

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL SERVICE DOG MONTH

**HON. NICK LaLOTA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, one in ten American adults lives with a disability, yet there are only about 16,000 accredited service dogs nationwide. These dogs provide more than assistance—they offer independence, dignity, and healing for children, adults, and especially our veterans carrying both visible and invisible wounds. This is why I rise today to recognize September as National Service Dog Month.

Organizations like Canine Companions, Paws of War, and America's VetDogs, headquartered in my home state of New York, are leading the way. They prepare and place service dogs that make life-changing impacts, while continuing to stand behind each partnership well beyond the first match. This month is an opportunity to educate the public about the vital role service dogs play and the protections in place to guarantee their access. It is also a time to honor the trainers, volunteers, and families who make this work possible.

As a Navy veteran, I've seen firsthand the impact these dogs have on our service members. So I want to thank all of those organizations who are doing this important work.

We see them. We thank them. We stand with them, and we support them. I encourage all Americans to join me in celebrating service dogs and the life-changing bond they share with those they serve.

### HONORING THE CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP), an extraordinary community organization founded in 1985 to protect open space and wildlife habitat and to provide recreational opportunities along the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay.

Through their tireless advocacy and partnership with community allies, CESP was instrumental in the creation of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, which preserves and protects 8.5 miles of shoreline habitat and open space from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. This remarkable park provides Bay Area residents access to natural beauty and recreational opportunities in one of the Nation's most urbanized regions.

Over four decades, CESP has helped transform the East Bay shoreline from neglected dumping grounds into a connected landscape of parks, trails, and ecological preserves. Their

efforts have supported the creation and protection of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Point Molate Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, the Bay Trail connection at Golden Gate Fields, and the Albany Bulb.

Today, CESP continues to lead with vision and purpose, working toward incorporating the Golden Gate Fields property into McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and ultimately restoring the site to wetlands and marshes that will provide a resilient shoreline in the face of sea level rise. In this effort, CESP is committed to collaborating with Native American communities to restore these historically vital landscapes.

CESP's long-term vision is bold and inspiring: a connected, accessible shoreline of open space and parkland stretching from the Carquinez Strait to San Jose. Their work has created a legacy of preservation, environmental stewardship, and public access that will benefit generations to come.

On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I commend Citizens for East Shore Parks for their outstanding contributions to our region and our environment, and I congratulate them on 40 years of remarkable achievement.

### HONORING ANNA ESHOO ON HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. SAM T. LICCARDO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Bay Area delegation, I rise to honor the service and career of The Honorable Anna Eshoo. Former Congresswoman Eshoo served in Congress for 32 years, representing parts of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties. Throughout her tenure, Congresswoman Eshoo showed a remarkable commitment to public service and to my district. Today, we recognize Congresswoman Eshoo as San Mateo County's 2025 History Maker for her exceptional leadership.

Congresswoman Eshoo is a proud graduate of Cañada College and the CORO Foundation, also holding an Honorary Degree from Menlo College. She started her career in public office in 1982, when she was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Congresswoman Eshoo served on the county board for 10 years, then was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 to represent southern San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County.

Throughout her tenure in Congress, Congresswoman Eshoo worked tirelessly to advance healthcare, technology, and environmental policy. She advocated for strengthening public health services, expanding access to health insurance, and lowering healthcare costs for Americans. More than half of the bills she authored were health-related.

A champion of technology and innovation, Congresswoman Eshoo's influence is felt

around the country today through the numerous bills she helped author. She represented Silicon Valley as tech continued to grow in my region and worked hard to show tech leadership in Congress. She advocated for the growth of the internet and online privacy, and was recognized as one of the most influential people in AI. Her dedicated efforts to improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of my communities exemplifies true commitment to the American people.

Throughout her time in Congress, Congresswoman Eshoo passed 68 pieces of legislation, signed into law by five Presidents. Congresswoman Eshoo spent 30 years serving on the Energy and Commerce committee, including chairing the Health Subcommittee for four years and being the Ranking Member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee for six. She was the first woman to serve in either role. Congresswoman Eshoo had a strong record of working across the aisle to support the needs of the American people.

Above all, Congresswoman Eshoo embodied a deep devotion to the people she represented and found joy in serving them. Her warmth, authenticity, and rare gift for making personal connections earned her not only a loyal following but also enduring friendships across every chapter of her career.

I have the immense honor of serving Congresswoman Eshoo's former district and celebrating her numerous accomplishments in Congress. Her exemplary work in Congress will continue to serve my district for generations. Congresswoman Eshoo's legacy of public service is exceptional, and she has truly left her mark on our country.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELIJAH CRANE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, regarding the vote on H. Res. 719.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 282.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES W. "JIM" MCGLOTHLIN

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. James W. "Jim" McGlothlin who passed away on August 6th, 2025, at the age of 85.

Mr. McGlothlin was born on June 18, 1940 in Richlands, Virginia. His subsequent upbringing in Buchanan County, Virginia, influenced his growing love for rural Appalachia and Southwest Virginia. His affinity for our region

● 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.

lasted the rest of his life, no matter where he and his family lived.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree and Juris Doctorate from the College of William & Mary, Mr. McGlothlin began a distinguished law career. This career track shaped his quick return to Buchanan County where he became cofounder of a law firm.

One of Mr. McGlothlin's greatest achievements was the founding of the United Coal Company, which became the building blocks for the United Company. Over time, the company specialized in coal, oil and gas, real estate, hospitality and finance. The company grew into a well-known and influential privately owned business in the Commonwealth which helped fuel economic growth in regions like Southwest Virginia.

Known for his generous philanthropy, Mr. McGlothlin supported many communities in Southwest Virginia, particularly children. His charitable efforts included his support of the Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Virginia, an institution where at-risk children can access special educational opportunities.

Mr. McGlothlin's tenure as a business leader and community spokesman are credited for the legalization of commercial casinos in Virginia and the subsequent founding of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Bristol, Virginia.

Other significant accomplishments and pursuits of Mr. McGlothlin included the creation of the William & Mary McGlothlin Teaching Award in 2016. He also continued to mentor students over the years, along with speaking about business, leadership and ethics. In 2015, he was granted with the Citizens-Lawyer award, the highest alumni distinction at William & Mary.

Besides his accomplishments at William & Mary, Mr. McGlothlin and his family have generously invested in the arts, education and health care. The McGlothlin American Art Galleries and McGlothlin Wings, well known for its beautiful artwork, were established in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. McGlothlin is survived by his loving wife, Frances, and his children, Martha Bowman (Mark), Tara Verkuil (David) and Gibson Verkuil (Dena); his six grandchildren, and his siblings, Michael McGlothlin and Tom McGlothlin.

I join my friends and public figures across Southwest Virginia in mourning the loss of a titan. Mr. McGlothlin leaves behind legacies of riches, friendships and inspirations that span much of Southwest Virginia. Through his actions as an entrepreneur, public servant and family man, he will be remembered as a leader, mentor and friend to many.

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#### HONORING HALEY DENG ON BECOMING A UNITED STATES CITIZEN

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#### HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of my former interns, Ms. Haley Deng, who is taking the oath of citizenship and officially becoming a citizen of the United States.

