

including the Navy Life-Saving Award, the Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, the Air Force Achievement Award, and recognition as Fire Officer of the Year.

But beyond the awards and titles, Mr. Pillow represents something larger. He represents the thousands of military and civilian first responders who work behind the scenes every single day to protect lives, defend critical infrastructure, and ensure mission readiness in one of the most strategically important regions in the world.

The people of Guam understand deeply the importance of those who stand ready in moments of crisis. Whether responding to aircraft emergencies, natural disasters, fires, or national emergencies, professionals like Ryan Pillow provide the steady leadership and courage that keep our communities and our servicemembers safe. His career reflects the very best traditions of public service: duty before self, leadership under pressure, and a lifelong commitment to protecting others.

As he retires after more than 26 years of honorable service, we recognize not only the accomplishments of an exceptional firefighter and leader, but the legacy of a man who dedicated his career to serving something greater than himself.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Ryan Douglas Pillow for his extraordinary service and sacrifice. I also extend appreciation to his family, whose support undoubtedly made this long and distinguished career possible.

We wish Ryan Pillow the very best in this next chapter of life and thank him for the lasting impact he has made on Guam and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to physically record my vote on suspensions. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 207; YES on Roll Call No. 206; NO on Roll Call No. 205; YES on Roll Call No. 204; NO on Roll Call No. 203; NO on Roll Call No. 202; and YES on Roll Call No. 201.

HONORING ELLA BAHN FOR HER OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD CAREER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ella Bahn on her outstanding high school track and field career.

Ella, a senior at Spring Grove Area High School in York County, Pennsylvania, capped off an extraordinary high school career with her set of victories in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles at the 2026 PIAA State Track and Field Championships on May 23, 2026.

Over the past 4 years, Ella has achieved remarkable success in numerous events, most

notably, hurdles. She finished her high school career with seven individual PIAA State Championship gold medals and ten District 3 gold medals.

Ella's specialty and favorite event is hurdles. She swept the 300-meter hurdles, winning the state championship each of her four years and won back-to-back golds in the 100-meter hurdles in 2025 and 2026. In addition to her success in hurdles, Ella won the gold medal in high jump in 2024 and helped the Spring Grove Rockets to a state title that same year.

Ella will continue her academic and athletic career at Princeton University. At Princeton, she plans to continue running hurdles and potentially use her talents for the high jump.

I commend Ella for the dedication and hard work that made these remarkable achievements possible. She serves as an example for young athletes across our community who strive to compete with excellence and advance their education.

I congratulate Ella on these amazing achievements. I wish her the best in her future academic and athletic endeavors.

HONORING 2026 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2026 Service Academy Appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

I include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals who have accepted Academy Appointments:

Cecilia Rose Burris, Fr. Joseph T. O'Callahan School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, United States Military Academy; Zachary Allan Jaster, Smithson Valley High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Military Academy; Marlee Beatrice Lightsey, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Military Academy; Jacob Lee Olson, Bracken Christian School, Bulverde, Texas, United States Military Academy; Mason Alexander Sutton, Geneva School of Boerne, Boerne, Texas, United States Military Academy; Wes Thomas Anderson, Dripping Springs High School, Dripping Springs, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Michael Reid Poole, Westlake High School, Austin, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Brandon Ells Tragord, Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Catherine Kennedy Drummond, Westlake High School/Georgia Military College, Austin, Texas, United States Air Force Academy; Karina Deylen Mendivil, Madison High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Air Force Academy; and Javan Warren Bammel Penniman, New Braunfels Christian Academy, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and women.

CELEBRATING AND HONORING DAVID STACY'S SERVICE TO THE LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor David Stacy's service to the LGBTQI+ community as he marks the end of his current chapter as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Human Rights Campaign.

David has been instrumental in the fight for LGBTQI+ equality for decades, helping found Fair Wisconsin, Wisconsin's statewide LGBTQI+ civil rights organization, and working in this chamber for then-Representative Tammy Baldwin as a Legislative Assistant for seven years. In his role for then-Rep. Baldwin, David worked on a range of LGBTQI+ issues, including marriage equality and hate crimes.

After leaving the Hill, David joined HRC where over the course of two decades, he has played a role in every major LGBTQI+ bill to become law, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act, and the Respect for Marriage Act. He also played a key role in adding sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination protections to the Violence Against Women Act and has helped lead organizations in opposing dozens of anti-LGBTQI+ bills and amendments—including the Federal Marriage Amendment—over the last twenty years.

David was also instrumental in the introduction of the Equality Act of 2015 and has continued to lead the coalition of organizations advocating for its passage since then. It is my honor to now be the lead sponsor of the Equality Act, and I am grateful for David's tireless work to build support for this critical and historic legislation.

I have had the privilege of getting to know and work with David since coming to Congress in 2013. I have appreciated his knowledge, wisdom, and counsel. I know countless staff on the Hill and advocates in the LGBTQI+ movement have similarly appreciated his advice and mentorship over the years.

Most of the people who have benefited from David's advocacy will never know his name, but I have seen up close the impact he has had and how he has helped push equality forward. Our movement for equality is better off because of David's decades of service to it.

I wish David the best of luck on this next chapter.

HONORING CARROLL ESTES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carroll L. Estes, Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of California, San Francisco, whose lifetime of scholarship, advocacy, and service has profoundly shaped aging policy and social welfare in the United States.

Dr. Estes founded the Institute for Health & Aging at UCSF and served as Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing. A pioneering scholar in the political economy of aging and critical gerontology, she has dedicated her career to advancing the health, dignity, and economic security of older Americans, particularly older women, through rigorous research and fearless public advocacy.

