

... More Military and Law News from Sports-Military page 2

The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) mourns the passing of founder former Cong. Richard T. "Dick" Schulze

From The Outdoor Wire

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) mourns the passing of the founder of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) and CSF, former Congressman, Richard T. "Dick" Schulze (R-PA). Congressman Schulze died peacefully at his home on December 23, 2025, at the age of 96, with his wife of 33 years Nancy Schulze at his side. A veteran and patriot who served in both the U.S. Merchant Marine and the U.S. Army, Dick Schulze was a successful businessman, an elected official at the state and federal levels, a conservationist, and an avid outdoorsman whose life was defined by service to

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country and community. In 1989, Congressman Schulze's lifelong interest in conservation, hunting, and fishing, led him to create both the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. Recognizing early on that America's outdoor heritage transcends party lines, he partnered with then-Congressman Lindsay Thomas (D-GA) to serve as Vice Chairman of the Caucus. From this bipartisan



Congressman Schulze and his friend and co-founder, Congressman Lindsay Thomas being presented with CSF’s highest honor, the Dingell-Young Award. (Photo/Courtesy: CSF)

foundation, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has grown into the largest and most active caucus in the United States Congress, serving as the frontline for conservation, wildlife, and fisheries policy in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. To support the Sportsmen's Caucus and to serve as the conduit

between the sportsmen's community and Congress, Congressman Schulze was instrumental in creating CSF in 1989 and chaired the inaugural Congressional Sportsmen's Banquet that same fall. Over the ensuing decades, CSF has become the leading authority on sportsmen's policy at both the federal and state levels, carrying forward the

bipartisan vision Congressman Schulze championed throughout his career.

Beyond his role as CSF's founder, Congressman Schulze brought deep legislative experience to conservation policy, serving on the House Natural Resources (Interior) Committee and later on the National Fish &

Wildlife Board, as well as the National Migratory Bird Commission. His leadership helped elevate conservation as a national priority and ensured that sportsmen and women were active participants in shaping conservation policy in Washington. "Dick Schulze was a dedicated outdoorsman and visionary, recognizing that sportsmen and

women needed a strong voice and a seat at the table in the policy arena in order for our outdoor traditions to survive," said Jeff Crane, President and CEO of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "Dick was a mentor, an advocate to the very end, and a great friend. America's 55 million-plus sportsmen and women owe Dick our gratitude for safeguarding our outdoor pursuits for generations to come."

Congressman Schulze was formally honored by CSF at the 25th Congressional Sportsmen's Banquet in 2014. In 2023, he and his friend and co-founder Lindsay Thomas were jointly presented with CSF's highest honor, the Dingell-Young Award, which is conferred upon individuals who exemplify extraordinary leadership and collaboration in advancing the conservation of America's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.

Congressman Thomas offered these condolences, "I had come to know Dick Schulze as a highly respected Member of the House long before he appointed me as Vice-Chairman of the Sportsmen's Caucus. Nothing I have been involved in my life has given me a higher sense of 'doing good work' as stewards of our natural resources than this. We will miss you Dick but will never forget the great contributions you have made to the future of the wonderful outdoor world that we cherish."

Cooper Anderson is winner in Tackle Warehouse Bassmaster Junior Series; Scroggins and Berling win in Bassmaster High School Series

KISSIMMEE, Fla., January 18, 2026 — Weather and team dynamics did not make it easy for Cooper Anderson of Scotts Hill Student Anglers, but the 8th grader from Henderson, Tenn., sacked up a 19-pound, 8-ounce limit and won the Tackle Warehouse Bassmaster Junior Series event at Kissimmee Chain. On a day that saw a weather system bring 25-knot winds, Anderson fished the season opener alone. His partner was unable to make the trip to Central Florida, but that wasn't stopping Anderson from making his pals at Chester County Jr. High proud. "It was really special to get the win on my first try," Anderson said. "This is my first year fishing the Junior Series and to come down here and accomplish that meant a lot. "I thought it would be a lot more challenging to get the bites with only one line. I focused more on deeper water, because I didn't have to set up the boat in position for two people to fish." With his father, Spencer, serving as his boat captain, Anderson



Cooper Anderson of Scotts Hill Student Anglers has won the Tackle Warehouse Bassmaster Junior Series at Kissimmee Chain of Lakes with a five-fish total of 19 pounds, 8 ounces. (Photo by Tyler Bridges/B.A.S.S.)