Haley was born in China and moved at an early age to Marlboro, New Jersey, in my dis-

trict, where she grew up. From a young age, she demonstrated a deep curiosity about the world around her and a strong commitment to serving others. Today, she is pursuing degrees in Biological Sciences and Government at Cornell University, with the goal of entering public service and helping to improve our healthcare system.

This past summer, Haley brought her talents to my congressional office as an intern. She displayed a remarkable ability to understand and clearly communicate complex healthcare policies—always with empathy, clarity, and respect. She spoke compassionately with constituents seeking assistance, supported our caseworkers in processing inquiries, and participated in policy meetings with professionalism and a consistently positive attitude. Haley never hesitated to share her perspective, drawing from her experience growing up in an immigrant family and the challenges and opportunities that shaped her.

For Haley, one of her greatest aspirations was to become an American citizen. She fell in love with our Nation's freedoms and with our democratic system, even while acknowledging its imperfections. Today, she has fulfilled that dream. I am proud to say our country is stronger because of it. For when we welcome a new citizen like Haley, we reaffirm the promise that America is not defined by blood or birth, but by the shared belief that freedom and opportunity belong to all who seek them.

As a citizen, Haley will continue to apply her education, experience, and New Jersey values to the work of building a brighter and more inclusive future for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Haley Deng on this milestone in her life and in welcoming her as one of our Nation's newest citizens.

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#### RECOGNIZING HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH

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#### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Hawaiian History Month this September, I want to again express the pride and appreciation of my Hawaii in the unique history, culture and contributions of the Native Hawaiian people.

Because of Hawaii's geographic distance from the continental United States and the general lack of education nationally about Hawaiian history, many Americans remain unaware that there are over 700,000 now who identify in whole or in part as Native Hawaiian. Roughly half continue to reside in their homeland of Hawaii, and I am deeply humbled to join my Hawaii Congressional delegation colleagues in our kuleana (responsibility) to represent them and their 'ohana (family) everywhere in Congress.

The Native Hawaiians, also known as Kānaka Maoli, trace their origins to the extraordinary voyages from their ancestral homeland of Kahiki—today's Tahiti and Marquesas—hundreds of years before the arrival of other recognized Pacific peoples in their homelands. By the time of first Western contact with Captain Cook in 1778, Native Hawaiians had developed a complete and vibrant

culture with their own language, religion, values and sophisticated systems of governance, agriculture and navigation.

Yet, like so many other indigenous peoples, post-contact Native Hawaiians endured marginalization, suppression and loss of their traditions in their own homelands. While estimates vary, it is believed that there were more than 300,000 Native Hawaiians prior to the arrival of Captain Cook, but by 1920, that number had fallen to just under 24,000, on the verge of losing bedrock cultural practices such as hula, traditional chanting called oli and the Hawaiian language itself due to mass population loss and laws preventing the teaching of Hawaiian.

But beginning in the 1960s–70s, a cultural renaissance took hold. Kumu hula (master teachers in the art of hula) like George Na'ope, who founded the Merrie Monarch Festival, worked tirelessly to preserve and revive ancient hula traditions. Language advocates like Larry Kimura launched 'Aha Pūnana Leo preschools to nurture a new generation of 'Olelo Hawaii (Hawaiian language) speakers. The Polynesian Voyaging Society, through the construction and voyages of the Hōkūle'a, reawakened the ancient art of navigation and connected Native Hawaiians with their voyaging ancestors.

Today, Native Hawaiians continue to embody resilience and leadership. Their revival across all enriches not only Hawaii but also the entire Nation, offering a living example of perseverance, identity and contribution. We see this in the half-century now of traditional navigation of Nainoa Thompson, the first Hawaiian master navigator in 600 years, the music and cultural leadership of Keali'i Reichel and Kumu Hula Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, the athletic achievements of Max Holloway and Akebono Taro, and the groundbreaking scientific work of Dr. Isabella Abbott, the world's foremost expert on Pacific marine algae.

As we mark Hawaiian History Month, let us honor the Native Hawaiian people, recognize their unique history and culture, and recommit ourselves to ensuring that this heritage remains a living, thriving part of our shared American story.

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#### HONORING ASHLEY MILLER FOR PLACING SECOND IN THE 2025 3M CLASH OF THE GRINDERS COMPETITION

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#### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Ashley Miller, who placed 2nd in 3M's 2025 Clash of the Grinders, a national welding and fabrication competition.

The Clash of the Grinders competition is an annual event hosted by 3M's Abrasive Solutions division at FABTECH, North America's largest metalworking trade show. This metalworking competition challenges the skill and speed of welding school students across various applications in welding and grinding. It serves as an inspiration for young individuals to pursue careers in skilled trades. This year, only six applicants from across the Nation were invited to compete in the competition to showcase their skills.

Ashley is from Hanover, Pennsylvania and was inspired to pursue welding by her father. Although she didn't know any welders personally, a high school welding course sparked her interest, leading her to enroll in the fabrication and welding program at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. At Thaddeus Stevens, Ashley has advanced her skills in Shielded Metal Welding, Gas Metal Arc Welding, also known as Metal Inert Gas welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, commonly called Tungsten Inert Gas welding, and oxyacetylene welding.

Ashley placed 2nd at this year's Clash of the Grinders competition, an amazing achievement. For her great work, she was awarded a \$9,000 cash prize. Outside of welding, Ashley enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and dogs, cherishing the joy and memories they bring. Upon completing her program at Thaddeus Stevens, Ashley plans to start her career in a shop or field setting to build her skills and has an interest in Non-Destructive Testing.

I commend Ashley for her amazing work and her interest in pursuing a career in the trades. It is thanks to young people like Ashley, who will drive our Nation's economy for decades to come. It is important that we recognize and encourage young people to participate in the skilled trades and competitions like the Clash of the Grinders are crucial to increasing visibility for these in-demand industries.

I congratulate Ashley on her 2nd place finish. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

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CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF  
DIRK KEMPTHORNE

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**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of one of Idaho's most distinguished public servants, my dear friend of over 40 years, Dirk Kempthorne.

Dirk's career has been a testament to selfless dedication, from the halls of local government to the highest echelons of national service. Born in San Diego, California, in 1951, Dirk graduated from the University of Idaho in 1975 with a degree in political science, where he served as Student Body President, a fitting prelude to a lifetime of leadership. He began his public service as Mayor of Boise from 1985 to 1993, guiding our capital city through a period of remarkable growth and economic vitality. From there, he ascended to the United States Senate, representing Idaho from 1993 to 1999 with a steady hand and unyielding commitment to Western values. Elected Governor in 1998 and reelected in 2002, Dirk served until 2006, championing fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship. Capping his tenure in elective office, he was confirmed as the 49th Secretary of the Interior under President George W. Bush, where he balanced conservation with economic opportunity across our vast public lands.

