

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;

Whereas, UGASF has had an impact on South Florida's diverse community and will commemorate Ghana's independence with an elegant evening of authentic Ghanaian Culture, exquisite dining of traditional food, drumming and dancing; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FredERICA S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the United Ghanaians Association of South Florida for its commitment and dedication to equality, and racial and cultural diversity in South Florida.

HONORING MICHAEL CHERRY ON HIS JOINING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Cherry, a constituent from Springfield, Virginia, upon joining the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, widely regarded as one of the most celebrated dance companies in the world.

Founded on March 30, 1958, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was established by choreographer, dancer, and visionary Alvin Ailey to uplift the African American experience while transcending the boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Recognized as a vital American Cultural Ambassador to the World, the company has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents.

With a repertoire that boasts close to 300 works by more than 100 choreographers, it stands today as the largest modern dance company in the United States. To join this company is among the highest honors a dancer can achieve, and it is an honor that Michael Cherry has earned through years of exceptional dedication, training, and artistry.

Michael is a graduate of George Mason University, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a minor in Arts Management. George Mason has long been a launchpad for professional artists, and Michael's career is a testament to the quality of training and mentorship he received there.

Michael's path to Ailey has been one of extraordinary rigor and breadth. During his training and early career, he had the opportunity to perform in works created or set by an impressive roster of renowned choreographers, including Rafael Bonachela, Camille A. Brown, Rena Butler, Alejandro Cerrudo, and Doug Varone, among others.

He further honed his craft at highly competitive national programs, including the Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, the Complexions Summer and Winter Intensives, and the LINES Ballet Summer Program.

Prior to joining Ailey, Michael danced for two seasons with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, where he continued to grow as a versatile and technically sophisticated performer.

Behind every great artist stands a community of love and support, and Michael is no exception. I want to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt recognition to his mother, Susan Cherry, whose steadfast love, sacrifice, and encouragement have been a constant source

of strength throughout Michael's life and career. Equally deserving of recognition is Michael's brother, Brandon Cherry, whose steadfast support and brotherly encouragement have meant the world to Michael throughout this journey.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia's 11th Congressional District is home to remarkable individuals who reflect the very best of who we are as a Nation. Michael Cherry is one of those individuals.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Cherry on this tremendous achievement, and in wishing Michael a career filled with brilliance, purpose, and joy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote because of a health emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph's School for the Deaf in the Bronx, an institution rooted in faith, resilience, and excellence since 1869.

For over 150 years, this school has empowered deaf and hard-of-hearing students through a bilingual education in American Sign Language and English, fostering critical thinking, independence, and strong leadership qualities.

Under the leadership of Mark Patrick, the faculty ensures that every student receives the attention and resources they need to thrive academically and socially. As a neighbor in the Bronx, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role St. Joseph's plays—not just as a school, but as a community pillar whose mission enriches families and uplifts our borough.

Today, we celebrate St. Joseph's dedication to unlocking the potential of every child, building confident learners, and advancing inclusive education for generations. I thank the faculty, staff, families, and students for their tireless commitment and extraordinary spirit.

Please join me in recognizing St. Joseph's School for the Deaf for its service to our community and in supporting its future success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO NEW FENCING AT THE WHITE HOUSE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the No New Fencing at the White House

Act, which would prohibit the installation of new permanent fencing at the White House complex, including Lafayette Square and the Ellipse. This bill would help ensure that one of our Nation's most important public spaces remains open and accessible to the public. The Trump administration has proposed installing permanent fencing at the ends of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House and around Lafayette Square.

While I understand the importance of protecting the White House, which is already surrounded by a 13-foot-high fence, we can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

The White House complex has long served as a place where Americans can peacefully assemble. The openness of areas around the White House is a strength of our democracy, not a security weakness that needs to be fenced off. More fencing around this public space would send the wrong message to the Nation and the world by continuing to transform our democracy from one that is accessible and of the people to one that is exclusive and fearful of its own citizens.

Fencing is an incredibly imprecise security tool. It is more likely to keep out District of Columbia residents, tourists, and peaceful demonstrators than those determined to do harm. The areas around the White House complex are used every day by D.C. residents and tourists from across the country and around the world.

The distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government at an all-time low. We should not increase that distance by placing intimidating barriers between public servants and the people they serve, especially when such barriers are unnecessary.

Security is not only about reducing risk. It is also about safeguarding the freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. Public property should be open to the public. Americans should not be peering at their democracy from behind fences.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 61st anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed these essential programs into law, guaranteeing that seniors, children, and families would no longer have to face a health crisis alone.

Today, across the Nation, over 140 million Americans depend on Medicare and Medicaid for their fundamental health care needs. In our state, over 2.4 million Illinoisans—nearly 18 percent of our state—rely on Medicare. Roughly 3 million—about one in four Illinoisans—depend on Medicaid. Medicaid pays for approximately half of all births in Illinois and covers 68 percent of all nursing home