

HONORING THE 50TH SERVICE ANNIVERSARY OF RICHARD M. ASHTON

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of public service for a longtime constituent of Northern Virginia, Richard M. Ashton. Richard is an outstanding career professional whose tireless dedication to public service has made a lasting impact on our Nation. He has achieved this milestone after years on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Rich has served the American people with distinction, integrity, and expertise. After receiving his bachelor's and law degrees from Catholic University, Richard entered the honors program in banking law at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, where he completed two years of service. He began serving in the Board's legal division in July 1976, with responsibilities in litigation, legislation, and legal services. Since 2005, Richard has served as one of the Board's Deputy General Counsels, supervising the legal division's litigation and enforcement functions.

Serving under eight Federal Reserve chairmen and six general counsels, Richard has been invaluable to the Fed's achievement of its mission as a result of his deep institutional knowledge, unflagging work ethic, and mentorship of generations of banking lawyers. Rich has served the Federal Reserve and the American people with great distinction.

I therefore ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Richard Ashton on 50 years of dedicated service to the U.S. central bank and recognizing the significant contributions he has made to our country.

**RECOGNIZING NORTH MIAMI
MAYOR ANDRE D. PIERRE**

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the Mayor of the City of North Miami, Andre D. Pierre.

Mayor Pierre is a celebrated Haitian American who has received numerous commendations for his leadership, his vision and his contributions to education and the economic growth of the city, the fourth largest in Miami-Dade County and home to more than 60 thousand residents. He is also known for work with Haitian immigrants and being on the forefront of immigration reform.

Since he was elected Mayor, in 2009, the City of North Miami has received four national awards: The All-American City, Playful City 2012, Playful City 2013, and the National Medal for Museum and Library Services.

The Mayor's support of local businesses and recruitment of new restaurants, a major drug store, a large-chain grocery store and a museum, have contributed greatly to economic health of the City of North Miami.

Mayor Pierre's focus on education has resulted in hundreds of scholarships being

awarded to hardworking and deserving students seeking to further their education and young adults pursuing a career in law enforcement. Without these scholarships, many students and young adults in the city might not otherwise have the means or opportunity to further their education and pursue careers.

Mayor Pierre is credited with the establishment of the North Miami Education Foundation, Incorporated, which provides scholarships through Take Stock in Children, the North Miami Adult Education Center, the Florida International University First Generation Scholarship and the North Miami Memorial Scholarship.

Please join me in honoring City of North Miami Mayor, Andre C. Pierre, for his commitment, dedication and service to his constituents, and his community.

**RECOGNIZING CLAIRE KIM FOR
HER ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF
THE KOREAN-AMERICAN NEXT
GENERATION COUNCIL**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Claire Kim for her role as President of the Korean-American Next Generation Council.

As President of the Korean American Next Generation Council, Claire Kim has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to civic engagement, cultural advocacy, and the development of the next generation of community leaders. Through her vision, dedication, and collaborative leadership, she has worked to strengthen connections within the Korean American community while fostering meaningful relationships with the broader Northern Virginia and DMV communities.

One of Claire's most notable contributions has been her leadership in organizing and supporting major cultural events, including the annual Kimchi Festival. This signature event celebrates Korean heritage through traditional food, music, performances, and educational programming while promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation among people of diverse backgrounds. By helping coordinate volunteers, engaging community partners, and supporting event planning, Claire has played an important role in ensuring the festival continues to serve as a welcoming space for cultural exchange and community building.

In addition to the Kimchi Festival, Claire has been actively involved in several large-scale community outreach initiatives, including the KORUS Festival and George Mason University's AANHPI Heritage Month celebration. Through these events, she has helped organize educational exhibits, coordinate volunteer teams, and facilitate community engagement activities that highlight the history, contributions, and experiences of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. Her efforts have helped create opportunities for cultural education, dialogue, and increased visibility for the Korean American community across the region.