But to me, Mr. Speaker, Dirk has never been just "Mr. Mayor," "Senator Kempthorne," "Governor," or "Mr. Secretary." He is simply Dirk—a loyal confidant, a steadfast ally, and a

friend I was lucky to meet in the arena of Idaho politics more than four decades ago. We met in the mid-1980's, as I began my service in the Idaho State Legislature and Dirk launched his mayoral campaign. From those early days, our friendship deepened through shared battles and bipartisan collaborations on behalf of Idahoans. Dirk's endorsement and unwavering support were instrumental in my own 1998 campaign for this House seat, a debt of gratitude I carry to this day. He didn't just help get me elected; he helped shape the principled conservative I strive to be, always reminding me that public service is about people, not politics.

Mr. Speaker, our professional paths intertwined time and again, yielding results that strengthened Idaho and the West. As Mayor, Dirk and I worked together to tackle local challenges. When Dirk became Governor, I had the honor of being elected to represent Idaho's 2nd Congressional District. Together with the Idaho Delegation, we built a productive relationship with the State of Idaho, delivering federal results for Idahoans across the state.

I appreciated the priorities Dirk established while serving as Secretary of the Interior, and when I was Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment. Although Republicans did not have the majority in the House, I had the honor of working with Dirk to advance priorities vital to Idaho. From working on the Endangered Species Act to protect property rights while safeguarding habitats, addressing water rights and tribal sovereignty, and promoting multiple-use policies for our public lands, Dirk's leadership ensured that federal policies respected the unique needs of the West.

Among these efforts, one stands out that holds a place closer to our hearts—that is, the Peregrine Fund and its World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Dirk has been its tireless advocate for this Center, just as he was during his time in public service. The Peregrine Fund has pioneered species recovery efforts, including the delisting of the peregrine falcon from the endangered list. I was proud to secure federal funding for the Center's vital work, and even prouder to do so alongside a friend who supported these efforts.

Through it all, Dirk has remained one of Idaho's fiercest champions. Even now, as he faces a personal battle with cancer with the same determination that defined his public life, Dirk continues to inspire us all. His story reminds us that true leadership endures beyond the ballot box, rooted in faith, family, and dedication.

I am grateful for Dirk's decades of service to our state and Nation, as well as his friendship all these years. I extend my deepest admiration and gratitude to Patricia, his wife, as she has also sacrificed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Dirk Kempthorne for his decades of service, loyalty, and the lasting impact he has had on Idaho and America. May Dirk's legacy soar as high as the raptors he has so nobly protected.

RECOGNIZING THE PHYSICIANS AT  
DALLAS ENDOSCOPY CENTER

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**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of the physicians at Dallas Endoscopy Center (DEC) to the health and well-being of the residents of Texas' 30th Congressional District. For almost two decades, these dedicated healthcare professionals have profoundly impacted our community through their commitment to providing exceptional, cost-effective outpatient surgical services, including colonoscopies and endoscopies.

The founders' vision of delivering safe and effective surgical care through innovation and technology culminated in the opening of this critical facility in September 2005. Moreover, patients and employees have remained at the forefront of DEC's mission. As Susan Cheek, DEC's Administrator, put it: "Our longevity is a testament to our commitment to patients and employees. Multiple individuals, such as myself, have spent the majority of their careers here, directly impacting the lives of tens of thousands of patients. By prioritizing quality and efficiency, we've cultivated a strong, dedicated team that has been instrumental in our continued growth."

Ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), such as DEC, are critical in delivering timely preventative care, including vital screenings like colonoscopies and endoscopies. These facilities offer efficient and accessible procedures, often with short wait times and low costs. By providing quick access to these screenings, ASCs can help identify potential health issues early, when treatment is most effective.

It is important to highlight the role of ASCs in serving underserved populations. These centers can offer increased accessibility for individuals facing barriers to care, such as lack of insurance or transportation difficulties. By providing convenient and affordable options, ASCs can help to reduce health disparities and improve overall community health.

I want to acknowledge the following physicians for their exemplary work specifically, Christopher J. Vesey, M.D. (Founder), W. Gregory Hodges, M.D. (Founder), Rajeev Jain, M.D. (Founder), Michael J. Nunez, M.D. (Founder), Kimberly M. Persley, M.D. (Founder), Esmail Elwazir, M.D. (Founder), Bhavani Moparty, M.D., Abrar Ahmed, M.D., Ben Kahn, M.D., Jason Martin, M.D., Jason Martin, M.D., William E. Stevens, M.D. (Founder), Robert Jacobson, M.D. (Founder), Paitoon Tulanon, M.D. (Founder), Peter Loeb, M.D. (Founder) in Gastroenterology as well as F. Clark Odom, M.D. (Founder) and Roberto Rodriguez Ruesga, M.D. (Founder) in Colorectal Surgery.

These physicians are invaluable assets to our community, and their dedication to patient care is commendable. By providing accessible and high-quality outpatient services, they have improved the lives of countless individuals in our district. I, again, proudly recognize the exceptional work of all the healthcare providers at Dallas Endoscopy Center.

CONGRATULATING THE MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moreno Valley Unified School District for the opening of its new Health and Wellness Center, and to commend the district's leadership for their unwavering commitment to supporting students and families in need.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for this Center, which will serve as a vital resource for students and their families who are experiencing homelessness, financial hardship, or foster care. Through the Department of Wellness, Mental Health, and Community Outreach, the Health and Wellness Center provides wraparound support to ensure that students can succeed both in and out of the classroom.

The Center offers a wide range of services, including washer and dryer access, showers, preventive dental care, eyeglasses, a food pantry, a clothing closet, tutoring, and more. It also provides emergency short-term housing and works with partners to connect students with youth specialists. These resources restore dignity and stability, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I want to especially recognize Superintendent Dr. Alejandro Ruvalcaba for his outstanding leadership in overseeing this project. His dedication, and the dedication of the entire district, has made this Center a reality and reflects Moreno Valley Unifier's belief that education is not just about academics—it is about providing students with the foundation they need to build a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the Health and Wellness Center is a potent example of how schools can serve as hubs of hope and opportunity. I commend Moreno Valley Unified School District for their vision and commitment, and I am confident that this Center will have a lasting impact on the lives of many students and families in our community.

**CELEBRATING EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S CENTENNIAL**

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the El Dorado Irrigation District's Centennial.

The El Dorado Irrigation District ("EID") was formed by a vote of El Dorado County residents on October 5, 1925 to secure and protect local water supplies, keep water rates reasonable, and increase the prosperity of El Dorado County; and from its nascent days of local governance and public service, EID has grown into a multi-service utility providing treated water delivery, wastewater treatment, recycled water services, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation to over 130,000 customers across 220 square miles.

