

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JANA MODENA AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Jana Modena as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. With over 20 years of committed service to the community, Jana's work has already had lasting impacts and will continue to do so in the years to come. She currently serves as Special Project Coordinator for the Fairfield Suisun Chamber of Commerce, where she assists in leading strategic initiatives and community programs to support local business development and regional economic growth. Through this position, she takes the important and compassionate role of providing the necessary assistance and support to local businesses, in order to ensure their longevity, and thereby bring a positive impact to the Fairfield community. This position requires a high level of knowledge and expertise, which Jana is well-equipped for. Over the years, she has gained ample experience in similar, community-based positions such as Community Liaison and Director of Grant programs for Leaven Kids, CEO and Executive Director for the Benicia Chamber of Commerce, and Marketing and Advertising for Jelly Belly Candy Company. Jana also plays a major role in the civic engagement community, as she coordinates a Fairfield-Suisun Local Leaders Roundtable within her current position and has served as Senior Field Representative for Assemblymember Tim Grayson. Perhaps what makes Jana's refined, expert-level career so notable is the compassion that she brings to each of her positions and accomplishments. She has managed to overcome several life obstacles, including a breast cancer diagnosis, and even dedicates her time to be an advocate for betterment of our region through roles like: Vice Chair for the Measure J and S Oversight Committee, Advisory Board for the public Safety Academy, and Board Member for the 100 Club of Solano and Yolo counties. Jana's tenacity, leadership, mentorship, and commitment to public service will continue to impact the community in numerous ways, for the years to come. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Jana Modena for her positive contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING THE MARKET AT OREGON DAIRY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate The Market at Oregon Dairy for 50 years in business.

Earl and Mary Hurst bought the Oregon Dairy Farm, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1952. By 1975, the Hursts had opened a small store that offered fresh milk, eggs, and produce. The family-run store transformed rapidly in the following decades. The current market was built in 1979 and a cafeteria, which would later become a family restaurant, was opened in 1986.

Since its founding, the Market at Oregon Dairy has been a staple in the local community. Their supermarket provides fresh, locally sourced products, some of which are grown on their own farm, as well as an award-winning bakery. The success of the market has transformed the Oregon Dairy farm into a hub that includes not only a restaurant, but a creamery, a gift shoppe, frequent events, and farm tours.

The Market at Oregon Dairy is now proudly operated by the third and fourth generations of the Hurst family. Their dedication exemplifies the strength of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, which is rooted in agriculture and sustained by successful family-owned businesses. I congratulate the Hurst family on reaching this remarkable 50-year milestone for the Market at Oregon Dairy and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF MRS. LYDIA LARIMORE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lydia Larimore, an outstanding school counselor at Neabsco Elementary School in Prince William County Public Schools, who has been named the 2025 Virginia School Counselor of the Year and selected as one of five national finalists for the 2026 American School Counselor of the Year Award.

Mrs. Larimore's recognition at both the state and national level reflects her remarkable dedication to the well-being and success of her students. Through her work, she has cultivated a school environment where every child is encouraged to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Her leadership has strengthened the bonds between students,

families, and educators, making Neabsco Elementary a model for inclusive and compassionate counseling practices.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Larimore has shown a deep belief in the potential of every student. She goes above and beyond to ensure that each young person feels seen, supported, and capable of achieving their goals. Her innovative and student-centered approach has had a lasting impact on the school community, improving not only educational outcomes but also the sense of belonging and hope among those she serves.

Mrs. Larimore's recognition by the Virginia School Counselor Association and her selection by the American School Counselor Association as a national finalist are honors that reflect not only her individual excellence but also the number of educators who devote themselves to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding Lydia Larimore for her exceptional achievements, her compassion, and her commitment to helping young people realize their full potential. She demonstrates the highest standards upheld by Virginia educators and serves as an inspiration to all who believe in the transformative power of education.

HONORING JENNIE MOJICA AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennie Mojica, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Jennie Mojica has made important contributions to the Filipino community in Vallejo and beyond. Ms. Mojica grew up in Vallejo, and while in high school, she created "Phone Friends" under the sponsorship of Filipino American Social Services, which was a hotline for elementary school-aged students. After earning her master's from Sacramento State University and a Project Management Certificate from Stanford, she joined Leadership Vallejo, where she now serves as a freelance consultant and senior project manager. Ms. Mojica played a central role in organizing Vallejo's largest free community festival, "Pista Sa Nayon," which celebrates the diversity of the Filipino community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Jennie Mojica for her invaluable contributions to our community.

● 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.

HONORING EVERETT TIMOTHY SANDERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Everett Timothy Sanders.

Everett Timothy Sanders, a former resident of Jackson, Mississippi, graduated from Lanier High School and Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968. Following graduation, he enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Law. His law school tenure was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, he returned to law school and graduated in December 1972.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law, Mr. Sanders worked for the Kentucky Labor Department. In 1974, he returned home, where he passed the Mississippi Bar Examination. In January 1975, Mr. Sanders entered practice with the law firm of Brown, Alexander, and Sanders.

In 1976, Mr. Sanders was elected County Prosecutor for Claiborne County, Mississippi, becoming the first African American to hold that position. He was also elected to two terms as the Democratic National Committee man for the State of Mississippi from 2004 to 2012. Mr. Sanders has served in over 30 prestigious positions at both the state and federal levels. He is a member of the Magnolia Bar Association (former president), NAACP, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (life member), among many other organizations. He is also an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver and Holy Family Catholic Church in Natchez, Mississippi.

He is married to Lillie Blackmon Sanders and is the father of two daughters, Aisha and Keshia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Everett Timothy Sanders for his dedicated service and his many contributions to the Natchez and Jackson, Mississippi, communities.

