

HONORING AVERY WISE FOR HIS
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR
COMMUNITY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Avery Wise, a fearless 17-year-old leader from Woodbridge, Virginia, who has already committed his life to serving others.

At just 17 years old, EMT Wise volunteers weekly with the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton (OWL) Volunteer Fire Department, where he responds to 911 emergency calls, provides medical assistance to patients, and administers appropriate medical treatments.

Last year, his passion for service was put to the test in a profound and life-changing way. While in class learning about air management, EMT Wise was dispatched to an emergency involving a 73-year-old woman who had stopped breathing. Without a doubt, he went into action, performing an intubation procedure and attaching a ventilation device to restore her breathing. After successfully stabilizing the patient, he remained by her side during transport, carefully making sure her chest continued to rise adequately. Thanks to his quick actions and composure under pressure, the patient was released from the hospital in good health.

This experience did not deter him, instead it strengthened his commitment to public service and deepened his understanding of what it truly means to serve, no matter how big or small the call could be.

EMT Wise's dedication to serving his community doesn't stop when he is off the clock. He has been a member of the Trail Life USA scouting program for over 11 years, serving in multiple leadership roles, including First Officer and High School Chaplain, taking on the responsibility of assisting the Troop Master in troop management and communicating with the Committee Chair to discuss ways to improve the organization.

In addition, EMT Wise is an extraordinary varsity basketball player with the Northern Virginia Homeschool Athletic Association. He also earned the Passion for Public Service Scholarship from the National Society of High School Scholars.

In want to personally thank EMT Wise for his dedication to serving his community, and I wish him continued success as he works toward becoming a crew leader within his EMT team. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing EMT Wise for his courage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
REPRESENTATIVE ELIOT ENGEL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of my colleague, Representative Eliot Lance Engel of New York. Congressman Engel passed away on April 10, 2026, in New York City at the age of 79. My condolences are with his loved ones during this difficult time.

Prior to his political career, Congressman Engel worked as a teacher and guidance counselor in the Bronx. Eliot and I often shared stories over our similar experiences as teachers of social studies. After teaching, he was elected to the New York State Assembly representing the 81st District. During his tenure in the New York State Assembly, he concurrently pursued his Juris Doctor at the New York Law School.

In Congress, Congressman Engel was a dear colleague. I worked closely with him on issues related to foreign affairs, travelling around the world together from Iraq to India together. In his time in Congress, Congressman Engel played an instrumental role in passing key international development and humanitarian legislation such as the re-authorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which included his Stop Tuberculosis Now Act. He also championed efforts here in the United States and around the world to protect and expand LGBTQ+ rights. Congressman Engel was also a strong advocate for healthcare reform including the Affordable Care Act, and the Partnering to Improve Maternity Care Quality Act which improved maternity care both for mothers and newborns.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life and work of Congressman Eliot Engel.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BENJAMIN
"BEN" COHEN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay a special thank you to a truly exceptional American, and U.S. Army officer, Major Benjamin "Ben" Cohen.

Major Cohen served with distinction as a Defense Fellow in my office from January 2023 to December 2023 in which his professionalism, expertise, candor, and team-centric attitude was paramount to my staff's success in the FY24 Appropriations Cycle. His contributions during this time were instrumental in shaping budget and policy related discussions and advancing legislative priorities.

Following his tenure in my office, Ben served as a Congressional Budget Liaison in the Secretary of the Army's Financial Management and Comptroller's Budget Liaison (SAFMI-BUL) office, representing the Missile Procurement, Army (MiPA). Procurement of Army Ammunition (PAA), and Procurement of Wheeled Tracked Combat Vehicles (WTCV) appropriations portfolios. As a Liaison, Ben supported 25 staff delegation trips and 5 congressional delegation trips and expertly worked with the appropriations staff to ensure the United States Army's priorities were supported, cared for, and realized. His professionalism, dedication, and expertise have greatly benefited Members of Congress and their staff, leaving a lasting impression on all who have had the privilege of working with him.

Born and raised in Barnstable, Massachusetts, Major Cohen graduated from Norwich University in 2014 with a bachelor's in criminal justice and was commissioned Active Duty as a Field Artillery Officer.

Major Cohen began his military career with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, where he served as a Company Fire Support Officer, Maintenance Control Officer, Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Brigade Adjutant. After completing his Captains Career Course in 2018, Ben returned to Alaska—Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska, where he served as a Battalion Fire Support Officer for 3-509th Infantry (Airborne), Commander for HHC, 3-509th Infantry (Airborne), and Commander for B Battery, 2-377th PFAF. Upon completing his command time at JBER, Ben was accepted into the Army's Congressional Fellowship Program.

Major Cohen's academic achievements include earning a Master of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University in 2023, and a Master of Public Administration from Norwich University. Additionally, Ben is a graduate of United States Army's Ranger School, Jumpmaster Course, Basic Airborne Course, Air Assault School, and the Army's Cold Weather Leaders Course.

In addition to his military duties, Major Cohen volunteers his time as a Coach for youth sports (hockey) in the local area, providing development and mentorship opportunities to local youth athletes. This year, Ben's St. James Hockey Team won the Atlantic Hockey Federation's (AHF) 16U Lemieux Division in dominant fashion, culminating a massively successful season with an overall record of 34-18-5.

Major Cohen's exceptional career is a testament to his unwavering dedication, leadership, and commitment to selfless service and excellence. His contributions to the Army and our Nation are truly commendable.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending my good friend, Major Benjamin "Ben" Cohen for his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SECOND
CHANCE MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as Second Chance Month, a time to reflect on and celebrate the growth and successes that emerge from giving people with records new opportunities. Second chances help justice-involved individuals better themselves, reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and grow the economy.

As I prepare to retire at the end of 2026, I am deeply proud of my work to advance opportunities for people with records, be the reforms in the areas of criminal justice, health, tax, or education. Today, I wish to focus on how giving second chances by expanding access to higher education makes our country stronger. We know that education is one of the most effective ways to support reentry—strengthening communities, closing racial and economic equity gaps in postsecondary education and workforce participation, and disrupting the cycle of incarceration that continues to target and limit opportunity for people of color and those from low-income backgrounds.