Visionary leadership and several pivotal moments marked EID's evolution as the primary water supplier for El Dorado County residents:

In 1927, EID purchased the El Dorado Water Corporation's storage and distribution system, including key facilities and infrastructure dating back to the 1850s, such as Weber Reservoir and 70 miles of canals and laterals enabling EID to stabilize water deliveries; and

In 1955, the first water deliveries from the newly completed Sly Park Reservoir (owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and operated through agreement by EID) reflected a significant achievement in augmenting water supply for EID customers; and

From 1960 through the 1970s, EID acquired wastewater systems throughout Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills, establishing its wastewater and recycled water services;

In 1999, EID purchased Project 184 from Pacific Gas & Electric, adding to its portfolio and four water supply reservoirs, 21 megawatts of clean hydroelectric power generation, and associated water rights originally developed by pioneer John Kirk in 1856; and

In 2001, EID obtained Water Right Permit 21112, securing significant storage rights in Caples, Silver, and Aloha lakes as direct diversion rights from the Upper South Fork American River, which provide additional water supplies exercised at Folsom Reservoir; and

In 2003, through an act of the United States Congress, EID acquired ownership of Sly Park Reservoir, its associated water rights, Sly Park Water Treatment Plant, and all Reclamation-owned water delivery infrastructure, thereby conveying local control to EID of its largest supply reservoir, expanding recreational opportunities that drive economic growth for the region, and strengthening local water supply security.

Throughout its history, EID has navigated the challenges of severe winter storms, drought, wildfire, aging infrastructure, and changing laws and regulations with resilience and a deep sense of responsibility to the land and people it serves.

Over the past 100 years, EID has continuously modernized its infrastructure demonstrating a continual pursuit of innovation, reliability, and environmental stewardship; and the success of the El Dorado Irrigation District for a century is a testament to the vision of its founders, the leadership of its locally-elected Board of Directors, the dedication of its employees, and the enduring tenacity and trust of its customers.

We do hereby commemorate the centennial anniversary of the El Dorado Irrigation District and honor the legacy, achievements, and future promise of this extraordinary public agency, and recognize not only 100 years of infrastructure and service, but 100 years of partnership, stewardship, and unwavering commitment to the health and prosperity of El Dorado County and surrounding Sierra Nevada communities.

**RECOGNIZING OFFICER RICHARD "RJ" HUDSON**

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable career

and life of Officer Richard "RJ" Hudson, who devoted thirty years to serving and protecting his community through his work in law enforcement.

Officer Hudson began his law enforcement career with the Bedford Police Department in March of 1995. On January 4, 2005, he joined the Grapevine Police Department, where he served with distinction for two decades. In 2007, he became a member of the Grapevine Motor Unit, where his skill and passion quickly made him a beloved figure within the Police Motor Officer Community. As a skilled accident reconstructionist, Officer Hudson led the multi-agency C.R.A.S.H. team, dedicating himself to ensuring the safety and well-being of his community. His leadership, knowledge, and mentorship were deeply valued by colleagues, and his reputation for excellence extended throughout the state of Texas.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Officer Hudson achieved the rank of Master Peace Officer, accumulating nearly 1,500 training hours and earning numerous certifications, awards, and commendations. Among his many recognitions was the prestigious Governor Abbott's Star of Texas Award in 2021 after a serious on-duty crash in 2017.

While we are deeply saddened by his passing, we celebrate the extraordinary service and unwavering commitment of Officer RJ Hudson. His legacy will live on through his family, the countless lives he touched, and the example he set as a public servant.

**HONORING DR. C. FREDERICK WILSON**

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C. Frederick Wilson, who is a U.S. Navy veteran and former police officer in Dayton, Ohio. In 1960, during his time in law enforcement, he committed his life to Christ. Sensing a call to ministry, he exchanged his badge for a Bible and entered full-time ministry in 1965.

Over the years, Dr. Wilson has served as an evangelist, area director for the Christian Broadcasting Network's 700 Club, and pastor of two churches. In 1977, he and his wife, Katrina, founded Christ Life Ministries in Kettering, Ohio, where he served as senior pastor for over 30 years. Today, he continues to serve as Bishop of the ministry, while Katrina, his longtime copastor, remains an integral part of their shared mission. Together, they have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. from Lee University and a Doctor of Ministry from Oral Roberts University. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology by Christ for India Seminary in recognition of his mission work in India and other nations.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Wilson has ministered across the U.S. and internationally at churches, conferences, and seminars. He has also served as an instructor for Christian Life School of Theology, teaching the course Living by Faith, and is the author of The Ultimate Money Plan for Followers of Christ.

Dr. Wilson's deepest desire is to encourage and strengthen others to live a victorious

Christian life in today's world by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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**RECOGNIZING FATHER CHARLES TRULLOLS**

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**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, Father Charles Trullols led our opening prayer. I have known Father Charles since 2020. He is an Opus Dei priest and leads the Catholic Information Center here in our Nation's capital. Originally from Barcelona, Spain he became a priest in 2006 and served in Grenada, Spain before coming to the United States where he ministered to others in Pittsburgh, South Bend, and Chicago before taking on his current role.

In 2020, when it seemed the world had lost its collective mind, Opus Dei was, and remains a source of hope for me. The camaraderie and fellowship of seeking to follow Jesus together with colleagues kept me grounded. There, I met Father Charles whose love for Jesus and people come together in his own ministry.

Father Charles provided patient counsel, consistent prayer, and ongoing friendship—things he does naturally and always for God's glory. I'm thankful for his ministry to me and others.

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**CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD MERCED COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

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**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Old Merced County Courthouse, the city's premier landmark.

In 1855, the first Merced County "court-room" was under overhanging oak trees on the banks of Mariposa Creek. Two years later, Merced County's first official courthouse was built in Snelling, which had become the locus of county activity due to its proximity to the Merced River.

In 1872, a special election made Merced the official county seat because the Central Pacific Railroad had laid tracks through Merced. The railroad donated the parcel of land where the Old Courthouse now stands which also made Merced the more desirable choice as a political center. The beautiful park surrounding the courthouse was sold to Merced County for merely a dollar with the provision that the land should be used for "the enjoyment of the people."

In 1875, at a cost of \$55,970 (\$1.6 million in 2025 dollars) Merced's grand courthouse was completed, built by A.W. Burrell and Company of Oakland. The magnificent building was designed by Albert A. Bennett (1825 to 1890) who also designed the California State Capitol and Fresno's courthouse. Bennett later served as California State Architect from 1876 to 1883.

The courthouse was an Italian Renaissance-style structure, designed to resemble an Italian

palazzo, with a cupola and a balcony. In addition to its use as a court of law, the courthouse also once housed the Sheriff's office and jail, Tax Collector, County Superintendent of School, Board of Supervisors' chamber as well as many judges and lawmakers. Its gorgeous surrounding Courthouse Park features a huge variety of mature trees.

The 2025 renovation marks the second time the Courthouse has been renovated in its 150-year history. The first renovation took place in 1975 when it was necessary to maintain its structural integrity. The cost to complete the current required refurbishing was approximately \$3.3 million which will preserve the Courthouse Museum's exterior shell and prevent further decay.

The three-story Courthouse has served as Merced's historical museum since 1983. The official "unshrouding" and reopening of the refurbished courthouse takes place on October 4, 2025, with an elaborate community-wide celebration. The museum will simultaneously unveil a new exhibit, titled "Old Courthouse: 150 Years, 150 Stories."

