

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHAIRMAN BILLY CYPRESS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Billy Cypress, the longest-serving Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe, which lies within my district. On behalf of Florida's 18th Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Billy's family, the Miccosukee Tribe and all who mourn his loss.

Chairman Cypress was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to the sovereignty and prosperity of the Miccosukee Tribe. Elected to the Miccosukee Business Council in 1973, he served for over a decade before becoming Chairman—a position he held for more than 26 years.

During his tenure, he achieved significant milestones that transformed his community. Cypress was instrumental in expanding the Tribe's national prominence and self-governance and championed the creation of Miccosukee Resort and Gaming. In effort to commemorate the Tribe's culture and history, Chairman Cypress established the Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum. He standardized many of the Tribe's government processes, increasing professionalism and improving quality of life for the Miccosukee. And, his decisive leadership helped secure funding for vital programs, which greatly improved healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

A strong advocate for our environment, the Chairman played a critical role in protecting Florida's Everglades, working to restore natural waterflow into the everglades and helped implement the first pollution control standards. The Chairman's efforts underscored his people's deep connection with the Everglades and helped ensure their access to this land for future generations.

His influence extends beyond Florida, as he established the Tribe's first embassy and built diplomatic relationships with foreign nations. Perhaps most importantly, Billy will be remembered for far more than his accolades and impressive accomplishments.

As current Chairman, Talbot Cypress, recalls: "Billy was known for his humor, warmth and generosity—always making time for family, friends and Tribal members." Mr. Speaker, may his legacy of hard work, courage and wisdom continue to live on and inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE LANDMARK CASE MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens—the oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States, which for nearly one hundred years has advanced the civil, economic, and educational interests of Hispanic communities.

LULAC has been at the forefront of some of the most consequential battles for inclusion and recognition in our Nation's history, including the landmark case of Mendez v. Westminster.

When Sylvia Mendez was rejected from attending school because of her Mexican heritage, her parents, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, joined together with the Estrada, Guzman, Palomino, and Ramirez families to challenge the status quo. As the families sought to take action against segregation in their school system, LULAC helped bring their fight to court. Its steadfast commitment and financial support helped to elevate the case from a local lawsuit to front and center in the national conversation on civil rights.

Together, these families led the struggle against segregation in California's public schools which culminated in a historic win, and which paved the way for the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision just seven years later.

I am deeply honored to accept an award from LULAC in recognition of the efforts I led to rename the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse after Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez—the first Federal Courthouse to be named after a Latina. Usually, federal courthouses are named after judges, but history and the law are not just shaped by the judges that make the decisions. They are molded by the people who have the courage to challenge unjust laws. This recognition is a testament to the advocacy of all the parents, children, and advocates who challenged unjust laws and won. I congratulate LULAC on its continued action and advocacy which stands as an enduring commitment to championing civil rights and serving Hispanic communities across the country.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STORY OF KRIS LEBRON ROMERO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the remarks recently

given by my constituent, Kris Lebron Romero, a student at Common Ground High School in New Haven, Connecticut. Kris participated in a press conference held in New Haven highlighting some of the impacts our community is feeling due to the freeze of federal funding. It is a powerful reminder that behind every federal budget and program dollar we invest in our communities, there is a human face—a very real impact on the lives of those we are elected to serve.

"Hello, my name is Kris, I am a student at Common Ground High School, and I am deeply honored to stand here today as a voice for my fellow students. If you had told me a few weeks ago that a single order could drastically change my life, I wouldn't have believed you. Yet, here I am, and here we are. The federal funding freeze and the termination of critical giants have taken away so much from me and countless students and community members.

My school has a program called the Green Jobs Corps. This program provides New Haven High School students with leadership development training and paid internships. Not only within our school but in collaboration with non-profit organizations across New Haven. It is an incredible opportunity for students to connect, engage with their community, and gain real-world job experience before graduating high school. For many of us, including myself, it was more than just a job, it was a way to support our families and build a foundation for our futures.

I was a part of this program. I worked with one of its partner organizations, Haven's Harvest, a food recovery non-profit that collects food that would otherwise be thrown away and redistributes it to people in our community who are food insecure. I believe this is one of the most important and meaningful things anyone can do. Through this job, so many doors opened for me. I met elders from across the community, performed at events for other organizations, and learned to give back on my own time.

I have a clear vision for my future. I aspire to become a graphic designer working with nonprofit organizations that need assistance in communicating effectively with hard-to-reach audiences and amplifying their outreach efforts. Through my time in the Green Jobs Corps, I've discovered a deep passion for using design to help organizations connect with their communities and share their messages more effectively. A simple program at my school helped me map my career pathway. The mentorship, training, and work experience made all of this possible. I felt secure. But then the federal funding freeze happened, and everything changed.

Haven's Harvest, a volunteer-run organization that relies on grant funding to operate, is struggling to continue its mission. An organization that does nothing but feed those in need is now at risk of shutting down because of this freeze. Green Jobs Corps, which employed over 70 students with jobs, has also been put on hold. Without the necessary funding, they can no longer pay students for their very real and impactful work. This vital program, which did nothing but provide students with life-changing opportunities, is now in jeopardy.

And it's not just the Green Jobs Corps. My school itself is in danger. Common Ground

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

operates on grants, community support, and state funding. If those grants are taken away, what does that mean for us? For the students? For me? It means our education is in danger. I am currently a junior at Common Ground High School. I have been here since I was a freshman and can't imagine being anywhere else. Common Ground has opened my eyes to so many possibilities. But now, I am worried that future generations won't have the same opportunities—they won't experience the transformative power of this school.

This is happening right now, and it's happening fast.

I came here today to ask you to fight. Fight for youth development programs. Fight for our schools. Fight for our teachers. Fight for the future of our students."

