

the United Kingdom, and the United States. With unrelenting dedication and unwavering commitment to advancing the DON mission, she provided proactive, accurate, and innovative legal advice on complex, politically sensitive, and highly visible issues that intersected with the complete spectrum of DON OGC practice areas. Additionally, Ms. Kessmeier established an unrivaled standard of leadership while overseeing and coordinating the provision of quality, effective, and consistent legal advice and counsel by hundreds of DON OGC attorneys, bolstering Navy and Marine Corps readiness throughout the global enterprise.

Over the course of her exemplary career, Ms. Kessmeier received various awards for her extraordinary contributions to the DON and the Nation. These include the DON Meritorious, Superior, and Distinguished Civilian Service Awards, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, and other performance-related recognition.

For these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Catherine Lavelle Kessmeier as she retires from decades of federal service.

CONGRATULATING THE DWYER
SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dwyer School of Irish Dance following its outstanding performance at the 2026 World Irish Dancing Championships in Chicago. Representing Central Ohio and the Miami Valley on an international stage, these talented young dancers demonstrated extraordinary discipline, artistry, and commitment while competing among the best Irish dancers in the world. Their success reflects the dedication of the dancers, instructors, and families who continue to strengthen and celebrate Irish culture in our communities.

I would especially like to recognize Liam Rardon of Centerville, Mia Duvall of Bellbrook, Madison King of Centerville, Knighton Ambrosius of Dayton, Aidan Dwyer of Centerville, and Sean Dwyer of Centerville for their impressive individual accomplishments at the championships. In addition, the Dwyer School's ceili and team dancers earned exceptional international recognition, with the Subminor Mixed Team placing second in the world and the Senior Mixed Team placing third in the world in their respective categories. The school's dance drama team also earned second place for its creative performance honoring aviation pioneer Douglas "Wrong Way" Conigan. Their tribute to "the Flying Irishman" also served as a meaningful celebration of Dayton's proud legacy as the Birthplace of Aviation and home of the Wright Brothers.

These accomplishments reflect the hard work and commitment of the dancers, instructors, and families who support the Dwyer School of Irish Dance. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their success and for the pride they have brought to the Miami Valley and the State of Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE 2026 POLICE MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN CORPUS CHRISTI AND COASTAL BEND LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2026 Police Officer Memorial Ceremony in Corpus Christi, which is taking place as a part of National Police Memorial Week. Today, we honor the courage, sacrifice, and service of our fallen law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement officers serve on our frontlines every day, protecting our neighborhoods, standing between our communities and harm, and upholding justice. Those we memorialize gave everything in that service. Their sacrifice must never be forgotten, and their families deserve our deepest and most enduring gratitude.

In recent years, we have honored Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) own fallen officers, Kyle Hicks and Vicente Ortiz, who gave their lives in the protection of this community in 2024. This year marks the 134th anniversary of the first CCPD Officer killed in the line of duty, City Marshall Elias Mussett Jr., and the 166th anniversary of the death of Nueces County Sheriff Deputy Thomas Nolan, who was killed in the Line-of-Duty in 1860. We also especially remember Lieutenant Albert Stout from Robstown Police Department, who passed away in August of 2025 after 31 years of service. From Nolan to Stout, we take this opportunity to remember all of our fallen heroes, honor their legacy, and renew our commitment to support and pray for their families.

The bonds of brotherhood in this law enforcement community are best known by the example and testimony of their fellow officers. The continued excellent work of the agencies and officers gathered in Corpus Christi today carries on the life and legacy of the fallen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering these heroes of the Coastal Bend and in expressing our unwavering support for the law enforcement officers across Nueces County and our great Nation.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION'S
SERVICE LEADERSHIP
SOCIETY

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend students Ahmed Sarihan, Julio Huereca, Jacob De la Cruz, Vianney Garza, and Laura Hernandez of the Harmony School of Innovation's Service Leadership Society (SLS) in Brownsville, Texas, for their outstanding achievement at the SLS State Conference. I would also like to congratulate their club sponsor, Ms. Priscilla Martinez. These students successfully passed a bill alongside their peers, demonstrating tremendous intellect and dedication for improving South Texas commu-

nities through leadership and civic engagement.