Museum Director Sarah Lim said, "The Courthouse is a living history that helps to tell the story of who we are, where we came from, and how we got here. For the past 150 years, this historic Courthouse has gone through its share of triumphs and struggles, but continues to be a center of learning, a symbol of justice, and the heart of our community. We rededicate this historic Courthouse to celebrate our county's rich history, recognize our community's resilience, and honor the legacy of our county's pioneers."

Please join me in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the landmark Old Merced County Courthouse.

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**HONORING HACKING FOR DEFENSE AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY**

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**HON. SAM T. LICCARDO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Hacking for Defense (H4D) program and its significant and unique contributions to our national security.

Launched in 2015, H4D is a for-credit course that has been taken by over 4,000 students in the U.S., addressed more than 1,000 national security problems, and led to the formation of 71 companies that have raised more than \$365 million in private capital.

The H4D program provides an invaluable experience for students, enabling them to engage directly with real-world problems, interact with key government stakeholders, gain rare exposure to defense and intelligence missions, and develop skills in problem validation, customer discovery, and rapid prototyping.

For that, I would like to commend the students, faculty, university partners, government sponsors, and program organizers for their dedication and contributions to national security. That work has contributed to the program growing from a pilot at Stanford to 67 universities in the U.S., 24 in the U.K., and 2 in Australia.

H4D plays a critical role in preparing the next generation of entrepreneurial talent to ad-

dress some of our Nation's toughest problems, like tracking hypersonic threats, securing U.S. dominance in critical minerals, AI-powered troubleshooting for military mechanics, and improving the quality, security, and resilience of communications for special operators. These are just a few of the ways that the solutions developed by H4D student teams benefit service members and the defense innovation ecosystem as a whole.

I would like to thank all those involved in the H4D program for their continued public service and their efforts to advance U.S. national security.

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**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DIEGO TENORIO BENAVENTE**

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**HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diego Tenorio Benavente, the fisherman, entrepreneur, Speaker, and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, whose steady leadership helped shape the Commonwealth across more than two decades of public service. A son of Saipan and a graduate of Mount Carmel School, Mr. Benavente pursued higher education in Idaho and returned home to build Diego's Mart, Inc., a well-known small business, before entering public life.

Prior to becoming Lieutenant Governor, he served in the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature for six consecutive House terms (6th-12th), rising to vice speaker and then speaker across three legislatures (9th-12th). In 2002, he answered a broader call as the sixth lieutenant governor of the CNMI, serving through January 2006; he later returned to the people's House for two more terms (16th-17th) and was chosen minority leader in 2011.

Lieutenant Governor Benavente's record of service paired principle with practical results. In the 10th Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, he championed education by cosponsoring the Educational Tax Credit, enacted as CNMI Public Law 10-73, which encouraged private-sector support for our educational institutions, such as the public/private schools, public library, and the humanities council.

As lieutenant governor, he helped advance sound stewardship of our lagoon and reefs and modernize waste management. During policy debates over net fishing in 2004, the House considered HB 14-274, which addressed gillnet use by setting noncommercial mesh-size limits as part of a broader effort to protect nearshore stocks while respecting tradition. And as the Babauta Benavente Administration prioritized closing the long-used Puerto Rico dumpsite and establishing the Marpi landfill, the Legislature created financing tools such as the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account (PL 13-42) to support closure, reclamation, and landfill operations.

After serving as Lt. Governor, and returning to the CNMI House of Representatives, he further pursued fuller Northern Mariana Islands representation in the federal government. Through co-authoring Public Law 16-13 he established the process by which the people of the Marianas could elect their representative in the U.S. House.

On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I extend our deepest thanks to Lieutenant Governor Benavente, his wife Vicki Benavente, their children, and family for a lifetime of service to our Commonwealth.

CELEBRATING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF MS. DALILAH GARCÍA

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to recognize Dalilah García, President of FemCity Brownsville, of a women empowerment organization.

Ms. García was recently honored as one of twelve 2025 Women of Distinction by the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) for her unstoppable resilience, dedication to female empowerment, and rich cultural heritage.

Dalilah García is an example of what it means to build community, leadership, and foster inclusivity. She boasts over five years of experience in public relations, business, organizational development, and project management.

Prior to her role as President of FemCity Brownsville, Ms. García served as a Census Media Specialist at the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

After her work with the EDA, she assumed her role as President of FemCity Brownsville in December of 2017. In her current role, she collaborates and organizes monthly gatherings, workshops, and business support services for women in our community hoping to become entrepreneurs and success stories in their own right.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Ms. García is a recipient of the 2025 Estrella de Tejas Award. This award is presented to outstanding Hispanic women who have made great contributions to their local communities and serve as role models for other women.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of South Texas, I wish to honor Dalilah García for her commitment to women empowerment and our community. Her advocacy has changed the landscape of our region, and her story is only just beginning.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COACHING ICON PHIL ROBBINS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional dedication and service of legendary coach Phil Robbins, a dedicated football coach in Southwest Virginia who helped build legacies across the district.

As a student-athlete, Coach Robbins played both college football and baseball at Emory & Henry College. His time at Emory & Henry made an impression on him to continue in the world of sports as a leader, mentor, and coach.

His coaching career started as an assistant coach at Washington County's Patrick Henry High School for four years. In 1971, Coach Robbins took over the football program at John Battle High School in Washington County.

Later in 1977, Coach Robbins led Christiansburg High School in Montgomery County. He helped lead the Blue Demons to the program's first playoff game in 1981.

Coach Robbins then went to Powell Valley High School in Wise County, where he would build a strong foundation for a storied football program that achieved monumental success. From 1983 until the school's final football season in the fall of 2010, Coach Robbins helped Powell Valley claim seven state titles. During that time frame, his teams accumulated more than 260 wins.

According to Tim Hayes of the Bristol Herald Courier, the 1998 Powell Valley team under Coach Robbins is considered by many as the best prep football squad to play in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia.

His coaching not only produced NFL running backs Thomas Jones and Julius Jones, but countless college standouts over the course of his career and many who followed in his coaching footsteps. Coach Robbins contributed to other programs, including Powell Valley's track and field program. Under his tenure, Powell Valley's track and field team produced two state titles.

After his tenure with Powell Valley, Coach Robbins remained in the coaching community. He spent the past few years helping with the football team at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Southwest Virginia communities appreciated all the hard work and dedication that Coach Robbins put into the development of student-athletes in the region. Last year, the Phil Robbins Field was christened at Wise County's Bullitt Park, where Union High School plays its football games. With this, we honor Coach Robbins in the most memorable way. Players and coaches should be inspired by his legacy, defined by a deep personal calling to coaching and athletics in communities across Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF H.E. CHRISTIAN "CHRIS" PEEPLES

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of H.E. Christian "Chris" Peeples, a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for public transit whose decades of service improved the lives of countless residents in the East Bay and beyond.

Chris Peeples was first appointed to the AC Transit Board of Directors in November 1997 to fill one of the District's two At-Large Board positions. He went on to earn the trust of voters time and again, being elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. Over the course of his distinguished tenure, he represented Ward 1—including Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond, San Pablo, and the surrounding unincorporated

communities—with energy, vision, and compassion.