HONORING REVEREND JIMMY SWAGGART'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Jimmy Swaggart for his 90th birthday. Throughout his life, Reverend Swaggart has been a beacon of faith and inspiration, leaving a legacy through his preaching and ministry.

Reverend Swaggart hails from humble beginnings in Ferriday, Louisiana. Early in his career in the 1950's, Swaggart preached throughout rural Louisiana, living in church basements, and homes of pastors. During this time, Reverend Swaggart received an offer to join a record label as a gospel artist but opted instead to follow his calling "to preach the gospel."

By 1961, Reverend Swaggart was ordained by the Assemblies of God and began reaching wider audiences through the radio. He also founded his own brick-and-mortar church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over the following two decades, Reverend Swaggart began telecasting bible studies, Christian music, and his weekend services. 1987 was arguably Swaggart's most influential year on record. Swaggart's TV ministry reached an estimated 510 million people in 145 countries. His sermons and educational programs yielded \$150 million a year to his church, bible college, and mail-order business. On a daily basis, donations averaged an astounding \$500,000, and Reverend Swaggart poured every penny into delivering the word of God across the world.

Reverend Swaggart's influence gained international esteem and influence over the 1990's and 2000's by spreading the Word of God through his remarkable sermons. Today, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries is comprised of the Family Worship Center, Crossfire Youth Ministries, The Evangelist Magazine, Family Christian Academy, and Jimmy Swaggart Bible College (JSBC). Swaggart's SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) provides Christian programming 24/7 and is available around the world in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The ministries remain headquartered on 270 acres in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries has evolved into a family business with Frances, his wife of 72 years, their son Donnie, and grandson Gabriel. Frances Swaggart embodies unwavering faith, exceptional leadership, and substantial

impact on the Work of God, making her a personification of the 31st Chapter of Proverbs. Donnie serves as Executive Vice-President of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and Pastor of the Family Worship Center Church. Donnie has traveled globally evangelizing and teaching from Holland to Papua New Guinea on the Holy Spirit, with his Pentecostal foundation clear in every message. Gabriel Swaggart, President of JSBC and co-pastor of Family Worship Center, has a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, a Master's in Christian Ministries from Oral Roberts University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership while managing operations at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and SBN.

At 90 years old, Reverend Jimmy Swaggart continues his dedication to spreading the message of the Bible and Jesus Christ through his ministry. His unwavering commitment to spreading Christ's love has touched the hearts of millions around the world, leading countless people to salvation. Reverend Swaggart's contributions to Christian ministry and broadcasting have left an immeasurable mark on the world of evangelism.

Happy birthday to Reverend Swaggart. I greatly commend his dedication to God, to Country, and to the State of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE BILTMORE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the iconic Biltmore hotel.

For a century, the Biltmore hotel and its renowned golf course have stood as a beacon of elegance, history, and world-class hospitality in the heart of Coral Gables.

Since opening its doors in 1926, this historic national landmark has welcomed presidents, dignitaries, and guests from around the world.

In 1942, the Biltmore was transformed into a military hospital, serving our brave service members as an Army Air Force hospital, and later as a Veterans Administration hospital until 1968.

After reopening in 1987 and following a 10-year restoration beginning in 1992, the grand hotel and golf course have entered a new era, reclaiming its former glory and embodying Miami's rich sporting heritage; its halls and tower have served as the backdrop for a century of unforgettable moments.

The Biltmore is more than just a hotel—it's a living landmark, a symbol of Miami, and a treasured piece of our community's history that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MARK KAPLAN

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we thank Mark Kaplan, the University of Florida's

Vice President of Government and Community Relations and wish him the best in what comes next.

Kaplan, a Gator Grad, has served the University in this role since 2018. Calling it his dream job, Kaplan has built countless relationships and developed strong ties for the university at the local, state, and federal levels. The university community has benefited from his wisdom, collaborative spirit, calm, steady approach to his work, and ability to get things done.

Telling Florida Politics, Kaplan said, "We talk about UF being among the most comprehensive universities in the country, with one of the few places in the country that has a vet school and a pharmacy school and a medical school and a law school. And one of the things that comes from all of that is it adds to the scope of things that you're paying attention to and issues that you get to work on."

Kaplan worked as Governor Jeb Bush's chief of staff, special counsel for the Speaker of Florida's House of Representatives, and a judicial clerk to a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. He also worked as the executive director for the Florida Housing Finance Corp. and as global head of public affairs at Mosaic Company.

We wish Mark and his wife Sherry a wonderful next chapter. I thank him for his service and Go Gators.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ZAGLOUL "ABU SAAD" KADAH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible contributions of Zagloul "Abu Saad" Kadah, a pioneering Syrian American entrepreneur and innovator in Silicon Valley. His lifelong dedication to technology, business, and mentorship has paved the way for countless others in the industry.

After immigrating to the United States in 1966, Zagloul earned his M.S. in electronics from San Jose State University while working and raising a family. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish successful businesses in solid-state relay design and laser services for the medical industry. Beyond his professional achievements, he has dedicated himself to research and writing on religion and philosophy.

On February 21, 2025, Sync—Syria—Silicon Valley honored Zagloul with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his legacy. His work has inspired a new generation of Syrian technologists, and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was delayed as a result of my delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63; YEA on Roll Call No. 64; and YEA on Roll Call No. 65.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGEOUS
SERVICE OF THE SWIFT WATER
RESCUE TEAM OF BRISTOL, VIR-
GINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service of Bristol, Virginia's Swift Water Rescue Team.

Formed in 2019, the group operates under the Bristol Fire Department and is the only such swift water team in Southwest Virginia, a region that encompasses more than twenty localities and is bigger in landmass than some U.S. states.