Their proposal sought to ensure safe drinking water in schools by requiring public and charter schools to conduct biannual testing of water fountains and bottle filling stations. By leveraging existing state and local agencies, their plan demonstrated both practicality and a strong commitment to public health.

This team worked hard over the course of the year, refining their proposal during after-school sessions, while learning first-hand about public service and policymaking. At the State Conference, they debated on the floor of the Texas State Capitol, persuading peers from SLS chapters from across Texas to vote in favor of their bill.

Students like these who pursue civic engagement set a powerful example for their peers and community. I am proud of their contribution to the culture of debate and problem-solving that makes South Texas and the United States so great.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas's 34th Congressional District, I commend these students for their initiative to build stronger and healthier communities. I cannot wait to see what other achievements they will have in future years. I hope their success inspires more students to become involved in public service across the region.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE JOSHUA
ANTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Pasco County Sheriff's Office Detective Joshua Anton for his exceptional professionalism, investigative skill, and unwavering commitment to justice and public safety.

Detective Anton has consistently demonstrated a level of dedication and performance that reflects great credit upon himself and the agency. Through his strong work ethic, attention to detail, and sound judgment, he has distinguished himself as a trusted and highly capable investigator within the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

Throughout his service, Detective Anton has played a vital role in complex and high-impact investigations, applying persistence, critical thinking, and thorough analysis to ensure cases are successfully resolved. His ability to evaluate evidence, follow leads, and collaborate effectively with fellow investigators has significantly contributed to the department's mission of protecting the community and holding offenders accountable. In addition to his investigative accomplishments, Detective Anton is recognized by his peers for his professionalism, integrity, and steady demeanor under pressure. He consistently approaches his duties with focus and determination, ensuring that each case receives the care and diligence it deserves. His commitment to excellence strengthens the effectiveness of the agency and reinforces public trust.

Detective Anton's contributions extend beyond individual investigations, as he serves as a reliable and respected member of the investigative team. His work ethic, judgment, and

dedication make him a role model for others within the department.

I commend Detective Joshua Anton 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 professionalism, integrity, and commitment to justice exemplify the highest ideals of law enforcement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF CAPTAIN JOSÉ A.
FERNÁNDEZ-PAOLI, UNITED
STATES ARMY (RET.)

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep respect and reverence to honor the life and extraordinary service of Captain José A. Fernández-Paoli, United States Army (Ret.), a distinguished son of Puerto Rico, a Bronze Star recipient, and a Vietnam War veteran whose name will be forever enshrined at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Born in Puerto Rico in 1940, José Fernández-Paoli embodied the values that have long defined our Island: devotion to family, commitment to education, and an unshakeable sense of duty. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1961, and his law degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law in 1964, before answering the call to serve in uniform.

Commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army, Captain Fernández-Paoli served as an Intelligence and Security Officer and was appointed Chief of the Interrogation Section of the 541st Military Intelligence Detachment, operating as part of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. From September 1966 through February 1967, he was deployed to Xuan Loc, where he displayed extraordinary judgment, courage, and devotion alongside his fellow soldiers.

In recognition of his bravery and meritorious service in military operations against a hostile force, Captain Fernández-Paoli was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by the President of the United States, a permanent testament to his selfless sacrifice and unwavering commitment to the ideals of liberty and democracy.

Upon his return to Puerto Rico, Captain Fernández-Paoli channeled the discipline of his military service into a distinguished legal career spanning nearly six decades. He served as Senior Counsel at Delgado and Fernández, LLC, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Sacred Heart University, member of the Puerto Rico Board of Bar Examiners, and General Counsel to the Associated General Contractors of America, Puerto Rico Chapter. In every courtroom, he carried the same honor with which he had served his country.

Puerto Rico lost one of its finest sons on June 16, 2024. Captain Fernández-Paoli passed from this world, leaving behind an enduring legacy of service, integrity, and devotion to his Nation, to the island that formed him, and to the pursuit of justice.

June 20, 2026, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will honor Captain Fernández-

Paoli by inscribing his name in the "In Memory" plaque adjacent to The Wall on the National Mall, a solemn recognition for veterans whose deaths are linked to the lasting wounds of that war. He will be among 768 veterans honored at this year's ceremony. It is a moment of recognition long deserved.

