

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HEATHER HENRY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Henry, for her unwavering commitment to public service. Heather serves as the Chief Executive Officer of California Human Development (CHD), where she leads efforts to empower seasonal farm workers and their families through workforce development, education, and economic opportunity. With over two decades of experience in non-profit management, Heather has built an impressive record of service marked by vision, compassion, and collaboration. Prior to her role at CHD, she served for eight years as President and Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Solano County, where she championed initiatives that strengthened local economies and helped job seekers gain the skills necessary to thrive in today's workforce. Her work in fostering partnerships and creating opportunities for economic growth has had a lasting impact on the individuals in need and the county at large. Heather also serves as Board Chair for the Solano Community Foundation and as a Board Member for Connections for Life, reflecting her deep commitment to civic engagement and equity. Her dedication to social justice, economic mobility, and community empowerment has transformed lives across Solano County and beyond. Despite the challenges of navigating complex systems and limited resources, she has consistently advocated for the underrepresented and has fought to dismantle barriers to opportunity. Her personal journey and professional accomplishments serve as a testament to her resilience and dedication to making a meaningful impact. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Heather Henry for her invaluable contributions to our community.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BALANCING INCENTIVES ACT OF 2025

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the "Balancing Incentives Act" of 2025, Bipartisan legislation to restore fairness and integrity to America's patent system.

Innovation is the beating heart of American progress. From workshops and factories to classrooms and garages, inventors across our Nation embody the creativity, determination, and optimism that define the American spirit.

They turn ideas into opportunities and dreams into progress.

Yet too many inventors face an uneven playing field that makes it harder to protect their work. The "Balancing Incentives Act" ensures that inventors have a fair chance to defend their creations.

By doing so, we reaffirm that innovation belongs to everyone with an idea and the determination to bring it to fruition.

With the "Balancing Incentives Act," we stand up for the spirit of American ingenuity that built our middle class, that powers our industries and continues to light the way toward a more prosperous and inventive future.

By standing up for inventors, we stand up for America's future. Because what America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

I urge my colleagues to join myself and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE in supporting this vital legislation.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the strong relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan and to recognize Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

Republic Day commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment, 25 years ago, paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in shared values of democracy, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith harmony and global dialogue. Kazakhstan, ethnically rich and religiously diverse, has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

Recently, Kazakhstan took a decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation, the largest locomotive order in recent history. This transformative

deal will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Kazakhstan remains one of the United States' most reliable and trusted partners, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace. Doing so would cost nothing, yet send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6, 2025, represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results, demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

Together, the United States and Kazakhstan are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but globally.

HONORING ANDREA SORCE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Andrea Sorce as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Andrea has established a legacy of fierce advocacy in the community. Having served in the Peace Corps, service to others is a trait that is not new to her, has informed her impactful work in Vallejo and its surrounding areas, and continues to make a difference to this day. Andrea has worked to help those in need in her community, particularly through organizations such as the Solano County chapter of the ACLU, which she co-founded. It was through this organization that Andrea helped support families impacted by police violence. Andrea's advocacy work and civic engagement extended beyond her involvement with the Solano ACLU, as she also served as chair of

● 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.

Vallejo's Surveillance Advisory Board and remained active in various other civic roles, including the Glen Cove Community Association and the United Democrats of Southern Solano County, where she served as vice-chair. Although the work that she has done has been crucial to the wellbeing of Vallejo and its community members, her hard work did not stop there, as she then launched a successful campaign for Mayor of the City of Vallejo. In spite of the fact that she has yet to complete a full term as Vallejo Mayor, she has already achieved impressive accomplishments during her time in this position. Constituents describe Andrea as a courageous leader, who stands for reform and lives her values, which is exemplified in her many efforts to connect with the community. Since becoming Mayor, Andrea has held over 30 public meetings to increase transparency, discuss pressing issues, and take action towards solutions. Apart from her politically-engaged work, Andrea serves her community in several other capacities as well, such as serving on: the board of Solano Transportation Authority, the Solano County Water Agency, and as the President of the Vallejo Wastewater and Flood District. When she's not actively engaging with civic issues, she also teaches at Diablo Valley College, as an economics professor. It is clear that Andrea's commitment to service, passion for advocacy, and multi-faceted approach to tackling local issues makes her a vital asset to the Vallejo and overall Solano County community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Andrea Sorce for her positive contributions to our community.

---

COMMEMORATING KAZAKHSTAN'S  
REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and recognize its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

From its earliest days, Kazakhstan pursued a forward-looking vision rooted in partnership, openness, and modernization. Its early alignment with the West, especially in developing a free-market economy, has shaped its remarkable transformation. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has emerged as a thriving nation with a dynamic economy, an active international presence, and a strong and growing partnership with the United States.

The U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is grounded in shared values and mutual respect. As we mark Kazakhstan's national holiday, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening cooperation between our two nations to meet global challenges and advance peace, security, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan's commitment to transparency, the rule of law, and an open investment climate has made it a magnet for American business. U.S. companies remain the largest

source of foreign direct investment, helping drive Kazakhstan's diversification and sustainable development. This alignment supports the country's broader goal of becoming a resilient, innovative economy and a hub for regional growth.

Kazakhstan continues to stand as a pillar of stability in Central Asia and a leader on the world stage in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Despite external challenges, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia—a reliable partner and a model of pragmatic, balanced diplomacy.

Kazakhstan is the economic footprint of the United States in Central Asia—a partnership that is long-term, resilient, and mutually beneficial.

Recently, Kazakhstan took another decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation—the largest locomotive order in recent history.

This transformative deal is more than an investment in Kazakhstan's infrastructure; it is a powerful endorsement of American innovation and manufacturing leadership. It will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Kazakhstan is taking bold steps to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (the Middle Corridor), which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets, is strengthening supply chain resilience for the U.S. and its partners.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Rare-earth minerals from Kazakhstan can help power the next generation of U.S. innovation, driving the transformation of the American economy built around AI, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear energy.

Energy collaboration also remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Earlier this year, Chevron's \$48 billion Future Growth Project at Kazakhstan's Tengiz field began production, underscoring the scale and depth of U.S. investment in the country's energy future. The Tengizchevroil venture—operated by Chevron represents Central Asia's largest oil development, ensuring reliable supply and creating thousands of high-skilled jobs. These projects embody the long-term, mutually beneficial nature of U.S. Kazakhstan energy cooperation.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is undertaking an ambitious program of national renewal. Over the past three years, the country has implemented far-reaching political and economic reforms unprecedented in the region. Among the key changes is the introduction of a single seven-year presidential term, a step designed to enhance democratic accountability and political stability.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue. Kazakhstan—ethnically rich and religiously diverse—has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of

World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

This same spirit of openness and engagement also guides Kazakhstan's approach to the global economy. Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets. As such, it is time for the United States to grant Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) by repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Doing so would cost nothing, yet send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6, 2025, represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

We urge the Administration to seize this moment, build on the foundation of trust and shared interests, and work with Congress to achieve outcomes that advance stability, prosperity, and lasting friendship across our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, we honor the enduring friendship between our two countries and look forward to the continued growth of a partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared progress, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.

