

the first Black Republican woman elected to the United States Congress. I enjoyed serving with Congresswoman Love during her time in this body and considered her a friend.

Born Ludmya Bourdeau in Brooklyn, New York, to Haitian immigrant parents Jean Maxime and Marie Bourdeau, Mia embodied the values of compassion, resilience, freedom, and service to others—principles instilled in her from childhood and manifested through decades of unwavering commitment to family, faith, and public leadership. At age five, she and her family moved to Norwalk in Southwestern Connecticut where she would grow up and later attend Norwalk High School.

Mia inspired countless individuals through her historic example—serving as a councilwoman, mayor, congresswoman, commentator, mentor, and friend. Her light, wisdom, authenticity, and spirit of service have left an indelible mark on both the Haitian American community and the state of Connecticut, and her voice will continue to resonate across generations.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Love and Bourdeau families and all who knew and loved Mia. I look forward to partnering with the Haitian American Collaborative, a national organization located in Mia's former hometown of Norwalk, to honor her memory by continuing her work of uplifting Haitian communities, building legacies of impact, and preserving the rich cultural heritage she so proudly represented.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS DEMPSTER

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

Thomas 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 Thomas, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Thomas's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING KAY HOFFLAND

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kay Hoffland has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help.

A truly selfless leader, Ms. Hoffland was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Kay Hoffland has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

WORLD IP DAY AND INVENTIONS CAUCUS

HON. KEVIN KILEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day and the creation of the Congressional Inventions Caucus.

The newly created caucus will work to foster education, collaboration, and legislative action on intellectually property issues in Congress. I would like to thank Rep. DEBORAH ROSS for leading this caucus with me in the House, as well as Sen. DAINES and Sen. COONS.

Copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets are key to America's innovation, industrial strength, standard of living, and our economic and national security.

Intellectual property-intensive firms account for 44 percent of U.S. jobs and better pay and benefits than jobs with that utilize little or no intellectual property.

It is integral to cutting-edge technologies, discovery, and development of new miracle medicines, sophisticated computing, and advanced microchips. Intellectual property is also foundational for movies, music, publishing, and much more.

Intellectual property industries produce almost 80 percent of U.S. commodity exports. Many of these industries even have trade surpluses since the United States is the world's top intellectual property exporter, with exports valued at \$140 billion in 2024.

RECOGNIZING DAYANARA TISCARENO ESCALERA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

Dayanara 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 Dayanara, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Dayanara'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 Dayanara Tiscareno Escalera on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING CHARLES ROSS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero and a true patriot, Mr Charles Ross of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Mr. Ross, a 96-year-old veteran, was a prisoner of war during the Korean War for three years.

Charles Ross enlisted in the United States Army on February 13, 1947. Born on December 6, 1928, in Columbia, South Carolina, he was just 18 years old when he enlisted. He was inspired by soldiers who served in WWII, and he wanted some adventure in his life. After basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama, he spent three years in post-WWII Germany with the 1st Infantry. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Mr. Ross was deployed there with the 1st Provisional Battalion. He was then assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Brigade. Soon after arriving in Korea was the Battle of Inchon, followed by the Battle of PyongYang, and the Battle of Unsan, which was long and treacherous. Mr. Ross' battalion of around 900 men was surrounded by 10 to 20,000 Chinese soldiers. After fighting the Chinese off for three days and nights, they ran out of food, water, and provisions. Many lives were lost. On the fourth day, the Chinese Army started shelling chemical rounds of white phosphorous. All those who were able to run did so, crossing the Nammyon River. Mr. Ross and a fellow soldier broke off from the crowd and hid. An older Korean civilian helped them find shelter in a cave and brought them water and broth. Leaving the cave, they were soon found and surrendered to the Chinese Army. They were taken to Camp 5 in Pyoktong in January of 1951. Prisoners in the camp experienced untreated wounds, disease, frozen ground, starvation, and many died. They were forced to work on the burial detail, which was horrendous. In August of 1951, Mr. Ross and other non-commissioned officers were taken to Camp 4, where conditions were somewhat improved. He was released from the POW camp on August 20, 1953, reunited with the American Army, and promoted to Master Sergeant.

Mr. Ross' POW experience left him with lifelong Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and painful neuropathy in his feet from the frigid Korean winters. He retired from the Army in 1970 as a Command Sergeant Major. Mr. Ross lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky with his daughter Barbara. He and his late wife Janet have three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was recently celebrated by Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 for National Prisoner of War Day.

Charles Ross is a true patriot, a great American, and an inspiration to us all. I am forever grateful to him and his fellow soldiers who sacrificed so much in service to our Nation. It is my honor to recognize his service before the United States Congress.