

Revolution. In 1777, General George Washington used the ridge as a vantage point from which to monitor British troop movements, an enduring reminder of Watchung's place in our Nation's early history.

Throughout the past century, Watchung has been distinguished by a remarkable tradition of volunteerism. Its residents have consistently embodied the values of civic engagement, service, and community spirit. The Borough's commitment to preserving its heritage through institutions such as the Texier House Museum and the dedicated efforts of the Watchung Historical Committee have ensured that its rich past continues to inform its vibrant present.

As Watchung reaches its Centennial Jubilee in 2026, we honor a community that has grown with resilience, preserved its natural beauty, and upheld a strong civic identity. This milestone stands as a testament to generations of residents whose contributions have shaped the Borough's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the Watchung Centennial Jubilee, recognizing 100 years of history, community, and shared purpose. We extend our warmest congratulations to the Borough of Watchung and its residents on this momentous occasion and celebrate the strength and spirit that define this exceptional community.

CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE
HOPKINTON-FT. JACKSON FIRE
DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department on the 75th anniversary of its founding and thank them for their tremendous dedication to protecting and serving the Town of Hopkinton as well as the neighboring communities in St. Lawrence County.

Since its founding in 1950, the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has been at the forefront of combating disasters across the North Country. In addition to fighting fires, the Department protects Hopkinton and its surrounding communities by responding to medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, and natural disasters. These brave men and women have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and stability of not only their community, but the North Country as a whole. For seventy-five years, they have faced challenges with unwavering resolve and compassion embodying the true spirit of civic virtue.

Since their inception, the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has grown tremendously to help answer the call in their community. Starting with the station's purchase for one dollar from the old Hopkinton School in 1950 and their first F-700 Ford Firetruck in 1957, they have expanded massively gaining their own St Lawrence County Central Dispatch system in 1987 and extending medical assistance to Tri-Town Rescue Squad starting 1995. The Department's growth has continued to its current size, boasting seven vehicles with capable fire engines, tankers, and specialized emergency response vehicles which

are ready to answer the call at a moment's notice. These expansions have dramatically increased the Department's role and have allowed them to go above and beyond to serve their community.

The Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has faithfully served the community, and their achievements stand as a testament to their hard work and dedication. Their presence is both an asset and a comfort to the citizens they serve in their time of need. They are fully staffed by volunteers who meet the demands of the job and perform them to the highest level, going above and beyond the call of duty in exemplary fashion making themselves available at any time for any situation.

This year, Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department will celebrate its 75th anniversary. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the generations of brave men and women who have volunteered with the Department and those currently answering the call. These extraordinary individuals have sacrificed their time and wellbeing to protect the North Country, and I am proud to recognize their historic accomplishments and service.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GOUT AWARENESS DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, National Gout Awareness Day will occur on May 22, 2026. This marks the 20th anniversary that patients, care partners, advocates and the medical community around the United States raise awareness of the crucial needs of people suffering from this chronic and painful form of arthritis.

Gout is a chronic form of inflammatory arthritis affecting more than 12 million Americans. Gout occurs due to a buildup of uric acid in the body. When excess uric acid builds up in the body, it deposits around joints and can lead to swollen joints and sudden, intensely painful attacks that can be debilitating.

It is a chronic medical condition that, left untreated, can result in more frequent or painful attacks and joint damage. It can also increase patients' risk for other severe medical conditions such as kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and stroke.

While gout is not currently curable, it is treatable if patients have access to care that manages acute gout flares and addresses the root cause of chronic gout. Continuous and timely access to care is critical to ensure gout patients can successfully manage their disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of Gout Awareness Day, honoring those committed to helping alleviate the suffering of people with gout and those people dealing with this chronic inflammatory condition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF TRINIDAD CASILLAS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Trinidad Casillas' 100th birthday.

Mr. Casillas was born in Los Angeles on May 23, 1926, as the fifth child among ten children. When he was 28, he married Delia Casillas. The two have shared 72 years of marriage and have spent 60 years in the Inland Empire.