HONORING MRS. BRENDA ITTA-LEE

HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn respect and heartfelt sympathy that we honor the life and legacy of Brenda Itta-Lee. Her passing is a loss not only to family and community, but to the entire State of Alaska. As we reflect on her life, we recognize a trailblazer whose leadership, vision, and cultural heritage shaped the course of Alaska's history.

Brenda was the first Iñupiaq woman elected to the Alaska State Legislature. Her election in 1974 broke barriers and opened doors that had been closed to Indigenous women in public office. Yet her impact extended far beyond that groundbreaking moment. She carried the weight of that role with strength, representing her people with dignity and resolve. From her work in the Governor's Office to her influential

role as a delegate at the 1971 Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, she helped define Indigenous self-determination for many generations.

Raised in Utqiagvik, Brenda understood the responsibility of public service in deeply personal terms. She never forgot her roots, and she never stopped giving back. Her career was marked not only by political leadership, but by mentorship and advocacy. Whether testifying before Congress or encouraging young Alaska Natives to pursue their dreams, she made space for others to rise with her. Her leadership was as much about listening as it was about speaking, and her influence lives on in the many lives she uplifted.

She once said that her greatest accomplishment was simply serving as a role model to young people in her region. But that was not a simple task. It was a conscious, consistent choice to carry herself with grace, pride, and purpose in boardrooms, in classrooms, and in moments of national consequence. Through her life's work, she preserved traditions, advanced representation, and brought the full strength of Iñupiaq values into the halls of government.

Brenda's legacy will remain a guiding light for Alaska.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS OF UNITED FLIGHT 629

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to honor the victims and first responders of United Airlines Flight 629, and to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of one of Colorado's most heartbreaking tragedies.

On the evening of November 1, 1955, United Airlines Flight 629 departed Denver's Stapleton Field bound for Portland, Oregon. A short time later, the aircraft exploded in midair over Weld County—land now encompassed within my district, killing all thirty-nine passengers and five crew members on board. The cause of that explosion was later revealed to be a bomb—placed in a passenger's suitcase by her son, in an attempt to collect her life insurance benefits.

The wreckage rained down across farms near Longmont, where residents, law enforcement officers, and volunteer firefighters rushed toward the flames, with the hope of saving lives. Among them were local family farmers, whose land bore the brunt of the explosion, and community members who did not hesitate to serve in the face of unimaginable devastation.

In the days that followed, Weld County saw both deep sorrow and remarkable compassion. William "Clayton" Bearly, the longtime manager of Johnson's Corner, witnessed the explosion that night and immediately stepped forward to support first responders, investigators, and National Guard personnel. His quiet service stands as a reflection of the strength and kindness that Colorado communities show in times of crisis.

The Flight 629 tragedy would go on to leave a lasting imprint on Colorado and on the Na-

tion. It became a turning point in aviation security and a somber reminder of the fragility of life. But above all, it revealed the courage of ordinary Coloradoans who responded with extraordinary grace.

This year, as we reflect on the tragedy of that night seventy years later, the Denver Police Museum, together with History Colorado, Wings Over the Rockies, the CELL, the University of Denver, FlyteCO Tower, and the Weld County Flight 629 Memorial Committee, will unveil permanent memorials in both Denver and Weld County to honor those who were lost as well as those who answered the call.

Mr. Speaker, every passing year does not diminish the pain of this tragedy, nor does it lessen our duty to remember. Today, we honor the forty-four innocent lives who perished aboard Flight 629 by including their names into the RECORD, that they may never be forgotten:

F.E. "Jack" Ambrose, Samuel Arthur, Bror and Irene Beckstrom, John Bomelyn, Frank Brennan, Louise Bunch, Brad and Carol Bynum, Thomas Crouch, Barbara Cruse, Carl Deist, John Des Jardins, James and Sarah Dorey, Gurney and Elizabeth Edwards, Helen Fitzpatrick and son James, Lee Hall, Virgil and Goldie Herman, Elton Hickok, Jacqueline Hinds, Marion Hobgood, John Jungels, Daisie King, Gerald and Patricia Lipke, Lela McClain, Stewart and Suzanne Morgan, Peggy Peddicord, James Purvis, Herbert Robertson, Harold Sandstead, Sally Scofield, Jesse Sizemore, James Straud, Clarence Todd, Ralph and Minnie VanValin, Donald White, and Alma Winsor.

Mr. Speaker, may we remember each of these forty-four souls with reverence, and may we honor the first responders and citizens who ran toward danger that night with gratitude and respect. Their courage, compassion, and resilience continue to define the spirit of Colorado.

May their memory be eternal, and may God grant peace to the families who still carry this loss, knowing that their loved ones are remembered by a grateful state and Nation.

HONORING JOY BRUNO AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joy Bruno, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. A beloved member of our community, Joy's life is a testament to service, compassion, and leadership. Since joining the Northern Solano Lodge No. 2534 of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America in 1994, Joy has devoted over three decades to strengthening cultural heritage and community bonds. She has served as Lodge President two times and has held numerous leadership roles, including Vice President, Trustee, and Orator. Her commitment has also extended statewide, where she has served as State Deputy for several Northern California lodges and as a board member of the Grand Lodge of California. For over twenty years, Joy has chaired

the Lodge's Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank Committee, ensuring that vulnerable families receive the resources they need. Her boundless energy, optimism, and kindness have earned her the affectionate nickname "the Energizer Bunny," reflecting a spirit that continues to inspire at the young age of 90. Joy's legacy of service lives on through the members she mentors and the countless lives she has touched through her generosity and leadership. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Joy Bruno for her lifelong dedication to community, culture, and service.