The personnel of the Bristol Rescue Team have fought heroically in the most trying of times.

In August of 2024, Tropical Storm Debby battered much of the Southeastern United States.

A month later, Hurricane Helene ravaged much of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District and devastated numerous communities. Historic levels of flooding resulted from the natural disaster.

In February of 2025, major winter storms hit the region and prompted widespread flooding and, in some cases, community evacuations.

These major weather events were met by courageous rescue officers to respond to severe emergency situations.

The Rescue Team tallied more than 80 rescues in the last six months. Their work is crucial as the region faces recovery challenges.

In the face of a historic natural disaster and other extreme weather events, the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team has performed admirably.

The people of Southwest Virginia are grateful for the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team, the hours the Team spends training, and its preparation to carry out brave rescue missions for local communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 64.

CELEBRATING MR. JOSEPH
SALONIA'S HAPPY 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Mr. Joseph Salonia a very happy 100th birthday.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts on February 17, 2025, Joseph moved to Connecticut as a young man where he grew up during the

Great Depression. He attended school until the eighth grade before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943. While in the Army, he served at Fort Hood, Texas for weapons and M-10 tank training before serving in Oregon and Alaska prior to joining the Second World War effort in Italy.

For his service in World War II, Mr. Salonia received two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for his combat wounds. After healing from his injuries, Joseph entered Army intelligence, serving in France, before being discharged from the Army and returning to his home in Connecticut.

For decades, Joseph worked as a construction labor iron worker, a tin knocker, and a real estate agent in Connecticut. He married his bride Margaret and had two daughters, Chris and Brooke.

He celebrates 100 incredible years at his Chiefland, Florida home in Florida's Third Congressional District. Happy birthday to Mr. Joseph Salonia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RENE
LICHTMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Dr. Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in Southeast Michigan and around the world.

Rene, who passed away at 87, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that the stories of survivors would never be forgotten. Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his PhD in instructional technology and spent two decades working at Beaumont Hospital. Even at the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with JVP Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights. His impact and legacy will live on through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOANNE MANN

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-deserved retirement and honor the career of Joanne Mann.

Joanne spent much of her adult life in and around a military environment, serving on Active Duty and in the Reserves for the U.S. Army from 1986 to 1995 as a combat medic. Joanne then joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District in 1995 as a Legal Assistant.

Joanne Mann has served as the Nashville District's Executive Officer and Congressional

Liaison since 2007, where she has been an integral part of the delivering water resource projects for the Nation. She has been the primary liaison for the District, facilitating the building and maintaining of relationships with stakeholders and members of Congress. Joanne has also stepped up in times of need, deploying to Biloxi, MS immediately following Hurricane Katrina, in support of the Corps' Blue Roof program.

Joanne's contributions to the Nation have been recognized with numerous professional awards, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

With a lifetime dedicated to service, partnerships, and people, Joanne's legacy stands as an example of what it means to live in service of our Nation. Her care and compassion, not only for the mission, but to the Army, her co-workers, and the community are an unparalleled example of a life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joanne for all she has done and continues to do for our community. We wish her all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING SISTER TO SISTER ON
ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sister To Sister on their 30th anniversary.

Sister To Sister is a community-based organization that empowers youth and their families in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Ms. Hakima Abdul Samad Muhammad and Dr. Pamela D. Hall founded the organization in 1992 as an organization to support Black women, but over time, the organization grew to support all children in our community.

Through the years they have launched many successful initiatives to engage young people in positive activities and support families. This can be seen in their S.U.P.E.R. (Supreme, Unity, Perpetuating, Eternal, Revolution) Saturday program and after-school enrichment programs that help young people focus on leadership, community service, civic engagement and other important social values.

Sister To Sister opened their first resource center, "Each One Teach One," in 2018. This center provides female empowerment workshops, computer literacy training for both young people and adults, job training programs for both men and women, parenting classes, supports for anger and substance abuse management, gun violence prevention programs and other assistance programs for homeless people.

Mr. Speaker, as Sister To Sister celebrates their 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for all they have done for the Hampton Roads community. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING MELISSA SIGMOND FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today in recognition of Melissa Sigmond, a remarkable leader, executive, and community advocate, in celebration of Women's History Month. Throughout her career, Melissa has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence and service, using her diverse skill set to benefit both the business and nonprofit sectors.

Melissa's professional journey is nothing short of inspiring. After earning her degree from UCLA, she began her career in Hollywood, where she worked on global feature film and television production. This experience provided her with a strong foundation in leadership, creativity, and strategic thinking. However, Melissa's career path took a pivot as she transitioned into the finance sector, working at Bank of America, where she led the corporate events team. She then continued her career in finance with hedge and venture funds in Manhattan, where her contributions were instrumental in driving business success.

In 2013, Melissa decided to apply her expertise to nonprofit leadership, an area where she shines. She led the design, build, and opening of New York City's first technology center for older adults, a project funded by former Mayor Bloomberg, Google, Sony, and a range of corporate donors and private foundations. This groundbreaking initiation not only provided critical resources for older adults but also reflected Melissa's deep commitment to using her skills to serve others and address the needs of marginalized communities.

Today, as Chief Executive Officer at the Riverdale Y, Melissa continues to make a profound impact. She has proven herself as a transformational leader, dedicated to building and strengthening community in the Bronx. Her work at the Riverdale Y reflects her dedication to creating inclusive and supportive environments that benefit individuals and families across the borough.

Melissa's multifaceted career and unwavering commitment to social impact highlight her exceptional leadership and ability to create positive change. She has worked with numerous philanthropic organizations, technology and education nonprofits, and faith-based institutions, always focusing on advancing the well-being of the communities she serves. It is with great admiration that I honor Melissa Sigmond for her outstanding accomplishments and tireless dedication to making a difference in the lives of others. Her ability to bring together diverse sectors for the greater good, as well as her devotion to the Bronx and beyond, exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING DR. STANLEY AND PEARL GOODMAN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman, two extraordinary individuals whose unwavering dedication to service, philanthropy, and cultural enrichment has profoundly impacted South Florida and beyond.

