

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-

house Science and Innovation programs are particular points of pride as they focus on driving practical, scalable solutions in ag technology, sustainability, crop protection science, and food safety. Elsewhere, the H-2A services program provides critical support to growers navigating the complexities of agricultural labor and workforce management. Generations of producers also benefit from Western Growers' exceptional member services through its health and commercial insurance solutions, retirement security, legal counsel, employee training resources and more.

Growth has not been limited to programs alone. In the past decade, Western Growers expanded its geographic reach by bringing Colorado and New Mexico into its membership footprint, further strengthening its influence across the western United States. This expansion reflects a vision of unifying diverse agricultural regions under a shared mission: advancing the viability and competitiveness of U.S. specialty crop producers.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in celebrating Western Growers for 100 years of unwavering support for western agriculture and its goal to champion and strengthen an irreplaceable and vital industry that supplies fresh and healthy food to our Nation's population.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY SAMUEL  
"SAM" RUBY

**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 Citrus County Sheriff's Office Deputy Samuel "Sam" Ruby for his exceptional professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public safety and community engagement. Deputy Ruby has consistently demonstrated a level of dedication that exceeds expectations throughout his distinguished career. Since joining the Citrus County Sheriff's Office in March of 2007, he has served in a variety of roles, including Patrol Deputy, Community Resource Officer, and Detective in multiple specialized units. His career progression reflects both his versatility and his commitment to serving in positions that require sound judgment and strong community relationships.

Throughout his tenure, Deputy Ruby has made significant contributions to both investigative operations and community policing efforts. He has served as a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team since 2013, where his calm demeanor, emotional intelligence, and communication skills have proven invaluable in high-risk situations. As the Community Resource Officer for the City of Inverness, he has built lasting relationships with residents and serves as a trusted presence within the community. Known affectionately by many as the "Mayor of Circle K," he engages with citizens daily, listening to concerns and strengthening trust between law enforcement and the public. Deputy Ruby's impact is especially evident in critical incidents requiring exceptional composure and skill. On August 8, 2025, he served as the primary negotiator during a tense standoff with an armed homicide suspect barricaded inside a residence. Over more

than four hours, Deputy Ruby demonstrated extraordinary patience, empathy, and tactical expertise, ultimately persuading the suspect to surrender peacefully without further injury or loss of life. This outcome marked a historic moment for the agency and exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and crisis response.

Beyond emergency response, Deputy Ruby plays a vital role in organizing and supporting community initiatives, including the "Small Town Done Right" program, Patriotic Evening celebrations, and local events. He also serves as a mentor to newly assigned deputies, helping to instill the values of professionalism, compassion, and service.

These accomplishments reflect not only Deputy Ruby's expertise, but also his character, leadership, and deep commitment to the community he serves. He represents the very best of law enforcement.

I commend Deputy Samuel Ruby 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 dedication, professionalism, and compassion embody the highest ideals of public service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CONGRESSMAN LARRY SMITH

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former U.S. Congressman Larry Smith, whose dedication to public service, commitment to his community, and unwavering leadership left a lasting impact on the State of Florida and our Nation.

Born in New York City on April 25, 1941, Congressman Smith devoted much of his life to public service, civic leadership, and advocacy on behalf of the people of South Florida. After earning his law degree from Brooklyn Law School, he moved to Florida, where he quickly became engaged in local government and community affairs.

Congressman Smith began his public service career at the local level, serving as chairman of the Hollywood Planning and Zoning Board before being elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1978. His strong commitment to his constituents and his ability to bring people together soon led him to the United States Congress, where he represented Florida's 16th Congressional District from 1983 to 1993.

During his tenure in Congress, Larry Smith worked tirelessly to advocate for the needs of South Florida families and communities. He was deeply committed to strengthening economic opportunities, improving infrastructure and transportation, and ensuring that his constituents' voices were heard in Washington, DC. He approached every challenge with determination, integrity, and a genuine desire to serve others.

Following his service in Congress, Congressman Smith remained active in public affairs and government relations, continuing to lend his experience and leadership to both the legal profession and the broader South Florida community.

Beyond his accomplishments in government, Larry Smith will be remembered for his kindness, mentorship, and devotion to his family and community. His impact extended far beyond elected office, touching the lives of countless individuals across Florida and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a life dedicated to service and leadership. On behalf of the United States Congress, we extend heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones, former colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER DALTON  
GARAFOLO

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dade City Police Department Officer Dalton Garafolo for his professionalism, initiative, and strong commitment to community service. Officer Garafolo has consistently demonstrated maturity and sound judgment beyond his years of service. Since joining the Dade City Police Department in December 2023 alongside his brother, he has quickly established himself as a dependable and proactive member of Uniform Operations. His approach to patrol reflects a strong work ethic and a commitment to public safety, resulting in meaningful traffic enforcement outcomes, including citations, arrests, and a measurable reduction in traffic-related incidents.

Throughout his early career, Officer Garafolo has distinguished himself by seeking opportunities for growth beyond his assigned duties. He voluntarily completed specialized training, including Glock Armorer School, to deepen his technical understanding of department equipment. He has also contributed ideas to enhance the department's social media outreach and is pursuing his associate degree, reflecting a clear dedication to professional development and long-term service.

Officer Garafolo also understands the importance of community engagement. He actively builds positive relationships with residents and participates in department outreach events, including youth tours. On one such occasion, he took time to speak with a young child aspiring to become a police officer, offering encouragement and presenting him with a junior badge. This small but meaningful interaction reflects his ability to connect with the community and positively influence the next generation. Even at this early stage in his career, Officer Garafolo leads by example. He is dependable, professional, and consistently team-oriented. His presence has contributed positively to shift morale, and he represents the department with distinction both on and off duty.

I commend Officer Dalton Garafolo for his outstanding service to the residents of Dade City and proudly recognize him as a 2026 Officer of the Year. His dedication, initiative, and professionalism embody the highest ideals of law enforcement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,