

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

roadways of countywide importance, including County Line Road, Chambers Road, Hilltop Road, and RidgeGate Parkway. He also championed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including the grade-separated trail overpasses along the C-470 Trail in Highlands Ranch and Lone Tree, improving both safety and quality of life for families throughout the region.

Art was widely respected as a trusted advisor, consensus builder, skilled communicator, advocate for transportation funding, and mentor to many both personally and professionally. His work will continue benefiting Colorado families and communities for generations to come.

In recognition of his enduring contributions and legacy of service, a portion of U.S. Highway 85 from Mile Marker 198 through Mile Marker 201 is being dedicated as the "Art Griffith Memorial Highway." This designation serves as a lasting tribute not only to Art's contributions to transportation infrastructure and public service, but also as a reminder of the profound difference one dedicated public servant can make in the lives of countless others.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Art was also an extraordinary athlete. He earned numerous national swimming titles, competed as a member of the USA National Team, and was inducted into the University of Minnesota Hall of Fame for his achievements in the pool. Yet despite these remarkable accomplishments, those closest to him will remember him most for his humility, gentle spirit, dry sense of humor, integrity, and the genuine care he showed toward everyone he met.

Art Griffith lived a life grounded in faith, family, service, and love. He leaves behind a legacy of treasured relationships and an example of quiet strength and grace that will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

My prayers are with Laurie, his children and grandchildren, and all of Art's family and friends during this difficult time. Colorado is stronger, safer, and better because Art Griffith called it home, and his legacy will endure for generations.

May he rest in eternal peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ETHEL LARSON PEGELOW

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Ethel Larson Pegelow. Born on February 23, 1926, Ethel has called the great state of Minnesota home since she was first married in 1947.

Before starting her life in Minnesota, Ethel worked as a riveter and buckler on B-17 airplanes at the Boeing B-17 assembly plant in Seattle, Washington. On the 5,000th B-17 built since the Pearl Harbor attack, Ethel got to sign her name on the belly of the plane. She has lived through history, and one can only imagine the stories she can tell.

Ethel is blessed beyond measure with four children, twelve grandchildren, and sixteen great grandchildren. Her cup overflows. To

this day, Ethel loves playing cards, hosting family gatherings, baking, and visiting Arizona in the winter. After 100 years, Ethel still lives an incredibly active life. Her enthusiasm for life should inspire us all.

There is no doubt that Ethel is a rock for her entire family. Her strength, wisdom, and grace have served her well in these last 100 years and will continue to for many more.

Turning 100 is no small feat. This historic milestone is one to celebrate, and it is my honor to extend our heartfelt congratulations from the U.S. House of Representatives. Jacquie and I pray that God will continue to richly bless her and her family with good health, peace, and joy.

RECOGNIZING LONDON UTHKE

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paralympic gold medalist and southern Minnesota native, Landon Uthke, on his remarkable performance at the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina, Italy.

Landon made his Paralympic debut as a Defenseman on the USA Sled Hockey Team, helping Team USA secure their fifth consecutive gold medal in a 6-2 win over Canada.

At three years old, Landon had his left leg amputated following a lawnmower accident. Growing up in Albert Lea, Landon started playing sled hockey at seven years old and went on to play for both the Rochester Mustangs and Minnesota Wild sled hockey teams.

Landon's hard work has truly paid off, and his determination is inspiring to all of us at home in southern Minnesota. I congratulate Landon on his 2026 Paralympic debut. His family, friends, teammates, and fellow southern Minnesotans could not be prouder of him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 2026, I was not recorded on Roll Call votes No. 165, No. 166 and No. 167.

Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 165 and YEA on Roll Call No. 166 and No. 167.

CONGRATULATING GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR RECEIVING THE H-E-B TEXAS DISTRICT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Garland Independent School District (ISD) on being named the 2026 H-E-B

Texas District of the Year, one of the highest honors in public education. Garland ISD will also receive a \$100,000 award presented at the H-E-B Excellence in Education ceremony. The H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards represent the largest educator recognition program of its kind in the Nation, having awarded nearly \$15 million in cash and grants to teachers, principals, counselors, and school districts since 2002.

Since its founding in 1901 with just 130 students, Garland ISD has grown to serve over 51,000 students across 67 campuses in Garland, Rowlett, and Sachse. The district offers an extraordinary range of academic pathways, including a STEM elementary campus, collegiate preparatory campus, career and technical education center, prekindergarten program, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Garland ISD was selected from among five large school district finalists statewide through a rigorous process involving interviews and site visits by educators, community leaders, and past recipients.

I congratulate every teacher, administrator, aide, staff member, student, and parent across Garland ISD on this incredible achievement that only one district in the Lone Star state receives each year.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN AMINNDA SCHULTZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pasco County Fire Rescue Captain Aminnda Schultz for her exceptional leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to public service.

Captain Schultz is a shining example of pride, ownership, and wholehearted commitment within the fire service. Her leadership is felt not only by those who work alongside her, but also throughout the community she serves. She consistently leads with compassion, humility, and a genuine commitment to lifting others up—qualities that define the very best of public safety professionals.

Over the past year, Captain Schultz has been nominated multiple times for departmental recognition, each reflecting her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. Whether representing Pasco County Fire Rescue through her service with the Honor Guard, volunteering countless hours at Safety Town, supporting the Benevolent Association, or engaging with the community at public events, she consistently places others before herself. Her positivity, generosity, and steadfast dedication to her fellow firefighters are evident in everything she does.

Captain Schultz leads by example, fostering a culture of professionalism, teamwork, and service that strengthens both her department and the broader community. These qualities reflect not only her commitment to excellence in the fire service, but also her character and her deep sense of responsibility to those she serves. She embodies the spirit of service, honor, and dedication that this recognition is intended to celebrate.

I commend Captain Aminnda Schultz for her outstanding service to the residents of Florida's 12th Congressional District and proudly