---

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, I rise today alongside my colleague and Ranking Member, Ms. Kamlager-Dove of California, to honor and congratulate the people of Kazakhstan as they mark the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, which commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty independent of the Soviet Union on October 25, 1990. The United States has remained committed to Kazakhstan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Now, as a valued strategic partner of the United States, our nations work together to advance security, peace, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan inherited a massive nuclear stockpile and legacy sites for chemical and biological weapons research following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The voluntary commitment to rapidly remove these weapons from its territory and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other key arms control measures was a model for the region and the world. Kazakhstan has also made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including independent deployments of peacekeepers from 2024. Efforts such as these to

counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent radicalization to violence, in addition to cooperation to combat the persistent threat of terrorism, support stability and security in both Central Asia and the wider world.

U.S. companies remain the largest source of foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan, helping build resilient supply chains, driving Kazakhstan's economic diversification, supply chain resiliency, and sustainable economic development. Last month, our two nations announced the largest locomotive deal in history between Wabtec Corporation and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy. Valued at \$4.2 billion, this landmark deal is a symbol of American innovation and manufacturing leadership, as well as Kazakhstan's desire to deepen cooperation with American firms. Kazakhstan offers abundant potential for future investment opportunities—including critical minerals, rare earths, civilian nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, and manufacturing. We reiterate our commitment to advancing the repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which will allow us to fully realize the potential of this relationship. We also applaud Kazakhstan's efforts to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. We believe it is in our shared interest to improve Central Asian connectivity with global markets to boost supply chain resilience and seek ways to support the realization of the Trans-Caspian "Middle Corridor," which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets beyond. In addition to continued dialogue to safeguard critical technologies and improve the investment climate, we hope that the ongoing constitutional and political reform process in Kazakhstan, initiated in 2022, will strengthen governance and human rights.

On the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day, we can reflect on our enduring friendship and the bright future of our strategic partnership. We look forward to continued high-level engagement with Kazakhstan, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In particular, we believe the anticipated C5+1 Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. would be a pivotal opportunity to strengthen longstanding United States cooperation with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and Representative Kamlager-Dove in honoring the Kazakhstan Republic Day.

**CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) on the occasion of its United Nations 80th Anniversary Gala.

The United Nations was founded in 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, to promote peace, security, development, and human rights around the world. As we mark 80 years of this global institution, it is fitting that we also honor one of its most steadfast and influential community champions: the UNA-NCA.

Founded in 1952, the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area is one of the oldest and largest divisions of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

With the support of more than 1,000 members, volunteers, and supporters in the greater Washington area, UNA-NCA has led efforts to educate, inspire, and mobilize citizens across our region to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

For over seven decades, UNA-NCA has worked to build public knowledge, strengthen US-UN relations, and aid the UN in achieving its goals. It continues to serve as a critical bridge between the United Nations' international ideals and the everyday lives of citizens in our Nation's capital and surrounding regions. Its work reminds us that local engagement can make a global impact.

UNA-NCA's mission is brought to life through a variety of programs that promote education, civic engagement, and leadership development, including the flagship Global Classroom DC Model UN Program, Graduate Fellows Program, Global Goals at Home, Young Professionals Program, the Annual Human Rights Awards, and more.

Over the years, my staff and I have had the opportunity to participate in and support several UNA-NCA events, including on Capitol Hill in 2017 to highlight the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Annual Human Rights Awards, and regular meetings with the chapter as part of its congressional advocacy efforts. I was also honored to receive the UNA-NCA Arthur W. Johnson Leadership Award in 2022. Recognition from the UN holds personal significance as my grandmother, Clara Mortenson Beyer, was the first ever U.S. Representative to the International Labor Organization in Geneva.

Finally, I want to offer special recognition to President Paula Boland, Board Chair Anne Simmons-Benton, and the board, staff, members, volunteers, and students whose steadfast work ensure UNA-NCA's success in its mission.

As we celebrate UN80, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the UNA-NCA for its visionary leadership, its tireless advocacy, and its unwavering commitment to a more peaceful and just world.

**HONORING ANNA DURAN AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Anna Duran as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Anna is a Crime Prevention Specialist for the Richmond Police Department and has served in that role since 2024. But her work and community service precede her time with Richmond PD. Anna brings her experience working for the Office of Neighborhood Safety as a case manager assisting families, many whom

were undocumented. She has spent years volunteering with the Latina Center, where she has helped promote advocacy, outreach, and empowerment among her fellow Latina community members. Anna is known for her generosity and kindness, which extends beyond her professional obligations. She makes hospital visits to victims of crime, provides assistance to families who navigate immigration challenges, and has assisted in building support networks for undocumented residents. Even before officially joining the Richmond Police Department, Anna volunteered her time to and help the department by supporting families with needs assessments and referrals, in her personal time. Anna uses her personal experiences, genuine compassion, and resourcefulness to make a difference in the community, especially by assisting those who may be most in-need. It is these traits, and many more, that make Anna such a crucial asset to the overall community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Anna Duran for her positive contributions to our community.

**HONORING VALLEY HEALTH SERVICES AND VALLEY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Valley Health Services (VHS) and Valley Residential Services (VRS), two cornerstone institutions that have provided exceptional long-term care to seniors and their families in the Mohawk Valley for half a century.

What began as a 32-bed facility in the former Herkimer Memorial Hospital building has grown into a comprehensive center for elder care and rehabilitation. From the start, VHS was guided by a simple but powerful mission: to care for the mind, body, and spirit of every individual who walks through its doors. That mission has endured—and expanded—for fifty years.

In the 1980's, renovation projects increased the facility's capacity to 160 beds, laying the foundation for new services that continue to define VHS today. These include adult day healthcare, outpatient rehabilitation, subacute care, and skilled nursing. Each program reflects a commitment to person-centered care and a deep respect for the dignity and independence of every resident.

The staff, families, and volunteers who fill its halls have created a home-like environment where residents experience comfort, privacy, and connection. Families are not just visitors but partners in care, joining in activities and celebrations that make life at VHS meaningful and full.

In 2015, Valley Residential Services opened its doors as a natural extension of that mission. The modern senior living facility began with 46 apartments across more than 220 acres of scenic land. Designed with comfort and independence in mind, each apartment features a living room, kitchenette, private bedroom, and bath. Common spaces include

an activity room with a cafe, social gathering areas, and an on-site beauty salon.

VRS expanded again in 2018, adding a new wing with 14 double-occupancy apartments and a fitness center for active residents. This growth reflects not only success, but the community's trust in the care, compassion, and excellence that define both VHS and VRS.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Valley Health Services and Valley Residential Services for fifty years of service, care, and commitment to our seniors. Their legacy of compassion will continue to shape the community for generations to come.

**HONORING RINBAN GERALD SAKAMOTO**

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Rinban Gerald Sakamoto of San Jose, California, who has served the Buddhist church and community in San Jose for four decades.

Mr. Sakamoto began his ministry journey in Hawaii, where he received his degree with an emphasis on Buddhism while working alongside ministers at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Mr. Sakamoto then later moved to Kyoto where he completed his Tokudo ordination and training to become a minister for the Buddhist church.

Since Mr. Sakamoto's appointment to the San Jose Buddhist Church, he has been an active member of his community through youth outreach, Scouting programs, and community involvement. For many years, Mr. Sakamoto has led the opening and closing prayer at the Bon Odori dances that happen annually at the San Jose Odori Festival.