A longtime champion for transit riders, Director Peeples was deeply engaged in the AC Bus Riders Union, Alliance for AC Transit, Regional Alliance for Transit, Alliance for Sensible Transit, and the Coalition for a One Stop Terminal, among many other groups. His commitment extended beyond the Bay Area, as he actively participated in the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies and the American Public Transportation Association, where he elevated local priorities to national and international conversations.

Director Peeples was especially devoted to advancing clean transportation and was a strong proponent of AC Transit's groundbreaking zero-emission fuel cell bus program. He spoke at and moderated panels across the country and abroad, promoting hydrogen and zero-emission transit as solutions to climate change and air pollution.

Chris was also a pillar of civic life, serving on the Oakland Ethics Commission and numerous community and political bodies. A graduate of Crown College, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Hastings College of the Law, he combined his intellectual rigor with a passion for equity and sustainability.

Christian Peeples leaves behind a legacy of advocacy, innovation, and public service that will endure for generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary life and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the community he served so faithfully.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF UAW LOCAL 14

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special occasion for UAW Local 14 in my District. Tomorrow, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, the union will celebrate 90 Years of Solidarity: A Milestone for UAW Local 14 . . . a testament to the enduring strength, unity, and unwavering spirit of our membership.

Throughout the decades, UAW Local 14 has been at the vanguard of manufacturing while at the same time ensuring worker rights, dignity and economic fairness, making history while leaving a legacy of accomplishments that continues to benefit workers across the Nation.

In 1935 a strike was called at Chevrolet Toledo. During the three-week strike, full bargaining rights were established as well as seniority. These key elements laid the foundation for the union's strength yet today.

In 1936 a national agreement, led by founder Bob Travis, allowed for the saving of the Chevrolet plant. This effort to spread unionization began with a 44-day "sit-down strike" and demonstrated the strength of solidarity.

One of the most difficult strikes in Toledo—fifty years after the deadly Auto-Lite Strike—was the 285-day AP Parts strike. The union held firm through this challenge to bring about a resolution beneficial to all.

Turning toward the future, UAW Local 14, General Motors, and Toledo Public Schools

came together in partnership to establish the Toledo Technology Academy. The legendary Local 14 leader Oscar Bunch, understanding the critical need for training in the advanced technologies taking shape, secured this innovative Toledo Public School in 1997 which thrives today.

Through the years UAW Local 14 has been an established and integral part of the fabric of our community, ensuring security for current workers and retirees, as well as making its mark on our community.

The union notes: "We stand on the shoulders of giants and are immensely proud of our history. As we move forward, UAW local 14 is committed to remaining a powerful, essential voice in our union and our community for many years to come."

The great labor leader Walter Reuther explained, "There is no greater calling than to serve your brother. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." Throughout its nearly century of service, UAW Local 14 has met this challenge with honor.

I thank the Local 14 leadership—Tony Totty, Bernie LaPoint, Jr., Sue Rodgers, Rhoni Clark, Henry McCoy, all the shop stewards, and all their predecessors for their courage, consistency, and care. Ninety years is no small achievement. It is a testament to shared purpose, to collective power, and to neighborhoods knit together by trust and work.

May the halls of this Union always echo with the voices of the proud and the hopeful. May Local 14 forever remain a pillar for workers, for Toledo, and for Northwest Ohio.

We applaud 90 glorious years of solidarity, struggle, and strength and look toward a future carrying forward these ideals.

**CONGRATULATING GOODHART SONS INC. ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Goodhart Sons Inc. on their 90th anniversary. Goodhart Sons Inc. is a steel fabricator and installer based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Their history began in 1935 when Frank G. Goodhart purchased the two-man sheet metal shop that he was once an apprentice at. In the 90 years since Goodhart's founding, Frank and successive generations of family leadership have tapped into new markets, both in their customer base and the regions they serve. The projects they have worked on vary, ranging from food and beverage equipment to ductwork and even hovercraft. Goodhart Sons moved to their current facility in 1971, which has continued to expand with each generation.

Today, Goodhart Sons Inc. is under fourth-generation leadership and employs over one hundred people. Goodhart Sons has built a reputation for large industrial work, and their installation team has worked across the United States and other countries. Goodhart Sons is also committed to the local community, best shown through their charitable donations and workforce development investments.

For 90 eventful years, Goodhart Sons Inc. has been a business and community leader in

Pennsylvania's 11th District. I am grateful for the Goodhart family for their positive impact and wish them many more years of success.

**RECOGNIZING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress with the most Filipino Americans of any Congressional district nationwide (nearly 200,000), I have been honored since 2019 to co-lead an annual resolution recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. I have joined many colleagues in doing so once again to recognize and celebrate the great contributions of Filipino Americans to our country, in government and law, music and entertainment, sports, business and countless other ventures.

The first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental United States took place on October 18, 1587, when the "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Manila-built galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza in Morro Bay, California. This was followed by the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana in 1763.

Since those early beginnings, our Filipino American community has grown to nearly 5 million people and is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States. Many of the early Filipino immigrants were young men who came to the United States, most to Hawaii, California, Washington, and Alaska, seeking a better life.

This first generation of Filipino immigrants are commonly referred to as the "Manong generation" (Ilocano for first-born male). They worked mostly physically demanding jobs in tough conditions for very little pay. Over the years, they fought against discrimination, found a way forward, became respected members of their communities and made a better future for themselves and their future generations. Several generations have thrived upon that foundation.

The history of the Fil-Am community in Hawaii is particularly rich and echoes the national story. In 1906, the first fifteen Sakada contract laborers arrived in Honolulu from the Philippines aboard the SS *Doric*, marking the first sustained immigration into our country and the humble beginnings of Fil-Ams in Hawaii. By 1919, more than 29,000 Filipinos had traveled to Hawaii to take labor contracts. These first immigrants, those that followed and the subsequent generations eventually became trailblazers in politics and government, the military, business and entrepreneurship, journalism, popular culture, music and the arts and more.

Our resolution honors the tremendous and increasing contribution of Filipino Americans to our country in all areas including music, dance, literature, education, health care, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts and other fields. I include in the RECORD the names and accomplishments of Filipino Americans, again from my Hawaii:

Domingo Los Banos was Hawaii's first Filipino American school principal and a loyal

veteran of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment that fought in the Philippines during World War II.

Carolina Dizon Wong broke a glass ceiling when she obtained an M.D. degree and became the first Filipino American to start a medical practice in Hawaii in 1952.

Peter Aduja became the first Filipino American elected to public office in the United States when he was elected to the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives in 1954.

Larry Ramos became the first Filipino and Asian-American to win a Grammy Award playing the banjo for the New Christy Minstrels in 1963.

Benjamin Menor became the first Filipino American to serve in a state's highest judiciary office as a Justice of the Hawaii State Supreme Court in 1974.

In 1978 Alfred Laureta became the first Filipino American to serve as a federal judge, serving in the federal court of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ines Cayaban was the first Filipino American graduate of the School of Public Health, Nursing and Social Work at the University of Hawaii. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1986 for her service.

In 1994, Ben Cayetano was elected the Governor of Hawaii, becoming the first Filipino American governor of a state in our union.

