

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

farming and almond processing operation based near Los Banos in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Louie began his agriculture career as a dairy farmer, and over his lifetime, he was a Merced County Sheriff Posse member, a gravel truck driver, an irrigation equipment installer, a cotton harvester equipment educator, and, after retiring from RPAC's daily operations, an Agricultural Ambassador for State Fairs throughout the United States.

Mr. Parreira helped build one of the early large-scale almond hulling and shelling operations in California during the 1970s alongside his wife Barbara and sons David and Paul Parreira. The company evolved into RPAC Almonds, which is now a major almond processor and exporter serving growers throughout California.

Besides almonds, Louie and his wife Barbara grew cotton, fruit, row crops, and grains. He has been married to the love of his life for 77 years. Louie and Barbara founded the Little Hands on the Farm experience at the Los Banos Fair and were both honored by the Los Banos Downtown Association as the 2021 Farm/Ag Leaders of the Year. Louie is also a graduate of Los Banos' Westside Union High School, and a member of the Future Farmers of America.

It is my privilege to recognize Louie, who has spent 100 years guiding, nurturing, and advancing California agriculture and the Los Banos community. Please join me in honoring Louie E. Parreira on his centennial birthday.

RECOGNIZING GARTH FAGAN

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 recognize a gifted creative from Rochester, New York: Garth Fagan.

Born in Jamaica, Garth Fagan developed an early passion for dance and a deep appreciation for the rich rhythms, movement traditions, and cultural heritage of the Caribbean. After immigrating to the United States, he settled in Rochester in 1970 and founded what would become Garth Fagan Dance, a company that has earned international acclaim and helped establish Rochester as a center for artistic excellence. Through his work, he brought Caribbean influences to audiences around the world while strengthening the cultural fabric of our community.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Fagan has pioneered a unique dance technique that blends modern dance and ballet with Afro-Caribbean movement, rhythm, and energy. His innovative choreography has expanded the boundaries of contemporary dance and elevated Caribbean artistic traditions within American performing arts. His creative vision reached a global audience through his celebrated choreography for Broadway's *The Lion King*, earning him a Tony Award and cementing his place among the most influential choreographers of his generation.

Beyond his accomplishments on stage, Garth Fagan has dedicated himself to mentoring young artists and cultivating the next generation of performers. As a teacher and

community leader, he has inspired countless dancers to pursue excellence while embracing creativity, discipline, and cultural pride. His work has served as a bridge between Caribbean and American artistic traditions, fostering greater understanding and appreciation through the universal language of dance.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Garth Fagan during Caribbean American Heritage Month. His extraordinary artistry, leadership, and commitment to cultural expression have enriched Rochester, strengthened the performing arts, and showcased the enduring contributions of Caribbean Americans to our Nation. I thank him for his remarkable achievements and for the inspiration he continues to provide to communities in Rochester and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE SEPTA EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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 2026 recipients of the Fairfax County Special Education PTA Awards, an annual tradition that honors the extraordinary educators, students, staff, and community members who champion inclusion and excellence in special education across Fairfax County Public Schools.

These individuals and teams exemplify dedication in supporting students of all abilities, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

I include in the RECORD the following names of the 2026 SEPTA Award recipients:

Kely Herrera and Samina Butt: Outstanding Instructional Support Staff

Jaee Lee: Outstanding Secondary Administrator

James Racine: Outstanding Support Staff

Jason Collazo and Jan Fisher: Outstanding Secondary Special Educators

Claire Soyeon Lee and Malika Bougri: Outstanding Preschool Special Educators

Patricia Rothweiler, Larissa Miller Pullam, Colleen O'Carroll, and Liz Smith: Mark Stewart Memorial Award for Outstanding Elementary Special Educators

Nia Ravenstahl: Secondary Educator of the Year

Katherine Charlotte "Casey" McLellan: Elementary Educator of the Year

Liz Busch: Preschool Educator of the Year
Courtney Kim and Beth Beal: Outstanding Elementary General Educators

Alina Jimenez Rosa: Outstanding Secondary General Educator.

Megan Pitts and Stephanie Schauder: Outstanding Related Services Providers

Hunters Woods SACC Team and Scott Elliott: Community Champions for Special Education

Cara Chaapel and Anne Hollis: Outstanding Co-Curricular Staff

Evelyn Harocopos: Outstanding Central Office Staff.

Becky Timm and Eric Kopacz: Outstanding Elementary Administrators

Devansh Saraff: Outstanding Student
Sheel Patel and Reema Patel: Abbie Bachmore Memorial Award for Students Most Supporting Inclusion

Jenna Cook and Kathryn Guard: Outstanding Inclusive FCPS Program

Cathy Adames, Anice Denton, and Laura Cerda: Outstanding Collaborative Team

Stephanie Curb: Volunteer of the Year

Avi Levy: Reflections: Silver Award of Excellence

Ben Smith: Reflections: Bronze Award of Merit

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2026 Fairfax County SEPTA Award recipients for their exceptional contributions to students, families, and schools. Their dedication to inclusion, equity, and excellence represents the very best of our community and serves as an inspiration across the Commonwealth and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GABE AMO

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2026, I intended to vote YES on Roll Call No. 208, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 8466.

RECOGNIZING NOELLE MCKINNON'S RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Noelle McKinnon of Jones County, Mississippi, on her retirement after more than four decades of dedicated public service.

Noelle began her career in 1985 as a Legal Assistant and Office Manager for attorney Franklin C. McKenzie, Jr., where she oversaw the day-to-day operations of a busy law practice and managed everything from legal filings to financial administration.

In 1994, she began serving as the Certified Court Administrator for Mississippi's 19th Chancery Court District, a position she has held with distinction for more than 30 years. In that role, she managed court operations, worked closely with local governments, law enforcement, the Administrative Office of Courts, and the public, and played a vital role in ensuring the efficient administration of justice throughout Jones and Wayne Counties.

Throughout her career, Noelle has been a respected leader in the judicial community, serving on numerous committees within the Mississippi County Administrators Association, including as President, and as the Lieutenant Governor's appointee to the Judicial Advisory Study Committee.

The professionalism, dedication, and commitment to public service have left a lasting impact on Mississippi's judicial system and the countless people she has served over the years.

As she begins this well-earned retirement, I join her family, friends, colleagues, and the people of Mississippi in thanking Noelle McKinnon for her many years of service and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.