

Mr. Speaker, I know Doug McMillon well enough to know that he would be embarrassed by all of this fuss that we are making about him. That is who he is, but this tribute is well deserved. Few among us have lived the American Dream like he has, and what a difference he has made.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Doug and Shelley: Well done. I know I speak for a lot of people. I thank him for his example of selfless service and his commitment to helping his fellow man. Godspeed and may he enjoy a well-earned retirement.

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FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ARIZONA MASS SHOOTING

(Mr. STANTON of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a solemn anniversary.

Fifteen years ago today, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was doing her job, holding a “Congress on Your Corner” event at a grocery store in Tucson, standing outside in the January sunshine, listening to her constituents, figuring out how she could help them.

Then the unthinkable happened. In an instant, this moment of democracy turned into a tragedy. A gunman targeting Congresswoman Giffords killed six of our fellow Arizonans: Federal Judge John Roll, a dedicated public servant; Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, beloved members of the community; 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green, born on September 11, 2001, a budding public servant who had just been elected to her middle school student council; and Gabe Zimmerman, Gabby’s director of community research who died doing the work that he loved.

Thirteen others were wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. She survived a gunshot wound to her head through the sheer force of her will, exceptional medical care, and the unwavering support of her husband, Captain MARK KELLY.

I worked closely with Gabby when she was in the State legislature, and I served on the Phoenix City Council. She was a singularly talented leader, brilliant and tough as nails, with the rare gift for bringing people together. There is no doubt in my mind that if it were not for that day, Gabby Giffords would be sitting in the United States Senate right now or the Governor’s office, maybe even the White House.

We have seen the consequences when political disagreements metastasize into something darker. In the last few years, political violence has increased in frequency and intensity, and this violence has been directed at both Republicans and Democrats.

Gabby Giffords herself has shown us the path forward. Despite a long and difficult recovery that continues to this very day, she has transformed unimaginable tragedy into courageous action.

Through GIFFORDS, the organization she cofounded with MARK KELLY, she leads the fight for a future free from gun violence, not with bitterness, but with courage, determination, and with hope.

Her example stands as a rebuke to the cynicism that too often characterizes our politics. Gabby reminds us that we can disagree and disagree strongly while still recognizing the fundamental humanity in one another. We can fight for our principles without demonizing our opponents.

On this 15th anniversary, we honor those who we lost by recommitting ourselves to the work that they believed in, a democracy where disagreement is not just tolerated but celebrated, where robust debate strengthens rather than threatens our institutions, and where every American can engage in civic life without fear.

That is the America Gabby Giffords fought for then. That is the America she fights for now, and that is the America we must build together.

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HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL  
KEITH CONNOLLY

(Mr. CISCOMANI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Keith Connolly, who sadly passed away on Christmas Eve.

Keith lived a life defined by service, by family, and by purpose. He was married to his wife, Pat, for 65 years, and together they raised four children and were blessed with nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with another expected this spring.

A devoted husband, father, and friend, Keith chose a life of service to his country. He served with distinction for 33 years in the United States Air Force as a general officer and a fighter pilot, flying more than 4,800 hours and serving across the United States and overseas, including in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. He was awarded two Legions of Merit and seven Air Medals for combat missions, primarily in the Pacific theater.

After retiring to Tucson in 1990, Keith continued serving veterans at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, volunteering more than 23,000 hours over 26 years, helping veterans navigate VA claims. He also recruited and mentored volunteers, assisting thousands through tax assistance programs, and he shared his passion for aviation through the Pima Air & Space Museum.

In 2016, Keith was inducted into the Arizona State Veterans Hall of Fame in recognition of his many years of volunteer service.

It was an honor to recognize General Connolly as part of the initial Veteran Servant Leader Award that I have the pleasure and the honor of conducting every year.

General Keith Connolly’s life reflected deep love for his family, his

community, and his country. His legacy of service will endure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his service and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MICA MOUNTAIN FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mica Mountain High School’s football team on winning the championship for the second year in a row.

Number 7 Mica Mountain Thunderbolts defeated number 1 undefeated Acadia High School with a score of 42–17. Mica Mountain started the season 2–2 and ultimately finished 12–2. It was the first time a southern Arizona school repeated as champions among the big-school ranks since 1976 and 1977.

Head Coach and Mica Mountain Assistant Principal Jay Campos led the Thunderbolts to their second consecutive State championship and the first of his coaching career.

Evan Wheeler finished with 194 yards and three touchdowns which earned him both offensive and overall MVP.

Sergio Raygada had an 18-yard pick six and was named the defensive MVP.

Mr. Speaker, this team has made their school and community very proud. This was a great victory for the Thunderbolts and one they earned. I congratulate them on yet another successful season.

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CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF  
DOLORES OWENS

(Mr. CORREA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the memory of one of my constituents, Dolores Owens.

She came to Santa Ana 60 years ago when she married Dewey Flournoy, and together they raised five boys. After Dewey’s passing, Dolores later married Neddie Owens and continued to build a life rooted in love, family, and faith in Santa Ana.

Dolores was a strong and active woman, always cooking for her family, even at the age of 92. She had a deep love for the word of God and a heart for giving, donating to community. Whenever she found anybody in need, she would give, no questions asked. She was a true example of a strong woman and a loving mother who took care of everybody in her community.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the winner of the 2025 Congressional App Challenge in my district, Xiong Yi.

Xiong’s app, MathFluent, helps students understand math by transforming complicated equations into helpful visualized stories. Users can input an equation or a problem, and MathFluent will generate a story or art piece that helps explain the solution.

