

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF IAN KALVINSKAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an intern in my office, and a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) student, Mr. Ian Kalvinskas, who recently passed away at the age of 20. He was a son, student, and friend.

Kalvinskas was a Pasadena native and grew up with a love for soccer, travel, and politics. His parents owned a traveling bookstore, sparking Ian's curiosity to explore the world's geography. While in high school, Kalvinskas excelled scholastically, played on the school's soccer team, and was awarded Most Valuable Player. After graduating from high school in 2023, he fulfilled his dream of attending UCLA to study Political Science.

Driven by a deep passion for social justice, Kalvinskas aspired to advocate for underserved communities and one day work for the United Nations, using his education and experiences to make a global impact.

Unfortunately, Kalvinskas was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2020, when he was 15 years old, and underwent liver transplantation at UCLA. For four and a half years, it appeared he had beaten cancer—but tragically, it recurred in November 2024.

Despite battling the recurrence of his cancer, Kalvinskas achieved his dream of interning on Capitol Hill in the summer of 2025. He cared deeply about healthcare reform, and knowing his life expectancy was short, he wanted "to make a difference now." His goal was to help write legislation that ensures pediatric patients receive fair consideration on the organ transplant waiting list. Though his life was cut short by cancer just a week later, his efforts laid the groundwork for lasting change.

Kalvinskas passed away on June 27, surrounded by his loved ones, in a DC hospital—fittingly in the shadow of the Capitol—a symbol to him of how visions for change could become reality. He touched countless lives with his warmth, idealism, and humanity. He lived a courageous and meaningful life by dedicating his final days to advancing a cause he believed in—a goal that reflected the very core of his character. Kalvinskas was a true inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his parents, Adrian and Susan Kalvinskas, along with his extended family. Our deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers are with the Kalvinskas family during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of a remarkable intern, student, and son, Mr. Ian Kalvinskas. His ambition and legacy will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends, and community in celebrating a life lived with purpose, and in mourning a loss felt deeply by all who knew him.

HONORING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF RICHARD C. PARSONS

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Richard C. Parsons, who passed away on May 16, 2025, in San Clemente, California. In his memory, I would like to pay tribute and reflect on the life he led and the impact he had on our Nation and the community in California's 49th District.

Richard was born in New York City on August 3, 1934, and was the son of Armenian immigrants.

He attended Columbia University before earning his degree from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. During his time at Principia College, Richard met his wife Nancy, whom he was married to for 66 years.

After attending Principia College, Richard enlisted in the Army. He served with honor at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. After his time serving our nation, Richard settled in Southern California where he led a successful career, retiring as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Arrowhead Water.

Richard was an incredible leader and an inspiration to many. I am grateful for his service to our country.

Richard is survived by his children, grandchildren, and extended family. They were his greatest pride. Richard was a dedicated family man who cared deeply for everyone around him. Richard leaves behind a legacy defined by love and service.

I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize the legacy of Richard C. Parsons.

CONDEMNING CHAOTIC AND HARMFUL FAILINGS OF THIS CONGRESS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are going to adjourn and not do the people's business because we have thus far gotten an "F." An "F" for the work of the people in this Congress. We have taken health care away from hundreds of thousands of people. We have taken SNAP payments and nutritional sustenance, away from tens and hundreds of thousands of people. We have made injuries to the Earth, God's Earth we are here to preserve, and we only use. We have taken away from women the right to go to Planned Parenthood to have health care that they need. We have taken away protections for clean energy to change the rate of growth of global warming that affects our planet and affects our future with hotter and hotter summers, flash floods, fires and disasters. It will increase our reliance on

fossil fuels, which make the air dirtier and people sicker, all while we are taking away people's health care. This Congress has earned an "F." We do not deserve a better grade.

I am ashamed to be a part of this Congress, but I will stay because people need to stand up, speak the truth, stand up for things the American people have always stood for: justice, due process, the rule of law, fairness, caring about the little guy, caring about giving people something when they need it, but not giving something to people who have too much—millionaires and billionaires.