His teachings have emphasized compassion, interdependence, and the relevance of Buddhist values in daily life, using accessible metaphors such as the difference between square and round tables to illustrate spiritual concepts. Sakamoto's Dharma messages explore themes like birth and death, and the importance of relationships with others, with our ancestors, and with the world around us. His inclusive and thoughtful style bridges tradition and modern life, making Buddhist teachings approachable for people of all ages.

Rinban Gerald Sakamoto has helped bridge generations and make Buddhist teachings accessible to all. His thoughtful messages and inclusive leadership continue to leave a lasting impact on his temple and his community. As he approaches retirement, his legacy of service, compassion, and connection will be remembered with deep gratitude.

**HONORING UNITED NATIONS DAY**

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my ongoing support of the United Nations on this United Nations Day.

October 24, 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the effective date of the United Nations Charter, the UN's founding document. Since the UN's inception in 1945, its 51 original member states have now grown to 193, and the UN remains the one place on Earth where all nations gather together, discuss common problems, resolve disputes and forge shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

Every year, the UN and its organizations assist and protect 139 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; provide food and assistance to 123 million people in over 120 countries and territories through the World Food Programme; and keep the peace with 61,000 UN peacekeepers in eleven operations across the world. UN-led international agreements address international needs ranging from intellectual property to the high seas and beyond.

In a recent trip to Mongolia to review the UN's wide-ranging efforts, my Congressional colleagues and I witnessed firsthand how U.S. participation in the UN both delivers lasting positive impacts to populations around the world and supports our national interests. For Mongolia, a country sandwiched between two of our geopolitical competitors, Russia and the People's Republic of China (PRC), support from the UN together with other multilateral and bilateral relationships is critical to addressing its economic, educational, health, environmental, social, cultural and security needs. This in turn enables Mongolia to pursue a mutually beneficial "third neighbor" relationship with other nations including our own.

It is alarming that, just as the world faces almost overwhelming challenges, from geopolitical to economic, humanitarian, developmental, health, weather and beyond, the current administration has made numerous decisions that have led to massive UN budget cuts, crippling the UN's overall efforts. While critics of the UN may claim that this is saving the U.S. money, this will only end up costing more in the long run as instability festers around the world in the absence of UN programming that feeds children and monitors intense conflicts, such as between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti's gang violence. It also leaves a vacuum of influence that bad actors are all too eager to fill with their goal of supplanting the international rules-based order under which both the U.S. and world have enjoyed three generations of relative peace and advancement.

On this 80th UN Day, let us remember that U.S. engagement in the UN is both a moral obligation to our world and a critical component of our country's long-term economic and national security strategy. Working together with UN member states, we can reduce international instability and create the conditions for transformational change that will expand the benefits of the last three generations into future generations.

To our UN 'ohana (family) around the world, wherever they are, past, present and future, I hope they know that, especially in these difficult times for an indispensable organization in which we all believe deeply, their steadfast commitment to their mission and a broader purpose is deeply appreciated and valued.

**HONORING ANNIE FRIAS-RAMOS AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Frias-Ramos, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Annie was born in the Philippines, yet despite many challenges, she persevered and earned her degree in nursing from Southwestern University. In 1975, she became one of the first from her village to immigrate to the United States and began her nursing career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She later moved to California, where she continued her dedicated service in healthcare at Vallejo General Hospital, Doctors' Hospital, and ultimately at Kaiser Permanente. At Kaiser Permanente, Annie advanced to the role of Nurse Manager, leading her team with distinction. Annie is currently serving as President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Inc., and previously served as President of the Visayan Circle of Northern California for over 27 years. Annie has led numerous initiatives that demonstrate both vision and compassionate leadership, including serving as Chairperson for Vallejo's Pista sa Nayon festival and leading one of the first COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Solano County. In addition, Annie has organized a fundraiser to renovate deteriorating church seating for a local community church and has connected unhoused community members to local housing resources. Annie also continues to support Filipino communities, such as by leading food drives and relief efforts for typhoon victims in the Philippines and advocating for immigration assistance. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Annie Frias-Ramos for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**PROCLAMATION HONORING REV-EREND ANTHONY "FATHER TONY" GALLAGHER**

**HON. MARCY KAPTR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Reverend Anthony "Father Tony" Gallagher:

Whereas, the Reverend Anthony "Father Tony" Gallagher, a beloved son of Toledo and a priest of the Diocese of Toledo since his ordination in Rome in 1961, has devoted more than six decades of his life to faith, service, and the pursuit of justice for all people; and

Whereas, as the eldest of six children, Father Gallagher has exemplified a lifetime of humility and leadership, serving parishes from Port Clinton to Grand Rapids, and providing spiritual guidance rooted in compassion, inclusivity, and a steadfast belief in the dignity of every human being; and

Whereas, Father Gallagher has embodied the principles of social justice throughout

his ministry, walking in the proud tradition of priests such as Monsignor Geno Baroni and Father Martin Hernady, tirelessly advocating for the poor, the marginalized, and those without a voice in our society; and

Whereas, in retirement from assigned parish ministry since 2009, Father Gallagher has continued his vocation of service—working with the Multifaith Council, Social Justice Advocates, Care of Creation, the CCMT School, and the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests—to advance understanding, promote equality, and strengthen bonds among people of all faiths and backgrounds; and

Whereas, his ministry of presence, his philosophy to “show up, shut up, and cheer,” has inspired generations of Toledoans, demonstrating what it means to encounter and accompany others with grace and humility; and

Whereas, Father Gallagher’s deep empathy and compassion are reflected not only in his advocacy, but in the quiet acts of kindness that have defined his life from feeding the hungry at Claver House and St. Paul’s Community Center to offering comfort and companionship to those in prison and on the streets; and

Whereas, as Father Gallagher celebrates his 90th birthday on November 21, 2025, the people of Northwest Ohio and all who his ministry has touched give thanks for his enduring witness to faith, justice, and love of neighbor;

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, that I, MARCY KAPTUR, Member of Congress for the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, do hereby recognize and commend Reverend Anthony “Father Tony” Gallagher for his lifetime of selfless service, his moral courage, and his unwavering commitment to the common good. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the City of Toledo hereby recognizes and commends the Reverend Anthony Gallagher for his outstanding service and significant contributions to our community and to our common good; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the City Citation of Merit be presented to Father Gallagher as a token of this city’s deep appreciation and gratitude for his unwavering dedication to making Toledo a better place for us all.

---

#### CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CEN- TENNIAL PARK

---

#### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park in Detroit on October 25, 2025.

Each year, more than three million people visit the Detroit Riverfront, one of the highest-rated riverfronts in the United States, bringing in revenue and exposure to our community. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park is a 22-acre park that will have a 4-acre playground, a sports house with basketball courts, and a 2.5-acre water garden. The opening of this park is part of a 5.5 miles long revitalization project along the riverfront, part of a larger commitment by the city of Detroit to reinvest into the community and continue our city’s historic revitalization.

The namesake of this park, Ralph Cookerly Wilson Jr., was raised in Detroit, Michigan, the son of a salesman and who had ambitions for

bigger and better things in life. A veteran of World War II, Mr. Wilson embodied the true virtues of leadership, sacrifice, and service to his country and community. Most famously, he is known for founding and owning the Buffalo Bills football team, at one point being the oldest owner of a National Football League (NFL) team. His contributions, like those being made through his foundation, will be remembered and felt by the Detroit community for years to come.