Xiong is a student at Fairmont Prep Academy in my home city of Anaheim, and he is a perfect example of how the 21st century students are incorporating technology into their educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Xiong on a well-deserved honor.

JANUARY 6 FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, I was on this floor when insurrectionists stormed the Capitol to interfere with the peaceful transfer of power.

On this anniversary, I remember the brave Capitol police officers who put their lives on the line to protect not only Members of Congress but America's democracy. Today, in 2026, political violence continues to threaten the fabric of our society and of our country.

I hope as we reflect back on January 6 that we look at those memories as a lesson that we have to stand together and we have to fight, not with violence, but with debate, looking at each other with understanding the way we have done in this great democratic country for over 250 years.

That night of January 6, it was both Republicans and Democrats that came together after the insurrection that night to make sure we completed the peaceful transfer of power and make sure that democracy continued to reign in America.

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RECOGNIZING JIM MONAGHAN

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of Jim Monaghan, a dedicated public servant who has spent a lifetime serving the people of Stony Point.

Jim's public service began with a 29-year career in the New York City Police Department, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. From January 2016 through this past December, he served as the town supervisor of Stony Point, focusing on affordability for families and seniors and ensuring public safety. Before becoming town supervisor, Jim served for 2 years on the town board.

A lifelong Rockland County resident, Jim and his wife, Jackie, have lived in Stony Point for 30 years with their two children and now their grandchildren. Community and family remain central to his life. Jim and his wife are active parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church and have volunteered in community sports programs and nonprofits throughout the county.

As Jim retires after a long career serving the people of Stony Point, Rockland County, and New York, I am proud to recognize my good friend, Jim Monaghan, for his many contributions to our community. May this next chapter for him be just as fulfilling as the last.

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HONORING ANTHONY ADAMO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Adamo, southern region president of the Civil Service Employees Association who passed away this week at the age of 46.

Born in Flushing, Queens, Anthony graduated from New Paltz High School and began his career at SUNY New Paltz in 1999. Not long after, he stepped up as a union activist in CSEA's SUNY New Paltz Local working as a shop steward and grievance representative, driven by his belief in standing up for the working people.

In 2009, Anthony was elected as the local president, a position he held for 10 years, during which he also served as the chair of the union's statewide political action committee.

In 2019, he became southern region president and was reelected by his peers again in 2024. Additionally, Anthony served as an AFSCME delegate and vice president of the New York State AFL-CIO.

Anthony embodied the very spirit of union leadership: passionate, hard-working, and unwavering in his commitment to others. His legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and the workers he proudly fought for. He was a great friend, an honest broker, and a true New Yorker. I will miss my friend dearly, and may he be at peace.

HONORING JOHN "SPO" ESPOSITO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John "Spo" Esposito, a remarkable young man from my district. John passed away peacefully on December 28 at just 25 years old.

John grew up in Somers, New York, where he graduated from Somers High School in 2018. A proud student-athlete, he was a member of the 2016 New York State Championship varsity football team, as well as the track and basketball teams, forming lifelong friendships.

John went on to attend Manhattanville University earning his business degree in 2023. He pursued his entrepreneurial spirit by working at B&E Sports Collectibles and starting his own business, Eye On The Ball Sports Collectibles, alongside his brother Joey, combining his love of sports with his ambition and his family.

Beyond his accomplishments, John was defined by his heart. An avid Yankees fan, he remained deeply connected to his community as a member of the New York Bombers, a blind beep baseball team, and showed us all what it means to persevere with humor, courage, and grace.

My deepest condolences go out to John's parents, Joe and Patti; his brothers, Joey and Michael; and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

May God bless his memory.

HONORING LAYLA ELIZABETH SO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Layla Elizabeth So, a remarkable young lady from Pearl River, New York, whose kindness and creativity touched everyone who knew her. Layla passed away on August 7, 2024, after a heroic 2-year battle with cancer.

Layla grew up in Pearl River, New York. She attended Lincoln Avenue Elementary, Pearl River Middle School, and was a rising sophomore at Pearl River High School where she earned High Honor Roll.

Layla excelled on the varsity bowling team, earning the most improved player award. She also participated in the marine science club, enjoyed baking, and volunteered at Pearl River Library.

One of Layla's proudest accomplishments was being a founding member of Eagle Scout Troop 97G in New City. Her Eagle Project, completed posthumously by Troop 97, transformed 10 55-gallon steel drums into decorative trash cans for the town of Orangetown and earned her the title of Eagle Scout after her final board of review in which she also became a Life Scout.

Layla's legacy reminds us that life isn't always numbered in years but in the impact we leave behind. Though her time with us and in our community was far too short, Layla's ambition and kindness will endure. May her memory always be a blessing.

HONORING PIETER GROSBECK

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Orangeburg resident, Pieter Grosbeck, who passed away at the beginning of December due to a 9/11-related illness.

A proud Eagle Scout, a graduate of Tappan Zee High School and of Rockland Community College, Pieter dedicated his life to serving others. After working as a technician for ITT in Antarctica, Pieter began his career in public safety with the NYPD in 1984, serving as a patrolman in the 44th Precinct in the South Bronx.

In 1990, Pieter continued his career by joining the FDNY where he was later assigned to Engine Company 3 in Chelsea and later transferred to Battalion 7, serving with distinction until his retirement in 2018.

Pieter devoted 45 years of volunteer service to the Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Company, serving as president, chief on three occasions, and an active board member, being awarded life membership in 2019.

He was a loving husband to his wife, Lisa, for 32 years; a devoted friend; and a man who consistently put others before himself. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, his fellow firefighters, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his memory be a blessing.