Just think, Mr. Speaker, of the harm the rescissions bill did to public broadcasting—NPR and PBS—legacies of President Johnson's Great Society that help our citizens stay informed. Think of the harm done to life-saving foreign aid that keeps children fed and vaccinated from dreadful diseases that can and will cross our borders in check. And the Big Ugly Bill does substantial harm to critical programs and to the people who rely on them, so millionaires can get a tax break and the rest of the country gets huge and endless deficits and trillions more in debt.

Newsweek reported this week that the current Congress is one of the least effective ever, passing only 27 bills since January 3, far fewer than in previous Congresses at the same point. Unfortunately, the biggest, ugliest bill we passed, and the rescissions package will contribute to incalculable pain, suffering, and death all around the world.

Come to think of it, maybe this Congress should get something worse than a grade of "F." Maybe those voting for these cruel and dangerous provisions should be sent to the principal's office and expelled.

RECOGNIZING DENVER SUMMIT FC

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize a thrilling new chapter in Colorado's proud sporting history. It is with immense pride that I welcome Denver Summit FC, the newest franchise in the National Women's Soccer League, to our great state and to the city of Denver.

The arrival of Denver Summit FC is more than just the addition of a new professional sports team; it is a testament to the growth of women's sports and a beacon of inspiration for young athletes, especially young women, throughout our community. This team represents a pinnacle of athletic achievement and will provide an invaluable platform to showcase the incredible talent, dedication, and sportsmanship of professional female athletes.

The establishment of an NWSL team in Denver will undoubtedly have a profound and positive impact on our community. It will bring families and fans together, create new economic opportunities, and further solidify Colorado's reputation as a premier destination for

● 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.

professional sports. I also want to specifically commend the organization's investment in a state-of-the-art performance center in Centennial, purpose-built for the unique needs of professional women athletes. This facility is a landmark achievement and a powerful statement about the value and importance of women's sports. Most importantly, the players of Denver Summit FC will serve as powerful role models for our children, demonstrating the limitless possibilities that can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence.

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and a warm welcome to the players, coaches, staff, and ownership of Denver Summit FC. We eagerly await the inaugural season and the excitement of cheering on our new home team. The entire state of Colorado stands with them, and we look forward to celebrating their success for many years to come.

DESIGNATING NIGERIA A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter, drafted by respected experts—including former Members of Congress—in the field of religious freedom, underscoring the dire state of religious freedom in Nigeria, and calling for that country to be designated a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Their stark appraisal of the situation, and the immediate threat to the lives of thousands of Nigerians, merits immediate action by the administration.

JUNE 13, 2025.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SMITH,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: As religious freedom advocates and leaders of grassroots organizations with millions of American members, we thank you for sponsoring H. Res. 220 which recommends redesignating Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for particularly severe religious persecution. We consider this a critical first step in addressing the situation in Nigeria.

As you know, House Resolution 220 calls for the Secretary of State to address the egregious, systematic, and ongoing religious persecution, in Nigeria, specifically by redesignating Nigeria as a CPC under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA).

Nigeria is the world's deadliest country for Christians, according to Open Doors' 2025 World Watch List. Of the 4,476 Christians killed for their faith worldwide during the reporting period, 3,100 (69 percent) were in Nigeria. FIDES, a Catholic news agency, indicated that over ten years least 145 priests had been abducted and eleven murdered.

In addition, designated terror groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province have killed thousands of Christians and Muslims who reject their dictates and suppressed the rights of women and girls. Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 schoolgirls in 2014 in Chibok, Borno State, half of whom remain captive, forced them into sexual slavery and pressured them to convert to Islam. In another case, Leah Sharibu remains enslaved following a 2018 terrorist raid on her school.