Recognizing the importance of encouraging the next generation to become informed and engaged citizens, she has actively supported

local political leaders through campaign volunteer efforts, canvass launch events, voter outreach initiatives, and special election activities. By introducing young volunteers to the electoral process and encouraging civic responsibility, she has inspired greater participation in public service and democratic engagement. Beyond volunteer efforts, Claire has facilitated meaningful conversations between emerging young leaders and elected officials, including state senators and members of the House of Delegates. These discussions have provided participants with valuable opportunities to learn about the legislative process, ask questions about public policy, and better understand how local and state government directly impacts their communities. Through these engagements, she has helped bridge the gap between government and young constituents, empowering future leaders to become active participants in civic life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of Ms. Claire Kim. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to empowering others, promoting cultural understanding, and inspiring the next generation to become engaged, compassionate, and effective leaders. She continues to serve as a role model whose contributions extend beyond individual events, leaving a positive and enduring legacy of community engagement and public service.

**CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF DIVERSIFIED ENERGY**

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Diversified Energy. Diversified Energy was founded by its current Chief Executive Officer, Rusty Hutson in 2001. Under Rusty's continued leadership, Diversified Energy has become an industry name in the management and production of low-decline natural gas and oil assets.

Diversified Energy's success can be attributed to its foundational business model of long-term growth. Its focus on low decline production has led to the extension of well life, reduced the need for new surface disruption, and maximized the value of their existing assets.

Additionally, Diversified Energy has distinguished itself in its reduction of methane emission. By implementing continuous monitoring, advanced leak detection, and proactive well retirement programs, the company has lowered its methane intensity across all operations. Diversified Energy's strategy and implementation of these standards demonstrate a disciplined plan that prioritizes excellence and environmental care.

Above all else, safety will always remain the top priority of Diversified Energy. They have established a strong culture of safety through routine training, accountability, and continuous improvement. Through the implementation of rigorous operational standards, Diversified Energy ensures that its employees, contractors, and surrounding communities remain safe and protected.

Mr. Speaker, Diversified Energy's success can be attributed to its core values of safety,

long-term planning, and effort to reduce environmental impact. I commend Rusty for his success, and I celebrate their accomplishment of 25 years of service. I look forward to their continued efforts to strengthen American energy.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
MICHAEL DEVITO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mr. Michael DeVito during his outstanding service as an engineer at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut.

Mr. DeVito began his time at Electric Boat in 1989 as an Engineering Associate and now, on July 17, 2026, he will retire as a Manager of Engineering. Throughout the 36 years that Mr. DeVito worked for Electric Boat, he provided his expertise and care to several important projects. He began by working on the Seawolf-class program—the world's most powerful fast-attack submarine—and eventually transferred to the Virginia-class program when it began in 2000. Engineering and construction of Virginia-class submarines enable the United States to maintain its asymmetric advantage in the undersea domain and Mr. DeVito continued throughout his career in helping lead waterfront construction for these boats. He finishes his career as a manager to another new generation of submarines: the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine program. Across his time with Electric Boat, Mr. DeVito took part in working on the most advanced and pivotal Navy programs in not only the United States, but the world.

Mr. DeVito's dedication to his craft and to this country are seen clearly in his nearly four decades of work as an engineer. He chose to deploy his skills in service to our Nation's security, and for that, I commend and thank him. Electric Boat is a pillar of southeastern Connecticut's economy and community. As he was rapidly promoted into managerial positions, Mr. DeVito was given the well-earned opportunity to act as a leader for both those he worked with, and for his Connecticut community at large.

I ask that the House join me in celebrating the impressive career of Michael DeVito, and in wishing all the best to his wife Elissa, and their children Samantha, Emily, and Alexa.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on July 13, 2026. Had I been present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted: Aye on Roll Call No. 234, H.R. 3106, and Aye on Roll Call No. 235, H.R. 8897.