In 2019, Roy Macaraeg became the first Filipino American to become a general officer in the history of Hawaii's citizen soldier ranks.

In Hawaii, we also regularly honor the over 250,000 Filipinos nationwide who answered the call to protect and defend America and the Philippines in the Pacific theater. In 2016, President Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act to bestow Congress's highest honor upon those veterans. With my colleagues in the House, I have introduced our Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which seeks to reunite World War II Filipino soldiers with their children, so that we can honor those living in our community who fought to protect the free and open Indo-Pacific that we have today.

Each and all these lives of achievement are but a small sampling of a broader community that has achieved so much and contributed so much to the rich fabric of our country. And the story of Filipino Americans is still in its early chapters.

It is fully appropriate that we again honor our Filipino American community whose story is a quintessentially American story.

**HONORING JENNY HOLTERMANN**

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman DAVID VALADAO to honor Jenny Holtermann, a fourth-generation California farmer, water advocate, and strong communicator who has worked tirelessly to preserve family farming, elevate women's voices in agriculture, and strengthen the connection between growers and consumers. As she steps down as President of the Kern County Farm Bureau, we have no doubt her leadership and service will continue to influence the Central Valley and its farming community.

Jenny was born and raised on her family's almond and walnut farm in Chico, California.

She earned a degree in Agricultural Business Marketing with a minor in Fruit Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where she met her husband, Tim. After graduation, they moved to the Central Valley to continue their families' farming legacies.

Since marrying in 2010, Jenny and Tim have farmed almonds in Wasco and Shafter, instilling the values of hard work, stewardship, and love of the land in their children. Before her advocacy work, Jenny spent five years in agricultural sales and later became a freelance writer, using her platform to connect farmers with consumers. Known as "Almond Girl Jenny," she has shared stories as a blogger, social media content creator, and freelance writer, strengthening the public connection to agriculture.

Jenny's leadership began early when she helped revitalize the Kern Young Farmers & Ranchers in 2011, serving as Chair for two years, and later as California YF&R State Chair in 2018. She has been a Kern County Farm Bureau Board member since 2011, serving in multiple leadership roles, and has represented Kern and Kings counties on the California Farm Bureau Board since 2018. Beyond Farm Bureau, Jenny's service extends to the Almond Board of California Leadership Program, the Wasco Planning Commission, and California Women for Agriculture. She also brings a wealth of knowledge in water management and currently serves as Executive Director for multiple water agencies.

In 2020, Jenny and Tim launched a direct-to-consumer almond business, sharing their family farm and farm-fresh almonds with households across the country while continuing daily farm life with their young family.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DAVID VALADAO and I invite our colleagues to join us in recognizing Jenny Holtermann for her dedication to family farming, leadership in agriculture, and service to her community, which have left a lasting mark on Kern County and the broader agricultural industry. Her years of service and commitment to agriculture have strengthened the Farm Bureau and inspired meaningful progress throughout the agricultural community. We wish her continued success as she moves forward from her role at the Kern County Farm Bureau.

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#### HONORING MR. CHRIS R. SHERIDAN, JR.

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OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chris R. Sheridan, Jr., a distinguished leader in our community and the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Central Georgia Council of Scouting America. Mr. Sheridan's lifelong dedication to civic engagement and educational advancement reflects the values we cherish in our society. An event to celebrate his contributions to his community and serving others was held on September 25th 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Anderson Conference Center in Macon, Georgia.

As an Eagle Scout, Mr. Sheridan embodies the principles of leadership, service, and commitment. His influence is clear through his extensive board service on organizations like

Mercer University, NewTown Macon, the Grand Opera House, The Lewis Foundation, The Phil and Alice Sheridan Foundation, The Ocmlugee National Park Initiative, Comp Trust Captive Insurance Company, the Navicent Health Foundation and the Macon Rescue Mission. His contributions have profoundly impacted our community, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Central Georgia, Mr. Sheridan has received many accolades, including the R. Kirby Godsey Leadership Award, Alumnus of the Year from Mount De Sales Academy, the Legacy of Leadership Award from Middle Georgia State University Foundation, the Sir Award from the Associated General Contractors of Georgia, the Meritorious Service Award from Mercer University, Person of the Year from Family Advancement Ministries, Citizen of the Year from the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the Bishop Gartland Award from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah. These honors reflect not only his achievements but also the respect he has garnered from peers and community members alike.

Mr. Sheridan's relentless pursuit of excellence and his dedication to uplifting others is a shining example of what it means to serve. It has been said that "service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mr. Sheridan has paid his rent, and he has paid it well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Mr. Chris R. Sheridan for his service to his community, and all of humankind. May God continue to bless him and his family as he continues on his journey to making the world a better place to live for all people.

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#### HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALBERT J. "AL" LLORENS

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#### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life and legacy of my good friend, Albert J. "Al" Llorens.

Born and raised in Chicago, Al grew up in Englewood on the Southwest side and attended Chicago Public Schools. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics education from the University of Illinois at Champaign and later a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National Louis University.

Al was, above all, a good man. He believed deeply that making the world a better place begins in the classroom. For more than 30 years, he poured his heart into teaching mathematics and coaching at the high school level. He loved the classroom and dedicated himself to empowering the next generation of students.

But Al's impact reached far beyond the walls of any classroom. Even when he stepped away from teaching—always calling it a "leave of absence" rather than a retire-

ment—he carried his passion for students into his work with the Illinois Education Association. Before being elected IEA president in 2023, Al served two terms each as vice president and secretary/treasurer, working tirelessly to address the teacher shortage crisis in Illinois and to ensure that every student had access to a higher quality education. As president of the IEA, he was a giant in education, fighting for his beloved teachers and students until the very end. Al dedicated his life to strengthening public education as he believed deeply in its power to transform communities, leaving a legacy that will continue to change the lives of many.

I will miss Al not only for what he accomplished, but for how he carried himself. He was a friend to all, a leader who combined compassion with resolve, and a fierce advocate for public education.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Wanda, his children, and his grandchildren. May they find comfort in knowing that Al's life's work continues in the generations of students and educators he inspired.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GUS BUTCHIKAS

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#### HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man, Gus Butchikas, who passed away on September 21, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Gus was a beloved member of our community, a devoted husband and father, and a cherished friend to many, including myself.

Born into the legacy of Angelo's Steak Pit, Gus dedicated himself to preserving and enhancing the family business, ensuring that it remained a cornerstone of Panama City Beach. His culinary talents were evident in the creation of signature recipes, including the renowned Greek dressing, which continues to be prepared exclusively by family members. Beyond his professional achievements, Gus was known for his deep faith, kindness, and unwavering commitment to his community.

As a trusted confidant to governors, political leaders, and public servants, Gus played a pivotal role in guiding many of us in our public service journeys. His wisdom, encouragement, and genuine care for others left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In this time of sorrow, our thoughts and prayers are with Patti, Angelo, Brittany, Evey, and the entire Butchikas family. May they find comfort in the knowledge that Gus was called home to the Lord, where his spirit will continue to shine brightly.

May he rest in peace. His legacy lives on in all of us.

