

a well-earned opportunity to celebrate their skill, dedication, and the vital role they play in keeping our community moving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jerry, Salgado, Matthew Bender, and Martin Lopez on their state championship and in wishing them continued success as they represent Virginia on the international stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BENJAMIN SWAN, SR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Benjamin Swan, Sr., a son of the Civil Rights Movement, a champion of our great Commonwealth, and one of the most consequential figures western Massachusetts has ever produced.

Born in 1933, Ben spent the next 92 years proving that one person, committed to justice and rooted in community, can change the arc of a city. From the marches of the 1960s, where he proudly stood alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the great halls of the Massachusetts State House, where he served the people of Springfield for more than two decades, Ben Swan never stopped pushing and never stopped believing that this country could live up to its great promise.

When Ben came to Springfield, he made it his own. He led the Greater Springfield NAACP. He championed desegregation in schools. He fought for police reform. He stood up for the homeless, the working poor, and every constituent who walked through his door or stopped him on the street. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1995 to 2017, and during that time, he became not only a good legislator but also a mentor. Elected officials across this region trace their path to public service back to a conversation with Ben Swan. He gave people the courage to run, the wisdom to serve, and the living example of how to do it with grace.

Springfield named a street for him. Springfield named a school for him. Those are extraordinary honors, and yet no honor will ever adequately reflect his legacy. The truest monument to Ben is the generations of leaders he inspired and the constituents whose lives he forever changed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and service of Benjamin Swan, Sr. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. Ben Swan gave everything he had to this community, and it is this community that will carry his legacy forward.

RECOGNIZING THE DERBY SMOKE
ON THE PLAINS BBQ AND MUSIC
FESTIVAL'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Derby Smoke on

the Plains BBQ and Music Festival. This weekend, the residents of Derby, in my home district of Kansas, will be celebrating their 15th annual Smoke on the Plains BBQ and Music Festival.

This event is more than just good food and good music, though that would be reason enough to celebrate. It is an event that brings together the local community and BBQ masters from across the region, with families and friends of all ages finding various ways to enjoy life together.

Located in High Park, the festival also showcases a premier gathering place for Kansas families. It truly represents an active city with amenities that improve the quality of life for its residents.

I am honored to have this exciting festival in Kansas, and celebrating their 15th year in 2026 is extra special. As Derby celebrates the 15th annual Smoke on the Plains, our Nation is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A lot has changed over the past quarter of a millennium, but I imagine that our Founding Fathers would be pleased to see the patriotism and community pride that is taking place in Derby.

While this year is sure to be exciting, I look forward to seeing this festival grow for many years to come. I encourage all Kansans to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Derby Smoke on the Plains as we prepare for America's semiquincentennial in less than a month.

RECOGNIZING THE 2026 FAIRFAX
COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE
AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 2026 Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established 50 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of the services needed is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the Nation.

Each year, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to receive special recognition. I include in the RECORD the following names of the 2026 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

Barbara Pearson: Braddock District Champion
Great Falls Trailblazers: Dranesville Community Champion
Leah Lamba-Skidmore: Franconia District Champion
Rosa Simon: Hunter Mill District Champion
Nancy Moy: Mason District Champion
Mary Paden: Mount Vernon District Champion
Greater Oakton Community Association:
Lauren Crum & Shelley Deutch: Providence District Champion
Arnie Daxe: Springfield District Champion

Evan Braff: Sully District Champion

Craig Dubishar: Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service. I congratulate the recipients of the 2026 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards and thank them and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one of the main reasons that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING CRAIG DEMMIN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month to pay tribute to an outstanding athlete and leader from Rochester, New York: Craig Demmin.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Craig Demmin distinguished himself through an exceptional soccer career that spanned both the national and international stages. As a member of the Trinidad and Tobago National Senior Team, he earned more than twenty-five international caps, representing his country with pride and distinction. His professional career took him across the globe, from Scotland to Tampa, before ultimately bringing him to Rochester, where he would leave a lasting impact both on and off the field.

During his tenure with the Rochester Rhinos, Craig established himself as one of the most respected players in franchise history. A former team captain and four-time Team Most Valuable Player, he exemplified leadership and excellence in competition. His achievements earned the admiration of teammates, coaches, and fans alike, while his character and sportsmanship made him a role model throughout the Rochester community.

Beyond his athletic accomplishments, Craig has remained deeply committed to serving others. He has devoted countless hours to mentoring young athletes and supporting local soccer programs, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation. His generosity extends far beyond the soccer field. For more than a decade, Craig has sponsored numerous families during the holiday season and throughout the year, providing support and encouragement to those in need.

Craig Demmin's dedication to athletics, mentorship, and community service exemplifies the values of generosity and perseverance that have long enriched the Rochester community. It is with great pride that I recognize Craig Demmin during Caribbean American Heritage Month and thank him for the lasting impact he continues to make on the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 217; YEA on Roll Call No. 218; NAY on Roll Call No. 219; and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIENNA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Vienna Community Center, a historic and enduring gathering place that has served the Town of Vienna and Northern Virginia for generations.

