

HONORING COLONEL BRUCE
BREDLOW

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Bruce Bredlow for more than 30 years of dedicated service to our country. As Col. Bredlow enters retirement, I want to personally thank him for all he has done and sacrificed in service to the American people throughout his decorated military career.

Born and raised in Champlin, Minnesota, Col. Bredlow enlisted in the Army in 1991, and graduated from the Mankato State University ROTC program as a Distinguished Military Graduate. In 1997, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery.

At Fort Bliss, Texas, Col. Bredlow served as a platoon leader and battery executive officer in 3-2 ADA, 31st ADA Brigade and later commanded Delta Battery, 1-7 ADA, 108th ADA Brigade and Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery, 108th ADA Brigade.

Throughout his career, Col. Bredlow served the United States at bases around the world, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Germany. His roles included Air and Missile Defense Commander, Joint Operations Center Watch Officer, and Brigade Commander. He is now retiring as ADA Assistant Commandant for the Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He was recognized for this distinguished service with numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Basic Space Badge, and the parachutist badge.

I wish all the best to Col. Bredlow in his retirement and many happy years to come with his loved ones. Our state and Nation will forever be grateful for his service and dedication to his fellow Americans.

HONORING DR. AMIRA GOHARA
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN
ACADEMIC MEDICINE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Amira Gohara as she, along with our entire Northwest Ohio community, celebrates a remarkable 50 years of service to the University of Toledo and to the greater world of medicine and pathology.

Dr. Gohara's medical and scientific training spans three continents. She earned her Doctor of Medicine at Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt, and completed residencies in clinical pathology with Egypt's Ministry of Health, Oldham General Hospital in the United Kingdom, and with the Medical University of Ohio in Toledo. With special training in immunology from the Medical University of Ohio and in renal pathology at the University of Chicago, she is triple board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and immunopathology.

Equally impressive is Dr. Gohara's dedication to teaching and mentoring the next generation of medical professionals at the University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She has served as Program Director of the Pathology Residency Program, Director of the Medical Student Fellowship, Director of the Pathology Medical Student Clerkship, and Medical Director of the Pathologists' Assistant Program, among other roles guiding students through their medical education. One measure of her impact is her 36 Golden Apple Awards for Teaching Excellence, an unprecedented number of recognitions for her commitment to shaping her students' futures. As her students and mentees continue in their careers, they carry forward Dr. Gohara's enduring legacy.

Dr. Gohara has also taken on significant leadership roles within the University of Toledo, including Dean and Provost of the former Medical College of Ohio (MCO), Interim President of MCO, Dean Emerita of MCO, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and Chair of the Department of Pathology. Beyond her institutional leadership, she has been a steadfast champion for medical education, a dedicated advocate for the health of our Northwest Ohio community, and a trailblazer for women in medicine. These roles reflect not only her professional excellence but also her authentic investment in the wellbeing of her students and colleagues alike.

This month, the University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences and its Department of Pathology hosted a Festschrift Symposium in her honor. A Festschrift is considered among the highest honors in academia, bringing together distinguished colleagues, former students, and scholars to celebrate the lasting influence of a respected educator and leader—and certainly, Dr. Gohara is deserving of such distinction.

As a physician, pathologist, and educator, Dr. Amira Gohara has shaped the lives of countless individuals—from patients and students to fellow medical professionals and academics—and has left an indelible mark on the culture of academic medicine in Toledo and beyond. She is a remarkable woman and a humanitarian in every sense of the word, quietly, faithfully, compassionately pursuing change.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND TITLE 38, UNITED
STATES CODE, TO EXTEND ELI-
GIBILITY FOR SURVIVORS' AND
DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL AS-
SISTANCE TO THE DEPENDENT
PARENT OF A PERSON WHO DIES
OF A SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-
ABILITY OR HAS A TOTAL AND
PERMANENT SERVICE-CON-
NECTED DISABILITY, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, commonly referred to as Chap-

ter 35 benefits, to dependent parents of servicemembers.

The idea for this bill came from one of my constituents. Currently, the spouses and children of servicemembers who die or become disabled are eligible for Chapter 35 benefits. However, dependent parents of servicemembers are not eligible.

Parents of servicemembers often fill the role of caregiver for the children of servicemembers while they are overseas. Such time commitments make it challenging for these parents to pursue post-secondary education, making it difficult for them to enter the workforce if their child is killed or becomes disabled in service of their country.

This bill would expand the definition of "eligible person" in Chapter 35 to include dependent parents of servicemembers. Granting dependent parents of servicemembers access to Chapter 35 benefits will allow them to gain the necessary skills to enter the workforce and support themselves and other surviving family members.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE PLUMSTEAD
TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE
COMPANY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important new chapter in the proud tradition of service in Plumstead Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Last week, Plumstead Township welcomed its first career firefighters: Rachel Brick, Benjamin Morris, Daniel Pfeiffer, and Harley Turner, as the community takes an important step toward strengthening its fire and rescue services.

For generations, Plumstead residents have relied on volunteer firefighters who answered the call to protect their neighbors. The addition of a career crew does not replace that tradition, it builds upon it, giving the community another layer of dependable emergency response while working alongside the Township's dedicated volunteers.

This moment also held personal significance, as lifelong Plumstead resident Judge Jeffrey G. Trauger administered the oath. His late mother, Lois Hunsberger Trauger, served with the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, moments like this remind us that public safety is ultimately about people willing to step forward and serve others. I congratulate Plumstead Township's first career firefighters and thank them, Chief William Weigman, Public Safety Director David Mettin, and the Township's volunteer firefighters for their commitment to keeping their neighbors safe.