Since I became the U.S. Representative for Michigan’s 13th congressional district in 2023, I have been incredibly proud to see the amount of work being done by the community and the funds being brought in for reviving Detroit and the surrounding neighborhoods and townships. Projects like the Michigan Central Station, the New Center project, and the building of new affordable housing are all promising developments that will bring more opportunities and improve the quality of life for all Detroiters. Developments like the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park build on the Motor City’s greatness, and I look forward to continuing this work through efforts made in the halls of Congress.

---

#### HONORING BRITTNEY GREER AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA’S 8TH CON- GRESSIONAL DISTRICT’S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

---

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Brittney Greer as she is honored as one of California’s 8th Congressional District’s Women of the Year. Brittney serves her community as the driver of Bus 9 for the Travis Unified School District. Through her work, she not only ensures the safety and secure transportation of the children of our community, but she does so with consistent positivity and optimism. As a loving mother of three children, it comes as no surprise that Brittney’s kindness, care, and diligence make a daily impact on the students and families of the Travis-USD community. Brittney goes above and beyond to ensure the safety of her students, checking the bus for any potential mechanical issues every morning, and fixing them herself if possible. She is a source of consistency for parents providing a reliable, safe and caring environment for the students. This is a responsibility she does not take lightly, and she does so with grace. In addition to her role as a school bus driver, Brittney also displays leadership by serving her church congregation in Antioch, helping address the needs of her community. After realizing her community lacked support groups for women, she began studying to attain her certificate in Christian Life Coaching, with the goal of starting a women’s support group. Brittney is a committed, pivotal part of the community, and her work improves the lives of the students and families within it. On behalf of the people of California’s 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Brittney Greer for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. RANDALL BRYANT’S SELECTION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DART BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Randall Bryant, my constituent and the incoming Chairman for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors. His selection as Chairman is not only a testament to the agency’s forward momentum, but it also marks a milestone: Mr. Bryant is now the twenty-second board chair in DART’s forty-two-year history, and he becomes the youngest individual ever to lead the Board.

Mr. Bryant joined the DART Board following his appointment by the Dallas City Council in 2024 to fill a vacancy, and he was reappointed to a full two-year term in May 2025. Over the past fifteen years, he has served our city through multiple appointments to boards, commissions, and committees, including his prior role as Immediate Past Chair of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, and his membership on the Dallas Citizens Council and North Texas Commission.

Since joining DART, Mr. Bryant has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and he will now represent DART on the Regional Transportation Council. His broad experience in civic, business, and community affairs positions him well to lead at this pivotal moment for transit in our region.

Under his upcoming chairmanship, DART is poised to advance its role as the mobility backbone of North Texas. Established in 1983, DART now serves a 700-square-mile service area across thirteen member cities, including Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Richardson, Rowlett, Plano, and University Park. Its network spans light rail lines, bus routes, commuter-rail service (the Trinity Railway Express and as of this weekend the new Silver Line), GoLink on-demand services, and paratransit. Recently, DART has adopted an updated Strategic Plan setting bold new vision and mission statements, guiding the agency into the decade ahead as a “first-in-mind mobility partner” and a premier regional economic and mobility asset. With Mr. Bryant’s leadership as chair, I am confident the Board will continue building on DART’s legacy of innovation—expanding service, improving accessibility, enhancing sustainability, and ensuring that transit remains affordable and reliable for all our neighbors.

Again, I extend my congratulations to Mr. Randall Bryant. I thank him for his ongoing service throughout our community and for his commitment to ensuring the presence of safe, accessible, and affordable transportation for all our neighbors across the region. I look forward to our continued partnership.

RECOGNIZING REESE PATRICIA  
FRITSCH**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birth of Reese Patricia Fritsch.

Reese was born on October 7, 2025 at 2:45 P.M. at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center weighing seven pounds, two ounces and measuring 21 inches long to loving parents Taylor and Kristin Fluke Fritsch, who serves as a valuable member of my team on the Subcommittee on Health for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I'm grateful to have Kristin as a part of the Energy and Commerce family, and I'm excited for her and Taylor to start their family with their newest addition.

**HONORING MAJOR GENERAL  
THOMAS REW****HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the honorable life of Major General Thomas Rew.

Having lived for over a century, born on March 13, 1922, Maj. Gen. Rew served 34 years as a U.S. Air Force officer, and fought bravely in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to keep American families safe and protect freedom with *Peace Through Strength*.

In 1976, he retired from the military and moved to Columbia, South Carolina, where he became a valued community member. I especially appreciate his service as myself the son of U.S. Army Air Corps Flying Tigers in World War II, 1st Lieutenant Hugh Wilson, having served in Kunming, Chengdu, and Xian, China.

Maj. Gen. Rew is a true American hero, and I am grateful for his service to the country. My thoughts and prayers go to his family and friends.

Maj. Gen. Rew was honored on June 7, 2025, at the WWII Veterans Honor Event at Woodward Field Camden, hosted by Colonel Rick Mantei and his wife Lisa through the Rick Mantei Charitable Fund.

His loving obituary has been published by Dunbar Funeral Home:

"Maj. Gen. Rew died Sunday, October 12, 2025. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was the son of the late Thomas J. and Lucy Davey Rew. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in New York City. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corps during WWII and was quickly selected for officers' training and flight school. After the war he graduated from Springfield College, Massachusetts with a degree in Physical Education, married Marie Hartigan of Queens, New York, and was subsequently recalled to active duty in the US Air Force during the Korean War. He remained on active duty for the next 25 years flying B-47 and B-52 bomber aircraft. He served in a variety of command positions and in combat during the Vietnam War. He retired from the military in 1976 and resided in Columbia, South Caro-

lina, ever since. In addition to his Christian faith and his family, his three main passions in life were fishing (with his children), sports (playing handball and watching the Los Angeles Dodgers), and aviation.

"Surviving are his wife, Carolyn Rew, and his three sons: Fredric Rew (wife Paige and children James, Mark, Elizabeth); William Rew (wife Christy and children Jessica, Mandy, Kat); Thomas Rew (wife Diana and children TJ and Lindsay); grandchildren Keegan Robar, Devin Brown, and Taylor Brown; plus seven great grandchildren."

"He was predeceased by wife Marie Elizabeth Hartigan, sister Mary Carpenter, daughter Maureen Rew Brown, and grandson William Rew."

As I attended the funeral services at Northeast Presbyterian Church (PCA), thoughtfully conducted by Rev. Dr. George Crow with Dr. Robert Jones and Rev. Josh Desch, I was inspired to know firsthand of the success of Major General Rew with his World War II, Korea, and Vietnam service. He made possible my visits to formerly deadly enemies of Berlin, Tokyo, Rome, Pyongyang, Seoul, and Hanoi. Now Germany, Japan, Italy, and Republic of Korea have been enriched with American aid and in Vietnam, Americans are beloved. Today, more people live in freedom and democracy than ever in world history due to the American military.