Most of this slaughter, however, is carried out by militant Fulani Muslim herders, who have been allowed to target Christian villages with impunity. In its recommendation of CPC designation for Nigeria, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) concluded in its 2021 Annual Report that the Nigerian Government has "routinely failed to investigate and hold the responsible parties accountable. Other governments also issued similar statements. Experience shows that the Nigerian government has routinely failed to ensure such investigations and accountability on what have become relentless Fulani herder assaults on defenseless Christian farming villages."

Christians who are violently attacked and whose land is confiscated by the militant Fulani Muslim herders, end up living in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, which are unspeakably inhumane and unfit for animals. Currently there are well over 2 million people living in such camps in the Makurdi diocese alone. The Pontifical foundation, Aid to the Church in Need, which works to help the Church in areas of high distress in Nigeria, has collected this video evidence from Makurdi of Christians living in such camps.

Authorities also enforce Islamic blasphemy laws that have resulted in recent death sentences for Sufi musician, Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, and two Muslim clerics, and "religious insult" laws that led to a 24-year sentence for Nigeria's Humanist Association head, Mubarak Bala. These laws have also been accompanied by a routine grant of impunity for extrajudicial attacks against their perceived violators. In 2023, there was the unprosecuted mob killing of student Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu after she was accused of blasphemy and the unprosecuted serious death threats against the Sultan of Sokoto, Sokoto's Catholic bishop, and Rhoda Jatau, a Christian woman, all three of whom were targeted for expressing disapproval of Yakubu's murder.

On March 13, 2025 the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa held the hearing: "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC," with Catholic Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of the Makurdi diocese in Benue State, Nina Shea, Hudson Institute's Senior Fellow and Director of its Center for Religious Freedom, and Family Research Council's President Tony Perkins—all testifying to the medieval-like persecution currently targeting Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt region.

Ms. Shea stated that "Nigeria's government has not undertaken a thorough, objective, and transparent investigation of the militant Fulani herders' organization, leadership, motives, or intent in these attacks." Yet, Shea noted, "[s]urvivor accounts, collected by churches and journalists on the ground, frequently report that their attackers spoke Fulfulde and shouted 'Allahu Akbar' or other religious sentiments as they killed, as USCIRF noted in its reports."

Following the recent congressional hearing and subsequent international scrutiny, Nigeria's President, Foreign Minister and other governmental authorities, such as the Governor of Benue, have undertaken an aggressive public affairs campaign to deny and deflect the truth about their inaction to stop the Fulani aggression against defenseless Christian farming communities occurring in several Nigerian states. Bishop Anagbe has even been personally threatened following his testimony in Congress.

We were alarmed to hear reports that between May 24–26, 2025, Fulani Muslim militants waged another massacre in Benue state, possibly in reprisal for Bishop Anagbe's speaking out about Fulani violence in his testimony before Congress. This recent attack was against the bishop's home village of Aondona, as well as its surrounding villages of Ahume, Tyolaha, and Tse-Ubiama.

Reuters reports that at least "42 people were shot dead by suspected herders" in those attacks and that 32 of the villagers' bodies were recovered in Aondona and Ahume, alone. In response, the U.S. Mission in Abuja issued a statement on X strongly condemning these brutal attacks and urging Nigerian authorities to investigate and hold the responsible parties accountable. Other governments also issued similar statements. Experience shows that the Nigerian government has routinely failed to ensure such investigations and accountability on what have become relentless Fulani herder assaults on defenseless Christian farming villages.

Encouraged by the example of Bishop Wilfred Anagbe, others are also speaking out against the government's grant of impunity in the face of such atrocities. This is a critical time for Congress to act, as Nigerians in the Middle Belt area are supporting international attention.

Nigeria wields significant influence in Sub-Saharan Africa. By allowing severe religious persecution to proliferate within its borders, Nigeria is compounding already heightened regional insecurity.

