

HONORING WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL DURING THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Watkins Glen International, one of America's most iconic motorsports venues, for its enduring contributions to our Nation's sporting heritage as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

For generations, Watkins Glen International has welcomed visitors from across the country and around the world, serving as both an economic engine for the region it serves and a source of pride for New Yorkers. Since the earliest days of road racing in Watkins Glen, The Glen has become synonymous with excellence, competition, and innovation, earning its place among the most celebrated racing facilities in North America.

As our Nation commemorates America 250, Watkins Glen International continues to bring people together through a shared appreciation for competition, tradition, and community. Beyond the excitement on the track, The Glen serves as a gathering place where families create lasting memories, local businesses thrive, and visitors experience the very best of what our region has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Watkins Glen International for its longstanding contributions to New York and our Nation, and for helping unite communities during the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Its legacy of excellence, hospitality, and community engagement stands as a testament to the enduring American spirit.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Prince William County Fire & Rescue Department Valor Award recipients, recognizing the extraordinary bravery and selfless service demonstrated by the department's firefighters, paramedics, and rescue personnel. These awards reflect the courageous actions of the dedicated men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve the community in its most critical moments.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Valor Awards, we are proud to celebrate this tradition that has stood as the highest recognition of courage within the Prince William County Fire & Rescue Department. Since inception, these awards have honored generations of first responders who answered the call when it mattered most.

Each recipient exemplifies true valor, facing danger without hesitation, providing life-saving

aid, and prioritizing the safety of others in the most challenging emergencies. This commitment to saving lives is further strengthened by the recent launch of the Fire and Rescue System's new Advanced Care Field Operations, a groundbreaking initiative that delivers blood administration directly at the scene of critical trauma emergencies.

Whether responding to fires, medical emergencies, or natural disasters, these individuals demonstrate an unyielding commitment to preserving life and property. Their professionalism and readiness in the face of uncertainty set an example for us all and serve as a reminder of the impact that first responders have on the lives of those they protect. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Prince William County Fire & Rescue team for their remarkable contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING JORGE ANDRÉS TORRES GONZÁLEZ ON WINNING THE 2026 ORATORICAL CONTEST

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jorge Andrés Torres González on winning the 2026 Oratorical Contest of The American Legion, Department of Puerto Rico. Jorge's achievement reflects the excellence, discipline, and civic commitment that define his character and promise as a young leader.

From his early years, Jorge has demonstrated exceptional qualities of responsibility, discipline, and service. Throughout his academic career, he has maintained an outstanding record, earning recognition as Student of the Year in sixth grade and graduating as Valedictorian of his eighth-grade class. He continues as an Honor Roll student at TESIS Dorado, setting a standard of academic excellence that speaks to his dedication and intellectual curiosity.

Beyond the classroom, Jorge has taken on meaningful leadership roles. He has served as Freshman Class Vice President, Historian and Secretary of the Executive Student Council, and Secretary General of the Model United Nations Club. Through these positions, he has demonstrated maturity, responsibility, and a genuine commitment to representing his peers with integrity.

Jorge has distinguished himself in debate and oratory, communicating complex ideas with clarity, respect, and critical thinking. These skills are essential to active and responsible citizenship. He has also demonstrated a profound commitment to community service, dedicating his volunteer work to supporting the elderly, recognizing in them an invaluable source of wisdom and experience.

As a member of Sons of the American Legion and a representative of American Legion Post 45 of Dorado, Jorge prepared rigorously for the Department contest, practicing faithfully each Thursday after school. His discipline and preparation paid off. He was selected as winner of the Puerto Rico Department Oratorical Contest and will now represent Puerto Rico at the national level at Hillsdale College in Michigan, an extraordinary honor for a young leader from our island.

Jorge exemplifies the values of leadership, patriotism, civic responsibility, academic excellence, community service, and respect for our Constitution. He represents the best of Puerto Rico's future: citizens who are educated, committed, and willing to serve others with purpose and integrity.

I urge all citizens of Puerto Rico to recognize Jorge's achievement and celebrate his example as inspiration for the next generation of young leaders.

HONORING MR. WILLIE ASHFORD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Willie Ashford of Jackson, Mississippi, for being named the 2026 National Waste and Recycling Association Residential Driver of the Year.

Mr. Ashford has distinguished himself by exceptional service professionalism, and dedication to the waste and recycling industry. His selection as the 2026 National Waste and Recycling Residential Driver of the Year is prestigious national honor that recognizes excellence among more than 100,000 drivers employed by waste and recycling companies across the United States.

Committed to serving the residents of Mississippi, Mr. Ashford provides essential waste collection services to approximately 6,000 homes each week in Jackson and the surrounding communities. His work plays a vital role in maintaining clean, safe, and healthy neighborhoods for thousands of Mississippi families.

In addition to his daily responsibilities, Mr. Ashford has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the workplace by serving as a top trainer for new drivers at his location. Through mentorship and hands-on instruction, he helps prepare the next generation of skilled and safety-conscious professionals, ensuring that high standards of service continue across the industry.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Ashford has invested in the lives of young people by coaching youth sports in his community. As a coach and role model, he has provided guidance, encouragement, and support to countless young athletics and their families.

