

He was in the right place at the right time, stopping to fuel up his car, when he noticed a small crowd gathered and quickly realized a child was in distress. Without hesitation, he jumped into action, performing the Heimlich maneuver and ultimately saving the life of a choking 2-year-old.

His heroic actions are a powerful reminder of the courage, training, and compassion of the officers who protect our community every day. I thank Corporal Higginbotham not only for his quick thinking and bravery in this moment, but for his years of military service and his continued dedication to keeping North Texas safe.

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION
OF CONSTRUCTION AND RE-
OPENING OF AZLE JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the newly constructed Azle Junior High School in Azle, Texas.

The completion of this state-of-the-art campus marks an important milestone for the Azle Independent School District and the entire Azle community. Designed to serve future generations of students, the new junior high school reflects the district's unwavering commitment to providing a safe, innovative, and enriching learning environment where students can thrive.

The new Azle Junior High School represents a new era of educational opportunity for the students of Azle. This exceptional campus will empower young Texans to develop the knowledge, skills, and character needed to succeed both in the classroom and beyond. Through the dedication of district leadership, educators, staff, parents, and community members, the school will foster academic excellence, encourage personal growth, and prepare students to become the next generation of leaders, innovators, and engaged citizens.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the opening of the new Azle Junior High School and commend everyone whose hard work and commitment made this achievement possible. This remarkable new campus will provide generations of students with the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Azle Independent School District as it celebrates this exciting milestone, and I wish its students, faculty, and staff continued success for years to come.

RECOGNIZING GUSTAVO PRADO
TORRES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gustavo Prado Torres for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Gustavo Prado Torres on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MICHAELLE
JINETTE, JULY 2026 CON-
STITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Michaelle Jinnette, a resident of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for July 2026.

When Michaelle's son Tristan was diagnosed with an ultra-rare genetic condition, she and her husband, Kevin, refused to accept that there was nothing to be done. Instead, they founded the Cure KCNH1 Foundation and set out to build related scientific research and inspire hope that did not yet exist for families like theirs.

Michaelle's determination has connected families across the globe and helped launch new research into a disorder shared by fewer than 100 children worldwide. She has shown that one parent's love, paired with tireless resolve, can move the frontiers of medicine forward.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michaelle Jinnette, and in thanking her for the strength, compassion, and leadership she brings to families facing rare disease everywhere.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MARK KOCHALKA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Mark Kochalka. He has dedicated his life to service, with more than 25 years of distinguished service in the United States Navy. Mark new as a P-3C instructor pilot and Mission Commander, deploying multiple times to the Middle East. During his final tour in Iraq and Afghanistan, he led a special forces drone unit. His leadership earned recognition from both his peers and superiors.

Today, Mark continues to serve North Texas in his role at Boeing; his work ensures that our service members have the technology they need to complete their missions and return home safely. Outside of work, he is a devoted husband, father, and active community member in Midway Hills.

I thank Mark for his lifelong commitment to duty, leadership, and commitment to making North Texas stronger.

HONORING THE FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN ON THEIR PRESTIGIOUS ACCREDITATION FROM THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for achieving accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, a prestigious distinction representing the highest standards of excellence for museums across the Nation.

This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and years of effort from the leadership, staff, volunteers, and community partners at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. The accreditation process is highly rigorous, with only a select few museums nationwide meeting the criteria necessary to receive this distinguished honor.

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden has been designated as a specialized museum for its outstanding work in preserving living plant collections, advancing conservation initiatives, and offering educational programs that foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world. In partnership with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden continues to support impactful research while providing opportunities for discovery and engagement throughout the community.

This achievement reflects the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's important role as both a cultural landmark and an educational resource for Fort Worth and beyond. President and CEO Patrick Newman, along with the entire Fort Worth Botanic Garden team, have helped cultivate an institution that protects natural resources, inspires future generations, and creates meaningful experiences for visitors from across the globe.

With this accreditation, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden joins the distinguished group of Fort Worth institutions in the cultural district, including the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and the Sid Richardson Museum, which have each earned this esteemed recognition.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens on this incredible achievement.

RECOGNIZING HEYZEL PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heyzel Perez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Heyzel has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Heyzel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Heyzel's hard

work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr/Sr High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO COOPER LUTKENHAUS**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Cooper Lutkenhaus. At just 16 years old, Cooper made history by breaking the U18 world record in the 800-meter with a time of 1:42.27 at the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

His final 100-meter split and silver medal finish stunned even the most seasoned athletes and commentators, as he split an incredible 12.48 seconds in the final 100 meters to close the gap.

I thank Cooper for inspiring the next generation and showing the world what the Lone Star State is made of. He continues to represent North Texas well, and we cannot wait to keep watching his journey.

**CONGRATULATING FIRE CHIEF
RAYMOND HILL ON HIS RETIREMENT
FOLLOWING 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE**

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Fort Worth Fire Chief Raymond Hill on his retirement following more than 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Fort Worth and its residents. Chief Hill began his career with the Fort Worth Fire Department in December 1994 as a firefighter and steadily advanced through each rank. Over the past three decades, he has led critical operations, including firefighter training, emergency management, health and wellness, fire apparatus services, and the Fire Alarm Office.

In October 2025, the Fort Worth City Council unanimously appointed Chief Hill as interim fire chief. During his tenure, he guided the department through its transition to full responsibility for emergency medical services and helped reduce average Emergency Medical Services response times by approximately 32 percent over the past year.

Chief Hill's career is a testament to the value of public service, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to the community. For more than three decades, he has dedicated himself to protecting the people of Fort Worth and supporting the firefighters who serve alongside him.

As Chief Hill begins this next chapter, I extend my sincere gratitude for his years of service and sacrifice. Fort Worth is stronger because of his leadership, and his contributions to the community will be remembered for years to come.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate Chief Raymond Hill and wish him and his family happiness and all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING SELENE NEHLS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

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

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

**HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ERIC WEINBERG**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Eric Weinberg, an AP and Honors student at Highland Park High School, who excels in the classroom and on the court as a varsity tennis player. His dedication to service has earned him the Presidential Gold Award and Congressional Bronze Award.

Eric has continued to serve North Texas as a graduate of our 2024 to 2025 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, as well as the University Park Youth Advisory Commission, and other community organizations. This summer, he was one of only two students from Texas selected for the FBI National Academy Associates Youth Leadership Program in Quantico.

Eric is already leading by example, balancing academics, athletics, and service. His leadership and commitment to serving others make him a true standout in North Texas.

RECOGNIZING EDEN RAYNE NEHLS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

Eden Rayne has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their

education, like Eden Rayne, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Eden Rayne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Junior/Senior High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Eden Rayne Nehls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on an update on the United States Central Command area of operations.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine updating America's nuclear waste management policy.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine to take sworn witness testimony.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations and readiness for the second and third quarters of Fiscal Year 2026 as well as an update on election security.

SVC-217

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1750, to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, S. 3859, to amend the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993 with respect to future membership in the Catawba Indian Nation, S. 4053, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Pechanga Band of Indians, and H.R. 226, to take certain Federal lands in