

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lapeer County for the successful restoration of the Lapeer County Historic Courthouse and for its continued dedication to preserving this historic landmark for future generations.

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY KEN
LAPEE

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Deputy Ken LaPee of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office as he prepares to retire following more than 35 years of dedicated service to his country, and the people of Northwest Florida.

Chief Deputy LaPee's distinguished law enforcement career began with his service as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army. During his military service, he served in the Persian Gulf War and later deployed in support of operations during the unrest in Somalia. He also served part-time as a police officer in Alabama before joining the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in 1994.

Over the course of more than three decades with the Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy LaPee steadily advanced through the ranks and was selected to serve as Chief Deputy in 2021. Throughout his career, he has held numerous specialized assignments, including service with the Special Response Team, Honor Guard, Community Police Unit, Investigations Bureau, and Narcotics Unit. His leadership has been defined by a commitment to the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

Chief Deputy LaPee has also dedicated himself to preparing the next generation of law enforcement officers. Since 1997, he has served as an adjunct instructor with the Northwest Florida State College Basic Police Recruit Academy. For nearly three decades, he has trained and mentored countless officers in community policing, problem solving, leadership, investigative techniques, and community partnerships. He has placed particular emphasis on the importance of character, ethics, wellness, and resilience in a demanding profession.

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Chief Deputy LaPee has been an active member of his church and served for more than 14 years as the director of a faith-based addiction recovery program, further demonstrating his commitment to serving others.

Chief Deputy LaPee leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, mentorship, and public service. His dedication has strengthened the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and made a lasting difference in the lives of the officers he trained and the communities he served.

I congratulate Chief Deputy LaPee on his well-earned retirement and thank him for more than 35 years of faithful service to our country and our community. His career represents the very best of public service, and Northwest Florida is grateful for his dedication and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Deputy Ken LaPee and

wishing him and his family all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DENNIS LOPATA

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Dennis Lopata on his retirement as Executive Director of Life Care Center of Wilbraham after nearly two decades of service.

Dennis has dedicated his entire career to caring for the most vulnerable in our society. A proud graduate of Minnechaug High School, Dennis graduated with a degree in Healthcare Administration from Worcester State University before receiving his Master's degree from Western New England College. He started his career as the Vice President of Support Services at Holden Hospital and then as Assistant Hospital Administrator for Springfield Municipal Hospital. He transitioned to senior living in 1992 as the Executive Director of Farren Care Center before serving as the Executive Director of LaChance Center in Fitchburg for ten years.

I have visited Life Care Center of Wilbraham on numerous occasions. As many of us know, moving a loved one to a long-term care facility can be a very traumatic experience. His compassion and attention to the residents and their families were evident from the moment they met him. One example of his concern for others came in the aftermath of the tornadoes that ravaged the area surrounding his building. Dennis spent the night at the facility, taking admissions by flashlights and reassuring residents and associates alike. It was this type of commitment that earned him the Chairman's Award, the highest honor bestowed on an associate by Life Care.

Dennis has been a strong health care leader, and his commitment to service to the community has spanned over 40 years. He serves as the President for the Board of Directors of the Country Club of Wilbraham, the ERC5 Chamber of Commerce, and the Gardner Rotary Club.

I thank his children, Nicolas, Nathan, and Abigail, and his wife and high school sweetheart, Sharon Nowak, who passed away in 2002, for sharing Dennis with the thousands of individuals and families whose lives were forever changed by his selflessness and lifelong devotion to caring for others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dennis all the best on his well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING THE ALMANAC'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Almanac newspaper on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. It's important to honor those local news sources that have survived the in-

dustry's many financial challenges to provide an essential public service to our democracy, particularly in this moment when our First Amendment has come under repeated and serious threat.

The Almanac has provided critical community-focused journalism for Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley for six decades. Throughout its history, it has brought news and information to local residents without fear or favor. Its journalists have always believed strong journalism builds better communities.

In 1965, three Portola Valley mothers, troubled by the lack of coverage of local issues, and the defeat of a Portola Valley school bond measure, met for lunch among the eucalyptus trees on the Stanford Campus to develop a solution. Soon after, Hedy Boissevain, Betty Fry, and Jean Heflin, got to work at their kitchen tables and family garages and published the first four-page edition of what was then called "The Country Almanac."

The paper then found its first real home at the corner of Woodside and Cañada roads in Woodside, and the founders' children and friends delivered the papers—a year's subscription cost two dollars.

From its modest stall, the paper continued to grow and by 1975, the newspaper could afford its first full-time reporter, Pam Jones, who was often the first to tell residents what was going on in their towns. In the 1980s, local newspaperman Mort Levine and his wife, Elaine, acquired the Almanac and the coverage area expanded to include Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Woodside, and Atherton.

In 1993, Embarcadero Publishing Co., founded by Bill Johnson, bought The Almanac and added it to its family of newspapers. Today that family includes newspapers and websites serving Midpeninsula communities including Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Redwood City.

Today, as local newsrooms across the country are shrinking or shutting their doors entirely, the Almanac continues to endure and adapt to meet the needs of its communities. Its three dedicated staffers, Editor Andrea Gemmet and staff writers Jennifer Yoshikoshi and Arden Margulis, provide local and accountable journalism that residents trust.

In 2026, the California News Publishers Association honored the Almanac with 22 California Journalism Awards, including six first-place honors for Breaking News, Photo Essay, Layout and Design, Housing and Land-Use Coverage, and Coverage of Youth and Education—a testament to a small newsroom doing outsized work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the founders, staff, and readers of The Almanac on six decades of delivering the news, and in wishing them continued strength as they carry local journalism forward for the Midpeninsula in the decades to come.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN
FIRE CO.

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schooley's Mountain Fire Company in

Washington Township, New Jersey as it celebrates its 75th anniversary, an extraordinary milestone honoring many years of service, dedication and community for the people of Washington Township.

The Company was established in August 1951, with the purpose of protecting Schooley's Mountain and surrounding areas in the event of a fire. Since that moment 75 years ago, Schooley's Mountain Fire Company's message and credibility as a local public service have never waned. They have remained true to their purpose, at the heart of everything they do: to protect life and property for all in the community.

The Company was formally a part of the Washington Township Fire Department in 1984, along with the Long Valley Fire and Fairmount Fire Companies. What started as a small village association for fire protection, has now become an official fire company for more than 17,000 residents.

Two of the company's defining principles have remained constant throughout its history: the belief that the Washington Township community will always have access to quality fire protection, and the confidence that dedicated residents will continue to volunteer in support of that mission. Their steadfast participation in community fire safety education, fundraising, and 24-hour response proves their continuous devotion to the safety of Washington Township and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Schooley's Mountain Fire Company. We extend our warmest congratulations to its members on this momentous occasion and celebrate the strength and spirit that define this vital community organization.

HONORING MARVIN RUSSELL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable service of Mr. Marvin Russell. Marvin is the embodiment of bravery, service, and unparalleled devotion to our Nation. On behalf of Virginia's First Congressional District, it is truly a privilege to honor Mr. Russell and his legacy that continues to inspire generations of Americans.

As a World War II pilot, Marvin answered the call to serve during a pivotal moment in our nation's history. Like so many members of his generation, he displayed exceptional courage, resilience, and determination in the defense of freedom, placing duty above self and helping secure the liberties that every American enjoys today. His service in the skies during the war reflects the highest ideals of patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment to country.

Beyond his military service, Marvin has embraced life with an adventurous spirit that has carried him through a century of remarkable experiences. Throughout his life, Marvin has touched countless people with his kindness, wisdom, generosity, and willingness to share the lessons he has learned along the way. His example reminds us that the pursuit of purpose, perseverance, and adventure does not end with one chapter but continues throughout a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marvin Russell for his century of

selfless service and achievement that stands as a testament to the enduring strength of the American spirit. May he continue to inspire future generations to serve with honor, live with purpose, and embrace each day with gratitude.

RECOGNIZING NEW BALTIMORE'S 2026 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, SEEBURGER'S CHEESEBURGERS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Seeburger's Cheeseburgers as New Baltimore's 2026 Business of the Year. This family-owned restaurant has proudly served Macomb County since opening in 2007. Known for its American food and welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere, Seeburger's has become a staple in the community.

At the head of Seeburger's success are Todd and Jill Seeburger, who, alongside their children, Jacob and Olivia, have built a business grounded in hard work, hospitality, and service. Their commitment reflects the strong values that have shaped both their family and their business.

For nearly two decades, Seeburger's has welcomed customers with quality food and friendly service. Its continued success is a testament to the loyalty of its customers and the hard work of the Seeburger family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Seeburger family and Seeburger's Cheeseburgers for being named New Baltimore's Business of the Year.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FOUR COUNTY CAREER CENTER UPON THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR ITS WELDING AND ELECTRICAL TRADES EXPANSION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Four County Career Center in Archbold, Ohio, as it celebrates the ribbon cutting for its new Welding and Electrical Trades Expansion. This new facility marks a significant investment and a renewed dedication to the future workforce of Northwest Ohio.

Four County Career Center opened in 1969 as the first career center in Ohio built entirely with local funds. Today, it serves hundreds of students from Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties, providing hands-on training across dozens of technical programs. The school's reach extends beyond high schoolers, offering workforce development programs to many adults each year. The new expansion adds state-of-the-art labs for welding, fabrication, and electrical trades, which will help Four County continue to prepare its students for the workforce of tomorrow. Its completion reflects the collaboration of many individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Four County Career Center's

Board of Education and administration on this achievement. Career-technical education plays a vital role in preparing our next generation for the workforce, and this expansion will help ensure that Four County's students have access to the training they need to succeed. On behalf of the 5th Congressional District of Ohio, I wish Four County Career Center all the best in their continued success.

RECOGNIZING JESSIE MAHAN CHILD CARE CENTER'S LEGACY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the end of a revered Memphis institution devoted to the education and well-being of my community's children. The Jessie Mahan Child Care Center, the first licensed Black child care center in Memphis, closed its doors for the final time on July 31 after serving generations of children and families for 68 years. The Mahan Center served the Memphis community from the Dixie Homes housing development beginning on November 28, 1958, and relocated to its current facility at 70 North Bellevue in 2007, always providing early childhood education and learning experiences for children aged six weeks to 12 years old. It also served as a training site for future teachers and childcare professionals. Through its partnerships with Memphis City Schools and Head Start, the center played an important role in strengthening early childhood education in our community. Named for lifelong Memphian Jessie Hoyt Mahan, a well-known social worker and child advocate who passed in August of 1957 at the age of 62, it has served as a tribute to her memory as the director of the Information Bureau of the Health and Welfare Planning Council of Memphis and Shelby County and its Family and Child Welfare Division and service at Juvenile Court. I commend the leadership of the Jessie Mahan Child Care Center for its dedication to our community's children.

RECOGNIZING DANA WHITE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE UFC, AND HIS LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND PATRIOTISM

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dana White, a visionary of American sports, a stalwart patriot, and the president and CEO of the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

Dana embodies the spirit of the American innovator who turns bold ideas into reality. For over 25 years, his dedicated leadership of the UFC has transformed mixed martial arts from a niche competition into one of the most widely watched and fastest-growing sports in the world. Under his care, UFC has expanded its reach, built a global fan base, and consistently showcased the discipline, athleticism, and competitive spirit that resonate with audiences across our Nation.