THANKING THE BOY SCOUTS OF TROOP 39 FROM MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA FOR THEIR HEROISM

HON. TIM MOORE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of Boy Scout Troop 39 from Matthews, North Carolina.

While on their way up to Camp Grimes, these scouts noticed the side of Calvary's Cross Church, in Casar, North Carolina, catching fire from an arson attempt. These young men did not hesitate. They pulled over, grabbed the water bottles and drinks they had packed for the trip, and started working together to put out the flames. Their troop leader said that at one point, the flames were shoulder height. Thanks to their quick thinking and resourcefulness, they helped stop the fire before it could spread and cause severe damage to the church.

This is exactly what the Boy Scouts of America stand for—being prepared, stepping up in the moment, and serving others without being asked. These Scouts set a powerful example for all of us. They didn't wait for someone else to act. They saw a need, and they took responsibility.

I am proud of these young men for their courage and presence of mind. Their actions made a real difference, and they reminded us all of the kind of character and leadership we should be encouraging in the next generation. Casar is lucky to have had them passing through that day.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT TITLE EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Government Title Equality Act. This bill would amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to redesignate the Mayor as the Governor, the Council as the Legislative Assembly, the Councilmembers as Representatives and the Chair of the Council as the Speaker. The new titles are the ones used in the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth constitution, which D.C. adopted in 2016 in anticipation of

enactment of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would make D.C. the 51st state.

I introduce this bill to highlight to the American people and Members of Congress that the transition to statehood would be seamless, because D.C. already operates as the functional equivalent of a state, providing state, county- and city-level services, despite being denied voting representation in Congress and full local self-government. This bill would not change any legal authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING HIGH IMPACT MOVEMENT

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be asked to say a few words to celebrate such a remarkable organization that truly lives up to its name: High Impact Movement. Amos and his wife, Carol, along with every mentor and volunteer who selflessly give their own time and energy, are making lasting differences and creating deep impacts in the lives of students and their families. They not only uplift and encourage the youth who come here every day but also strengthen the entire community by shaping the minds of our future leaders and dedicated public servants.

While the team's work is certainly outstanding, this address is about something far greater; it's about why their work matters. It's about highlighting the importance of investing in our youth, taking pride in their potential, and looking ahead to the future they will, in turn, build.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan gave remarks to the Representatives of the United States International Youth Year Commission. In his speech, he said, "I believe you all know—or you wouldn't be here—the importance of our youth to the future peace, security, and well-being of our Nation and the world." He then goes on to say, "There's a spark in all of us which, if struck early enough, can light up our lives, elevate our ideals, and deepen our tolerance and strengthen our determination to make this world a better place. You couldn't make a better investment in America's future."

Investing in Arkansas' future, igniting that spark, starts here. This is why programs like High Impact Movement are so important not only for our young people, but for the future of our great state. As you continue to pour into our youth, you are also investing in the future of our communities, where the impacts will be seen for generations to come. And for that I am deeply grateful.

High Impact Movement is proof that when you invest in others, whether it be through tutoring a student after school, sharing valuable life lessons through mentorship, or just encouraging a young person to be the best that they can be, you'll find that the results have an impact that echoes far into the future.

One of my favorite quotes hangs just above the Speaker's rostrum on the House Floor. Two hundred years ago, Daniel Webster addressed a few hundred Revolutionary War veterans and spectators at the Battle of Bunker Hill was memorial groundbreaking. In his ora-

tion, he said, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered."

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the call to action Mr. Webster gave at the end of this portion of his speech. While his audience may have only been a few hundred people on a field in the middle of summer 200 years ago, his audience continues to grow with each generation. As his audience today, in 2025, we are now the ones being tapped to do something worthy to be remembered. With your heart for service and dedication to our community, people like you are undoubtedly taking up that mantle.

I take deep pride in knowing that the future of the 4th District of Arkansas is bright because of the people proudly representing High Impact Movement. People who invest in our youth, pour into their families, and strengthen our communities through their time, compassion, and leadership.

Their dedicated work today leaves an indelible mark on tomorrow, so let me encourage you to press onward as you selflessly dedicate your time to serving your community.

HONORING KARI BIRDSEYE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kari Birdseye, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Kari is a respected public servant, environmental advocate, and community leader whose commitment to civic engagement has made a lasting impact on the City of Benicia and the broader Solano County region. Elected to the Benicia City Council in 2022, Kari has served her community with distinction, building upon a decade of public service that began in 2012. She served on the Benicia Human Services Board for eight years and as Chair of the Benicia Planning Commission for six years. In addition to her local leadership, Kari currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Green Empowerment Zone and Marin Clean Energy and is the incoming First Vice President of the League of California Cities, North Bay Division. She also contributes to regional policymaking as Southern County Vice Chair of the Solano County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board. Beyond her civic work, Kari has built an accomplished career as Regional Media Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, leading a team that bridges environmental science and public communication. A former CNN journalist and Emmy Award recipient for coverage of the 1996 Olympic Park bombing, Kari brings a wealth of experience in storytelling, environmental management, and public outreach.

She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from San Francisco State University and a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco. Kari's leadership is characterized by persistence and heart. After losing her

first bid for city council, she persevered and ultimately earned the trust of her community. Through her integrity, vision, and dedication, Kari Birdseye continues to inspire those around her to serve with courage and purpose. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Kari Birdseye for her exemplary service and unwavering commitment to our community.

HONORING CLAY COUNTY VETERANS

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day is a day when our Nation pauses to give thanks to the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America.

In Clay County, Florida, honoring our veterans isn't just something we do once a year, it is part of who we are. This county's history is woven with stories of service: from generations who trained at Camp Blanding, to those who served overseas in defense of freedom, and to the many veterans who continue to serve our community today as teachers, business owners, first responders, and volunteers.