**HONORING CALLIE AUGUSTSON AS  
ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN  
OF THE YEAR****HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Callie Augustson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. For over 24 years, Callie has made a significant impact in her community. Her service continues today through her current role as Plans Analyst and Crisis Action Team Manager for the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. In her current position, Callie is responsible for critical crisis-response operations, including operational planning, deployment execution, natural disaster response, and emergency management plans. She also provides strategic command and control for the Wing Commander and senior leadership. Callie brings years of training, expertise, and education to this role. Initially enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in September 2000 as a Bio-environmental Engineering Technician, Callie then went on to attend technical school at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, earn an associate degree in bioenvironmental engineering technology, and earn a Bachelor of Arts in homeland security. After completing her active-duty enlistment, Callie served in the Bioenvironmental Engineering and Medical Readiness Offices at Minot Air Force Base. In 2009, she brought her expertise to Travis Air Force Base, where she worked at David Grant Medical Center as the Medical Counter-Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Program Manager for Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Office of the Command Surgeon. Callie then became a Federal Civil Service employee, assuming her current position with the

60 AMW Wing Plans and Programs Office. Her intelligence and diligence are evident through her numerous accomplishments, including the Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor. Callie's work has had a profound impact, benefiting many members of the community. She has played a critical role in establishing Travis Air Force Base as the West Coast Patient Distribution Hub. Under her supervision, Exercise Ultimate Cadeuceus, transported injured service members to 21 hospitals in Northern California. This exercise strengthened the support between the Base and other regional agencies, including Cal Fire, Fairfield and Vacaville first responders, and the Emergency Medical Services Authority. Callie's commitment to her community and public service goes beyond her professional work. In her spare time, Callie serves as a Certified National Little League volunteer and a Vacaville Girls Fast Pitch Team Parent. Callie is a fiercely committed member of the community, and her dedication makes Solano County a better place for all. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Callie Augustson for her positive contributions to our community.

**HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN****HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month, Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, commemorating its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

From its earliest days, Kazakhstan pursued a forward-looking vision rooted in partnership, openness, and modernization. Its early alignment with the West, especially in developing a free-market economy, has shaped its remarkable transformation. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has emerged as a thriving nation with a dynamic economy, an active international presence, and a strong and growing partnership with the United States.

The U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is grounded in shared values and mutual respect. As we mark this important national holiday, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening cooperation between our two nations to meet global challenges and advance peace, security, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan's commitment to transparency, the rule of law, and an open investment climate has made it a magnet for American business. U.S. companies remain the largest source of foreign direct investment, helping drive Kazakhstan's diversification and sustainable development. This alignment supports the country's broader goal of becoming a resilient, innovative economy and a hub for regional growth.

Kazakhstan continues to stand as a pillar of stability in Central Asia and a leader on the world stage in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Despite external challenges,

Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia.

Recently, Kazakhstan took another decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—the largest locomotive order in years.

This transformative deal is a powerful endorsement of American innovation and manufacturing leadership. It will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Kazakhstan is taking bold steps to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (the so-called 'Middle Corridor'), which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets, is strengthening supply chain resilience for the U.S. and its partners.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Rare-earth minerals from Kazakhstan can be the trusted source necessary to help power the next generation of U.S. innovation, driving the transformation of the American economy built around AI, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear energy.

Energy collaboration also remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Earlier this year, Chevron's \$48 billion Future Growth Project at Kazakhstan's Tengiz field began production, underscoring the scale and depth of U.S. investment in the country's energy future. The Tengizchevroil venture—operated by Chevron represents Central Asia's largest oil development, ensuring reliable supply and creating thousands of high-skilled jobs. These projects embody the long-term, mutually beneficial nature of U.S.-Kazakhstan energy cooperation.

Kazakhstan's efforts align with President Trump's focus on law and order, emphasizing that governance grounded in common sense and the rule of law is essential to maintain public order and protect citizens' rights.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith harmony and global dialogue. Kazakhstan is home to people of many backgrounds and of many faiths. She has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

This same spirit of openness and engagement also guides Kazakhstan's approach to the global economy. Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets.

As such, it is time for the United States to take the next logical step—granting Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) by repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Doing so would cost America nothing but gain us much. It would send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for

U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6 represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

We urge the Administration to seize this moment, build on the foundation of trust and shared interests, and work with Congress to achieve outcomes that advance stability, prosperity, and lasting friendship across our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, we honor the enduring friendship between our two countries and look forward to the continued growth of a partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared progress, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.

#### REMEMBERING LARRY REA

##### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a fine newspaperman, a title he cherished in his more than 57 years as a journalist in Memphis. As many have said since he passed on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at age 82, he touched more lives than probably any Memphis journalist by covering the not-glamorous but important beats of high school sports and the outdoors, hunting and fishing as both a reporter for The Commercial Appeal and as a host of his radio call-in show.

Mr. Rea went to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he met his wife Miriam, and covered the Razorbacks as a freelance student journalist. He then worked for The Arkansas Democrat in Little Rock. In 1967, he took The Commercial Appeal job and moved to Memphis, covering Friday night football games and getting to know the players, their parents, teachers, coaches and fans. It was great—he would say "gREAT"—way to get immersed in the community and feel its pulse. As a Daily Memphian columnist and longtime former Rea colleague and friend Geoff Calkins put it: "He didn't write about mayors or city council members or NBA stars. He wrote about the kid who pitched a three-hitter or the girl who scored the winning goal for her soccer team or the neighbor who caught a particularly fat bass . . . He wrote about your neighbors and friends."

After 21 years of high school sports, in 1988 he moved on the outdoors beat and continued supporting the paper's Mid-South Fishing Rodeo that helped thousands of kids learn and love fishing. After his official retirement from The Commercial Appeal in 2001, he wrote for the DeSoto Times and served as editor of Mid-South Hunting & Fishing News and hosted the Saturday morning show "Outdoors with Larry Rea" on WMC-AM for more than 25 years. His final show was August 30, 2025. Over his long career he was named a member of the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Writers Hall of Fame and received the Tennessee Wildlife

Federation Conservation Communicator Award in 2022.

I express my condolences to his wife and children, his extended family and his many friends and colleagues. Larry Rea was a Mid-South institution, and he will be missed.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL TEMPLE CHURCH IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

##### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Bethel Temple Church in Hampton, Virginia, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. For seven decades, Bethel Temple has been a steadfast pillar of faith, service, and fellowship in the Hampton community.

In the early 1950s, Reverend Beverly W. Fox, then pastor of Phoebus Assembly of God, led efforts to build a new house of worship. With the support of the community, a modest sanctuary was completed and dedicated as Bethel Assembly of God. In the summer of 1955, Reverend Fox and thirty congregants held the church's first service, laying the foundation for a ministry that would thrive for generations.

Under the leadership of pastors, including Reverends Howard S. Ryan, G.P. Hertweck, Gerald Ogg, Sammy Hayes, and Arnold Brown, the church grew in both membership and outreach. Expanding facilities, establishing new ministries, and adopting the name Bethel Temple Assembly of God reflected its evolving mission and growing congregation.

In the decades that followed, Reverends Ron Johnson and Glenn Reynolds deepened the church's community engagement through programs such as the Great Turkey Giveaway, Christmas Toy Giveaway, and weekly Community Dinner. These initiatives have benefitted countless families across Hampton Roads.

Today, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Reverend Charles Ricks, Jr., and Pastor Lori Ricks, Bethel Temple continues to embody faith in action. Through partnerships with local organizations and tireless service for the Hampton community during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have strengthened the church's legacy of compassion and service.

Mr. Speaker, as they mark this milestone, I extend my sincere gratitude to Bethel Temple Church for seventy years of faithful service and enduring impact on the people of Hampton.