The breadth of Dr. Estes' leadership in the field is extraordinary. She served as an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, President of the Gerontological Society of America, the American Society on Aging, and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She chaired the Board of Directors of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and she has counseled U.S. Commissioners of Social Security and Congressional committees on aging across several decades. Her counsel is grounded in both scholarly rigor and deep moral commitment to our community. Dr. Estes has never hesitated when asked to present on the importance of protecting Social Security and Medicare in Congressional Town Halls in both San Francisco and Sonoma Counties.

Inspired by the late Maggie Kuhn and the Gray Panthers movement, Dr. Estes has always understood that scholarship must be put in service of justice. Her landmark 1979 work, *The Aging Enterprise*, illuminated how economic forces and the needs of older Americans intersect to shape the policies that are meant to serve them. Her foundational insights helped establish the political economy of aging as a serious field of inquiry. Her more than two dozen books and numerous journal articles have shaped national discourse on Social Security, Medicare, long-term care, and health equity, making her one of the rare scholars whose ideas have directly influenced the laws that millions of Americans depend upon. In recognition of these extraordinary contributions, Dr. Estes has received UCSF's highest honor, the University of California Medal, along with distinguished awards from major academic and public health associations. Now, she continues to lead by example, inspiring new generations of scholar-advocates to do the same.

Dr. Estes has shared that her proudest accomplishment is raising an amazing daughter, Duskie Estes, an accomplished chef and devoted mother, and her son-in-law chef John Stewart. Together, Duskie and John have raised two extraordinary young women, Brydie and Kenzie Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, California and the Nation are fortunate to have had Carroll Estes as a champion for older Americans. Her enduring legacy in both academia and public policy reflects the very best of what American scholarship and public service can achieve. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING EUGENE "GENE"
SMITH ON HIS 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Eugene "Gene" Smith of Germfask, Michigan, as he celebrates his 102nd birthday.

Born in Utica, Michigan, on June 7, 1924, Gene came to Germfask as an infant and has spent more than a century building a legacy of service, hard work, and dedication to his community. After losing both of his parents while still in elementary school, Gene was raised by his uncle, John Losey, and developed the resilience and character that would later serve him well.

In February 1943, Gene was drafted into the United States Army Air Forces, serving as a Sergeant and cook in England during D-Day and later in France. Following his service, he returned home and worked for twenty-nine years with the Schoolcraft County Road Commission before spending another twenty years as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic.

For more than five decades, Gene has been a pillar of the Manistique and Germfask communities. Since 1969, he has served as a member, Postmaster, and Chaplain of Lakeside Lodge No. 371, while holding numerous leadership positions throughout Masonic organizations across the Upper Peninsula. He is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a past VFW commander, and a faithful member of the Germfask Methodist Church.

Many residents recognize Gene's familiar face in regional Independence Day parades, where he has spent decades driving his beloved "Little Indy" Shriners parade car. In recognition of his lifelong service, he was awarded a special proclamation signed by local officials and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Eugene "Gene" Smith on this remarkable milestone and thank him for a lifetime of service to his country, community, and fellow citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE SONGWRITERS
OF JASON ALDEAN'S "TRY THAT
IN A SMALL TOWN"

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the songwriters of Jason Aldean's hit song "Try That in a Small Town." Neil Thrasher, Kurt Allison, Tully Kennedy, and Kelley Lovelace created a song that deeply resonated with millions of Americans, highlighting the all-American spirit of patriotism and resilience found in small town USA.

When "Try That in a Small Town" was released in 2023, the song made waves across the country, eventually reaching No. 1 on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 chart and No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart. At a moment when division and hate seemed to dominate discourse, this song sparked conversations about American patriotism when we

need it most. Thrasher, Allison, Kennedy, and Lovelace used their storytelling talents to bring people together across generations.

Beyond the success of this single song, Neil Thrasher, Kurt Allison, Tully Kennedy, and Kelley Lovelace have each built careers that have left a true mark on modern country music. Their music has climbed charts and become an integral part of the all-American way of life. More importantly, each of them brings a deep appreciation for honest storytelling that captures the voices and values of our great Nation.

Together, these four songwriters embody the heart of American patriotism. Their collaboration on "Try That in a Small Town" reflects the same integrity and passion that define this country. Their songwriting embodies what country music does best—tell the truth about who rural communities are and what we stand for.

HONORING ZACHERY WEEKS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zackery Weeks, Jr., an outstanding member of the Humphreys County High School Class of 2026, whose academic excellence, leadership, and dedication have distinguished him as one of the brightest young scholars in his community.

Zackery has earned the title of Humphreys County Star Student, a recognition that reflects his exceptional academic achievement and commitment to excellence. With an impressive 32 on the ACT and 1400 on the SAT, Zackery stands among the top-performing students in the region. His accomplishments in the classroom demonstrate not only intellectual ability, but also discipline, perseverance, and a strong work ethic.

Beyond academics, Zackery has shown leadership and character through his service as Chess Captain, where he has led with strategy, poise, and critical thinking. These qualities will serve him well as he continues his educational journey.

Zackery's hard work has resulted in extraordinary opportunities. He has received more than \$5.2 million in scholarship offers and more than 80 college acceptances. This fall, he will attend The University of Southern Mississippi on a full-ride scholarship, where he will continue building on his record of success while proudly representing Humphreys County.

Zackery is the beloved son of Lakisha Hinnant and Zackery Weeks, Sr., and the proud grandson of Pastor Kevin and Laura Hinnant of Belzoni, Mississippi; Felicia Allen of Selma, North Carolina; and the late Bronica Lane. He is also admired by his younger siblings, Serenity and Victory Weeks, who look up to him with pride and excitement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Zackery Weeks, Jr. for his remarkable achievements. His dedication, faith, and determination are a source of pride to his family, his school, and the entire Humphreys County community. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the years ahead.