Today, we honor both the Academy's enduring impact and Dr. Vaknin's exceptional contributions. May Gottesman RTW Academy continue to uphold its tradition of excellence and service for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN W. PETERSON

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John W. Peterson, a dedicated conservation leader whose lifelong commitment to protecting our Nation's soil and water resources left a lasting impact on Virginia and communities across the country.

John Peterson served with distinction as a professional with the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He later continued his service as a locally elected director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District in Fairfax County, where he worked to advance conservation efforts and support responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Throughout his career, John played an important role in shaping conservation policy and strengthening partnerships among local, state, and federal conservation organizations. He served as Virginia's representative to the National Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors and contributed to numerous national initiatives related to conservation policy, water resources, and farm legislation.

John also helped support efforts that led to the enactment of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act of 2000, legislation that provided critical support for the rehabilitation of aging flood control dams maintained by conservation districts throughout the nation.

Beyond his policy and leadership work, John contributed to the professional advancement of the conservation field. He helped pioneer the certification program for Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control and remained actively engaged with organizations committed to strengthening conservation practice and education.

In recognition of his leadership and service, John received numerous honors, including the Wilkinson Award from the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and induction into the National Association of Conservation Districts Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, John Peterson's dedication to conservation, public service, and the protection of our natural resources leaves a meaningful and lasting legacy for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and recognizing the many contributions he made to conservation efforts in Virginia and across the United States.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KUSCH

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from Rochester, New York, whose leadership, dedication, and commitment to service have earned him admission to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Michael Kusch.

Throughout his time at Pittsford Mendon High School, Michael distinguished himself through academic excellence, athletic achievement, and a steadfast commitment to leadership. Balancing a rigorous course load with the responsibilities of serving as captain of the varsity swim team, he developed the discipline, perseverance, and teamwork necessary to excel in every endeavor. Whether in the classroom, in competition, or within his community, Michael consistently demonstrated resilience and a willingness to place the needs of others before his own.

Michael's desire to serve our Nation has been shaped by meaningful experiences both inside and outside of school. Through his participation in Monroe County's Teen Police Academy and his volunteer work with Teens for Veterans, he gained a deeper appreciation for public service, civic responsibility, and the sacrifices made by those who protect our freedoms. These experiences strengthened his commitment to leadership and inspired him to pursue a future dedicated to safeguarding the security and prosperity of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Michael Kusch will continue to make the Rochester community proud as he embarks on this next chapter of his life. I congratulate him on this remarkable achievement and extend my very best wishes for continued success at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OXFORD

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Oxford on its 150th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to the generations of people who have helped make Oxford the remarkable place it is today.

For 150 years, Oxford has been a place where neighbors look out for one another, families put down roots, and local businesses help drive the community forward. Its motto, "Small Done Right," perfectly captures the pride, hard work, and strong sense of community that has defined Oxford for a century and a half and will continue to shape its future for years to come.

From supporting local businesses and a vibrant downtown to investing in families and community institutions, Oxford has continued to grow while preserving the character that makes it special. As we celebrate this anniversary, we honor the history of the village and the people who have shaped it, while also looking forward to the bright future ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Village of Oxford on its 150th anniversary and wishing its residents many more years of success. Oxford's story is a reminder that strong towns are shaped by generations of hardworking people who care deeply about the place they call home.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF APOPKA, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Apopka.

For the past century, the Rotary Club of Apopka has served as a cornerstone of service and leadership in Northwest Orange County. Through the dedication of its members, the Club has promoted personal growth, fostered professional relationships, supported local and international service projects, and invested in future generations through scholarships and youth programs. Throughout its history, the Club has exemplified Rotary's Four-Way Test and its guiding principle "Service Above Self."

On June 25, 2026, the centennial celebration will begin with the Rotary Club of Apopka Officer Installation Banquet. During the event, my friend and longtime public servant, Bryan Nelson, will be specially recognized for his eight years of service as Mayor of Apopka, from 2018 to 2026.

The Rotary Club of Apopka's 100-year commitment to serving others has strengthened the community and enriched countless lives. As the Club celebrates this remarkable milestone, it is my pleasure to honor its legacy of service, leadership, and civic engagement and to congratulate its members on a century of meaningful contributions to Apopka and our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALFIERO RANIERO GIAMBERARDINO

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Alfiero Raniero Giamberardino, whose dedication to his craft, his family, and his community left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Born in L'Aquila, Italy, Mr. Giamberardino carried with him a strong work ethic and deep appreciation for family throughout his life. After coming to the United States, he built a distinguished career through the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades in New York City, where he developed a reputation for skill, professionalism, and pride in his work.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Giamberardino contributed to projects across New York City, including some of its most recognizable landmarks. His craftsmanship and leadership earned him the respect of colleagues throughout the trade and eventually

led him to establish his own company, Almar Painting and Decorating Co. Through decades of work, he built a successful business, and a reputation defined by integrity, quality, and commitment to others.

While he took great pride in his profession, those closest to Mr. Giamberardino remember him most for his warmth, generosity, and larger-than-life personality. He had a deep love for music, especially opera, and found joy in gardening, collecting, and sharing stories with family and friends. Whether welcoming guests into his home or spending time with loved ones, he brought energy, humor, and kindness to every room he entered.