We respectfully ask you to co-sponsor House Resolution 220 and urge the passage.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Sam Brownback, *Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Summit*; Nina Shea, *Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Religious Freedom at Hudson Institute*; Frank Wolf, *Member of Congress (VA) 1981–2015, retired*; Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, *Former Ambassador to the Holy See and Chairman of the State Department Commission on Unalienable Rights*; Douglas Burton, *Director, Truth Nigeria*; Richard Ghazal, Esq., *Executive Director, In Defense of Christians (IDC)*; Patricia Streeter, *Co-leader, Anglican Persecuted Church Network*; Faith J.H. McDonnell, *Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global*; Mark Tooley, *President, Institute on Religion and Democracy*; Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, *Founding President, Genocide Watch Chair, The Alliance Against Genocide*; Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, *President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*; Steven Wagner, *President, Solidarity with the Persecuted Church*; Troy A. Miller, *President & CEO, National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)*; David Trimble, *President, Religious Freedom Institute*; Michael Arthur Vaca, *Director, International Catholic Jurists Forum*; Travis Weber, *Vice President for Policy & Gov't Affairs Family Research Council*; George Weigel, *Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies Ethics and Public Policy Center*; Dede Laugesen, *Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians*; Kelly (Monroe) Kullberg, *General Secretary, American Association of Evangelicals (AAE)*; The Rt. Reverend Andudu Adam Elnail, *Anglican Bishop of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains, Sudan, Co-leader, Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Suffering Church Network*.

OPPOSING H.R. 3633, S. 1582, AND H.R. 1919

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act. S. 1582, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation in U.S. Stablecoins Act, and H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act.

While I am opposed to these three bills, I am not opposed to the concept of crypto itself.

But I have concerns about how crypto is currently being regulated and the financial security of my constituents who invest or store their dollars in crypto. Rather than considering the three bills before us this week, Congress should consider legislation that puts guardrails in place to protect consumers, prevent fraud, and establish an effective regulatory framework for crypto. Instead, these H.R. 3633, S. 1582, and H.R. 1919 fall short of creating an effective regulatory framework, allow Big Tech and the Trump family to enrich themselves, and stifles innovation at the Federal Reserve.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a bit about what these three bills would do. H.R. 3633, which Republicans are calling the CLARITY Act, would carve the crypto industry out from current securities laws and regulations. This would continue to expose consumers to harmful crypto practices. Additionally, the CLARITY Act would not only enable conflicts of interest from Trump and his family through meme coins like \$TRUMP, but it would also send the message that Congress approves of the way President Trump is selling access to the White House. That is why I joined Congressman VINDMAN in sending a letter to the House Committees on Financial Services and Agriculture expressing our serious concern that the CLARITY and GENIUS Acts, including dangerous carveouts for the President and Vice President from conflict-of-interest rules.

S. 1582, the GENIUS Act, is a bipartisan attempt at establishing a framework for stablecoins—a type of cryptocurrency primarily used for trading crypto assets, transacting in goods and services, insulating against local currency instability, and sending payments across borders. While S. 1582 is a step in the right direction, it fails to establish an effective federal framework to regulate stablecoins. The bill also opens up a path for Big Tech and other commercial businesses like Meta, Amazon, and Walmart to amass consolidated power over both commerce and banking services. Each of these corporations are exploring starting their own stablecoins.

Finally, H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act, would immediately halt and prohibit the United States from exploring the potential benefits of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). This bill would stifle innovation at the Federal Reserve as they research and develop ways to meet the evolving money and payments landscape, keeping the U.S. behind the starting line as other countries race ahead and compete to develop and implement CBDCs. As much of our transactions have moved away from using the physical dollar through the increased use of credit cards, mobile wallets, and cryptocurrencies, the Federal Reserve has been researching ways to innovate the U.S. dollar. Congress should not stifle the ability of the Federal Reserve to meet the needs of our evolving digital age.