Clay County's patriotism runs deep. You see it every day, in the flags flying over our neighborhoods, the quiet moments of respect at community events, and the countless ways our citizens care for those who've returned home from service. This is a county that not only thanks its veterans but walks beside them.

Today, as we reflect on their courage and sacrifice, we remember that our freedom was, and is, secured by ordinary Americans who answered an extraordinary call. We honor those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

So, on behalf of a grateful Nation, We thank the veterans and military families of Clay County. They are the living heart of our freedom, and we are thankful every single day for all they have given. God bless our veterans, God bless Clay County, and God bless the United States of America.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA'S CENTER FOR APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the recent opening of the Community College of Aurora's Center for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) Building in Aurora, Colorado.

This is the first new building the college has opened in 20 years, and it marks a significant milestone. The CAST Building will house high-demand programs such as construction, diesel power mechanics, cybersecurity, engineering,

and renewable energy. It will open new pathways for students and create lasting opportunities that will benefit both the college and the surrounding community for years to come.

CAST will host programs in partnership with BuildStrong Academy of Colorado, including industry aligned workforce training programs in construction, skilled trades, and applied technologies. This will open up further pipelines of skilled students who will enter the Colorado workforce in industries that are in considerable demand.

Furthermore, with the leadership of Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, the Community College of Aurora has experienced remarkable growth and progress. In August, the college opened its third campus in Centennial, focused on health care and first responder training. This new campus expands access to career-ready health sciences programs and student support services.

Additionally, the college reached record enrollment levels this year, with more than 9,500 students enrolled for the Fall 2025 semester, an increase of approximately 1,000 students from Fall 2024. This is the highest enrollment in the college's history and is due, in part, to incredible partnerships that the college fostered with Aurora Public Schools to create more accessible pathways to careers and higher education for high school students. These pathways include dual-enrollment, which will allow more high school students to graduate with college credits, OSHA certifications, and industry-recognized credentials—at no cost.

CAST will help meet the needs of this growing and diverse student body by providing expanded access to in-demand career training and education. It is a powerful example of how institutions like the Community College of Aurora are preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

My district, our state, and our Nation are stronger when we invest in our workforce, create opportunities for growth, and empower our communities. I congratulate the Community College of Aurora on the opening of the Center for Applied Science and Technology and thank them for their continued service to our community.

HONORING WARDS MARINE ELECTRIC'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable milestone: the 75th anniversary of Wards Marine Electric, headquartered my district in Fort Lauderdale. Seventy-five years—three-quarters of a century—is a rare achievement in American business. It speaks to resilience, vision, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Wards Marine Electric was founded under the bold vision of Ward, Sr., and that vision is being carried out tenfold today under the leadership of CEO Kristina Herbert. They have supported a plethora of non-profits, shown leadership in industry associations and fostered job growth and innovation in Fort Lauderdale and beyond. They strongly advocate for the marine industry at both local and national levels, and in doing so help build a fu-

ture for the industry that exhibits the highest standards and steadfast commitment to improvement. Wards Marine Electric has proven themselves to be a pillar of the community, and I am proud to host their headquarters in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wards Marine Electric on 75 years of remarkable achievement. May their past inspire continued innovation, their community engagement continues to uplift South Florida, and their vision for the future ensure the next 75 years are even brighter.

HONORING KATHERINE STOKES AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katherine Stokes, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Katherine is an innovator, entrepreneur, and community leader whose compassionate vision has reshaped how care, education, and service are delivered across California. As the founder and CEO of Sponges Comfort, a medical innovation company based in California, Katherine has brought humanity and creativity to healthcare. Katherine's invention of the Sponges Heart Armrest, a reusable, medical-grade cushion is now used in oncology, infusion, and radiology departments across leading hospitals such as Stanford, Kaiser, and UCSF. Her simple yet transformative design has improved patient comfort, reduced anxiety, and supported healthcare providers in delivering more compassionate care. Beyond her entrepreneurial achievements, Katherine serves on the Board of Directors of A Loving Organization Consortium (ALOC), a nonprofit dedicated to transforming healthcare systems from fear-based to love-based operations. She is also the founder of Innovation Rewards in School (IRIS), an educational initiative that teaches middle school students creativity, entrepreneurship, and purpose-driven leadership. Locally, Katherine coaches youth soccer for the Solano County Surf Soccer Club and continues to donate Sponges cushions to under-resourced clinics, children's hospitals, and veteran care facilities, providing comfort where it is needed most. Her latest project, a purple Heart Armrest and under-knee wedge, designed specifically for veterans, honors service members with dignity and care. Through every endeavor, Katherine exemplifies integrity, empathy, and resilience. She approaches every challenge with grace, turning obstacles into opportunities to serve. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my privilege to recognize Katherine Stokes for her groundbreaking innovation, compassionate leadership, and unwavering dedication to uplifting others.

RECOGNIZING IZZY SOTO AND THE U.S. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Izzy Soto and her teammates on the United States National Development Team for winning a gold medal at the 2025 Pan American Inline Hockey Championships in Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico.

Representing our Nation with pride and determination, the team demonstrated remarkable resilience by winning four consecutive games to capture the championship title. I am especially proud to note that Izzy is from Myrtle Beach and was the only member of the Women's Junior Team from South Carolina, making her achievement even more meaningful for our state and the Grand Strand community.

Their accomplishment reflects the best of American spirit, teamwork, and perseverance. Competing at this level not only showcased their skill but also provided invaluable experience playing alongside and against some of the best athletes in the world.

I commend Izzy, her teammates, and their coaches for their dedication and sportsmanship, and I extend my best wishes to all those continuing to compete in future tournaments. Their success brings great pride to the United States and serves as an inspiration to young athletes everywhere.

