

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **APOMA Bestows First-Ever Honorary Membership on Congressman Joseph Morelle**

**Rochester, NY – [8/19/2025]** – The American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association (APOMA) is proud to announce that Congressman Joseph Morelle has been named the organization's first-ever Honorary Member, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the optics manufacturing industry.

The designation, authorized under APOMA's bylaws but never before awarded in the association's nearly 40-year history, was presented to Congressman Morelle during a special ceremony in Rochester, NY.

"As co-chair of the bipartisan Optics and Photonics Caucus, Congressman Morelle has been instrumental in ensuring that American optics manufacturers have a strong voice in Washington," said Yvette Pagano, Executive Director of APOMA. "And I want to emphasize—the 'A' in APOMA stands for American. Congressman Morelle's leadership strengthens not only Rochester's regional optics hub, but the entire U.S. precision optics industry. APOMA is committed to working with him to grow membership in the caucus, because the more representatives engaged, the stronger the message in Washington."

Among his many contributions, Congressman Morelle has championed investment in workforce development initiatives such as Monroe Community College's advanced remote learning technologies, which extend optics training capabilities to workers across the country. His ongoing advocacy at the federal level has directly supported the competitiveness and growth of the U.S. optics sector.

"This honor is deeply meaningful to me," said Congressman Morelle. "I have seen firsthand the innovation and impact of Rochester's optics community, and I am committed to continuing the fight for policies that will strengthen this vital American industry."

Strictly an APOMA members only event, attendees included APOMA board members (past and present) and APOMA executives in the Congressman's district. Following the ceremony, the organization presented Congressman Morelle with a commemorative plaque and group photograph marking the occasion.

"This milestone reflects APOMA's commitment to recognizing individuals whose vision and action benefit not only our members but the entire U.S. optics manufacturing base," said Zach Hobbs, APOMA President. "We are proud to have Congressman Morelle as our first Honorary Member."

**About APOMA**

Founded in 1988, the American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association (APOMA) is the premier trade association representing precision optics manufacturers in North America. APOMA supports its members through advocacy, workforce development, thought leadership, and networking, ensuring the strength and competitiveness of the U.S. optics industry.

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