In 1966, Trinidad and Delia purchased a home in my hometown, Pomona, California. The two have called Pomona home for more than fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Casillas have built a remarkable family, consisting of their five children, 22 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

For 30 years, Trinidad served as a metal finisher for a government contractor, specializing in airplane parts. His contributions to this crucial industry enhanced its ability to support our Nation's infrastructure and national defense.

Beyond his impactful service as metal finisher and as a beloved family-member, Mr. Casillas has been an active member of the Washington Senior Center in the City of Pomona for 26 years. At the Senior Center, he joins his neighbors in recreational activities including dominoes and billiards.

Trinidad has a particular passion for pool, which he has played for 94 years. He has brought his passion to the Senior Center and beyond, earning several trophies that showcase his skills and love for the game.

In celebration of Trinidad Casillas' 100th birthday, it is my privilege to honor a remarkable family member and community member. His impact on our community is worthy of the highest commendation.

CELEBRATING DR. MARIA OZUNA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman whose life embodies perseverance, compassion, and public service: Dr. Maria Ozuna.

Dr. Ozuna is a proud Dominican-American healthcare professional, public health advocate, mentor, mother, aunt, sister, and role model who has dedicated her life to improving the well-being of others. A medical doctor in the Dominican Republic, she continued her pursuit of knowledge here in the United States and recently earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from George Washington University at the age of 60, proving that it is never too late to achieve new dreams.

Throughout her career, Dr. Ozuna has worked with some of New York City's leading hospitals and currently serves as a Safety Officer, protecting both patients and healthcare workers. Beyond her profession, she is deeply committed to community service, diabetes prevention, breast cancer awareness, HIV/AIDS advocacy, and educational opportunity.

Dr. Ozuna has also proudly served as an intern in my office, where she has supported community members and assisted with numerous community events throughout the Bronx. Her dedication to uplifting others, connecting families with resources, and serving her community reflects the very best of public service.

Her dedication to service is rooted in her Dominican heritage and inspired by her family legacy, including efforts connected to her father's middle school in the Dominican Republic, which expanded access to affordable education for local children.

As one of nine children, Dr. Ozuna carries forward the values of resilience, responsibility, and family. Our Bronx community is stronger because of her leadership, generosity, and example.

Today, we proudly celebrate Dr. Maria Ozuna and thank her for a lifetime of service and inspiration.

HONORING MARY RICH

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the leadership of Mary Rich as the Deputy Chief of New Gloucester Rescue. Across more than 32 years of dedicated public service, Mary has played a vital role in the success of the department and the safety of New Gloucester residents.

Mary began her career as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, rising over time to Deputy Chief. She has overseen tremendous change during her tenure—including the merging of the Fire and Rescue Departments, the launch of a new ambulance transport service, and the expansion of per diem staffing to provide 24/7 EMS coverage. The growth of the department would not have been possible without Mary's steadfast determination and tireless advocacy on behalf of the Rescue team and broader New Gloucester community.

In 2025, she was honored with the New Gloucester Chief's Award of Emergency Medical Services for her leadership, and her family has proudly carried on her legacy of public service. Her daughter Molly Fitzgerald and her son-in-law Hale Fitzgerald have also served on the Rescue team. Mary's years of contributions to the department have left New Gloucester a safer community, better equipped to respond to and prevent emergencies.

I commend Mary for an outstanding career dedicated to protecting public safety. I wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.

HONORING EDDIE HART

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleague, Representative MARK DESAULNIER, to recognize Eddie Hart as he is inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

Born in Martinez, California and raised in Pittsburg, California, Eddie is known as the "World's Fastest Human." He started his track and field career at Contra Costa College, winning state titles in the 100- and 200-yard events. He went on to earn NCAA titles for the 100-yard dash and 4 x 110-yard relay while competing at UC Berkeley. He was ranked one of the top sprinters in the Nation between 1970 to 1979.

