

RECOGNIZING
RICCITELLO'S SUCCESS IN THE
2026 TOUR DE FRANCE

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matthew Riccitello on his success in the 2026 Tour de France.

Matthew Riccitello, who was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, finished this year's Tour de France with a time of 76 hours, 7 minutes, and 35 seconds.

Riding as pall of the Decathlon CMA CGM team in his first Tour de France, Matthew placed 24th overall out of 184 total cyclists.

At just 24 years old, Matthew has already made a name for himself on the international cycling stage, being recognized as one of America's top Grand Tour prospects.

After building a reputation as part of the Israel-Premier Tech cycling team, he made history with an incredible season in 2025 by finishing fifth overall in the Vuelta a España and receiving the race's white jersey as best young rider.

Matthew has consistently performed well in high-altitude races, winning overall in the 2025 Sibiu Cycling Tour and securing a top placement in the 2024 Tour de Suisse and 2023 UAE Tour.

He has already shown excellence on the world stage and has a long and successful career ahead of him.

Matthew's parents still live in Tucson and travelled to France to watch their son compete, getting to see him finish one of the most challenging races in the world.

I congratulate Matthew. His astonishing accomplishment has made his family, hometown, and country so proud.

I wish him the best of luck in future seasons, and I am cheering him on as he continues pursuing his passion of cycling.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIANA BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of a longstanding Indiana landmark, the Indiana Beach amusement park.

Founded in 1926, this rollercoaster park was originally named Ideal Beach and has so many remarkable amenities and rides throughout its history.

From classics like the Hoosier Hurricane, Tig'rr Coaster, and Rocky's Rapids, to new rides like Zero Gravity and the Cyclone, Monticello's Indiana Beach has been the place "Where Families Flock for Fun" over 100 years now.

I am so excited to see what the next 100 years brings to this staple of Indiana summer entertainment.

I congratulate them.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAMES B. CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of James B. Castle High School, a special place that has shaped generations of students, families, and our entire Windward community, myself included.

For those of us who are Castle Knights, Castle (KASSO) is not just a school. It is a lifelong bond. No matter the graduating class, no matter the generation, there is an instant connection that comes from sharing the experience of growing up beneath the Pali lands. That Knight pride stays with us long after we leave campus, and it is especially meaningful as we celebrate our alma mater's diamond anniversary.

Castle's strength has always come from the community that surrounds it. It begins in our complex elementary and intermediate schools, where lifelong friendships are first formed and future Knights begin their journey. It grows through the unwavering support of families, neighbors, alumni, and the entire Kāne'ohe community, who have always lifted up Castle and its students. Together, they have created something far greater than a school—they have built a family.

For 75 years, Castle has prepared students not only for college and careers, but for lives of purpose and service. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, in the band room, on the athletic field, or through partnerships with the University of Hawaii, generations of students have discovered their talents, built their confidence, and learned the value of working hard and giving back.

On a personal note, my husband Kyle and I are proud that our sons have followed generations of our families in attending Castle High School. I know I would not be the person I am today had it not been for the teachers, faculty, and school community that embraced and guided me. And as I now watch my sons chart their own course through the same hallways and classrooms as we did, it brings me joy to know our sons have become proud Knights.

I offer mahalo to the teachers, staff, administrators, coaches, volunteers, students, families, and alumni who have made these 75 years possible. I thank them for believing in generations of young people and for making Castle a place where every student knows they belong.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James B. Castle High School on its 75th Anniversary and wishing the Castle Knights many more years of excellence, pride, and community.

RECOGNIZING GORAN RANNEFORS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions to the Nation of Goran

Rannefors, a senior executive at Education First (EF), upon his retirement. I proudly represent the EF Academy in Pasadena, a high school that brings students from more than 30 countries to California's 28th District and has taken a leading role in helping our communities recover from the Eaton Fire.

Throughout his 33 years of service with EF, Mr. Rannefors has created opportunities for what is estimated to be over a million students worldwide to travel, participate in cultural exchange programs, and learn English. Mr. Rannefors has served as a diplomat and champion to create and modernize opportunities for language learning and immersive exchange opportunities in the United States and around the world. In addition to his work in the private sector, he founded the Kids First Foundation, a nonprofit organization which has provided tens of thousands of children with vital resources for education, recreation, and life-saving access to food and emergency services. Before joining EF, Mr. Rannefors served as the Swedish Trade Commissioner to North America for nearly a decade.

Mr. Rannefors retires after having truly made a difference by opening the world through education and creating global families who will forever be impacted by his legacy. On behalf of this Congress and the people of the United States, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Rannefors, as well as his family and colleagues, for his dedication and accomplishments to promote a more connected, peaceful, and prosperous United States.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PACE COOPER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the substantial public service of my friend Pace Cooper, who is stepping down from the Board of the Memphis and Shelby County Airport Authority after 14 years of service.

Pace, the President and CEO of Cooper Hotels, a major hospitality development and management company, has been a pivotal figure in improvements to my city of Memphis. Pace has served as president or chairman of various organizations on both local and international levels. He was chairman of the Memphis and Shelby County Airport Authority from 2015 to 2022 and served on the board since 2012. During his leadership, the airport, known as MEM, increased the number of non-stop flights, transformed the passenger experience with a new concourse and positioned the airport for long-term success. As the former Ranking Member of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have been a staunch supporter of our airport, sending millions of dollars for its improvement, knowing it would be well spent. In addition to his airport activities, Pace has served on the University of Memphis Board of Visitors and serves on the University Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a minority partner in our beloved Memphis Grizzlies of the NBA.

A graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Business School, Pace has been a national business leader and has been instrumental in transforming iconic hotels around

the country, including in Nashville and Atlanta. He has also served for many years as the president of the Margolin Hebrew Academy and serves as chairman of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis. He had wonderful parents, Irby and Bernice. I wish him and his wife Aileen and their children all the best and thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING CLINICA SIERRA VISTA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clinica Sierra Vista as it celebrates 55 years of providing comprehensive, high-quality healthcare to hundreds of thousands of patients across the Central Valley.

Founded in 1971 as a small trailer clinic offering care to underserved migrant farmworkers in the southern San Joaquin Valley, Clinica Sierra Vista was built on the belief that every family deserves access to quality healthcare. Since then, it has remained committed to expanding aid to those who need it most.

Today, Clinica Sierra Vista operates nearly 100 locations, including community health centers, behavioral health sites, WIC locations, dental clinics, and mobile health units. Through its integrated medical, vision, dental, and behavioral health care services, the organization now serves almost 200,000 patients across Kern and Fresno counties, ensuring even the most rural communities have access to essential care.

Clinica Sierra Vista's mission is guided by its commitment to ensuring that healthcare remains a right for all, not just a privilege for some. That commitment has earned the organization numerous recognitions from groups including the American Heart Association, American Medical Association, and Delano Chamber of Commerce. Earlier this year, Clinica Sierra Vista also celebrated the opening of its first owned corporate headquarters in Bakersfield, marking an important milestone in the clinic's leadership and improvement of care coordination across the Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Clinica Sierra Vista on its 55 years of steadfast service to the residents of Kern and Fresno counties and in wishing the organization continued success for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KEITH BERRY

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Keith Berry, who passed on July 5, 2026. Berry was born in Greencastle in 1945. A graduate of Greencastle High School, he spent his entire life honoring the land and livestock commended to him by the Almighty God.

Farming was Keith's passion, and he advanced agriculture in many ways, serving as president of the National Pork Producers Council, Indiana Pork Producers president, Putnam County Council and Co-Alliance Board of Directors. In 2010, he was honored as an Indiana Master Farmer.

Keith supported many 4-H members at the Putnam County Fair livestock auction and members of the South Putnam FFA Chapter. For years, he faithfully attended the Putnamville Church of Faith.

Keith is survived by his wife Sharyl, his two children, four grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, three siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

HONORING BURDEEN CHICAGO AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP OF GERARDO AND ROLANDO ALVAREZ

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2026

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Burdeens Chicago, a family-owned small business deeply rooted in the Pilsen and Heart of Chicago neighborhoods, and to commend its owners, brothers Gerardo and Rolando Alvarez, for their remarkable journey of entrepreneurship, resilience, and community stewardship.

For decades, Burdeens Chicago has stood as a trusted neighborhood institution, serving generations of Chicagoans and reflecting the cultural pride, economic vitality, and enduring spirit of the communities it calls home. Gerardo and Rolando Alvarez, born and raised in these neighborhoods, first came to Burdeens not as owners, but as young employees in the 1990s, balancing work with their high school and college studies while

learning the fundamentals of retail, customer service, and civic responsibility.

After pursuing professional careers, the brothers returned during a pivotal period in the retail industry, lending their leadership and vision to help modernize operations, expand the store's online presence, and adapt to changing consumer habits—while preserving the character and integrity that made Burdeens a neighborhood staple.

Through strategic foresight, Gerardo and Rolando guided a bold evolution of the business, transitioning from a traditional sneaker retailer into a nationally recognized destination for fitted hats and headwear.

This transformation positioned Burdeens Chicago at the center of a growing cultural movement that blends sports history, design, and regional identity, drawing customers from across the Nation and around the world.

During the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alvarez brothers assumed responsibility for day-to-day operations, ensuring the survival of the business and preserving a longstanding neighborhood presence during a time of economic uncertainty. Following this period of stewardship, ownership of Burdeens Chicago was formally transferred to the brothers, completing a full-circle journey from youth employees to business owners.

In January 2025, Burdeens Chicago reached another significant milestone with the opening of its second location along Little Village's iconic 26th Street corridor. This expansion not only reflects the continued success of the business but also celebrates and embraces the vibrant Mexican American culture of the community it serves.

Supported by community partners and local investment initiatives, this growth underscores the power of neighborhood-based entrepreneurship to strengthen local economies and create opportunity.

Today, Burdeens Chicago stands as a testament to generational entrepreneurship, cultural pride, and community-centered growth. Through their continued support of local youth, artists, and neighborhood organizations, Gerardo and Rolando Alvarez have demonstrated that small businesses are not merely commercial enterprises, but essential anchors of strong, connected communities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Burdeens Chicago and commend Gerardo and Rolando Alvarez for their leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to Chicago's neighborhoods, and affirm that their work embodies the enduring promise of hard work, heritage, and opportunity that defines the American small business tradition.