES

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of EMS Provider Cameron Eames for his exceptional leadership, clinical excellence, and unwavering commitment to patient care. Paramedic Eames has been a valued member of MedFleet since November 13, 2023, and during that time he has consistently demonstrated a level of professionalism and performance that reflects great credit upon himself and the organization. He began his service as a Critical Care Paramedic, where he quickly distinguished himself as a highly skilled and dependable clinician, delivering advanced patient care with precision, confidence, and sound clinical judgment.

Now serving as a Field Supervisor and Critical Care Paramedic, Paramedic Eames plays a vital role in supporting system-wide operations, mentoring field crews, and maintaining the highest standards of care across the organization. His leadership is evident not only in his clinical-expertise, but also in his ability to guide, support, and elevate those around him. Known for his steady presence in high-pressure situations, Paramedic Eames consistently demonstrates strong decision-making, professionalism, and composure when it matters most. He leads by example, ensuring that patients receive exceptional care while fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement within the EMS system.

Respected by his peers, Paramedic Eames embodies the values of dedication, integrity, and service. His commitment to excellence strengthens both his team and the broader emergency medical services community. I commend Paramedic Cameron Eames for his outstanding service to the residents of Florida's 12th Congressional District and proudly

recognize him as a 2026 First Responder of the Year. His leadership, professionalism, and clinical excellence exemplify the highest ideals of emergency medical service.

### SAVE OUR SHRIMPERS ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to share a statement on H.R. 2071, the Save Our Shrimpers Act.

Shrimpers in Texas and across the United States are facing real, serious challenges including rising fuel costs, aging equipment, and a workforce shortage as fewer young people enter the trade. These issues that threaten the future of our domestic shrimp industry deserve meaningful attention from Congress.

Regrettably, the Save Our Shrimpers Act does nothing to lower the cost of fuel or provide practical support to American producers. Instead, the bill offers a false promise to shrimpers in the United States by focusing on cutting off financing to some of the most impoverished communities in the world.

Texas shrimpers deserve better. I support growing the domestic shrimping industry and will continue working toward legislation that addresses the challenges our shrimpers face.

### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ALPENA

### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the lasting impact of the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena as it approaches an extraordinary milestone, their 100th anniversary of service to the youth of Northern Michigan.

Over the last 100 years, the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena has stood as a pillar of opportunity, mentorship, and community. What began as a small effort to provide local youth with a safe and supportive place after school has grown into a vital institution that has positively shaped the lives of multiple generations throughout Northern Michigan. The Club continues to provide a safe and enriching environment where young people can learn, grow, and thrive. Their work not only supports students' individual achievements but also strengthens families' bonds and contributes to a more vibrant and resilient community.

For the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena, this milestone represents 100 years of changing lives, uplifting families, and fostering civic engagement among young people. This work would not have been possible without the countless staff members, volunteers, and supporters whose steadfast dedication has sustained this program for a century.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing the Boys and Girls Club of Alpena for its remarkable legacy and its continued commitment to building great futures for the next generation. May the community of Alpena keep up the great work.

### RECOGNIZING DR. ALLAN ESCHER

### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding physician and leader in the State of Florida, Dr. Allan Escher of Tampa, who has been named the 2026 Physician of the Year by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Escher's distinguished career reflects an unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care, medical education, and ethical leadership. As a respected anesthesiologist, he has dedicated his professional life to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of his patients—often during their most vulnerable moments.

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Escher serves as Vice-Chair of the Clinical Ethics Committee at Moffitt Cancer Center, where he helps guide complex and compassionate decision-making for patients and families facing serious illness. His role as an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine further demonstrates his commitment to mentoring the next generation of physicians and strengthening the future of healthcare in our state. Notably, Dr. Escher is the first anesthesiologist in the history of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association to receive this prestigious honor—an achievement that underscores both his professional excellence and the profound respect he has earned among his peers. This recognition is a testament not only to Dr. Escher's clinical expertise, but also to his leadership in advancing patient-centered care and upholding the highest ethical standards in medicine.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Allan Escher on this well-deserved honor and in thanking him for his continued service to our community. His work exemplifies the very best of the medical profession and serves as an inspiration to us all.

### HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SEYMOUR WYATT, JR.

### HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Seymour Wyatt, Jr., a beloved constituent from Leetonia, Ohio, who passed away on March 20, 2026, at the age of 83. Born in Philippi, West Virginia, Mr. Wyatt served honorably in the United States Army from 1962 to 1965 and carried that same dedication into his work as a machinist, salesman, and security officer.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he shared more than 60 years of marriage with his wife, Audrey, and leaves behind a proud legacy of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A proud patriot, Mr. Wyatt often reached out to my office to share his deep love for this country and belief in its promise. He will be deeply missed, and his life of service and devotion will not be forgotten.

I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in hon-

oring and remembering the life of Seymour Wyatt, Jr.

### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTERN GROWERS

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative DAVID G. VALADAO, Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, Representative VINCE FONG, Representative SALUD CARBAJAL, Representative DAN NEWHOUSE, Representative ADAM GRAY, Representative ZOE LOFGREN, Representative JOSH HARDER, Representative GLENN "GT" THOMPSON, Representative GABE EVANS, Representative KEN CALVERT, Representative JEFF HURD, Representative JULIA BROWNLEY, Representative RAUL RUIZ, M.D., Representative ADELITA S. GRIJALVA, and Representative JIMMY PANETTA to recognize and honor the 100th anniversary of Western Growers for a century of commitment to western agriculture through advocacy and support, resulting in stronger unification and resilience for the industry that provides fresh fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts for our Nation.

Western Growers was founded on March 6, 1926, with the goal to manage and challenge mounting regulatory and transportation pressures. This kind of advocacy set a precedent of adaptive and robust support designed to keep its members competitive and profitable. For 100 years, Western Growers has been a steadfast voice for agriculture in state and national political arenas—championing policies that protect and advance the fresh produce industry.

To bolster its commitment to political alignment and advocacy, Western Growers established a presence in key political centers, opening offices in: Sacramento, California in 1980; Phoenix, Arizona in 1985; and Washington, D.C. in 2007. These offices have enabled Western Growers to develop valuable relationships with state and federal officials and agencies and navigate policies impacting the day-to-day farming operations of its members across our respective states.

By maintaining a constant presence where decisions are made, the organization has positioned itself as both a trusted advisor and a formidable advocate for the agricultural community. The legislative success of Western Growers on behalf of the agriculture industry can be attributed to the persistence and tenacity of its team of professionals. This includes expanding the specialty crop share within the Farm Bill, securing millions of dollars toward Western water infrastructure, leading negotiations for agricultural workforce reform, and elevating the need for improved federal pesticide and food safety policies to better account for fresh produce realities.

The century mark is a further testament to a commitment to longevity, and decades of looking ahead to foresee and mitigate challenges. Western Growers has repeatedly strived to match the resiliency and adaptability demonstrated by the agricultural stewards it represents by expanding its expertise and support throughout the organization. The in-