Mr. Ashford's success has also been strengthened by the support of his wife, Chantry Ashford, whose partnership and encouragement have contributed to his many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Mr. Willie Ashford for his remarkable accomplishment and for being named the 2026 National Waste and Recycling Association Residential Driver of the Year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his outstanding service and congratulating him on this well-deserved national honor.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Prince William County Police Department (PWCPD) for receiving several Valor Awards, recognizing the exceptional bravery and selfless service demonstrated by the department's officers.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Valor Awards, we are proud to celebrate this tradition that has stood as the highest recognition of courage within the Prince William County Police Department. Since inception, these awards have honored generations of first responders who answered the call when it mattered most.

The impact of such bravery resonates throughout the community. Each courageous act, whether confronting immediate threats, providing aid in moments of crisis, or responding calmly under pressure reflects a deep commitment to the well-being of others. These actions go beyond traditional law enforcement. They embody public service at its highest level. The PWCPD has also demonstrated strong performance in investigative work, expanded community outreach, and received recognition for training, crisis response, and community-focused policing. Together, these efforts strengthen trust, safety, and unity across neighborhoods, schools, and local businesses.

By recognizing the Prince William County Police Department today, we not only celebrate their courage, but also the profound influence that dedicated public service can have on a community. We are grateful for their sacrifice and proud to stand with them in gratitude and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Prince William County Police Department for their remarkable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING HAYSVILLE'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY DURING AMER-
ICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, on July 3, 2026, just one day before our Nation celebrates Independence Day, the City of Haysville will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Established in 1951, this thriving community sits just south of Wichita and is home to restaurants, shops, neighborhoods and more than 11,000 Kansans. The city has continued to value quality of life, making improvements in services, parks, and infrastructure over the last decade.

Haysville has become a place of gathering, where south central Kansas residents choose to make their homes and build their lives. And as they celebrate their incorporation, they also honor the men and women who have led Haysville over the past three-quarters of a century.

Haysville is also a place of strength and grit. Being in the heartland, Haysville has seen its share of severe weather. In 1991, a tornado impacted Haysville before moving on with greater intensity. And then in 1999, Haysville was the epicenter of the F-4 tornado that would claim lives and cause massive damage. The people of Haysville's compassion and resilience were on full display, and that strength continues to shape the community to this day.

As Haysville celebrates its 75th anniversary, 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 Haysville.

While this year is sure to be exciting, I look forward to seeing Haysville grow and flourish for many years to come. I encourage all Kansans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Haysville as we prepare for America's semiquincentennial.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE LAKE ORION
LIONS CLUB JUBILEE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lake Orion Lions Club Jubilee and the lasting tradition it represents for the Village of Lake Orion. This beloved celebration is a testament to the strong community spirit and pride that have brought residents together for the last 50 years.

Starting in 1976, the Lake Orion Lions Club created the Jubilee as part of the community's celebration of the Nation's Bicentennial. What began as a special commemorative event has grown into one of the Lions Club's largest fundraisers and a cherished annual summer tradition for the Lake Orion community.

As our Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, the Jubilee serves as an example of how communities across America continue to honor their history while building traditions that bring people together.

For generations, the Jubilee has served as a gathering place where families, friends, and neighbors come together to celebrate the community they call home. The Jubilee remains a cherished tradition that brings the Lake Orion community together each year in celebration of its shared history and strong sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lake Orion Jubilee and congratulating the Lake Orion Lions Club, volunteers, and residents for sustaining this remarkable community tradition.

CONGRATULATING THE STORM
BASEBALL ORGANIZATION ON
WINNING THE 2026 LEGION BASE-
BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the SBO—Storm Baseball Organization on winning the 2026 Legion Baseball Championship of Puerto Rico. This victory represents the dedication, discipline, and teamwork of outstanding young athletes, their coaching staff, families, volunteers, and sponsors.

Legion Baseball stands as one of the most significant youth programs of the American Legion. For over a century, it has developed young athletes not merely as ballplayers, but as responsible citizens and future leaders. Through this program, young men learn discipline, teamwork, respect, civic responsibility, and a commitment to excellence that extends far beyond the baseball field.

I recognize Manager Alexis Ortiz and Coaches Jovany Santiago, Pedro Perez, Dalwin Román Rodríguez, and Christian López, whose leadership, expertise, and commitment to developing these young men made this championship possible. I also honor Pedro J. Rodríguez Oquendo of American Legion Post 129, whose sponsorship and support strengthened this organization.

The championship was earned by nineteen exceptional young athletes and I include in the RECORD their names:

Carlos Colón, Yadriel Delgado, Elimelec Flores, Diego López, Ken Luis López, Lorenzo Meléndez, David Orellano, Joel Orellano, Ian Pérez, Andrés Quintana, Alexander Rivera, Carlos Rodríguez, Dereck Rodríguez, Xavier Rovira, Dereck Soto, Victor Tirado, Jeddriel Villegas, Sebastián Villegas, and Marcos Acevedo.

Their perseverance, competitive spirit, and representation of Puerto Rico reflected the true meaning of sportsmanship and pride.

Legion Baseball also offers our veterans from all eras the opportunity to continue serving by investing in youth. Through their participation, veterans strengthen the bonds between generations and reaffirm The American Legion's mission: serving veterans, families, youth, and our Nation.

I urge all citizens of Puerto Rico to recognize the importance of programs like Legion Baseball, which unite young athletes, veterans, families, and communities. These young champions represent the future of our island and the enduring spirit of excellence and service.

HONORING THE DUMFRIES
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Dumfries Volunteer Fire Department and to recognize one of its distinguished members who has received a Merit Award: