

commitment to the servicemembers and their families who sacrifice so much for our country.

Over nearly three decades in this body, Kay Granger's career was defined by a rare combination of conviction and civility. She fought hard for her principles and for the people of Fort Worth and North Texas, but she never lost sight of the fact that the Appropriations Committee has long prided itself on working across the aisle to keep the government funded and functioning. Even though we frequently did not agree politically, I admired her commitment to the taxpayers and the institution.

Kay Granger will be remembered in the history of this institution as a dedicated public servant and a pioneering leader. On behalf of my constituents and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I extend my deepest condolences to Representative Granger's family, friends, and her constituents.

RECOGNIZING PRIME MINISTER
NIKOL PASHINYAN AND THE EN-
DURING AMERICAN-ARMENIAN
PARTNERSHIP

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with tremendous respect to recognize Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and the enduring American-Armenian partnership.

Armenia stands among the world's oldest civilizations, preserving a rich cultural and spiritual heritage that has endured for millennia. Today, under his leadership, Armenia finds itself at a defining moment in its modern history. His government's efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, secure lasting peace, and expand Armenia's partnerships with the United States and Europe have earned the attention and admiration of many who recognize the significance of this historic opportunity.

The growing strategic partnership between the United States and Armenia reflects this remarkable progress. President Trump's leadership to join him and President Ilham Aliyev in signing a trilateral Joint Declaration marked an important milestone in advancing peace and stability in the South Caucasus. His meetings with President Trump, his participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos at his invitation, and Armenia's role as a founding member of the Board of Peace initiative, demonstrate a shared commitment to diplomacy, regional stability, and a stronger United States-Armenia relationship.

His efforts to normalize relations with Azerbaijan represent one of the most consequential diplomatic initiatives in Armenia's modern history. Following his party's victory in the June 2026 parliamentary elections, the Armenian people entrusted his government with a renewed mandate to pursue a permanent peace. The successful conclusion of negotiations on the draft Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations reflects both political courage and a commitment to reconciliation after decades of conflict.

The enduring friendship between our nations is further strengthened by the extraordinary Armenian-American community. For generations, Armenian-Americans have made remarkable contributions to business, science, technology, philanthropy, and public life.

As our nations continue building upon more than a century of friendship, I remain confident that the United States and Armenia will deepen their partnership in ways that advance regional stability, expand economic opportunity, and promote lasting peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 27TH SPECIAL
OPERATIONS WING, AIR FORCE
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COM-
MAND, CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the servicemembers of the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base for their continued commitment to defending our Nation. Known for their mission of "unconventional air power . . . any place, anytime, anywhere," the service members at Cannon are essential to our national security and air power capabilities. The 27th Special Operations Wing is made up of brave air commandos who serve in so many roles that contribute greatly to their mission, New Mexico, and the United States. From the aircrew to the engineers to the medical technicians and everyone in between, Cannon's servicemembers carry out each role with dedication and heart. Importantly, they serve their communities beyond their job titles. Clovis, Portales, and Eastern New Mexico are better because of the thousands of hours Cannon's air commandos have served volunteering at local organizations. Similarly, our students are more prepared for their shining futures because of the mentoring and tutoring the servicemembers have provided and continue to provide to local students. Today, the 27th Special Operations Wing stands ready to deploy globally in support of combat, humanitarian, evacuation, and steady-state peacekeeping operations. These brave men and women continue to hold the line.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. OSCAR GUTIERREZ

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Oscar Gutierrez, who passed away on June 3, 2026, surrounded by his family and loved ones. Oscar was a devoted husband and father, a distinguished attorney, and a cherished friend whose life was defined by service, integrity, and compassion.

Mr. Gutierrez was born on November 13, 1983, in Glendale, California. He earned his bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Southern California before receiving his Juris Doctor from Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. He went on to build an exceptional career as a personal injury attorney, earning the respect of colleagues and clients alike through his skill, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to justice. Throughout his career, he fought tirelessly for those in

need of a voice, while also mentoring aspiring attorneys and strengthening the legal profession through leadership, service, and an enduring dedication to the rule of law.

Yet, of all his accomplishments, Oscar took the greatest pride in being a loving husband and father. His greatest legacy lives on through his family, the countless lives he touched, and the example he set by leading with kindness, humility, and purpose.

Mr. Gutierrez is survived by his beloved wife, Breanna, and their two children, Roman and Bianca. As we remember his remarkable life, may we also honor his enduring commitment to justice, his compassion for others, and the lasting impact he made on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE LA PLATA COUN-
TY HUMANE SOCIETY

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the La Plata County Humane Society as it celebrates 55 years of service to the animals and people of Southwest Colorado.