Eddie went on to compete in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games. During the U.S. Olympic Trials, he tied the world record for the 100-meter race with a run time of 9.9 seconds. He ran the anchoring leg in the American 4 x 100-meter relay team, earning a gold medal and helping the United States to set the world record in the race. In 1989, Eddie set the Masters world record in the 100-meter race, holding that record for 14 years.

Eddie has also demonstrated his commitment to serving youth in our community. In 2003, he co-founded the Eddie Hart All in One Foundation with his wife, Gwen, and son, Eddie, Jr., to empower disadvantaged youth through music, sports, and education. He was recognized as a Hometown Hero by the City of Pittsburg in 2024 for his incredible impact in the community.

Our community takes great pride in honoring Eddie's legacy of service and athletic excellence. Please join us in recognizing Eddie Hart upon his induction to the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF ASA BUCK

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor someone whom I deeply admire and respect and am lucky enough to call friend, Sheriff Asa Buck, who will retire on June 1, 2026, after more than 25 years of devoted service to Carteret County.

Asa was born and raised in Carteret County, graduating from East Carteret High School before earning his bachelor's in criminal justice from East Carolina University. After completing his BLET program, Asa joined the Sheriff's Office in 1999 and because of his dedication and exemplary work ethic, quickly worked his way up the ranks. In 2006, after campaigning and knocking on over 5000 doors to introduce himself to the people, he was elected to his first term as Sheriff. The citizens of Carteret County have rewarded him for his hard work, re-electing him multiple times as he has diligently served the community for over 19 years.

In his role as Sheriff, Asa has made the safety of the people of Carteret County his top priority. He focused much of his time on the opioid and drug crisis that has ravaged so many North Carolina communities. He played a pivotal role in launching Carteret's "Pills can kill," a drug take back program, and M.E.D.S., a medication education program on safe storage and disposal. These anti-addiction and collection programs served as a model for other counties across the state. Additionally, under his leadership, Carteret County now tops the state in arresting and prosecuting drug dealers for death by distribution. His

tough stance on illegal drugs has saved countless lives.

Asa's commitment to his community has been rewarded with more responsibilities. He was elected to serve as the President and Chairman of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, selected for the Governor's Task Force for Mental Health and Substance Use, and was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his contributions to his community. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest civilian honor in the state of North Carolina. As Asa looks to future opportunities to serve, I know that Asa's friendly demeanor and servant leadership will be greatly missed by the county and the communities he served.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the amazing work Sheriff Asa Buck has done and wishing him the best of luck in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JULIET SZYMANSKI FOR A LIFE DEDICATED TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Juliet Szymanski for a lifetime of service, devotion, and civic engagement. She is an example to all of what it means to live the American Dream and to dedicate one's life to building up those around you.

When Juliet's daughter, Stephanie, was diagnosed with Lyme disease at a young age, Juliet ensured that her family met that challenge head-on—not only through treatment and support for her daughter, but through a commitment to helping countless others facing the same struggle.

Juliet has been a steadfast advocate in the fight against Lyme disease, working tirelessly to increase public awareness and leading efforts in prevention, treatment, and research advocacy. Her compassion and determination have helped shine a light on an illness that impacts families across Western New York and our Nation.

In addition to her advocacy work, Juliet has been a dedicated member of the Erie County Republican Committee, serving for nearly 20 years as a committeewoman and supporting countless candidates, campaigns, and elected officials. Her commitment to public service and civic participation has strengthened her community and inspired others to get involved. Since 2008, she has served as Secretary to Erie County Board of Elections Commissioner Ralph Mohr and has been a tireless public servant administering elections across Erie County.

For 250 years, the United States of America has thrived because of the freedom, self-determination, and civic participation enshrined in our democratic values. Our representative democracy depends upon citizens willing to serve their neighbors and invest in their communities. Juliet Szymanski's life—devoted to her family, her work, and her community—embodies those values in action.

We all have a responsibility to leave our communities better than we found them, and Juliet has done exactly that. I know that her