stayed on the north end of Lake Toho and fished various submerged vegetation on areas that dropped from 5-15 feet. Most of his fish bit in about 7 feet. "I caught all my fish on a Hog Farmer (umbrella rig) with Keitech 3.8 FAT Swing Impact swimbaits in bluegill color with

a white one in the middle," Anderson said. "Most of my fish bit the center bait. "If they were following the rig, I would twitch it a little and that would get them to bite it." Anderson fished two main spots and spent most of his time on the first one. At the end of the day, he stopped at his second spot about 500 yards away and added a final keeper. "My best action was between 10:30 and 11:30," Anderson said. "I didn't have a keeper at 10:30, but once they started biting, it happened quickly. "My biggest fish was a 5-8. I caught that one around 1:30." Anderson said the day's early hours were easily manageable, but once the strong winds started around noon, boat positioning became challenging. Power-Poles and Minn Kota Spot-Lock played key roles in allowing him to effectively line up with the wind. Brayden Bontrager and Creek Bradtmiller of Track and Channel Youth placed second place with 14-2. Knox White and Jacob Deane of Mt. Juliet Fishing - Juniors finished third with 13-4.

Gunner Robbins and Drew Smith of Livingston Academy Junior Bassmaster won the Phoenix Boats Big Bass award with a 6-7. Experience Kissimmee, Florida hosted this event.



Eli Scroggins and Drew Berling of the Park Hills Athletic Club have won the 2026 Strike King Bassmaster High School Series at Kissimmee Chain of Lakes with a total of 24 pounds, 5 ounces. (Photo by Tyler Bridges/B.A.S.S.)

KISSIMMEE, Fla., January 18, 2026 — A late-day adjustment yielded the deal-sealing catch for Eli Scroggins and Drew Berling of the Park Hills Athletic Club, who topped the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series at Kissimmee Chain with a five-bass limit of 24 pounds, 5 ounces. Making the trip from Kentucky, the winners fished the south end of Lake Toho and the canal linking Toho to Lake Cypress. Scroggins, a senior, said Toho produced the majority of their fish. An approaching cold front that brought big midday winds in-

fluenced the anglers' focus. "We fished deep hydrilla and grass piles in 8-10 feet," Scroggins said. "Since we had a cold front, I figured that the fish had either spawned before the front, or they decided not to spawn yet and they pushed back out. So, we went out to the deep water and found our bigger fish there." The only exception was the team's heaviest bass — a 6-13 that bit at 2:30 p.m. "We ended up catching a 6-pounder right around noon that made us feel pretty confident, but we knew we needed one more big bite," Scroggins said. "The wind started getting pretty rough

out where we were fishing on the main lake, so we ran to the canal to get out of the wind and find some shallow grass close to deep water where the fish could move up and down as they wanted to. "We fished in there a while and ended up getting her to bite." Berling, a junior, said the winning game plan was one that combined search tactics with targeted presentations. "Eli was on the front fishing finesse baits, while I was on the back covering water with moving baits," he said.

Berling's reaction bait lineup included ChatterBaits, crankbaits and jerkbaits. Scroggins committed his time to a wacky/neko presentations with a custom 5-inch stick worm in green pumpkin.

"You had to find fish on the bottom," Scroggins said. "The fish that were floating wouldn't eat it. You had to find them near grass piles where they felt safe and ready to ambush. It was usually better if there were one or two others with the fish I was targeting." The winners got their day off to a fast start with a limit by 8:45. Berling noted that maintaining effective boat positioning was critical, but their efforts paid off with about 25 keeper size fish. Experience Kissimmee, Florida hosted this event.

Strengthening the defense industrial from sports-military 2

ronica without incident. "The Veronica is the latest tanker operating in defiance of President Trump's established quarantine of sanctioned vessels in the Caribbean — proving the effectiveness of Operation Southern Spear yet again," Wilson said. Also this week, the department announced it is refocusing the mission of long-time military newspaper Stars and Stripes,

which was first published during the Civil War. "By revitalizing this historic publication, Stars and Stripes will continue its legacy by delivering real news that is custom-tailored to our service members," Wilson said. Chief Pentagon Spokesman Sean Parnell said the War Department will modernize the operations of Stars and Stripes and adapt it to serve a new generation of service members. "It will focus on warfighting, weapons systems, fitness, lethality, survivability and all things military," he said. "Stars and Stripes has a proud legacy of reporting news that's important to our service members. The Department of War is committed to ensuring the outlet continues to reflect that proud legacy."

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