In 1971, a group of dedicated Coloradans in Durango set out to make sure that every animal in need had a place to go. More than five decades later, that mission is still very much alive.

The Humane Society remains the only open-admission shelter in Southwest Colorado—meaning they turn no animal away, regardless of age, condition, or circumstance. Last year alone, they cared for more than 3,700 animals, performed over 2,000 spay and neuter surgeries, and helped hundreds of families keep their pets during times of hardship.

They are also part of the La Plata County emergency management team, ready to shelter pets when disaster strikes, which is a role that matters deeply in a district that knows how devastating wildfires can be.

None of this happens without the staff, volunteers, foster families, and donors who have shown up year after year. They are the reason this organization has lasted 55 years, and the reason it will last 55 more.

I am proud to recognize the La Plata County Humane Society and everyone who has made it what it is.

CONGRATULATING VIVIAN
SALERNO ON BEING CROWNED
AN AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC CHAM-
PION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Vivian Salerno on being crowned an AAU Junior Olympic Champion and setting a new 800-meter record.

Vivian ran a time of 2:06:54 at the Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 5, 2026, which earned her first place in the 800-

meter race in the 17- and 18-year-old girls division. She also set a Junior Olympic record, beating the previous record by 0.7 seconds. Her personal record of 2:06.33 is three seconds faster than any competitor in Lancaster-Lebanon League history. She is the first individual national champion from the Lancaster City Track and Field Club.

Vivian, who is a junior at McCaskey High School in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, has won many other titles. She was a gold medalist at the Pennsylvania State Championships in May and placed first at both the Lancaster-Lebanon League Championships and District 3 Championships. In June 2026, she competed at the Outdoor Nationals in Philadelphia and placed fifth.

Vivian is a well-decorated and talented athlete whose work ethic makes Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District proud. I congratulate her on her tremendous accomplishments at both the state, and national levels, and I wish her many more years of success.

HONORING MINNESOTA STATE
SENATOR MELISSA HALVORSON
WIKLUND ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Minnesota State Senator Melissa Halvorson Wiklund for her distinguished service to the people of Minnesota and her lifelong dedication to improving the health and well-being of communities across our state.

Born and raised in Bloomington, Minnesota, Senator Wiklund developed an appreciation for public service from her parents, a teacher and a state employee. She attended Bloomington Public Schools before graduating from the University of Minnesota with honors, earn-

ing degrees in electrical engineering and interior design.

Before entering public service, Senator Wiklund built a successful career in the telecommunications and internet services industry, serving as an engineer, manager, and director. Her technical expertise, analytical approach, and thoughtful problem-solving would later become defining strengths throughout her legislative career.

Driven by a desire to serve her community, Senator Wiklund was elected to the Bloomington School Board in 2009, where she advocated for students, educators, and efforts to reduce disparities in academic achievement. She was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2012, representing Bloomington, Richfield, and Minneapolis, where she earned a reputation as a thoughtful, compassionate, and effective legislator.

Throughout her four terms in the Senate, Senator Wiklund became a leading advocate for accessible, affordable health care. As Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and a member of the Commerce and Consumer Protection, Finance, and Human Services Committees, she championed landmark legislation that improved the lives of Minnesotans. Most notably, she authored the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act, helping ensure that individuals across Minnesota could access the life-saving insulin they depend upon.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Senator Wiklund is a devoted wife to her husband, Craig, a caring mother of two children, and a lifelong member of the Bloomington community. Her dedication to family, community, and public service has shaped every aspect of her life and career.

Senator Wiklund's legacy will endure through the lives she has improved, the legislation she championed, and the communities she faithfully served. On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I extend my sincere gratitude for her years of dedicated service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE ELIZABETHTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL'S ESPORTS TEAM ON ITS SECOND STRAIGHT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Elizabethtown Area High School Esports team on securing its second consecutive Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association state championship. The outstanding team of Peter Dunbar, Madalyn Guerisi, Jackson Langlois, Anthony Lazzari Jaymian Ortiz, and Liam Shriner earned first place competing in Marvel Rivals, a superhero shooter game inspired by the Marvel Comics franchise. I also commend their coach, Mr. Austin Henderson, whose leadership and guidance were instrumental in achieving this remarkable victory.

In addition to its impressive performance, the Elizabethtown Area High School Esports Team received an \$80,000 state grant. This funding will allow the team to purchase gaming computers, consoles and furniture to establish a dedicated esports arena within the high school, providing a permanent space for practices and tournaments.

I commend the Elizabethtown Area High School Esports Team for this exceptional achievement and the dedication its members have demonstrated. Programs like this foster teamwork, technical skills, and innovation among students, while strengthening educational opportunities across our District. I applaud the team's championship victory and wish them continued success.