#### HONORING CHARMAINE GANDY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charmaine Gandy, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's

Women of the Year. Charmaine is a dedicated Community Benefit Manager, with over fifteen years of experience in public affairs and community benefit in Kaiser Permanente's Napa-Solano Service Area. As a Community Benefit Specialist, she manages a \$1 million annual budget and oversees sponsorships, in-kind donations, and staff volunteer programs. Her work increases employee outreach and provides meaningful community engagement opportunities. Charmaine was nominated and accepted to join the 2025–2026 Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where she advocates for initiatives that will deliver substantial economic benefits to the Solano community. In addition to her professional role, Charmaine is an entrepreneur and community advocate. She is the proud owner of The Vault Event Center, as well as the co-owner of a local wine bar in Suisun, where she connects with community members through hospitality and shared experiences. Balancing her professional and entrepreneurial pursuits with family life, Charmaine is a proud wife and mother of three children. She remains deeply committed to supporting local causes, fostering community connections, and creating environments, both in her professional and personal life, where people feel seen, celebrated, and empowered. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Charmaine Gandy for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**CELEBRATING ROGER CARPENTER'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE AS SCOUTMASTER OF TROOP 316, OAK HARBOR, OHIO**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable American, Mr. Roger Carpenter of Oak Harbor, Ohio, who just celebrated an extraordinary milestone: seventy-five years of service as Scoutmaster of Troop 316.

Seventy-five years, that's three-quarters of a century of guiding, teaching, and uplifting generations of young people. Shaping their character, their sense of service, and their love for community. Few can say they have given so much of themselves, for so long, to a single purpose. But Roger Carpenter can. And he has done so with a humble heart, steadfast faith, and a pair of calloused hands that never stop building, fixing, or helping.

At 97 years young, Roger remains active with his troop, recently repairing the very log splitter used to make the Scouts' famous apple butter. This tradition has warmed both hearts and bellies at the Oak Harbor Apple Festival for decades. This festival, itself a celebration of community spirit, fittingly chose this year to honor Roger for his life of selfless service.

He is believed to be the longest-serving Scoutmaster in our nation's history. But beyond the record books, his impact is written in the lives of the hundreds, more likely perhaps thousands, of young men he has mentored. Many of them have gone on to serve their country, their neighbors, and their families with the same quiet strength they learned under his guidance.

During this year's festival, we presented Roger with a flag flown over our United States Capitol as a symbol of the deep gratitude we hold for his unwavering devotion to the values that Scouting and citizenship share: duty, honor, leadership, and service.

As we constantly reflect on what it means to build a strong America, we must look to people like Roger Carpenter. Those who invest in others, who give without seeking recognition, and who, year after year, live the ideals they teach. His life is a testament to what one dedicated citizen can do to shape the moral fabric of a community and a nation.

So today, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Northwest Ohio, I extend our deepest congratulations and gratitude to Scoutmaster Roger Carpenter for 75 years of remarkable leadership, for his enduring spirit, and for reminding us all that service to others is the truest form of patriotism.

I thank Roger for being a living example of the Scout Oath and Law and for inspiring us all to leave this world a little better than we found it.

**HONORING MAJOR AARON REEP**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major Aaron Reep's distinguished service as a Marine Corps House Liaison Officer from January 2024 to December 2025.

Following his exemplary service as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in my office, Major Reep continued his dedication to our Nation by serving as a legislative liaison in the Marine Corps House Liaison Office. In this critical role bridging the Marine Corps and Congress, Aaron has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic acumen.

During his tenure, Major Reep led 22 Congressional delegations to 33 countries and 6 states, facilitating vital strategic engagements and oversight of our national security priorities. Through these delegations, he ensured Members of Congress gained firsthand understanding of Marine Corps operations, readiness challenges, and the strategic environment facing our forces worldwide.

Aaron enhanced the Marine Corps' special relationship with Congress through direct engagement with 65 Members of Congress and 78 Congressional staff, including House Leadership and committee staff. His expertise in defense policy and Marine Corps operations proved invaluable in educating lawmakers on critical issues affecting our Marines and their families.

Major Reep's work has been instrumental in advancing Marine Corps modernization priorities, particularly Force Design 2030 initiatives and the development of Stand-in Forces capabilities essential for deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific. His efforts directly supported Congressional oversight of amphibious warship requirements, Landing Ship Medium development, and the Marine Corps' transformation for distributed maritime operations.

Throughout his service, Aaron has exemplified the Marine Corps values of honor, cour-

age, and commitment. His ability to translate complex military requirements into actionable legislative priorities has strengthened the bond between Congress and our Marines, ensuring our warfighters receive the resources and support they need to defend our Nation.

I thank Major Reep for his continued dedication to Virginia's 1st District and our Nation. His service as a Marine Corps House Liaison has been marked by professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to our national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Major Aaron Reep for his outstanding service as a Marine Corps House Liaison Officer. May God bless Aaron and his family as he continues his distinguished career serving our great Nation and the United States Marine Corps.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF STACEY MORTENSEN**

**HON. JOSH HARDER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, to recognize and celebrate the retirement and career of Stacey Mortensen, whose visionary leadership has transformed public transportation across the Central Valley and Northern California.

For more than three decades, Stacey has championed investments in passenger rail that have connected communities, expanded opportunity, and laid the groundwork for a more sustainable future. As Executive Director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, she led the launch of the Altamont Corridor Express—ACE—in 1998, uniting San Joaquin, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties through a first-of-its-kind commuter rail partnership. This complex initiative required building infrastructure and relationships across three different regions, a challenge Stacey met with innovation and unwavering determination. Through her work, Stacey helped establish the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and spearheaded the Valley Rail Program, securing nearly \$2 billion in funding and enabling major infrastructure projects such as the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation.

Under her leadership, ACE has continued to evolve to meet modern needs, including the recent launch of a specialty train service to Levi's Stadium for San Francisco 49ers games—an example of the flexible, community-responsive transit vision she has cultivated. Her efforts brought together more than 20 local and regional agencies to develop a shared vision for passenger rail in the Central Valley.

In 2024, Stacey helped launch the Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC), a critical workforce development program that prepares young people for careers in the rail industry. Her deep commitment to the next generation is reflected in this initiative, which ensures the continued success and sustainability of our region's transit systems by investing in talent right here in the Valley. What truly sets Stacey apart is her deep belief in partnership and public service. Her collaborative approach has not only built rail lines—

it has built trust across counties, cities, and communities. Thanks to her leadership, thousands of Central Valley residents now have better access to jobs, education, and opportunity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Stacey Mortensen for her extraordinary contributions and for her steadfast commitment to the people of California's Central Valley.