HONORING QUAKERTOWN WEST END FIRE COMPANY NO. 2 ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of the distinct achievements and serviceable contributions of the Quakertown West End Fire Company No. 2, on this occasion of their 100th anniversary as of September 25, 2025. For a century, the men and women of the West End Fire Company No. 2 have served Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania, with distinction, dedication, resilience, and valor.

West End Fire Company No. 2 is known as Bucks County Station No. 18 and has been completely staffed by volunteers since its formation in 1925.

Their unwavering dedication to continued training and willingness to serve their neighbors to meet the needs of the ever-changing fire service landscape is no better demonstrated than in their daily quick response to all types of emergencies.

Station No. 18 has modern fire equipment and is constantly adding to its services. As expected, they have the most modern Fire Suppression equipment, Heavy Rescue equipment, and Water Rescue equipment.

The West End Fire Company No. 2 is a sister Company to Quakertown Fire Company No. 1, which both operate as the Quakertown Fire Department.

Throughout its long history, Station No. 18 has embodied the core values of: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. They have safeguarded the Community, provided critical support in times of need, and stood ready to respond when called upon. Their knowledge and skills, and superior operational support personnel, have been, and continue to be, some of the most skilled and dedicated in the fire service.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, it is my distinct honor to celebrate those who faithfully served in the West End Fire Company No. 2 over the past century. Their sacrifices of their time and those of their families have ensured our fire safe security. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge their service and pay tribute to their bravery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the West End Fire Company No. 2, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, in extending a heartfelt thank you to the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in this distinguished Fire Company. May the next 100 years of Firefighters serve with the same valor, honor, dignity, and dedication to duty as the exemplary men and women of the West End Fire Co. No. 2 have so expertly demonstrated over the last century of service.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH DRURY CONNER AS OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Jackson High School Automotive Teacher Joseph Drury as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Joseph was recently awarded a \$50,000 prize for his school's skilled trades program as a winner of the 2025 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. He is 1 of just 25 teachers around the country to be honored with this award—a true testament to his determination to better the lives of his students.

This annual award was created to recognize excellence among high school skilled trades teachers, a group of educators that is frequently overlooked and underappreciated, yet so important to ensure that students have the tools to excel in a career in the trades.

Inspired by his own experiences as a high school student, he told his automotive instructor on graduation day that he wanted to be a teacher one day, too. He has 15 years of industry experience in dealerships and six years as a bus mechanic for Jackson Local Schools. Joseph is most passionate about sharing his love for automobiles with students, seeing them grow more confident as they acquire the knowledge and skills to become self-sufficient with automotive operation and upkeep.

By using real-world scenarios and hands-on projects, students gain practical experience with modern repair technologies, preparing them for future careers in the automotive industry. The Automotive Technology Program at Jackson High School prepares students to be high-tech automotive technicians, move into advanced training within the industry, or earn an associate degree in the automotive technology field.

Joseph's students have a 95 percent job placement rate within six months of graduation, with many students employed at local auto shops, dealerships, or starting their own businesses. In the last 3 years, 100% of students enrolled in Joseph's automotive technology classes have graduated, and 85% of them have done so after earning one or more industry certifications. Thank you Joseph for doing this work to inspire the next generation of skilled mechanics.

With this award, and all the hard work that came before it, Joseph is a shining example why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the "Birthplace of Champions." He has certainly made Jackson High School and our greater community proud.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, HIS ALL HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. DON BACON**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents at St. John the Baptist Greek Or-

thodox Church in Omaha, I would like to welcome their Spiritual Leader, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew, to the United States. He is visiting the United States next week to meet with the president and members of the House and Senate Leadership and to receive the revered Templeton Prize.

Known as the "Green Patriarch," he is well known for his efforts to promote ecology and the protection of the environment. He has been at the forefront of religious freedom and bringing together others from many faiths to work towards better cooperation and understanding. Through dialogue and visitations, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has significantly advanced Orthodox relations with the Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, and others through visitations and open dialogues.

In addition, His All Holiness has visited several Orthodox Nations that were part of communist Eastern Europe to strengthen his contacts and relations with various Orthodox national churches there.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has brought together Christians, Muslims, and Jews at international peace conferences and meetings to advance greater cooperation and mutual understanding. His efforts to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance included having theological conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders.

His push for peace includes calling out both the Russian state and the Russian church for the invasion of Ukraine. In Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's opinion, he says, "This is the theology that the sister Church of Russia began to teach, trying to justify an unjust, unholy, unprovoked, diabolical war against a sovereign and independent country—Ukraine."

The Ecumenical Patriarch is a figure who has addressed the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress (in 1997 when he received the Congressional Gold Medal), and has met Heads of State in Great Britain, Canada, South America, Greece, Russia, Norway, Finland, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Ethiopia, Korea, and Cuba. As Ecumenical Patriarch (the only Christian Leader in the world who is considered equal to the Pope of Rome in honor), he has met with every Pontiff since John Paul II, including Leo XIV. He has also traveled to Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, and met with both political and religious figures in those Islamic countries, many of whom no other Christian hierarch of such stature has ever visited.

I welcome His All Holiness to the United States, and I congratulate him on his well-deserved honor.

HONORING LYNN ADAMS ON HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. SAM T. LICCARDO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2025*

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and career of community leader Lynn Adams in celebration of her retirement. Since 2007, Lynn has served as the President of the Pacifica Beach Coalition (PCB), dedicating herself to promoting conservation, stewardship, and restoration.

Lynn began volunteering with the Pacifica Beach Coalition in 2002, working to clean up

and restore Pacifica's beaches, coastlines, and habitats, ensuring our lands and communities thrive. Under Lynn's leadership, PCB cleanups have been organized across the San Mateo County coastline, encouraging countless volunteers to take action in their communities. Her commitment to preserving our ocean, coastal habitats, and wildlife has made an immensely positive impact along our coastlines.

Her spark ignited the passion for public service in countless community members. Since 2005, she has increased participation in the annual Earth Day of Action from 150 to 8,500 volunteers, expanding the event's coverage in the city of Pacifica. She has also in-

creased the number of field education events by tenfold.

Lynn has been particularly devoted to engaging our community's young people. She has held countless events in elementary schools across the region and developed Pacifica's "Junior Ocean Stewards Program," which engages children from underserved communities in environmental stewardship and service from a young age.

Lynn's leadership is responsible for PBC's immense growth and impact. She has worked with corporate volunteer teams, coordinated programming, worked with local media, and advocated for crucial conservation policies. She has also formed naturalist and habitat restoration programs, which have evolved into core staples of PBC's programming.

In addition to her work in the PBC, Lynn has helped lead the Pacifica Land Trust as the Stewardship Coordinator, where she established a volunteer-based stewardship program with almost 1,000 volunteers. She has coordinated conservation efforts and developed programs that foster the appreciation, protection, and conservation of my district's natural habitats.

Lynn's dedication to her work inspires us all. Her time as President of the Pacifica Beach Coalition has transformed conservation efforts along my district's coasts. She leaves a legacy of stewardship and service. Both our community and our natural world owe her a debt of gratitude.