CONGRATULATING KYLE WELK ON BEING NAMED THE 2025 MERLE HOWARD AWARD WINNER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Kyle Welk of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, on being named the 2025 Merle Howard Award winner at the 58th World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin.

Having grown up on a dairy farm, Kyle has dedicated his life to the dairy industry from a young age. On October 3, 2025, he received the Merle Howard Award, which is one of the highest honors a young person can achieve in the dairy industry.

Kyle's work ethic is demonstrated by his steady determination and pursuit of excellence. He began by showing cattle at local shows and progressed to state, regional, and national competitions. His commitment took him from working on a prestigious farm in Lancaster County to traveling across the United States and even to New Zealand. Kyle also won numerous state awards for his homebred cattle and swept the fitting contest at the 2024 World Dairy Expo.

Dairy farming is not an easy profession, but Kyle approached every task—from washing animals to packing their bedding—with passion, drive, and humility. These same qualities have made him stand out as one of the very best in fitting, raising, and breeding cattle.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pennsylvania's 11th District, and we are fortunate to

have a strong dairy industry. The grit and perseverance of individuals like Kyle Welk make this possible. His character and grit have earned him well-deserved recognition as the 2025 Merle Howard Award winner.

Through his achievements, Kyle sets an excellent example for young people in Pennsylvania's 11th District and beyond who aspire to careers in dairy and agriculture. I congratulate him and look forward to seeing all that his bright future holds.

HONORING SHERIFF-CORONER THOMAS A. FERRARA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize Solano County Sheriff-Coroner Thomas A. Ferrara as he retires from law enforcement after 40 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and more than 45 years in law enforcement.

Born and raised in Lodi, Sheriff Ferrara began his law enforcement career in 1978 as a police cadet with the Rio Vista Police Department. He went on to serve as a reserve officer and later as a full-time officer with the Isleton Police Department before joining the Solano County Sheriff's Office in 1984. Over the next four decades, Sheriff Ferrara rose through the department's ranks, serving as Sergeant, Chief Deputy, Captain, and Undersheriff. Sheriff Ferrara was appointed Sheriff-Coroner in 2012 and has been elected to three consecutive terms.

Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Ferrara has provided steady, principled leadership and left a lasting mark on our Solano County. He established the Concealed Carry Weapons program, which became a model for departments across the state, and founded the annual statewide CCW Conference, which brings together hundreds of participants from nearly 100 law enforcement agencies for training and collaboration. Under his leadership, our Solano County Sheriff's Office has completed major public safety improvements at their facilities, including the Stanton Correctional Facility, the Rourk Vocational Training Center, and key upgrades to the Justice Center Detention Facility and Animal Care Shelter.

Sheriff Ferrara has also guided our Solano County through some of its most challenging moments. He oversaw emergency operations during the 2014 Napa earthquake, the 2015 Wragg Fire, the 2017 Atlas Fire, the 2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fire, multiple severe winter storms, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout all these crises, Sheriff Ferrara reacted with calm, decisive leadership, helping ensure the safety of our community members and first responders.

Beyond his service to our Solano County, Sheriff Ferrara has been a respected leader among his peers statewide. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California State Sheriffs' Association and has chaired multiple committees, advancing training, standards, and collaboration across California law enforcement. Sheriff Ferrara is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 205th Session and holds numerous professional certifications

from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Sheriff Ferrara's lifelong dedication to public safety and his commitment to integrity, professionalism, and community service have earned him the respect of colleagues and the gratitude of the people he has served. A resident of Vacaville, he and his wife, Judi, look forward to retirement filled with travel, local car shows, and time with family.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff-Coroner Thomas A. Ferrara has devoted more than four decades to protecting the people of Solano County and strengthening our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him today for his exemplary leadership and service to our district.

HONORING LAKISHA MITCHELL-KEITH AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lakisha Mitchell-Keith, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. A proud Richmond native and third-generation member of the Mitchell family, renowned for civic and faith-based service, Lakisha has long exemplified leadership rooted in purpose and compassion. Her 15-year career as a federal law enforcement officer and supervisor with the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security demonstrated integrity, professionalism, and an enduring commitment to justice and safety. After her federal service, Lakisha earned her Juris Doctor from Golden Gate University School of Law with a specialization in Public Interest Law, preparing her to advance equity and uplift underserved communities. She brings that same passion to her volunteer and advocacy work across Richmond and the Bay Area. A lifelong member of Bethel AME Church in San Francisco, she serves in multiple leadership roles, including President of the Lay Organization, Trustee Board Member, and is a part of the Stewardship & Finance Commission and Strategic Planning Team. She also holds regional leadership positions in the California Annual Conference Lay Organization and the Conference Board of Trustees.

In 2025, she embraced a new chapter in her spiritual journey, becoming a licensed Licentiate in the AME Church. Lakisha's recent advocacy at Stege Elementary School further demonstrates her drive for educational justice. As a School Site Council member, she helped bring visibility to longstanding facility concerns and was a key force behind renewed public commitment to the school's future. Whether in law enforcement, legal advocacy, faith leadership, or local activism, Lakisha Mitchell-Keith brings courage, vision, and integrity to everything she does. Her life's work reflects the highest ideals of public service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Lakisha Mitchell-Keith for her devotion to justice, community empowerment, and spiritual service.

CONGRATULATING THE TABB HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS GOLF TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tabb High School Tigers Golf Team of York County, Virginia, for winning the Virginia Class 3, Region A Golf Championship—their first regional title since 2001.

The Tigers were led by Cooper Guldin, whose round of 74 earned him the individual medalist honor followed by outstanding performances from Jack Houseknecht and Brodi Bartee, who each contributed standout performances shooting their lowest scores of the season, Ethan Thompson, Chriss Bassett, and Ainsley Asbury.