**HONORING FORMER FIRST SERGEANT DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former First Sergeant Delphine Metcalf-Foster as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her trailblazing military service, steadfast advocacy for veterans, and lifelong commitment to public service. A native of Vallejo, California, First Sergeant (Ret.) Delphine Metcalf-Foster proudly served in the United States Army Reserve with the 689th Quartermaster Unit, 6253rd Hospital Unit, and 6211th Transportation Unit at the Letterman Army Medical Center. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, she sustained injuries while serving in Saudi Arabia in support of the Grave Registration Company mission and was medically evacuated to Germany for care. Her service and courage reflect the highest traditions of the U.S. Armed Forces. Following her retirement from the Army Reserves in 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster continued to dedicate her life to veterans causes and public service. A life member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 81 in Vallejo, she made history in 2017 when she was elected National Commander of the DAV. The first woman and the first person of color to hold that position in the organization's 100-year history. She previously served as the DAV Department of California Commander in 2003, again breaking barriers as the first woman to hold that role. Her distinguished civilian career includes decades of leadership at the Alameda Naval Air Station, where she served as a quality assurance work leader. Ms. Metcalf-Foster has also lent her expertise to numerous veterans' advisory bodies, including the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, the DAV Department of California Claims and Service Committee, and the First Data Military Advisory Council. Among her many honors, she has received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (10LC), National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star. In 2018, she was recognized as one of the "Top 40 Military People" in the United States for her impact in helping veterans. Her favorite quotes, "Tell me what I can't do, and I will show you what I can do," and "I had to go through, in order to get to," embody the spirit of resilience and purpose that defines her life and service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and

recognize First Sergeant (Ret.) Delphine Metcalf-Foster for her courageous service to our nation and her extraordinary contributions to the veterans' community.

**RECOGNIZING SOUTH DAKOTA SWIMMER GENA JORGENSEN FOR HER SELECTION TO THE USA SWIMMING NATIONAL TEAM**

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gena Jorgenson of Aberdeen, South Dakota, on being named to the USA Swimming National Team in preparation for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

A proud product of the Aberdeen Swim Club, Gena is an All-American at the University of Nebraska who has earned this honor through years of dedication, discipline, and excellence in training and competition. Her silver medal performance in the 1,500-meter freestyle at the World University Games in Germany showcased her talent on the international stage and secured her spot on Team USA.

Her journey from local pools in Aberdeen to the national stage is a testament to her determination and resilience. Gena's success reflects the best of South Dakota: hard work, humility, and perseverance. She has brought pride to her hometown, university, and entire state.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Gena Jorgenson on this remarkable achievement and wish her continued success as she represents both South Dakota and our Nation with great distinction.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUPERVISOR JAMES M. "JIM" HOLLAND**

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable James M. "Jim" Holland, who faithfully served the people of Chesterfield County's Dale District for nearly two decades before his passing on October 14, 2025. I had the honor of working closely with Jim and witnessing firsthand his deep love for and unwavering dedication to his constituents. His kindness, humility, and steadfast commitment left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him, and his influence will be felt for generations to come.

Born in Gates County, North Carolina, in 1951, Jim Holland served honorably in the U.S. Army's 18th Airborne Corps before earning degrees in accounting and business administration from Fayetteville State University and North Carolina Central University. A certified public accountant, he built a successful practice and later taught accounting for 24 years at Virginia Commonwealth University, inspiring generations of students with his belief that numbers are a tool for integrity and empowerment.

Elected in 2008, Supervisor Holland was the longest-serving member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, chairing the Board in 2014, 2021, and 2024. Known for his calm and collaborative leadership, he guided the county through the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic, championing strong schools, fiscal responsibility, and community investment. His dedication led to major improvements in local infrastructure and the renaming of the Beulah Recreation Center in his honor in 2025.

Beyond his contributions in local government, he represented Chesterfield on numerous regional and state boards and was appointed by multiple Virginia governors for his expertise and judgment. Deeply rooted in his faith and community, he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church Centralia and received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Leadership Award earlier this year.

Jim Holland is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judith, and their children, Jessica and James. Chesterfield County and the Commonwealth of Virginia have lost a devoted public servant and educator whose legacy will endure in the community he helped build.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Supervisor Jim Holland, a man guided by faith, service, and a lifelong commitment to leaving things better than he found them.

**CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE PORT OF GALVESTON**

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a true Texas treasure, 200 years of the Port of Galveston. It is an honor to mark this historic milestone and to recognize the men and women, past and present, whose hard work, grit, and vision have made this port what it is today. I especially want to thank Rodger Rees and the Port's leadership for their stewardship of this vital gateway to the Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, I've lived on the Texas Gulf Coast my whole life. Down here, ports aren't just infrastructure, they're the backbone of our economy. Representing seven ports, more than any other Member of Congress, I know firsthand how critical they are to jobs, commerce, energy, and America's security.

The Port of Galveston is a shining example. Established on October 17, 1825, by the Congress of Mexico, it quickly became a hub of strategic importance. During the fight for Texas Independence, it served as the home of the Texas Navy, brave men who risked everything to secure freedom. That fight laid the foundation for Galveston to grow into one of the most important cities on the Gulf Coast. In 1940, the people of Galveston, proud, determined, and invested in their future, came together to purchase their port. That move secured local control and ensured the Port's place as an engine of growth for generations.

From a vital shipping center to one of the busiest cruise ports in the nation, the Port of Galveston continues to adapt and expand. This fall, a fourth cruise terminal will open,

bringing more visitors, more commerce, and more opportunity for Southeast Texas.

Two hundred years is no small achievement. The Port of Galveston has stood the test of time, through storms, wars, and economic change, and it has remained a symbol of Texas perseverance and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, here's to the next 200 years of success for the Port of Galveston, for Galveston Island, and for the great state of Texas.

**TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS M.  
MANCINO**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Douglas M. Mancino, an esteemed attorney, civic leader, and philanthropist whose distinguished career and lifelong dedication to public service enriched countless institutions and communities across the nation. Mr. Mancino passed away unexpectedly on September 10, 2025, leaving behind a profound legacy of excellence, compassion, and integrity.

For more than four decades, Doug Mancino stood as one of the nation's foremost authorities on health care and tax-exempt organization law. A partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, he counseled hospitals, universities, foundations, and nonprofit organizations on complex tax, financial, and regulatory matters. Mr. Mancino reorganized the Children's Burn Foundation in 1995 and served for 20 years as its Chairman of the Board. He also served as Commissioner, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Monument Authority and as a member at the Board of Directors for the Irvine Health Foundation. His work strengthened the charitable and health care institutions that form the backbone of our society, ensuring they could better serve the public good.

Mr. Mancino's leadership in the legal community was both vast and consequential. He served as President of the American Health Lawyers Association, Chair of the American Bar Association's Exempt Organizations Committee, and Vice-Chair of Publications for the ABA Tax Section. He was a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel and served on the Editorial Advisory Board of Taxation of Exempts. A prolific author, he wrote or co-authored five books and more than ninety articles that advanced understanding of nonprofit and health care law nationwide.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Doug was a devoted husband to his wife, Carol, of 52 years, and was known as "Uncle Spice" to his many nieces and nephews. He was admired not only for his brilliance but for his kindness. He was a mentor to many, a trusted colleague, and a friend whose moral compass never wavered. His passing is a loss not only to the legal and nonprofit communities but to all who were privileged to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Douglas M. Mancino, whose extraordinary life exemplified the highest ideals of service, scholarship, and compassion. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. May his memory be a

blessing and his example a continuing inspiration to us all.