Since making Broward County, Florida then home in 1962, Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman have been steadfast champions of initiatives that uplift individuals, families, and seniors. Then generosity and leadership have played a vital role in expanding social services, advancing education, promoting Jewish values, fostering a love for the arts, and supporting groundbreaking research in Multiple Myeloma.

Through their philanthropy, the Goodmans have cultivated a spirit of giving, inspiring others to contribute their time, talents, and resources to causes that create lasting change. Their contributions have not only provided immediate support to those in need but have also established a legacy of enduring impact through endowments and promised gifts that will benefit generations to come.

Today, we recognize and celebrate Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their remarkable generosity, vision, and commitment to strengthening our community. Their efforts serve as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the power of service and the profound impact compassionate, thoughtful individuals can make on others.

On behalf of the constituents of Florida's 25th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman for their lifelong contributions. May their legacy of kindness and philanthropy continue to enrich lives for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES MUNS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. James Muns of Plano, Texas, who peacefully passed away on March 6, 2025.

Mr. Muns was born on January 6, 1932. He attended Abilene Christian University, where he met his wife Betty. In the 1970's, Mr. Muns and Betty moved to Plano, where he established the Muns Enterprises investment company that specialized in real estate. One of his first investments in Plano was in the El Ranchero Estates, allowing it to become one of the most spectacular and successful properties in the region. From 1992 to 1996, Mr. Muns proudly served as the Mayor of Plano. Under his leadership, Plano experienced significant economic growth, commerce, and population growth, setting the stage for it to be nationally recognized as one of the best cities to live in Texas and the United States. For his

outstanding contributions to the City of Plano, Mr. Muns and Betty were named Plano's citizens of the year in 1994.

In 2007, the Muns established the Betty and James Muns Foundation to support philanthropic, educational, and humanitarian initiatives throughout North Texas. Mr. Muns was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather to four children, ten grandchildren, and many more great-grandchildren. One of his sons, Mr. John Muns, currently serves as the Mayor of Plano in the footsteps of his father. I am deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Muns's passing, as he has made a positive and lasting impact on our community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mr. Muns's wonderful life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

APPRECIATING MIA LOVE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mia Love served her country with honor and distinction and to those that know her, she is a trusted friend and loving person.

I had the honor of calling Mia a colleague when she served Congress in 2015 through 2019, as the Congresswoman representing the 4th Congressional District of Utah. Notably, she was the first black female Republican to serve in the U.S. Congress.

Among her distinctions in Congress, Mia served on the Financial Services Committee, as well as the Terrorism and Illicit Finance, Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy and Trade subcommittees. She was also appointed as the only freshman to serve on the Select Panel for Infant Lives, to investigate the selling of organs. Additionally, she was a champion for reducing burdensome regulations and was also a leader in the push for immigration reform.

Mia's commitment to the citizens of Utah began prior to her time in Congress as she served on the city council and mayor in her home of Saratoga Springs, Utah.

After Congress, Mia became a contributor to CNN and was appointed a fellow of the institute of politics and public service at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

Born in New York City to Haitian immigrant parents, Mia is married and a mother of three.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman Love and her family.

HONORING ROSEMARY ORDONEZ-JENKINS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize an exceptional leader, advocate, and community servant, Rosemary Ordóñez-Jenkins, in

recognition of her outstanding contributions to our community and her enduring commitment to social justice. In celebration of Women's History Month, we take this opportunity to highlight the invaluable impact that Rosemary has made in the Bronx and beyond.

A lifelong resident of the Bronx, Rosemary is an Afro Latina and a proud member of the Garifuna community. She has spent her life dedicated to serving others, with a focus on empowerment, advocacy, and uplifting those in need. Rosemary's work continues to reflect her deep-rooted belief in the power of community and the importance of ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

Currently serving as Deputy Executive Director for Community & Economic Empowerment at Phipps Neighborhoods, Rosemary oversees a variety of programs aimed at ensuring that Bronx residents receive the support and resources they need. She leads the Resident Services portfolio, assisting households transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. Through her leadership, Rosemary and her team provide critical services that enable families to move into stable, long-term housing and integrate successfully into their communities.

Rosemary's efforts extend beyond housing support, as she also manages essential social service programs, including food pantries, services for older adults, and community development initiatives such as Beacons, Cornerstones, and Arches Re-Entry. Her work touches the lives of residents across the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, and she continues to be a tireless advocate for those seeking financial stability and community involvement.

Her exceptional service to the community has earned Rosemary numerous accolades, including being named one of the Power Women of the Bronx by Schneps Media in 2022, as well as being named one of the 25 Most Influential Women in Bronx County by the Bronx Times in 2010. She has received widespread recognition from elected officials and organizations for her unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for economically challenged communities.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Rosemary is a prominent civic leader. She serves as Vice President of the Bronx Democratic Party, a Judicial Delegate, and a County Committee Member. She also holds a leadership role as a Special Advisor to the Garifuna Coalition and is an active member of Friends of Crotona Park. Furthermore, Rosemary serves as a Board Member of the Lincoln Fund, a renowned philanthropic organization working to foster positive change in underserved communities.

Her academic accomplishments are equally impressive. Rosemary holds a master's degree in social work from Fordham University and is a New York State Licensed Master Social Worker. She also earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Marymount Manhattan College.