RECOGNIZING PATIENCE
KENIMOND AS OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Patience Kenimond as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

Patience represents the very best of our community. Her perseverance, dedication, and commitment to helping others are truly inspiring. She was recently recognized as this year's USA TODAY North Ohio Star Student, and I am proud to highlight her incredible achievements.

Throughout high school at Ellet Community Learning Center in Akron, Patience overcame extraordinary challenges while continuing to pursue excellence. Despite experiencing homelessness and facing significant transportation barriers, she found a way to get to school each day, sometimes riding her bike 22 miles and waking up as early as 5 a.m. Through her determination and hard work, Patience graduated second in her class.

Patience's accomplishments extend far beyond the classroom. For two and a half years, she conducted research alongside a University of Akron chemistry professor while also giving back through volunteer work, including making blankets for Akron Children's Hospital and participating in neighborhood cleanups.

This fall, Patience will continue her academic journey at the University of Toledo through a five-year program that will earn her degrees in pharmaceutical science and medicinal chemistry. Her goal is to become a pharmacologist and help develop treatments for epilepsy.

Patience's story inspired local readers to step forward and provide support toward her college expenses. She hopes to one day pay that generosity forward by creating a scholarship for students facing the same transportation challenges she overcame.

Patience Kenimond's resilience and commitment to helping others represent the very best of our district and serve as a reminder that Ohio's 13th Congressional District truly is the "Birthplace of Champions."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TONY
ACEVEDO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career and dedicated service of Mr. Tony Acevedo of the Memorial Service Detachment in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mr. Acevedo has devoted his life to serving both his country and his community. Drafted to the United States Army in 1972, he bravely served in Vietnam with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and the 525th Military Intelligence Expeditionary Brigade. His efforts in transporting soldiers, equipment, supplies, and classified messages were essential to advancing the efforts of the U.S. military.

After leaving the service in 1973, Mr. Acevedo earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at the University of Texas Pan American and valiantly continued his service as a police officer with the Corpus Christi Police Department, where he served for over 30 years, including 18 years as a hostage negotiator. Throughout his law enforcement career, he has demonstrated extraordinary courage and an unwavering commitment to protecting the people of South Texas.

After retiring from the force, Mr. Acevedo joined the Memorial Service Detachment Honor Guard, where he participated in more than 4,150 military burial ceremonies, laying U.S. servicemen and women to rest with honor and respect. His dedication has brought comfort and support to countless military families during some of their most difficult moments.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his life, Mr. Acevedo has displayed a clear dedication to public service to our Nation and the Corpus Christi community. His decades of selfless service exemplify the very best of public dedication and patriotism which deserves to be recognized.

COMMENDING THE UNITED GHANA-
NAIANS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH
FLORIDA (UGASF)

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend The United Ghanaians Association of South Florida (UGASF). I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, The United Ghanaians Association of South Florida (UGASF) is celebrating Ghana's independence from British colonial power, 56 years ago on March 6, at their annual observance entitled "Ghana's 56th Independence Anniversary Gala;

Whereas, UGASF was started in 1994 to provide support and financial assistance to bereaved Ghanaians and has grown into a 501.3c non-profit organization that promotes the well-being and social prosperity of Ghanaians living in the tri-county area of South Florida (Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties);

Whereas, UGASF's aim to share the unity, strength, education and cultural diversity of Ghana (West Africa) in South Florida has manifested into annual appearances and performances at festivals, schools and colleges;

Whereas, UGASF's commitment to creating and expanding economic opportunities impacts the more than four-thousand Ghanaians and associates living in, working in and contributing to South Florida as parents, teachers, physicians, nurses and healthcare employees, mechanics, business owners, students, accountants, lawyers among others;

Whereas, UGASF support of the "One Broward Initiative," launched in 2001, by the Broward County Multicultural Advisory Board, works to expand inclusion and to improve the quality of life—economically, socially, politically, and culturally—for Ghanaians, and all residents in Broward County;

Whereas, UGASF's influence and charitable arm has extended beyond U.S. borders with the adoption of a flooded village in Northern Ghana, which it is helping to rebuild;