Competing among seven strong teams at Dogwood Trace Golf Course in Petersburg, the Tigers captured the championship by narrowly edging York High School by just three shots for the victory. This hard-fought win secured Tabb a well-earned berth in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) state tournament and marked a historic return to regional prominence for the golf team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Tabb High School Tigers Golf Team of York County, Virginia. May they continue to represent their school with great pride.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. SYDNEY KMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Ms. KMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, I rise today alongside my colleague and Chair, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, 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. These efforts 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, Wabtec Corporation and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy announced a \$4.2 billion locomotive deal, reflecting deepening cooperation between Kazakhstan and American firms.

We reiterate our commitment to advancing 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 the resilience of supply chains, and will seek ways to support the realization of the Trans-Caspian "Middle Corridor." In addition to continued dialogue to safeguard critical technologies and improve the investment climate, we hope that the ongoing process of constitutional and political reform 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 [EA5] 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 HUIZENGA in honoring Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

HONORING DR. LATYNA YOUNG AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Latyna Young, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Dr. Young is a lifelong educator, community leader, and advocate whose 45-year career in education has left an enduring mark on Vallejo and Solano County. Elected to the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Trustees in 2020, where she represents Area 4, Dr. Young's leadership reflects her deep commitment to equity, empowerment, and excellence in education. A proud graduate of Vallejo schools herself, she began her career in the same district as a teacher before serving as coordinator, vice principal, principal, and director of student support services. Though retired from full-time service, she continues to champion educational opportunity and student success as a trustee and mentor to the next generation of educators. Beyond her service to the school district, Dr. Young is President of Fighting Back Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending poverty and strengthening families in Vallejo and across Solano County. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Kappa Beta Omega Chapter), the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA), and the Solano-Napa Chapter of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA). Dr. Young's academic achievements are as impressive as her professional record—holding two master's degrees, in early childhood and special education from Sonoma State University and in counseling from the University of La Verne, along with a doctorate in educational leadership in urban schools. Her lifetime of service embodies perseverance, compassion, and faith in the transformative power of education. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Dr. Latyna Young for her remarkable leadership, her dedication to the Vallejo community, and her lifelong commitment to public service.

HONORING MR. SCOTT GOMEZ

HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a trailblazer in Alaska's sports history, Scott Gomez for his induction into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame. As the first Alaskan to receive this extraordinary distinction, Mr. Gomez has not only broken barriers in the world of professional hockey but has also served as a role model for generations of young Alaskans.

Born in Anchorage and a graduate of East Anchorage High School, Mr. Gomez rose swiftly through the ranks of professional hockey. He made an immediate impact in his rookie season with the New Jersey Devils, by winning the NHL's Calder Memorial Trophy. His career would go on to include two Stanley Cup championships, over 1,000 games in the NHL, and international representation with Team USA at the Winter Olympics.

Beyond his accolades on the ice, Mr. Gomez's legacy is defined by his commitment to community. During the 2012 NHL lockout, while many of his peers played overseas, he returned home to Alaska to play in front of local fans. He has continued to mentor youth and invest in the sport through coaching roles, including his current position with the USHL's Surrey Eagles.

Mr. Gomez also founded the Scott Gomez Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting youth hockey and increasing opportunities for underserved communities. Through scholarships, clinics, and community work, the foundation reflects his deep commitment to giving back and uplifting the next generation of players.

Scott Gomez embodies the values of perseverance, excellence, and service that make Alaska proud. His journey from local rinks to national recognition reflects the very best of our state's spirit of optimism, hard work, and generosity. I offer my congratulations on this well-deserved honor and thank him for the inspiration he continues to provide both on and off the ice.

RECOGNIZING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON: EMPOWERING WOMEN, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions and enduring legacy of the Junior League of Arlington (JLA), an organization that has been empowering women and strengthening the Arlington community for nearly five decades.

Founded on October 22, 1975, as the Service League of Arlington with 45 charter members, the organization was officially welcomed into the Association of Junior Leagues International on February 22, 1982, becoming the 248th Junior League and adopting the name Junior League of Arlington. Since that time, JLA has remained steadfast in its mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Over the years, the Junior League of Arlington has invested more than \$3 million and over one million volunteer hours into more than 100 local agencies. Through these efforts, the League has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless residents across North Texas. This year alone, JLA is providing \$100,000 in grants to 10 community organizations, continuing its long tradition of philanthropy and partnership.

Beyond its financial and volunteer contributions, the Junior League of Arlington's influence is seen in its enduring commitment to service and empowerment. From its collaboration with Arlington ISD on the annual Back to School Kick-off at AT&T Stadium, to its many "Done in a Day" projects, JLA consistently answers the call to serve families, women, and children in need.

As the League begins a new chapter in its new home at Wellspring on Main—The Arlington Center for Community Engagement—it reaffirms its dedication to building stronger, more inclusive communities. Through leadership training, volunteerism, and a commitment to diversity, equity, and belonging, JLA continues to shape women into leaders who create lasting, positive change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Junior League of Arlington for its nearly 50 years of outstanding service, leadership, and community partnership. The League's unwavering dedication to empowering women and strengthening the Arlington community stands as a model of civic engagement and compassion for us all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARGARET HOPSON BROWN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Margaret Hopson Brown, a beloved member of our community whose warmth and kindness touched the lives of many. Born on December

19, 1954, to David and Mary Hopson, Margaret lived a life rich with love, adventure, and purpose.

Margaret passed away on September 8, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love and laughter. A Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Valley Queen M.B. Church, officiated by Rev. Lesta Anderson and Rev. Dexter Davis, with interment at Booker Cemetery.