Rosemary's legacy is one of profound service, dedication, and leadership. Through her work, she has created lasting change in the lives of countless individuals and families. Her tireless efforts to advocate for social justice, economic opportunity, and community empowerment continue to inspire those around her.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Rosemary Ordóñez-Jenkins as a

true champion of the Bronx, a leader in her community, and an outstanding woman whose contributions to our society exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW BRAUNFELS NOON LIONS CLUB

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club on their 100 dedicated years of service to the New Braunfels community. Originally chartered as the Lions Club of New Braunfels on April 10, 1925, and later known as the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club, this organization has been an integral part of the community for 100 years, embodying the spirit of service and leadership.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.35 million members in over 220 nations and geographic areas, united by the motto "We Serve;" the Lions focus on five core pillars of service. Preventing blindness and improving quality of life for those who are blind or visually impaired, ensuring access to food for all in the community, reducing the prevalence of diabetes and enhancing the lives of those afflicted, supporting programs that assist children with cancer, and protecting and restoring the environment to promote community well-being.

Recently, the Noon Lions volunteered at elementary schools in Comal County to provide free vision screenings for thousands of elementary school children. In the coming months, the Lions will travel to Belize and partner with the Belize City Lions Club to provide vision screening, meals to those in need, and support for the city. I know the Lions will be a beacon of light and hope and they will represent Texas well during their trip abroad.

Over the past century, the New Braunfels Noon Lions Club has exemplified the Lions' mission by making a profound impact in the local community through service, leadership, and philanthropy. They have made a lasting impact on the community by contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to local causes, funding its charitable work through dedicated volunteer efforts at various fundraising activities throughout the community, and fostering a spirit of patriotism and community pride. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the New Braunfels Noon Lions. Here's to 100 more.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE EPHRATA LIONS CLUB

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Ephrata Lions Club of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania for their 100th anniversary.

Epitomized by the motto "We Serve," the Ephrata Lions Club has dedicated itself to

public service since its chartering on February 26, 1925. Presently led by President Kendra Rhinier, the club consists of fifty men and women who work tirelessly to better their community. Alongside robust community service programming, such as food drives and cleaning trash from highways, the Lions Club gives out around \$30,000 a year to those in need, as a result, they have raised funds for social services, disaster relief, youth programs, and more. The zeal of the Ephrata Lions Club is not limited to their town, but has uplifted people across the state, the Nation, and the world.

The Ephrata Lions Club is one of 49,000 clubs across 200 countries and regions, and Lions Club International boasts 1.4 million members.

As the Ephrata Lions Club celebrates this significant milestone, I would like to thank the club and its members for their record of selflessness. Their efforts have made both Ephrata and Pennsylvania's 11th District a better place.

HONORING J. MARK SWEENEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LI- BRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and the Committee on House Administration Ranking Member JOE MORELLE, I rise today to recognize J. Mark Sweeney, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress, for his exemplary service to Congress and the American people upon his retirement.

Mr. Sweeney began his career at the Library in 1985 as a Library Technician, sorting, organizing, and shelving government publications. Nearly forty years later, he retires as one of the agency's most impactful leaders, leaving behind a commendable legacy of public service.

His legacy includes advancing several critical Library-wide initiatives that have enhanced the Library's services and enriched its offerings to users. Since stepping into the role of Principal Deputy Librarian in 2018, he has provided executive leadership to further the institution's priorities, including leading a process to develop and launch a user-centered strategic plan and improving the visitor experience for Americans traveling to the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building on Capitol Hill. His strong management skills also successfully guided the Library's operations through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

As Associate Librarian for Library Services, beginning in 2015, he was responsible for acquiring, securing, and preserving the Library's universal collections. His career contributions include playing an instrumental role in preserving and ensuring access to hundreds of years of American newspapers, from the eighteenth century to the present. His work with the United States Newspaper Program, along with his leadership in expanding digital accessibility within the National Digital Newspaper Program, continues to serve as a model of national cooperation in preserving important aspects of America's cultural heritage for Congress, researchers, and future generations.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Mr. Sweeney has held multiple positions at the Library, including Chief of the Preservation Reforming Division, Chief of the Serial and Government Publications Division, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and Director of Preservation, among other roles.

On behalf of the Committee on House Administration, Ranking Member MORELLE and I commend Mr. Sweeney for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the Library of Congress.

HONORING SOPHIA L. REID FOR
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, It is my great honor to rise today to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions of Sophia L. Reid, a true champion for seniors and community empowerment in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, I proudly honor Sophia for her tireless commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults and for her selfless dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Sophia has served as the Program Director of the R.A.I.N. (Regional Aid for Interim Needs) Eastchester Neighborhood Older Adults Center since November 2016. Prior to her current role, she was the Program Director at the R.A.I.N. Boston Secor Older Adults Center, where she laid the foundation for her distinguished career in senior services. In her role, Sophia is responsible for fostering healthy aging and well-being for older adults by offering a wide array of programs, including physical exercise activities, mental stimulation sessions, and health awareness initiatives. She ensures that every member of the community has access to the resources and support they need to live a fulfilling life.

Sophia's journey in service began at the Eastchester Center in 2006, when she joined as an Administrative Assistant. Over the years, her dedication, hard work, and passion for community service led her to rise through the ranks, ultimately becoming the Program Director in 2016. Sophia's educational background, which includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from The College of New Rochelle, a Certificate in Information Processing from New York Business School, and a Medical Assistant Diploma from Blake Business School, has provided her with the foundation to thrive in both healthcare and community services. She has also pursued additional certifications, including training as a Diabetes Self-Management Program Peer Leader and a Certified Trainer for Bronx Health Corps. Her commitment to ongoing education underscores her dedication to improving the lives of those around her.