Mr. Speaker, rather than putting forward three bills that fail to make consumers safer and stifle innovation, Congress should instead consider a comprehensive regulatory framework for crypto that will promote the responsible development of these digital assets while protecting American consumers and investors. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3633, S. 1582, and H.R. 1919.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 CLASS OF THE OHIO AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Ohio Agricultural Council will mark the induction of its 2025 Hall of Fame class at a special ceremony to be held next Friday, August 1, during the Ohio State Fair. I am honored to commend to the House this year's four inductees:

John Linder of Edison in my congressional district served as 2020–2021 President of the National Corn Growers Association. His leadership skills, integrity, and dedication to the promotion of agriculture led to his 2023 election as president of MAIZALL—The International Maize Alliance, which works to break down barriers to trade and innovation. He and his brother are the fifth-generation operators of Linder Farms in Morrow County, where he also co-owns a propane business. John is also famous statewide and nationally as a champion tractor puller.

The late Bill Isler of Prospect in my congressional district was a third-generation farmer and pork producer in Marion County. His commitment to innovation in the field of herd health earned him international recognition. As owner/operator of Isler Genetics, he was among the first to implement specific pathogen-free herd standards. A recipient of the Ohio Pork Industry Excellence Award from the Ohio Pork Council, Bill joins his brothers, Dick Isler and the late Gene Isler, as a Hall of Fame member.

The late Steven D. Maurer of Botkins in my congressional district was a long-time public servant both locally and statewide. For much of the 1970s, he served as Mayor of Botkins, later representing the area in the Ohio Senate for one term. He held top roles at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and led the Ohio Department of Agriculture for several years in the late 1980s. For 16 years, he worked as State Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Steve traveled overseas extensively throughout his career to promote Ohio products and expand our state's trade opportunities.

A native of Carroll County, John H. Davis has dedicated his life to teaching others about the importance of agriculture. After several years in the classroom in Ashtabula County, he was tapped to oversee vocational agriculture education statewide. During his 20 years as Director of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum, he expanded the camp into a year-round education center reaching thousands of students. John is a former Carroll County Commissioner and a member of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame.

Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to only 257 Ohioans since 1966. Consideration for induction is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture, Ohio's top industry.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am pleased to join in the accolades for these four remarkable inductees as they are recognized for their commitment to agriculture and their lifetime of service to others. I also thank the members of

the Ohio Agricultural Council for their ongoing work to honor Ohio's agriculture leaders.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALICIA EUGENIA WHITE BELL

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alicia Eugenia White Bell.

Alicia was born in Macon, Georgia on February 22, 1943 to parents John Alfred and Emmie Lucinda White. They instilled in Alicia and her four siblings the value of education and a strong work ethic. Alicia received a four-year scholarship to Paine College in Augusta, Georgia and graduated Salutatorian.

A woman of faith, courage, and strength, Alicia touched the lives of many people in San Diego and beyond.

Alicia met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and participated in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement and the fight for justice and equality.

She also enlisted in the Domestic Peace Corps and worked with migrant workers before becoming a teacher at B.S. Ingram Elementary School and the lead teacher at Gingerbread Head Start Preschool in San Diego. Alicia also worked for twenty years as a Deputy Probation Officer with the County of San Diego Juvenile Division.

Alicia was deeply committed to serving her community and giving back. She owned and operated the Fourth District Seniors Resource Center gift shop, provided interior design services to low-income senior community residents at little to no cost, and was a motivational speaker and life coach.

Additionally, Alicia was the owner of "Just Because", a founding member of Ladies Involved in Vital Experiences, Inc. (L.I.V.E.), a past president of Encanto AARP Chapter 5417, a former board member and community ambassador for Fourth District Seniors Resource Center, and a coordinator for the Volunteers in Probation program.

Because of her incredible achievements, Alicia received the Retired Seniors Volunteer Service Award from the County of San Diego and was an honoree for the "Breakfast for Milady" San Diego Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Alicia's legacy will live on. My prayers are with her loved ones and may her memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOHN GHERINI

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, with his retirement as President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library on January 17th, 2025, John Gherini, Esq. concluded over thirty-seven years of distinguished service to the Archive-Library. Established as a public non-profit educational corporation in 1967, the Santa Barbaran Mission Archive-Library serves as a unique repository of Mission

Era California records, documents, and artifacts. As Professor Emeritus Robert Senkewicz of Santa Clara University, has written. "SBMAL is a unique and indispensable resource. Its artifacts and documents tell the deep and complex story of California's diverse peoples—especially Native Americans, Latinos, and Anglos—in a way that is unmatched anywhere else in the state."