Margaret was a lifelong member of Shady Grove M.B. Church, where she served faithfully, embodying the spirit of a true servant of the Lord. Her life was a testament to her faith, as she accepted Christ at an early age and lived out her beliefs through acts of kindness and service.

Known for her ability to turn everyday moments into celebrations, Margaret's presence was a gift to all who knew her. Whether she was spinning wild stories, sharing a perfect joke, or ensuring no one left her table hungry, Margaret's warmth drew people in and made strangers feel like lifelong friends.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Royal Brown, Jr.; and five siblings. She leaves behind a loving family, including her four sisters, Dorothy, Frances, Brenda, and Pinky; her brother, Andrew Lee; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and special friends, including the Class of 1970 and the Golden Hearts Social club.

Though Margaret's time with us has ended, her story lives on in every lesson taught, every memory shared, and every heart she touched. Her legacy is proof that some people never truly leave us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Margaret Hopson Brown, whose kindness, resilience, and love will continue to inspire us all.

HONORING LISA NELSON-BONNINGTON AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Nelson-Bonnington, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. In addition to being a prominent business leader and community advocate, Lisa currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce. With more than thirty years of experience in marketing, public relations, and organizational management, Lisa has dedicated her career to strengthening local economies and supporting small businesses across the Bay Area. Prior to her current role, she served as President and CEO of the Martinez Chamber of Commerce and as Vice President of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, where she championed initiatives to promote economic growth and workforce development. As an active participant in the Western Association of Chamber Executives Academy, Lisa brings both expertise and passion to her work fostering collaboration between businesses, government, and community organizations. Since

joining the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber in 2024, she has focused on expanding outreach to local entrepreneurs and strengthening partnerships that enhance economic vitality for both Fairfield and Suisun City. Lisa's work is rooted in inclusion and long-term sustainability, ensuring that every sector of the community has a voice in shaping its shared prosperity. Through her service, Lisa continues to embody integrity, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to empowering others. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Lisa Nelson-Bonnington for her outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication to economic and community development.

HONORING BISHOP LESLIE PATTERSON, JR. AND CO-PASTOR DR. FRANCENE PATTERSON

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Bishop Leslie Patterson, Jr. and Co-Pastor Dr. Francene Patterson on the occasion of their 30th Pastoral Anniversary at First Baptist Church.

Under their leadership and guidance, First Baptist Church has grown into a flourishing ministry rooted in service, fellowship, and community. Together, they have transformed lives, strengthened families, and built a legacy grounded in compassion, responsibility, and faith.

Bishop and Co-Pastor Patterson have shown exceptional dedication to the Northern Virginia community through their ministry's outreach and impact. They have nurtured over one hundred children through the church's childcare center, provided food assistance to more than 5,000 families through the Manna from Heaven Food Pantry, and hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic during a time of great need. Their partnerships with small and minority-owned businesses, schools, nonprofits, and civic organizations have created lasting connections that continue to uplift lives across the region.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Leslie Patterson, Jr. and Co-Pastor Dr. Francene Patterson exemplify what it means to lead with faith and purpose. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this milestone anniversary and commanding their outstanding service to their congregation and the broader community.

THANKING NOAH WOFSY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member MORELLE and myself, I kindly ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Noah Wofsy on his retirement as Deputy Legislative Counsel after 39 years of service to the House of Representatives. Noah joined the House Office of Legislative Counsel in 1986 after

earning his J.D. from the University of Southern California. I have had the good fortune of working with Noah in his capacity supporting the Committee on House Administration and the Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation.

Noah has served as the Deputy House Legislative Counsel since 2018, helping lead the office and manage a committed team of experts to provide the House with impartial and confidential drafting and counseling services for bills, amendments, resolutions, and laws.

Throughout his career in the House of Representatives, Noah has lent his unmatched expertise to countless Members, committees, and staff working on a broad array of policy issues. The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress relied heavily on Noah's institutional knowledge and ideas when making recommendations to modernize the House's outdated processes and technologies for legislative drafting. He was also instrumental in leading the effort last Congress to modernize leadership roles and succession planning in the Office of the Legislative Counsel. While Noah's service over the years has benefited the House in many ways, his dedication to teaching staff the art of legislative drafting has left an indelible and lasting mark on this institution. Teaching is a talent that Noah exemplifies as thousands of current and former House staffers will attest.

While Noah has been recognized by friends and colleagues for his steadfast commitment to public service and his expertise in the legislative drafting process, it is his unparalleled sense of humor that truly sets him apart. Over the course of his nearly four decades of service, the House saw a lot of change. Noah's ability to constantly adapt and consistently excel—all while maintaining his sense of humor—is a bold testament to his dedication to the House of Representatives and the people it serves. I wish Noah the best for his well-earned retirement.

On behalf of my colleagues and the entire House community, I thank him for his leadership and longstanding commitment to serving the People's House.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRENDAN STRENGTH AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lt. Col. Brenda Strength as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her exceptional leadership, operational excellence, and dedicated service to both the United States Air Force and the Northern California community. Lt. Col. Strength leads a team of 372 military and civilian personnel in managing the Air Mobility Command's largest logistics portfolio, valued at over \$983 million. Under her leadership, her unit executed over 58,000 passenger movements and transported more than 5 million pounds of cargo, while simultaneously planning and executing 12 high-priority Presi-