Mr. Speaker, since 1917, generation after generation of Puerto Ricans have answered the call of duty with full patriotic devotion, defending a democracy that has not always fully extended its promise to them. Captain Fernández-Paoli was one of those patriots. He carried the flag of the United States through the jungles of Vietnam, earned one of the highest military honors, returned home, and spent his life and his profession in service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, I extend the eternal gratitude and enduring pride of our island for the life and legacy of Captain José A. Fernández-Paoli. May his memory be a blessing to his family. May the Nation be served with such distinction, honor the full measure of what Puerto Rico has always given to this great country.

HONORING DAVID DAILEY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my Chief of Staff, David Dailey, who has dedicated his career to serving the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and this institution with distinction.

David is a native of Norfolk, Virginia, and first came to my office as an intern in 2004 while pursuing his bachelor's degree at American University. After quickly proving himself through the quality of his work and his commitment to public service, we asked him to stay on as a Legislative Correspondent. From there, he steadily rose through the ranks, serving as a Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and ultimately Chief of Staff, a position he has held since 2017. At one point, I even had him pulling double duty as my Press Secretary.

During his tenure as Chief of Staff, David helped lead my office through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and provided invaluable counsel during my service as both Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and Labor. His energy, attention to detail, and deep understanding of policy were instrumental during some of the most consequential debates before Congress.

I have known David through many chapters of his life and career, and I can say with certainty that he is a person of passion, conviction, and integrity. He approaches public service thoughtfully and seriously, with a genuine interest in the law and the policy challenges facing our Nation. On the most complicated issues before this body, I consistently relied on his counsel and expertise.

While serving as full time staff in Congress, David also earned his law degree from The Catholic University Columbus School of Law, an accomplishment that reflects both his discipline and determination. Although that legal training proved invaluable in his legislative

work, he will now have the opportunity to put it to use in a new chapter of his career as he begins practicing law in the private sector.

I know I speak for both past and present members of Team Scott when I say that David will be deeply missed. Our office will not be the same without him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank David for his 22 years of dedicated service to the House of Representatives, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation. I wish him, his wife, Mary, and their children, Eleanor and Charlie, all the best in this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ARTHUR EUGENE GRIFFITH

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and extraordinary legacy of Arthur Eugene Griffith, a proud Coloradan, devoted man of faith, accomplished engineer, champion swimmer, loving husband and father, and one of the most respected public servants in Douglas County history.

Art passed away peacefully at his home in Aurora, Colorado, on May 1, 2026, after a courageous six-year battle with cancer. Through every challenge he faced, he demonstrated remarkable strength, unwavering faith, and a servant's heart that inspired everyone around him.

Born in Boulder, Colorado, on January 10, 1959, Art dedicated his life to his family, his faith, and serving others. He was a steadfast follower of Jesus Christ who sought not simply to speak about his faith, but to live it out every day through compassion, humility, kindness, and love for others. Those who knew Art understood that his life reflected the values he cherished most deeply.

Above all else, Art loved his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife Laurie for 42 wonderful years, a proud father to Kristin, John, Samuel, and David, and an adoring "Papa" to his grandchildren, who brought him immense joy throughout his life. Family gatherings, church fellowship, and time spent with loved ones were at the center of Art's world.

Art also left an extraordinary and lasting mark on Colorado through nearly 30 years of distinguished public service as Douglas County's Transportation Capital Improvement Program Manager. Throughout his career, he led many of the county's most significant transportation infrastructure initiatives from early planning and design through construction completion, helping transform mobility and strengthen communities across the south Denver region.

Art exemplified public service through his tireless advocacy, collaborative leadership, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Douglas County and the State of Colorado. He advanced major regional transportation projects that millions of Coloradans rely on today, including the I-25 Gap Project from Castle Rock to Monument Hill, the C-470 expansion through Highlands Ranch, improvements along U.S. Highway 85 in northwest Douglas County, and the I-25 and Crystal Valley Parkway interchange in Castle Rock.

In addition to these major regional projects, Art helped construct and improve countless