

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,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

#### MAY 19

8 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Business meeting to consider reconciliation recommendations to the Budget Committee.  
SD-342

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open hearing at approximately 11:00 a.m. in SD-G50.  
SVC-217

10 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Justice.  
SD-138

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Labor.  
SD-124

10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Defense  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Army.  
SD-192

2 p.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation  
To hold hearings to examine the evaluation of FAA safety measures from the DCA crash.  
SR-253

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on the Constitution  
To hold hearings to examine enforcing *Callais*, focusing on implementing the Supreme Court's gerrymandering.  
SD-226

3 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Transportation.  
SD-192

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
To hold hearings to examine the science and technology priorities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.  
SR-222

#### MAY 20

10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy  
To hold hearings to examine betting, focusing on protecting sports integrity in America.  
SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Innovation and Safety  
To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation entitled, "Build Nuclear with Local Materials Act", "RECHARGE Act", and "Enrichment Licensing Modernization Act".  
SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Kavoukjian, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, Michelle Steel, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, and Brock Dahl, of Mary-

land, to be Legal Adviser, all of the Department of State.  
SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine meeting the individual needs of all students, focusing on the role of charter schools.  
SD-430

10:15 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.  
SD-106

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.  
SD-124

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense personnel policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.  
SR-222

Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service.  
SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights  
To hold hearings to examine the Muslim brotherhood in America.  
SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine blowing the whistle, focusing on inside the grift that keeps giving.  
SR-428A

3:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To receive a briefing on anomalous health incidents.  
SVC-217

Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine preventing falls and preserving independence, focusing on technology, community programs, and innovation in senior safety.  
SH-216

4 p.m.  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 and 2028 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs.  
SD-G50