Sophia's impact extends far beyond her professional roles. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her exemplary service, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the New York City Department for the Aging, a Citation of Merit from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., and the Live On New York Appreciatively Certificate. In 2023

alone, Sophia received the Phenomenal Woman Award, the Women of Influence Award, and a Proclamation from the New York City Council, among other honors.

Sophia has created an environment at the Eastchester Older Adults Center where members feel safe, valued, and supported. As one of her seniors put it, Sophia is like a "mother hen," always looking out for everyone, and no one is too far out of reach for her care. Sophia's love and commitment to her community, particularly her "seasoned Seenagers," is not only reflected in her numerous awards but in the lives she touches every day.

It is with great admiration and gratitude that I recognize Sophia L. Reid for her remarkable dedication to the Bronx and to the well-being of our senior citizens. Her exemplary service and her unwavering commitment to the community exemplify the qualities we celebrate during Women's History Month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF PASTOR EDDIE D.
SMITH, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of a dedicated pastor, loving father and husband, visionary servant leader, and friend of longstanding, Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. Sadly, Pastor Smith passed from labor to reward on February 28, 2025. A celebration of his life was held on March 8, 2025, at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

Pastor Smith, a native of Macon, Georgia, was born to the union of the late Pastor Jack Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Mattie Mae Myers Smith. A highly educated man, Pastor Smith attended Bibb County public schools and went on to earn a Bachelor and a Master of Science from Fort Valley State College, now Fort Valley State University. On April 26, 1969, Pastor Smith received a calling that would change his life forever—he was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Smith served as a classroom teacher and a media specialist in the Bibb County Public School system for fourteen years before retiring to serve full-time at Macedonia Church, accepting the role of pastor in 1972. While Pastoring, he was also called to public service, serving as a Macon City Councilman from 1975 to 1978, as well as a member of the Bibb County Board of Education for two consecutive terms.

The scripture reminds us in Proverbs 29 that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Pastor Smith's vision for Macedonia was evident from the very beginning of his ministry. In his early years at Macedonia, Pastor Smith led the congregation in raising the funds to pay off the church's fifteen-year mortgage in a record five years. In 1999, Pastor Smith led Macedonia Baptist in the purchasing of a struggling sister church. Together, they relocated and revived the church's congregation and liquidated its \$1.35 million debt in under three years. In more recent years, he oversaw the funding and construction of the \$1.7 million dollar Family Life Center, a comprehensive faith-based service ministry which edu-

cates clergy across Middle Georgia. Over the course of his ministry, Pastor Smith licensed and ordained more than forty-five ministers, extending the reach of his servant leadership to the members of many congregations throughout the region. Also, he led his flock through the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing community-wide food distribution services and virtual church services and tithing, while ensuring all bills were paid and no church staff lost their jobs.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Pastor Smith gave so much to so many for so long. His service extended beyond the walls of the church, as he was affiliated with several social and civic organizations throughout his career. He served on the boards of the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Macon Ministerial Association, and the Macon Police and Fire-fighter Disciplinary Hearing Board.

Pastor Eddie Smith always fought for what is right. He was guided by his love of God and his love of people. Mother Teresa once said that "at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.'" This is how Pastor Eddie Smith lived his life and served people in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the center of Pastor Smith's accomplished life was the unwavering love and support of his family and his loving wife, Martha Kate. Pastor Smith was the father of five children: Suwandia; Eddie, Jr., Corey and the late Alvy Smith and Edwanna Smith Stephens. He is survived by fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, Pastor Smith was my friend for many years. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the following Roll Call Vote on March 10, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE RIZZA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Salvatore Rizza, a prime example of an Italian immigrant who came to this country, started his own business, married the woman of his dreams, raised three amazing daughters, and at the age of 90 is still going strong and contributing to the country he loves. Born in Siracusa, Italy, to Antonio and Nancy Rizza, husband to his beloved Josephine, and father of Nancy Larson, Susan Mahoney, and Cynthia Campbell, Sal's story is an example of the rich contributions immigrants make to our communities, our culture, and our Nation. Sal is the former owner and operator of the S & G restaurant in Hartford and was a star soccer player. He was the captain of the Italian-American Stars Soccer team that won the 1967 amateur soccer championship and was later inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in 2018. And while he himself never had the privilege of a college education, Sal worked hard and sacrificed to make sure all three of his daughters did.

It is in tribute to Sal and his accomplishments—his love of family, his Italian heritage, his community, his state, and the Nation he loves. On behalf of his daughter, Nancy, his grandson, Matthew, his granddaughter, Arianna, and his son-in-law, Tim, it is a privilege to honor this remarkable man—another great story in American history.

HONORING ROSETTA KIRKLAND
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rosetta Kirkland, a dedicated community leader, advocate for workers' rights, and steadfast supporter of her neighborhood in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, we recognize Rosetta for her exceptional contributions to her community, her advocacy for social justice, and her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of working people in the Bronx.

Rosetta is a pillar of her community, serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Concourse Village. As an active leader, she has worked alongside elected officials, including Congress Member RITCHIE TORRES and Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, to improve the quality of life for her fellow residents. Through her tireless work, Rosetta has become a vital force in making her community a better place for all.

In addition to her leadership in the Bronx, Rosetta has been deeply involved in her faith community, contributing to the Greater Universal and New Seasons Churches. She has served in various capacities, including as a Choir Member, President of the Pastor Aide Committee, Deaconess, and Chair of the Prayer Warriors. Her commitment to her faith

and her community is an integral part of who she is, inspiring others through her example of service and devotion.

Professionally, Rosetta has had an impactful career, having worked for 21 years at MTA/ NYCT, and today serving as a proud member of 1199 SEIU. Her peers elected her as their Union Delegate, a role in which she demonstrated tireless advocacy for the rights of workers. As a Delegate, Rosetta has been instrumental in grievance procedures, ensuring that workers' rights were upheld and protected, as well as engaging members in campaigns to preserve essential healthcare funding. She also serves on the 1199 Candidates Screening Team, where she plays a crucial role in helping the union choose and endorse political candidates who share their values and commitment to improving the lives of working people.