**HONORING DR. NICOLA PARR AS  
ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S, 8TH CON-  
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN  
OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Nicola Parr as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Dr. Nicola "Nikki" Parr for her exemplary leadership and service to students and families across Solano County. Dr. Parr is a lifelong educator and public servant whose 25-year career in education has been defined by equity, compassion, and a deep commitment to student well-being. A proud graduate of the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, Dr. Parr now serves as the Interim Solano County Superintendent of Schools and is the first African American woman to hold this position in the County's history. Her leadership reflects both professional excellence and personal dedication to the community that raised her. She also served as Senior Director of Student Services and Educational Options at the Solano County Office of Education, where she led programs supporting school-based mental health, foster and homeless youth, and at-promise students. Prior to joining the Solano County Office of Education, Dr. Parr spent eight years with the Vacaville Unified School District as an Alternative Education Principal and Director of Student Services, where she strengthened alternative pathways and wraparound supports for students facing unique challenges. She has also served as a trustee for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District Board, demonstrating her lifelong investment in local education. A passionate advocate for mental health and equity in schools, Dr. Parr has presented at statewide conferences on multi-tiered systems of support and cross-agency collaboration. Her accomplishments are grounded in both scholarship and service—holding a Doctor of Education from Capella University, a master's degree, and a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University. Dr. Parr's leadership is marked by empathy, innovation, and resilience, guiding Solano County's schools through both challenge and change. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Dr. Nicola Parr for her historic leadership, her unwavering dedication to student success, and her lifelong commitment to the advancement of equitable education in Solano County. It is my pleasure to honor and recognize Dr. Nicola Parr for her historic leadership and unwavering dedication to student success.

**PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.  
CHASE CRAWFORD**

**HON. THOMAS MASSIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation Honoring Mr. Chase Crawford:

Whereas, Chase Crawford, a distinguished filmmaker, producer, and resident of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, has been inducted into the International Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame at the Indie Gathering Film Festival; and

Whereas, Chase Crawford over the past decade, has worked tirelessly to amplify independent voices in cinema through projects that have reached audiences both locally and internationally; and

Whereas, Chase Crawford founded Four by Three Productions, which has produced a dozen award-winning films and more than fifty comedy specials, and has served as Executive Producer on groundbreaking projects; and

Whereas, Chase Crawford's film *Between Mercy and Me*, filmed in Northern Kentucky, premiered in 600 theaters across the United States, bringing recognition to the creative spirit of our Commonwealth;

Whereas, Chase Crawford, in addition to his professional achievements, has demonstrated deep commitment to service, including his volunteer work in Eastern Kentucky, where he teaches women in recovery the skills of filmmaking, photography, and editing, an effort recognized with his commissioning as a Kentucky Colonel in 2025;

Now therefore, I, THOMAS MASSIE, United States Representative for the Fourth District of Kentucky, do hereby recognize and congratulate Chase Crawford on his induction into the International Indie Filmmaker Hall of Fame, and commend him for his remarkable contributions to the arts, to independent film, and to the people of Kentucky.

Proclaimed this 24th day of October 2025.

**CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF THE  
TOLEDO ZOO**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone year in the Toledo Zoo's remarkable journey in my district. The Zoo is celebrating 125 years in our community with a series of events culminating in a special gala on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Rated the top zoo in our Nation, Toledoans are justifiably proud of our treasure.

The Toledo Zoo began modestly in 1900 when Megan Cole donated a woodchuck for display at Walbridge Park along the Maumee River in South Toledo. The attraction was popular, and within the year, thanks to continued donations, the zoo had 39 animals in its collection. Unprepared to properly house and care for the growing collection, the Toledo Zoo built the Lion House in 1907. During these earliest years, when housing was a challenge, animal escapes were not uncommon.

The Toledo Zoological Society was subsequently founded in 1913 to spark development. William H. Roemer was the first president, and by 1916, the Toledo Zoo exhibited

471 animals. In 1922, the position of curator was developed, and the indefatigable Frank Skeldon was the first curator for the zoo. It was during this time that national recognition was pursued. Building continued, and by 1929, the Giraffe House, Carnivora Building, and Primate House were all housing the animals.

Building continued through the Depression-Era WPA, so that by the 1930s the Reptile House, Aviary, Museum of Science, Amphitheatre, indoor theatre, and Aquarium were all completed, along with structural improvements, the subway and zoo entrances.

The 1940s, 50s, and 60s brought new adventure with the addition of a miniature railway, the publication of Safari magazine, the nation's only indoor trout run, the development of waterways, and other improvements. By the 1960s, the Toledo Zoo's collection included more than 3,600 animals.

Facing significant funding challenges following the region's 1980s financial collapse, the Toledo Zoo was on the verge of closure. A zoo levy was initiated in 1980, and in 1981, Bill Dennler became the new zoo director following Frank Skeldon's retirement. Under his tutelage, buildings were restored, a children's zoo opened, the birth of two baby hippos was caught on tape, and China lent the zoo two giant pandas. People flocked to the zoo to view these wonders.

The 1990s saw continuing innovation, community support, and national and global supremacy for the Toledo Zoo. By the early 2000s, the zoo was well into its successful breeding program, including the rare birth of an African elephant. Development continues to this day. There are 1 Million visitors a year and 78,000 households hold membership. The highest in the nation! There are 16,000 animals from more than 680 species, including 90 endangered species, and 73 Million dollars are generated for our local economy.

The Toledo Zoo has arrived at its 125th birthday as the top zoo in our nation and a global leader in wildlife conservation and engagement in sustainable practices. There are forty acres of native plants and 110 prairies planted at the zoo and around the region. More than 45,000 students and families learn from tours, camps, overnights, virtual programming, scouts, and gardening workshops. The Zoo hosts Music Under the Stars in its lovely Amphitheatre, where people can hear the symphony and creative performers on beautiful nights. People from all over come to view the Toledo Zoo's African Savannah, Aquarium, Arctic Encounter, Aviary, Rescue Roost, Cassoway Crossing, Conservatory, Flamingo Key, Kingdom of the Apes, Museum of Natural History, Nature's Neighborhood, Penguin Beach, Pheasantry, Primate Forest, Reptile House, Tembo Trail, Tiger Terrace, Snow Leopards, beautiful flora, fun amusements, nourishing treats and the stunning Lights Before Christmas.

The Toledo Zoo is an absolute star on the map of Northwest Ohio. It truly and uniquely lives up to its motto: "Enjoy. Inspire. Educate. Act." Our entire community congratulates our wonderful Toledo Zoo as we look back on a fantastic journey and look forward to an awesome future.

HONORING ALIZE JOHNSON AS  
ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CON-  
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN  
OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Alize Johnson

as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Alize has served her community of Solano County in several meaningful capacities. Despite losing her mother at a young age, she turned her pain into purpose and has dedicated her life to uplifting others through service, advocacy, and leadership. Her impactful service began by advocating for other youth in the community, as a Youth Community Organizer with CCISCO and as a student representative on the West Contra Costa Unified School District's LCAP Committee. However, this was only the beginning of her work, making her a champion in advocacy for equity in education. Alize continued to open doors for inner-city youth as a recruiter for ONYX Scholars, where she assisted in providing access to HBCUs and career opportunities. She has transformed personal adversity into community empowerment, emboldening those she works with to do the same, primarily by leading by example. Her work with Keyz 2 Future and Motivated 2 Help Others(M2HO) exemplifies this exceptional leadership, as she mentors youth affected by gun violence and helps those in need. Alize's resilience has also taken her beyond the scope of her local work, as she has amplified issues of youth empowerment, environmental justice, and gun safety laws through various platforms, including Miss California USA 2024, Delegate for Miss Earth 2025, and as part of the Everytown National Training Team. Alize is a dedicated member of the community, an ardent supporter of youth opportunities, and her collective work makes Solano County a better place for everyone. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Alize Johnson for her positive contributions to our community.