I also want to recognize the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors for their leadership and commitment to strengthening public safety, including Chair Matthew Given, Vice Chair Kenneth Lichtenstein, Members Jennifer Moroney, Daniel Hiefert, and Gregory Bankos, as well as Township Manager Stacey Mulholland. Their leadership, along with the dedication of the Township's public safety professionals and volunteers, has helped make this important milestone possible.

I am proud to recognize this milestone and wish these firefighters a long and honorable career of service to the Plumstead community.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) for its leadership in advancing environmental engineering and science across our country.

The AAEES is the premier professional organization dedicated to recognizing excellence in environmental engineering and science while promoting the highest standards of ethics, innovation, and public service. The AAEES's commitment to advancing technical expertise in this field has strengthened the professions that safeguard our Nation's public health, natural resources, and environmental quality.

Environmental engineers and scientists play a vital role in addressing many of the most pressing challenges facing our Nation. Their work supports the protection of drinking water supplies, improves air quality, advances sustainable infrastructure, remediates contaminated land and water, strengthens community resilience, and develops innovative solutions to emerging environmental challenges. Their expertise helps ensure that communities across the United States have access to safe water, healthy ecosystems, and infrastructure that supports economic growth while protecting the environment.

As our Nation continues to invest in resilient infrastructure, clean water systems, environmental stewardship, and technological innovation, the contributions of environmental engineers and scientists have never been more important.

Today, I commend the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for its enduring contributions to the engineering and scientific professions and for its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and service. I extend my sincere appreciation for the Academy for their dedication to advancing the environmental professions and improving the quality of life for all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for its remarkable achievements and in wishing the Academy continued success in fulfilling its important mission to promote continual improvement in environmental engineering and science education and practice.

RECOGNIZING THE COSUMNES
RIVER COLLEGE ATHLETICS DE-
PARTMENT'S 55TH YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cosumnes River College (CRC) Athletics Department as it celebrates 55 years of athletic excellence.

File CRC Athletic Program has become a model of academic and athletic achievement in the Sacramento region and across California's community college system.

Competing in one of the most demanding conferences in the state, CRC student-athletes have distinguished themselves not only through their performance in competition, but through their leadership, character, and service to the campus and community they represent.

The 2025–26 academic year stands among the most successful in the departments history. Eight of CRC's ten athletic programs earned postseason berths, and the softball program advanced to the 2026 3C2A State Championship. The CRC Athletics Department earned twenty-five All-Conference selections and three All-American honors. The achievements on the field were matched in the classroom, where the department posted a cumulative 3.401 grade-point average: the highest in CRC Athletics history. One hundred and eight student athletes earned the Scholar-Athlete recognition, including thirty-six who achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average overall.

Under the leadership of Athletic Director Collin Pregliasco, CRC Athletics has built a culture in which academic excellence and top-notch-on-the-field performance go hand in hand. Early mornings, long bus rides and countless hours of training have shaped CRC student athletes to embody the discipline, accountability, and perseverance that define Hawks tradition and generational success.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cosumnes River College Athletics Department on fifty-five years of excellence. We celebrate the student-athletes, coaches and staff whose dedication continues to build a legacy of triumph, leadership, and opportunity for generations to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
JOE NEVES

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Representative DAVID G. VALADAO, to honor Joe Neves as he retires from the Kings County Board of Supervisors after an honorable 32 years of service. As the longest-serving seated board member in California history, Mr. Neves has shown a longstanding commitment to service in our community.

If there is one defining characteristic of Mr. Neves' tenure, it is this: true leadership is root-

ed in common sense, a deep connection to the community, and an unwavering commitment to putting hardworking families first.

Throughout his time on the Board, Mr. Neves played a pivotal role in advancing energy projects that created new sources of revenue for local landowners and schools while helping power regional operations. He was also a major force behind the development of solar energy zones on fallowed, water deprived farmland, repurposing unused land into productive assets that support both the local economy and California's energy future.

Long hailed as a community champion, Mr. Neves has dedicated himself to finding middle ground, consistently working to keep administrative operations running smoothly. This dedication is evident in the work that the Kings County Board of Supervisors has accomplished during Mr. Neves' three decades as board member. This includes boosting state and federal investment into the County's community and educational hubs, such as a \$13 million investment in the Hanford and Lemoore public library branches.

His commitment to agriculture and public service has also earned him numerous honors throughout his career. Last year, Mr. Neves was recognized as Ag Supporter of the Year for his steadfast advocacy on behalf of the Kings County agricultural community. He has also been named Lemoore Citizen of the Year and received the Tachi Tribe Award, reflecting the deep personal relationships and broad respect he has earned across the county.

Mr. Speaker, please join Representative VALADAO and me in congratulating Joe Neves on 32 years of dedicated service on the Kings County Board of Supervisors and wishing him a happy and healthy retirement. Thank you.

HONORING CHIEF MARK SCHMIDT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Mark Schmidt and recognize an extraordinary career spanning more than 40 years in law enforcement, including nearly three decades as Chief of Police of the Upper Makefield Police Department.

Since becoming Chief in 1997, Chief Schmidt has transformed and strengthened the department through his vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Under his leadership, the department doubled in size, growing from 9 to 18 officers, constructed state-of-the-art headquarters, and continually modernized its operations through advanced technology, equipment, and training.

Among Chief Schmidt's proudest accomplishments was leading the department to PLEAC accreditation in 2020. This prestigious designation reflects the department's commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, and excellence in law enforcement. The department has proudly maintained that accreditation ever since.

Chief Schmidt has also been a steadfast advocate for the professional development of his officers. He has encouraged advanced training and higher education, and under his leadership, numerous officers have earned master's degrees while continuing to serve their community.