dential support missions, mobilizing 123 personnel across 22 locations in less than 24 hours. She played a pivotal role in finalizing a 15-year modernization effort involving the transfer of 3,000 legacy weapons systems across three wings. Through innovative joint training with the U.S. Marine Corps, she established three cross-service exercises and embedded 25 Air Force reservists into five critical logistics functions, enhancing operational readiness and joint interoperability. Her logistical acumen led to major advancements: a 30 percent reduction in overdue parts in the "Due In From Maintenance" program, a 15 percent increase in Specialized Fueling qualifications, and the resolution of a vital Base Exchange agreement benefiting over 135,000 members of the Travis AFB community. Further demonstrating her strategic foresight, Lt. Col. Strength oversaw a zero-cost warehouse floor plan redesign that consolidated 124 locations for 11,000 line items, resolved 132 asset discrepancies, and bolstered the Air Force's largest mobility account. Her innovation directly enabled a 26 percent increase in qualified aircrew by resolving a 9-month gap in hot refuel kit certification. Beyond her military service, Lt. Col. Strength has strengthened community bonds by encouraging squadron engagement in local volunteerism, including youth mentorship, highway cleanups, STEM and robotics initiatives, and support for local athletics and the arts. Her commitment to community partnerships highlights the Air Force's enduring connection to the people it serves. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Lt. Col. Brenda Strength for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING NATIONAL IMMIGRANTS DAY

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and support for our Nation's vibrant immigrant community on this National Immigrants Day.

Every October 28th, we recognize and celebrate the contributions of immigrants—born citizens of another country—to our United States. Our Nation stands as the country with the most immigrants in the world: over 52 million in 2024, or about 15 percent of our overall population. Throughout our history immigrants have made, and today continue to make, invaluable contributions to our country, including invigorating our economy and sharing their unique cultures to enrich the fabric of our society.

Nowhere is this truer than in my Hawaii, where so many are themselves immigrants or descended from immigrants. Hawaii is home today to 256,000 immigrants, or about 18 percent of our total population—ranking us 8th in the Nation. Immigrants have been central to the history and culture of Hawaii for centuries, from being the backbone of our labor force in Hawaii's earlier agricultural industries in sugar and pineapple, to now making up 22 percent of our labor force and a disproportionately large share of our vital hospitality and health

care industries as well as our dominant small businesses. Our distinctive multicultural identity, from "pidgin" to fusion foods like spam musubi, meat jun and saimin, to our distinctly local music and way of life, have been uniquely shaped by our immigrant 'ohana.

Nationally, the immigrant experience then and now has strengthened our country immeasurably in equally multiple ways. In pure economic terms alone, in 2022 immigrants generated some \$1.6 trillion in economic activity and contributed more than \$579 billion in local, state and federal taxes, and today millions of American workers are employed at immigrant-founded and immigrant-owned companies. Immigration is and will increasingly be essential to meeting workplace demand. Our immigrant communities maintain ties to their countries of origin and thus strengthen our Nation's indispensable international bonds.

At a time when too many immigrant communities here and elsewhere are being unfairly targeted and villainized, it is more important than ever that we recognize, celebrate and extend our support to our dynamic, diverse and thriving immigrant community and thank all immigrants for your belief in and contributions to our country. Mahalo.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE MANHEIM LIONS CLUB

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Manheim Lions Club for their 100th anniversary.

Located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the Manheim Lions Club is a dedicated community partner, exemplifying the Lions International motto of "We Serve" since their chartering in 1925. The club is heavily involved in youth activities, sponsoring a 14U baseball team and the Cub Scouts, and presenting educational awards to local students. It also runs programs that support vision care, such as an eyeglasses drive, and engages in a variety of community service and humanitarian relief efforts.

These efforts are supported through Easter egg hunts, 5K races, broom sales, and food stands at the Manheim Farm Show. This does not include past traditions like car shows at the football field and plastic boat races on the creek. Ultimately, the money raised within the community is reinvested back into the community.

The Manheim Lions are currently led by Club President Aaron Henderson. They are one of 49,000 Lions clubs across 200 countries and regions, and Lions Club International boasts 1.4 million members worldwide.

As the Manheim Lions Club celebrates 100 years of community service, I would like to thank the club and its members for their longstanding record of selflessness. Their efforts have made Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District a better place, and I wish them another century of positive impact.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. 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.

Kazakhstan has pursued a forward-looking vision rooted in partnership, openness, and modernization. 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 has become 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. Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia—a reliable partner and a model of pragmatic, balanced diplomacy. Furthermore, Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets.

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 Artificial Intelligence, 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.

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 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.

At home, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is undertaking an ambitious program of national renewal aimed at building a "Just and Fair State." Over the past three years, the country has implemented far-reaching political and economic reforms.

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—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.

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 will deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership and strengthening our ties with all Central Asian nations.

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 LUCINDA BAZILE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucinda Bazile, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Support Community San Francisco Bay Area, Lucinda has dedicated her life to advancing health equity, expanding access to care, and empowering those affected by cancer and chronic illness. With over three decades of experience in community health and nonprofit leadership, she has built a legacy defined by compassion, integrity, and impact. Prior to leading Cancer Support Community, Lucinda served as Deputy Director at Lifelong Medical Care, where she helped establish key departments, including Human Resources, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, AmeriCorps, Outreach, Compliance, and Marketing. Her leadership strengthened partnerships among healthcare providers, community organizations, and public institutions, ensuring that underserved populations, especially seniors and communities of color, receive the care and dignity they deserve. Deeply motivated by personal experience, Lucinda transformed loss into purpose, becoming a tireless advocate for early diagnosis, patient education, and culturally competent care. A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she mentors young women, broadens pathways into healthcare careers, and continues to champion diversity and inclusion in medicine. Her advocacy extends beyond professional settings as she remains an active volunteer supporting seniors and families throughout the Bay Area. Through her unwavering commitment to health justice and community empowerment, Lucinda Bazile exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose and compassion. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Lucinda Bazile for her invaluable contributions to our community.