Since opening its doors in 1966, the Vienna Community Center has served as a shared space for residents of all ages to gather, learn, and stay active. Its creation was the result of a sustained community effort that began decades earlier, when local leaders and organizations came together to raise funds and support the vision of a shared space for the growing town.

Since its founding, the center has played a central role in the daily life of Vienna residents. As the home of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, it has provided space for educational programs, recreational activities, and community events that bring people together and strengthen local connections.

Over the years, the Vienna Community Center has evolved to meet the needs of a growing community. Through renovations and expansions, including a major modernization project that enhanced its facilities and services, the center has remained both a historic landmark and a modern resource for residents.

Today, the Vienna Community Center continues to serve as a gathering place where neighbors connect, families participate in programs, and community traditions are built and sustained. Its enduring presence reflects the values of collaboration, civic engagement, and community pride that define the Town of Vienna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Community Center on its 60th anniversary and in recognizing its lasting contributions to the Town of Vienna and Northern Virginia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KRISTEN McDONALD RIVET

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Ms. McDONALD RIVET. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency, I was unavoid-

ably absent in the House chamber on June 9, 2026 and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 214, and YEA on Roll Call No. 216.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
TED ALEJANDRE**HON. PETE AGUILAR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of an outstanding public servant and dedicated educator, Ted Alejandre, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. As he announces his retirement after nearly four decades of service to the youth and families of California's Inland Empire, it is appropriate that we recognize his extraordinary contributions.

Ted's commitment to his country and his community has been a lifelong pursuit. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving with the Reserve's 701st Combat Operations Squadron. This dedication to service, duty, and excellence naturally transitioned into his second calling: public education.

Over the course of his nearly 40-year career in the San Bernardino County school system, Mr. Alejandre has touched nearly every facet of the education process. He has served as a teacher, a vice principal, a principal and an Assistant Superintendent of Business Services before being elected as the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools in 2014.

During his time at the helm, Ted oversaw operations for over 400,000 K-12 students across the county. He championed innovative, regional programs that expanded early literacy, pioneered digital learning to prepare students for the 21st-century workforce and fought tirelessly to ensure that every child, regardless of background, has a fair shot at success.

Furthermore, as a veteran himself, Ted spearheaded the Operation Recognition Veterans Diploma Project in San Bernardino County. This incredible initiative posthumously and retroactively awarded high school diplomas to local veterans who were forced to leave school to serve our Nation during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. This act of deep respect and gratitude exemplifies the type of leader Ted is: empathetic, grounded, and always looking to uplift those around him.

As a veteran and an educator, Ted understands the tremendous importance of supporting Inland Empire high school students who want to serve our country. Serving as a member of my office's Service Academy Board and later becoming the Board President, Ted helped nominate exemplary young men and women from throughout our region for the prestigious honor of attending a United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Ted Alejandre leaves behind an educational system that is stronger, more equitable, and deeply responsive to the needs of our diverse communities. While his steady, visionary leadership as County Superintendent will be deeply missed, his impact on the Inland Empire will be felt for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ted

Alejandre on a stellar career in education and the military, and to thank him for a lifetime of unwavering dedication to the Inland Empire and our great Nation. I wish him, his family, and his loved ones all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER AND THE ANNUAL WORKHOUSE BALL

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Workhouse Arts Center and celebrate the annual Workhouse Ball, an event that highlights the importance of the arts and the lasting impact the Workhouse has had on Northern Virginia.

The Workhouse Arts Center has become an important gathering place for artists, educators, performers, and residents from across our region. The Workhouse creates opportunities for people of all backgrounds to experience creativity and engage with the arts in meaningful ways.

The annual Workhouse Ball serves as both a celebration of the arts and a reflection of the strong community that supports them. By bringing together artists, local leaders, businesses, and supporters from across Northern Virginia, the event highlights the important role cultural institutions play in strengthening community connections and enriching the quality of life throughout our region.

The arts are an essential component to any vibrant and healthy community. They inspire creativity, encourage dialogue, preserve culture, and bring people together through shared experiences. Institutions like the Workhouse Arts Center help ensure that the arts remain accessible and vibrant within our community while supporting local artists and fostering the next generation of creative talent.

I would also like to recognize the staff, volunteers, artists, and supporters whose dedication has helped the Workhouse Arts Center grow into one of Northern Virginia's leading cultural institutions. Their work continues to expand opportunities for artistic expression and community engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Workhouse Arts Center and celebrating the annual Workhouse Ball and its contributions to the cultural life of Northern Virginia.

HONORING LOUIS E. "LOUIE"
PARREIRA**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis E. "Louie" Parreira, longtime Central Valley agricultural leader and almond industry pioneer, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Parreira is best known as a founder of Parreira Almond Processing Company (PAPC/RPAC Almonds), a multi-generation family