

include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Joseph Aceto, Lawrence Acre, Dale W. Adolfsen, Marc Albertario, Peter T. Alexander, Ricardo P. Almaguer, Benjamin G. Baldwin, Jr., Herbert E. Banach, Russell E. Becker, Richard Beintum, Robert J. Beran, Francesco A. Bertolli, Peter H. Billing, Charles B. Bosko, James W. Cebulski, Richard E. Chapman, Peter R. Conboy, Walter E. Counts, Jose Cruz, Thomas J. Czajka, John E. Davenport, Alfonso Ferreira, Sr., Lynn A. Ferris, Leon W. Francis, Robert J. Gilmore, Edward J. Glenney, Michael E. Granberry, Clifford D. Hall, Clifford E. Hall, James A. Hanson, Adrian W. Harries, Joseph H. Heater, Edward Hines, Gary L. Hoffman, Burnell Holman, Michael E. Hurst, Richard A. Jensen, Robert G. Jeropke, Edward L. Johnson, Robert V. Johnson, Jr., Stanley J. Joswiak, Joan E. Kateiva, John J. Kelly, Jr., Eugene R. Kirk, Patrick E. Kitching, James J. Klimes, Jr., Dale A. Kriesel, William T. Kucharzyk, Eugene R. LaFleur, Kenneth J. Laning, Brandt L. Leischner, John H. Lindemulder, Arthur R. Lubben, Willie Lucas, Jr., Frederick C. Mark, Joseph C. Marshall, Robert J. Mathisen, Jr., James M. McKee, Joseph J. Medveskas, Herman Mendez, Jerry F. Meredith, Kenneth J. Michalak, Melvin C. Murray, John E. Musial, Joseph Nootens, Richard O'Brien, Joseph F. O'Connor, Richard L. Partlow, Jr., Gloria J. Patterson, Maurice A. Patterson, Lothar Perignon, James V. Polich, Frank P. Qualtier, Billio D. Riley, Charles C. Robinson, John W. Rost, James C. Russell, Robert J. Russell, Sr., Alfred A. Russo, Donald E. Scheidt, Jerome Schmidt, Raymond M. Schmitz, Glen R. Schwartz, Roy V. Silvester, Michael C. Sims, Dennis R. Singer, Robert K. Slevnik, Terry L. Snyder, Jay A. Stob, John T. Storrs, Martin C. Strausberger, Herman G. Taylor, Warren F. Tejes, Lucian S. Tessmann, Gary G. Todd, Walter P. Trock, III, Joe Vance, Lawrence F. Vasquez, Sidney M. Victor, Robert H. Voss, James J. Wall, Terry D. Welch, William W. Westerhof, Scott C. Whelan, John H. Whiteside, Henry B. Winkler, William M. Wolff, Harley Woodhouse, and Aloysius J. Zupancic.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH
ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in the commemoration of the recent Blessing of the Fleet, which was conducted on April 11, 2026 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Passed down through generations of sailors, fishermen, merchant mariners, and navies around the world, the centuries-old Blessing of the Fleet ceremony is intended to safeguard crews and their ships. It is said to protect them from the danger of the seas through a traditional blessing given by a clergyman at the water's edge.

As a tribute to our Nation's rich maritime heritage and the men and women who have contributed to its growth and success, the United States Navy Memorial hosts its annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremony each spring.

During the ceremony, sailors from the U.S. Navy's Ceremonial Guard proceed across the

Granite Sea on Navy Memorial Plaza to pour water from the Seven Seas and Great Lakes into the surrounding fountains. This element of the ceremony charges the fountains with life, as they usher in the spring season.

On behalf of constituents throughout the 13th Congressional District, I express gratitude to the men and women of the Seas Services—past and present—for their devotion to duty and defense of liberty. May their service be forever remembered.

HONORING RODNEY "ROD"
DIRIDON, SR.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues Representative RO KHANNA, Representative JIMMY PANETTA, and Representative SAM LICCARDO representing Santa Clara County, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rod Diridon, Sr. of San Jose, California, a devoted public servant whose impact on the Santa Clara Valley will last for generations.

Mr. Diridon was born and raised in northern California before attending San José State University. He later attended Naval Officer Candidate School and served two combat tours in Vietnam. Following his military service, Diridon returned to California and was elected in 1973 as the youngest-ever member of the Saratoga City Council. From 1975 to 1995, he served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, including six terms as Chair.

Even after his career in public service, Mr. Diridon remained committed to improving the quality of life for others through transportation and regional planning. He chaired the American Public Transit Association (APTA) in 1992, and Governor Gray Davis appointed Mr. Diridon to the California High Speed Rail Authority in 2000.

Mr. Diridon's work emphasized sustainability, regional cooperation, and the importance of accessible public transportation in everyday life. Working closely with the Honorable Norman Mineta through the Norman Mineta Transit Institute, Mr. Diridon led the institute and helped advance a shared vision for modern, integrated transit systems such as light rail development, Caltrain improvements, and the expansion of BART into Silicon Valley. Under his leadership, he was able to work with both the U.S. Department of Transportation and California Department of Transportation to identify research priorities on transit system security, transportation financing, and land use policies related to transportation. Mr. Diridon's vision consistently highlighted the connection between transportation, environmental responsibility, and connecting community.

He was also deeply rooted in family life, which remained an important part of his personal and professional journey. The son of Italian immigrants, Mr. Diridon was married to Dr. Gloria Duffy, a national leader in public policy. He was the father of two children, Rod Jr. and Mary Margaret, and a grandfather of four. His family shares and carries the same commitment to civic engagement that defined his life and career.

Rod Diridon, Sr. helped bridge generations of leadership and redefine how communities approach mobility and growth. His forward-thinking vision and dedication to public service have and continue to leave a lasting impact on the region and beyond. His legacy of leadership, innovation, and commitment to the public good will be remembered with deep gratitude.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT DOLSON AS
2026 ATHLETE DIRECTOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Indiana leader, Scott Dolson, who has been named the 2026 Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Mr. Dolson has made history as the first athletic director of Indiana University to receive this honor. This award is a testament to his dedication, leadership, and the remarkable success of Hoosier athletics under his guidance.

Over seventeen years at Indiana University, including six as Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, he has helped elevate programs across the board. That includes leading one of the most remarkable turnarounds in college sports, culminating in Indiana Football reaching the top of the sport and earning a national championship—an achievement that brought pride to the entire state. At the same time, student-athletes across programs continue to excel both on the field and in the classroom.

Mr. Dolson's contributions to athletics do not stop with Indiana University. He is active in shaping the future of leadership of collegiate sports, including participating in a White House roundtable discussing the future of college athletics, serving as Chairperson of the Big Ten Athletic Directors group, and a part of the NCAA Division I Baseball Selection Committee.

I congratulate Scott on this well-deserved honor. I thank him for his contributions to IU athletics, Hoosier athletes, and to our home state of Indiana.

COMMEMORATING YOM HASHOAH

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. On April 13th, we joined Jewish communities across South Florida and the world to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, to honor the survivors, and to reflect on the immense courage of those who resisted oppression.

In South Florida, the Committee of the Yad Vashem USA Foundation hosted a Community-Wide Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the Beth Torah Benny Rok Campus in North Miami Beach. This solemn program brings together civic leaders, clergy, survivors, and