

and love. On behalf of New York's 15th Congressional District, I extend my warmest congratulations to Arthur Koven on his 100th birthday, and I offer my deepest gratitude, and that of a grateful Nation, for his service in defense of our country.

CELEBRATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Asian American Heritage Festival. This cultural event is dedicated and celebrated in honor of the cultural traditions and contributions of Asian Americans throughout the United States. For half a decade, the Asian American Heritage Festival has been committed to enriching the cultural fabric of the Western New York, fostering deeper appreciation for the traditions, struggles, and contributions that continue to shape Asian American communities today.

The Asian American Heritage Festival is a dynamic hub for community engagement and cross-cultural connection. Through shared experiences, storytelling, and cultural expression, the festival strengthens understanding and unity among diverse communities. It stands as a vital bridge to connect culture, diversity, and unity through exciting performances, delicious food, and shared experiences among people of all backgrounds.

Beyond the exciting attractions that the Asian American Heritage Festival offers, there is also a strong emphasis on community and education. Stories of resilience and cultural history, passed down through generations, are shared with all who attend.

As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Asian American Heritage Festival, let us recognize the essential role that the festival plays—not just as an event, but as a beacon of cultural exchange, generational growth, and community spirit. Please join me in celebrating and honoring the achievements of the Asian American Heritage Festival as it remains an enduring source of pride and connection for generations to come.

**HONORING THE ETHEREDGE/
ETHERIDGE FAMILY REUNION**

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Etheredge/Etheridge Family Reunion, taking place from August 20 to August 23, 2026, and to honor a family whose story reflects the resilience, perseverance, faith, and achievements that define the American experience.

The family's traceable history begins in Edgefield County, South Carolina, where their ancestors were born into slavery and were the property of Joseph Etheredge, a farmer and slave owner during the nineteenth century.

Following emancipation, like many formerly enslaved people throughout the South, members of the family adopted the surname of their former enslaver, transforming a name once associated with bondage into one that would become a lasting symbol of strength, family, and achievement.

On Christmas Day in 1895, Samuel Etheredge, one of the family's earliest known ancestors, purchased 195 acres of land from Joseph Etheredge, a transaction recorded in the Edgefield County Courthouse. That purchase represented far more than the acquisition of property—it symbolized freedom, opportunity, and the beginning of a self-sustaining African American community.

Samuel Etheredge later sold twenty-acre parcels of land to his sons, establishing what became affectionately known as Etheredge Town. Life in Etheredge Town was centered on faith, education, hard work, and community. Families shared resources, raised livestock, hunted and fished, operated a grist and syrup mill, and developed businesses and skilled trades. Even after a devastating storm destroyed their church, they rebuilt it with lumber harvested from their own property, demonstrating remarkable determination and unity.

Today, descendants of the Etheredge/Etheridge family reside throughout the United States, from the East Coast to the West Coast. They continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities through leadership, public service, education, business, military service, ministry, healthcare, and civic engagement.

The 2026 Etheredge/Etheridge Family Reunion is not merely a gathering of relatives. It is a celebration of generations who transformed adversity into opportunity, preserved their heritage, and created a lasting legacy for future generations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Etheredge/Etheridge family and the enduring legacy of this extraordinary American family.

RECOGNIZING TEGAIN BOLEY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tegain Boley for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Tegain has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Tegain, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Tegain's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Tegain Boley on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING NESAR AHMAD

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Nesar Ahmad for his extraordinary service to the United States and his unwavering commitment to the Americans and Afghan allies who served alongside one another in Afghanistan.

During the Afghanistan War, Nesar served alongside American forces as an interpreter, putting his own life at risk to protect American servicemembers and advance our mission. His understanding of the language, culture, and people made him an invaluable partner to the Americans serving in harm's way.

After coming to the United States in 2014, Nesar continued answering the call to serve. In the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, I helped found Task Force Argo to evacuate Americans and our Afghan allies, and Nesar once again joined our mission to stand with the interpreters and families who risked everything to stand with us.

For nearly five years, Nesar has continued to volunteer helping Afghan interpreters, allies, and their families find safety, stability, and a new beginning. Nesar understood personally what was at stake, and his mission was to never leave an ally behind. The people we were fighting to save had to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with American troops, often risking everything to do so. He helped ensure America continues to stand with them in return.

As a combat veteran who served in Afghanistan, I know firsthand how our troops relied on courageous interpreters like Nesar. Through Task Force Argo, I have also had the privilege of seeing his courage, loyalty, and commitment to others.

Now, Nesar is sharing that story through his book, *The Terp: A Life Between Languages and Loyalties*. His story preserves the sacrifices of the interpreters who served beside us and reminds future generations of the human cost of war and the bonds forged through service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Nesar a friend and fellow member of Task Force Argo, and I commend him for his continued service to the country he now calls home.

**RECOGNIZING LEGION OF HONOR
MEDAL RECIPIENT PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS JOHN C. TIRANNO
ON THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY**

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, I rise to recognize Private First Class John C. Tiranno who received the Legion of Honour Medal from the French Republic for his part in the liberation of France from Nazi occupation during World War II. Private First Class John Tiranno and many others put their lives on the line, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the Allied Forces during World War II and contributing to a pivotal victory for the Allied

Forces in one of the most important battles in American history.

The Invasion of Normandy, also known as D-Day and Operation Overlord, began on June 6, 1944. The operation included a 1,200-plane airborne assault with over 5,000 vessels and 160,000 troops. By the end of August 1944, there were over two million Allied soldiers stationed and fighting in Normandy. Operation Overlord began an Allied campaign that culminated in the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

Born on July 14, 1925, in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Tiranno enlisted in the United States Army, serving as a Combat Infantryman from October 27, 1943, until May 11, 1945. Mr. Tiranno specialized as a Light Mortar Crewman and was part of the 330th Infantry of the 83rd Division in Normandy. On June 12, 1944, Mr. Tiranno's unit arrived on Omaha Beach

after being called in to provide relief and backup to their comrades in arms.

After being honorably discharged, Mr. Tiranno returned home on May 11th, 1945, and on the second anniversary of D-Day, he married the love of his life of nearly eight decades, the late Mrs. Lee Tiranno. Together they had a son, Samuel, and were later blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Tiranno's service was marked by extraordinary dedication and sacrifice to this country, having received a Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, a European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, a Combat Infantryman 1st Award, and an Honorable Service Lapel Button for his service, and the Legion of Honor Medal from the French Republic.

The National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest decoration bestowed by France and is awarded only to those who have demonstrated "outstanding merit." American veterans who risked their lives while fighting on French territory during World War II qualify to receive this distinction as Knights of the Legion of Honour, presented under the authority of the Consulate General of France in New York, Cédrik Fouriscot. It serves as a tribute to their courage in battle, their sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of those who were wounded or lost their lives in service.

It is an honor to recognize Private First Class John C. Tiranno on the Anniversary of D-Day. The people of the United States and France will never forget what John C. Tiranno, and many other brave soldiers, have done during World War II to defend our freedom and democracy.