In her personal life, Rosetta enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, attending Broadway musicals, watching movies, socializing with friends, cooking, and studying God's word. She finds fulfillment in encouraging others to remain faithful, regardless of the challenges they may face in life.

It is with immense respect and admiration that I honor Rosetta Kirkland for her dedicated service to her community, her advocacy for workers' rights, and her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Her leadership, compassion, and tireless work on behalf of others exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

PULASKI DAY SPEECH BY JUSTICE
AURELIA PUCINSKI**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks made by Justice Aurelia Pucinski on Pulaski Day, March 3, 2025, at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

We celebrate Casimir Pulaski as twice a hero. First, he sacrificed everything: his home, his family, his freedom, fighting the evil Czar of Russia to protect his beloved Poland. Then he came here, to help the American Colonists fight the tyranny of King George. He died for our freedom and liberty. It was worth his life. It was everything.

LIBERTY: THE CORE OF OUR POLISH IDENTITY

We've had other Polish heroes in America. The Poles who came to the shores of Jamestown with Captain John Smith in 1609, not knowing what in the world they faced, but knowing it was better than the life they left behind. Those brave glassmakers led the first labor strike in the new colony for the right to vote and own land: Liberty. They fought for it and won.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko joined our Revolution for the principles of freedom from tyranny and the goal of independence: both values etched into the heart of every Pole. So fiercely did he believe in liberty that he provided in his will for the freedom of slaves.

There are more modern heroes too: Thaddeus Senzimer, the inventor of modern steel techniques. Henry Magnuski, who developed the WWII walkie talkies that became out modern cellphones. Paul Baran, an internet pioneer. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple. Roman Pucinski, who had to fight

tooth and nail to get Black Boxes into all commercial airplanes.

Poles started coming to Chicago in 1830. By 1920 there were 400,000 in Chicago. Today there are 900,000 people of Polish heritage in Cook County.

The first and largest immigration was between 1850-1920. Then huge numbers of immigrants were displaced by World War II. Many left in the 1980's after martial law was declared in Poland and the struggle to bring democracy to Poland took new strength from "Solidarity."

John Napieralski, is believed to be the first Pole in Chicago, arriving around 1830. He dreamed of a vibrant Polonia in our City. He might have predicted the hard-working men and women of Polonia building neighborhoods anchored by beautiful churches: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity, St. Adalbert, St. Mary of the Angels, St. John Cantius and so many more.

We have benefitted from major Polish language newspapers, a vibrant Polish theater, radio and now TV community. And our truly remarkable Polish organizations: the Polish Museum, the Polish Roman Catholic Union the Polish National Alliance, the Polish American Congress the Highlanders, the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Legion of Young Polish Women, our hundreds of Polish schools and more.

Generations of Poles have come to Chicago. A very few of us actually remember the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Poland, the death and destruction of Nazi occupation, the cruelty of war, the horror of Russian genocide at Katyn, the death of freedom under the new Russian czars of communism. But if we are not old enough to actually remember it, we certainly have heard the stories from family, or read the history.

Whether your family came here in 1830 or later we are here because someone in our family decided to leave behind the life of uncertainty and oppression for a life of opportunity and freedom. To seek free speech, economic opportunity, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and most important, the freedom of ideas. Things that are unreachable in nations under Russian influence. Would we trade our freedoms here for the slow death of the new communism?

Poland is democratic and free now. Some of us plan to return, and why not? It is a beautiful country. How much do we want to keep it free? What about the nations in the former Soviet bloc?

WHAT WOULD PULASKI DO?

Those who left that life behind are heroes too. They forged for us the opportunities we enjoy here. They gave us freedom. They gave us liberty. They gave us everything. We honor those who fought to get here. We recognize that some of us did it ourselves. Some of us rest on the shoulders of those who made the choice to leave that empty life behind. But no matter what the history of your family, it requires that we always remember what we left behind and why.

RECOGNIZING 150 YEARS OF BAY
VIEW ASSOCIATION**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate Bay View Association for 150 years of dedicated service and charity. Bay View Association serves as an inspiration to the community, standing by their mission of

promoting Christian values through lively services and events for those in Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1875, Bay View Association has since played an integral role in the Petoskey area. The organization has evolved into a vibrant community dedicated to cultural and educational enrichment and spiritual growth. Bay View boasts over 337 acres of land, encompassing more than 30 public buildings and 440 cottages. This feat earned Bay View the designation of a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service in 1987.

For 150 years, the list of services that Bay View Association offers, have expanded substantially. Bay View is renowned for its exceptional religious services, educational lectures, summer programs, and so much more. The distinguished Music Bay View Music Festival stands as the country's longest-running collegiate music festival. Bay View Association's commitment to lifelong learning is also evident through its robust educational program, which offers courses in history, literature, religion, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Bay View Association for 150 outstanding years of service to the Northern Michigan community. I'd like to thank Bay View for their continued commitment to education, the arts, and spiritual enrichment, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE LESTER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of George Lester, who passed away on January 31st at the age of 85. Mr. Lester is regarded as one of the most important business leaders and community advocates in the Martinsville-Henry County region of Southside Virginia.

On April 4, 1939, Mr. Lester was born. His father, of the same name, raised his son and the rest of his family in the Martinsville area. Mr. Lester graduated from Martinsville High School before attending college at North Carolina State University.

In 1963, Mr. Lester started working full-time for the family business.

Working hard and dedicating great amounts of time towards the family business, Mr. Lester eventually took over the business. He became president in 1974. Following this rise to a monumental role, Mr. Lester reorganized the business as the Lester Group, and diversified the business. New deals included work with lumber manufacturing, real estate and retail store development, among other endeavors.