John Gherini has worked long and hard behind the scenes to ensure the continued operation of the Archive-Library. Serving as legal counsel to the Board and dealing with bequests and grants in order to build the endowment essential to its continued function. His membership on the Board, which began in 1987, has resulted in numerous acquisitions not only of funds, but also of the papers of such distinguished scholars as Norman Neuerburg, the art historian behind the construction of the Getty Villa, and Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., longtime editor of the journal of the Historical Society of Southern California.

Besides his encouragement of other scholars, Mr. Gherini has written two books on the history of Santa Cruz Island, where he spent much time as a young man working with his family on the island, which his great-great-grandfather, Justinian Caire once owned in its entirety: Santa Cruz Island: A History of Conflict and Diversity and the two volume Santa Cruz Island, An Illustrated History provide rich and detailed histories of the largest of the Channel Islands. The second work "explores the geological origins of the island and traces the cultural history from the native inhabitants, over 13,000 years ago, to the establishment of the Channel Islands National Park in 1980 and current efforts to preserve and protect the island." (Santa Barbara Historical Museum website). Mr. Gherini has been a generous benefactor and deeply involved with many other organizations in the Santa Barbara area, including Bishop Garcia Diego High School.

On July 25, 2025, the Mission Archive-Library, at a special event in honor of Mr. Gherini, will name its exhibit space, which includes among other things large paintings by the distinguished turn of the twentieth-century California landscape and architecture artist Edwin Deakin, the Gherini Gallery. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. John Gherini and the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library on this auspicious occasion.

CONGRATULATING THE WEST BROWNSVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE'S SENIOR TEAM ON WINNING THE TEXAS WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the inspiring young women from the West Brownsville Little League's Senior Team, aged 15–16, for their astonishing achievement in finishing as runner-up as they competed for a spot in the 2025 Little League World Series.

Representing our community to the nation is an unseen achievement in the past 73 years of the team's history in Brownsville. Competing in softball takes dexterity and discipline,

but most importantly, sacrifice. A tremendous commitment has been made by the participants and their families as they worked towards this exciting goal. They are showing the country the hard work and team spirit that South Texans have always represented.

These young women have made their community, families, coaches and friends immensely proud, and I encourage them to continue supporting each other in the games ahead. But most importantly, I encourage them to cherish every moment as they are making history in The Rio Grande Valley. Rest assured I am cheering for you every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, our West Brownsville Little League Senior Softball Team has made all of us immensely proud.

HONORING UAW LEADER BRUCE BAUMHOWER AS HE RETIRES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable, hard working, good natured man of labor: Bruce Baumhower from Toledo, Ohio in our 9th Congressional District. Mr. Baumhower formally retired on June 30, 2025 after serving as the President of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 12, the longest run of service in the union's history—over a half a century. He will be honored at a special event prior to Toledo's 2025 Jeep Fest—a celebration he co-founded in 2016—on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

Bruce Baumhower is a Toledo native who graduated from Whitmer High School in 1972. He started work at Jeep the same year. Throughout his employment at Jeep, Bruce involved himself in union activities, rising through the ranks after election to Steward, Bargaining Committee and Vice Chairman. In 1993 he was elected President of UAW Local 12, the second largest UAW local in the nation. He has been ably at the helm since. UAW Local 12, based in Toledo, represents approximately 16,000 members at 47 worksites. His leadership is humble yet reliable, strong and honorable, and always visionary.

Throughout Bruce's tenure as leader of UAW Local 12, he has steered the union—and the Toledo community—through crisis and calm. Most notably, he led the effort to establish the plants and supplier park that built the Wrangler and the Gladiator, two locations that have defined Toledo's skyline and its workforce. He has been an integral part of redefining Jeep as Toledo's identity and his integrity and work ethic symbolizes Toledo, Ohio—a city whose motto is: Laborare est Orare, "To Work is to Pray."