Above all else, Mr. Giamberardino was devoted to his family. He shared a loving marriage with his wife of 61 years, Anna Maria Romita, and took immense pride in his son Marco, daughter-in-law Andrea, and grandchildren Lorenzo and Alessandra. His love for his family was evident in every part of his life and remained at the center of who he was.

Alfiero Giamberardino's story reflects the contributions of so many immigrants who helped build communities across our country through hard work, perseverance, and devotion to family. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the family he cherished, and the lasting example he set for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Alfiero Raniero Giamberardino and in extending our condolences to his family and loved ones.

HONORING THE WORK OF DR. ALLISON ARWADY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Allison Arwady on her exceptional leadership and service as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Prior to this role, she served as the commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

For more than two years, Dr. Arwady led the Injury Center with distinction, bringing to the role a depth of expertise and a steadfast commitment that have defined her career in medicine and public health. Her leadership has made our Nation stronger, safer, and better equipped to protect Americans from injury and violence.

During her tenure, the United States saw a significant decline in drug overdose deaths, returning to prepandemic levels. This progress reflects the strength of the Injury Center's data-driven approach and the impactful work it supports at the state and local levels. Even amid staffing challenges and ongoing budgetary pressures, Dr. Arwady successfully secured full congressional funding for the Center's critical programs while maintaining strong partnerships with public safety leaders across the country.

Dr. Arwady consistently demonstrated an ability to communicate the importance of the Injury Center's mission in ways that resonated with policymakers, funders, and the public. Her advocacy ensured that this vital work remained a national priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me to congratulate Dr. Allison Arwady for her outstanding contributions and in expressing our deep appreciation for her leadership and enduring impact on public health.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN HINDS

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from Rochester, New York, whose commitment to leadership, service, and personal excellence has earned him admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Benjamin Hinds.

Inspired by a proud family tradition of military service, Benjamin has long been guided by the values of duty, honor, and commitment to country. Following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, he developed a deep appreciation for disciplined leadership and a desire to dedicate himself to a cause greater than himself. His acceptance to the United States Coast Guard Academy represents not only a remarkable personal achievement, but also the continuation of a family legacy rooted in service to our Nation.

Throughout his time at McQuaid Jesuit High School, Benjamin distinguished himself as a diligent student, supportive teammate, and respected leader among his peers. Known for his generosity and unwavering dedication, he consistently sought opportunities to help others and lead by example. Whether encouraging his teammates from the pool deck, assisting fellow students in the classroom, or dedicating his time to the betterment of his community, Benjamin demonstrated the character, integrity, and sense of responsibility that define future leaders in military service.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Benjamin Hinds will continue to make the Rochester community proud as he embarks on his journey at the United States Coast Guard Academy. I congratulate him on this remarkable achievement and extend my very best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies bill. Last year, Republicans forced through their now incredibly unpopular Big Beautiful Bill, which cut a historic number of Americans from food assistance benefits. This Agriculture appropriations bill is no different, continuing these same dangerous cuts that benefit the wealthy and well connected.

Mr. Speaker, you may be wondering what my stake in agriculture is. Though Minnesota produces vast amounts of commodities like wheat, corn, soybeans, and sugar beets, just to name a few, my district is home to only a couple of great apple orchards and some small community farms. However, right down the street from my district office is the University of Minnesota Saint Paul campus, which is home to several vital agriculture programs. Programs like the Cereal Disease Lab, run by the Agricultural Research Service and housed on the university campus, conduct vital research into rare wheat diseases. The University of Minnesota's Veterinary program is also in Saint Paul, training the future workforce that will provide care for animals across our state. I am proud that these vital programs continue to be supported by this bill.

However, the cuts made to assistance programs like WIC, and the lack of solutions to the SNAP cuts, are deeply worrisome. Minnesota administers SNAP at the county level, and I know that many of my colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—represent states that do the same. This bill does nothing to solve the immense administrative and program cost shifts enacted by the Big Beautiful Bill. Furthermore, this bill continues devastating cuts to WIC. The proposed funding level means that there will be women and children who are eligible for assistance but will not receive it. I have heard from my constituents about how much they depend on these funding streams, especially at a time when costs are rising across the board. Continuing to cut these programs will harm my constituents.

Rural Minnesotans will also be harmed by the cuts in this bill. The ReConnect Broadband program, which helps connect rural Minnesotans across the state to reliable broadband service, is slashed by 20 percent. This bill also cuts important water and waste grants—the backbone of rural conservation efforts—that help rural communities access clean drinking water. Furthermore, the eight percent cut to the Natural Resources Conservation Service will limit farmers' ability to implement best conservation practices.

If this bill as written were to be enacted into law, Minnesotans from my district to our most rural communities will see their costs rise. I hope that we can work together to improve this bill for the American people and reverse the devastating cuts proposed.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIENNA LITTLE LEAGUE

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone in our Northern Virginia community, the 75th anniversary of Vienna Little League.

For seventy-five years, Vienna Little League has served as a cornerstone of youth development in the Town of Vienna, providing generations of children with the opportunity to learn the game of baseball while building character, confidence, and lifelong friendships. Since its founding, the league has embodied the very best of community spirit, bringing together families, volunteers, and local leaders in support of our youth.