Because of Mr. Lester's leadership, the Lester Group promoted strong economic growth in the region. This growth contributed to robust job creation and business development. His tenure lasted until 2018, when he retired from the Lester Group.

Another significant idea by Mr. Lester resulted in the founding of an influential committee that advocated for a future highway connecting Roanoke, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina. The modern-day I-73 corridor greatly benefited from the creative

and authentic thinking of leaders like Mr. Lester.

Appreciated by many in the community, Mr. Lester dedicated a lot of time to different local projects. He served as chairman of the local United Way, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the separate Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. In recognition of his work on the Chamber, he received the Heck Ford Award, the Chamber's highest honor. A charitable and thoughtful man, Mr. Lester gave land for civic causes and also donated to charitable organizations. Numerous community leaders and officials credit Mr. Lester for his positive impact on the region.

Mr. Lester is survived by his wife, Lee; daughters, Elizabeth Walsh of Lynchburg, Virginia, Ann Papadakis of Melbourne, Australia, and Sara Jedelsky, of Monroe, North Carolina; stepdaughter, Tracy Turlington of Barboursville, Virginia; mother-in-law, Ina Richmond; 11 grandchildren, and many other family members.

Mr. Lester was an exceptional business entrepreneur and community member. The Martinsville-Henry County region are incredibly grateful for his powerful leadership and influential support. He will be missed by many, including his family, his community and myself.

HONORING VANESSA L. GIBSON FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor and celebrate Vanessa L. Gibson, the 14th Bronx Borough President, in recognition of her exemplary leadership, dedication to public service, and unwavering commitment to the people of the Bronx. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect on the incredible achievements of women like Ms. Gibson, who continue to shape and inspire our communities with their hard work and determination.

A proud native New Yorker, Ms. Gibson's journey in public service began while she was still a student at the University at Albany, when she joined the New York State Assembly Intern Program in 2001. There, she was assigned to work with then-Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene, where she quickly demonstrated her passion for legislative work and serving her community. From that moment, Ms. Gibson knew that public service would be her life's calling.

Upon graduating, Ms. Gibson transitioned to the role of Legislative Aide and later became the District Manager of Assemblywoman Greene's Bronx office. As District Manager, she played a vital role in ensuring effective administrative services and constituent outreach. After Assemblywoman Greene's resignation in 2009, Ms. Gibson ran in a special election for the 77th Assembly District, winning the seat and making a powerful mark on the state legislature.

During her two terms in the New York State Assembly, Ms. Gibson was a dedicated advocate for the issues that matter most to the Bronx. Her tireless work on education, afford-

able housing, public safety, and criminal justice reform earned her respect from her colleagues and the community alike. In 2013, she ran for a seat on the New York City Council, was elected, and quickly became known as a leader in the fight for tenant protections, alternatives to incarceration, enhanced police training, and criminal justice reform.

One of her landmark achievements as a Council Member was her collaboration with then-Council Member Mark Levine to pass the Right to Counsel legislation in 2017, which ensures free legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction. Additionally, she championed the development of a ten-year food strategy for New York City, which addresses food deserts and promotes access to healthy, sustainable food options for all New Yorkers. It was my immense honor to have served alongside Ms. Gibson in the New York City Council.

In 2020, Ms. Gibson announced her candidacy for Bronx Borough President, presenting a bold vision for the future of the borough. With a focus on public safety, food equity, housing insecurity, health and wellness, gender equity, and support for the LGBTQIA+ community, Ms. Gibson's campaign resonated deeply with Bronx residents. After winning both the primary and general elections, she made history as the first woman and the first African American to be elected as Bronx Borough President.

As Borough President, Ms. Gibson has continued her lifelong work of advocating for equitable opportunities and improving the quality of life for all Bronxites. Her leadership is transforming the borough, with a focus on community-centered initiatives that empower residents, strengthen neighborhoods, and create sustainable economic growth.

It is with great admiration and respect that I honor Vanessa L. Gibson for her trailblazing accomplishments, her dedication to justice, and her unwavering commitment to the Bronx. Ms. Gibson exemplifies the power of public service and the profound impact that women can have on shaping our communities and our future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the phone with a constituent and missed the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING THE LEGACY AND STRENGTH OF LAUREN SMALL

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Lauren Paige Small, whose courage in the face of cancer will continue to inspire countless individuals.

Lauren Small was born on August 1, 1994, to her caring parents, Kevin and Tuesday in

Bakersfield, California. She was an engaged student at both Olive Drive Elementary and Norris Middle School, with hobbies including music, horseback riding, tennis, swimming, wakeboarding, skiing, and eating her favorite food—mashed potatoes. Though many people fear riding or simply mounting a horse, Lauren fearlessly pranced and galloped on her cherished horse, Nickel Citation Nickie, winning Rookie of the Year, Champion Walk/Job, and placing in the top ten finalists at the 2005 Bakersfield Open Horse Show.

She won these awards and pursued these hobbies while she fought an intense battle with cancer, one to which she would unfortunately succumb on December 1, 2005. Though cancer had cruelly afflicted Lauren since 2003, she shocked her doctors, parents, and peers with her continued joy in life. Even as she endured the pains of chemotherapy and other health related challenges, she remained positive and continued to pursue her passion for horseback riding.

While Lauren is no longer with us, her drive and enthusiasm in her final years remain in the memories of all those who knew her. Lauren is survived by her parents, her brother, Kyle, great aunt, her grandparents, aunts, uncles, great uncles, and cousins, all of whom continue to deeply love and miss her.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me as we remember the undaunted life of Lauren Small and carry on her legacy of upholding strength.