In addition to his duties as President of UAW Local 12, Bruce is president of the UAW's Community Action Program, which coordinates political and community action for all seven Toledo area UAW locals. Mr. Baumhower currently also serves on the board of Imagination Station and the Regional Growth Partnership.

As one of the founders of Toledo's Jeep Fest, Bruce has further imprinted Jeep on Toledo. It is said that he and another member had a conversation about Jeep's 75th anniversary. From that moment, Jeep Fest was born. Eight years later, it is a three day festival drawing thousands of people from all corners and highlighted by a parade of hundreds of iconic Jeeps. Currently Bruce serves on the Board of Directors of Jeep Fest and leads off the parade with union members, who are both actively working and retired, all proud of Jeep's continuing and amazing success—America's most popular vehicle. The parade celebrates and American success story led by union members who show great pride in their roles and led by an energetic President.

The great UAW pioneer Walter Reuther noted, "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." Bruce Baumhower epitomizes these words. His noble spirit guides the Union and the City in which he has played such a pivotal role.

Now as he formally retires, we, wish him well on his journey, knowing he will be spending his time with his wife Kim, three children and eight grandchildren, engaged in all they most enjoy. I thank Bruce for all he has given to our community and our Nation during a trying era for US automotive manufacturing. He makes us proud. May he enjoy a well-earned retirement. May God Bless him unselfishly and continually.

CONGRATULATING THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER AHEAD OF THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to include in the RECORD the following letter congratulating the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Solano County Chapter ahead of their 10th Anniversary and Celebration of Young Leaders banquet.

The Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Solano County's 10th Anniversary and Celebration of Young Leaders banquet is a wonderful tribute to our community, and I am proud to represent the organization and the young leaders being honored at this event.

JOHN GARAMENDI,

UNITED STATES CONGRESS,

August 8th, 2025.

Re 10th Annual Anniversary and Celebration of Young Leaders

APAPA SOLANO COUNTY CHAPTER
Vallejo, CA.

DEAR APAPA-SOC AND 2025 APAPA-SOC INTERNS, It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Solano County Chapter (APAPA-SOC) for another year of exemplary service and join you in celebrating your 10th Annual Anniversary and Celebration of Young Leaders banquet. Reaching this important milestone is a true testament to your organization's dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence. APAPA-SOC's continuous efforts to empower Asian and Pacific Islander Americans by encouraging civic participation through leadership and mentorship programs, internships, and scholarships deserve the highest commendation. Over the past decade APAPA-SOC has

made a lasting impact on our community and uplifted many young leaders across the country and in California's Eighth Congressional District. APAPA's work is making great strides toward creating a more perfect Union.

Civic participation is critical to upholding our democratic ideals, and I am thrilled to see APAPA-SOC working so actively on this mission. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans' representation at all levels of government is necessary to ensure that the Asian and Pacific Islander community is properly acknowledged and advocated for. Through-

out APAPA-SOC's ten years, its ability to empower Asian and Pacific Islander Americans of all ages has left its community a legacy that promotes civic engagement at the local, state, and national levels of government. It is my greatest hope that the APAPA-SOC Chapter continues to prosper in the years ahead. I look forward to seeing APAPA-SOC interns grow into tomorrow's leaders of California and beyond.

The APAPA-SOC's 10th Anniversary and Celebration of Young Leaders banquet is sure to be a wonderful celebration of all the hard work and dedication APAPA-SOC in-

terns have put into strengthening our democracy. As you celebrate this anniversary, I hope you take pride in how far your APAPA-SOC has come and feel inspired by the continued journey ahead. On behalf of California's Eighth Congressional District, please accept my gratitude for the good you have done, and continue to do, in our district and my best wishes for continued success in all of APAPA-SOC's future endeavors.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI,
Member of Congress.