

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REBECCA GRASTY 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 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Rebecca Grasty as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. With over 15 years as a Family Child Care Professional, Rebecca Grasty has devoted her life to strengthening the early childhood education landscape in California. A credentialed educator in both Social Science and Family & Consumer Sciences, she is a leader whose influence extends far beyond the classroom. She currently serves as Vice President of the Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network and was recently elected Chapter President for the California Association for the Education of Young Children. Rebecca's commitment to professional development and peer support is clear in her work revitalizing the Solano Association of Providers. Recognizing the isolating nature of the Family Child Care profession, she brought together providers from across Solano County for a leadership meeting to reignite collaboration and build a stronger sense of community. She has presented on financial literacy for providers at Solano Family & Children's Services, is a featured speaker at the 2025 Solano ECE Conference, and founded Save California Family Child Care, a grassroots initiative advocating for developmentally appropriate changes to state policy. She was also instrumental in organizing the "A Day Without Child Care" Advocacy Loop in Solano County, collaborating with the Children's Network, Napa providers, and the NorCal Family Child Care Alliance to highlight the urgent need for childcare reform. She also served on the organizing committee of the May 2025 Family Child Care Symposium and led planning for the upcoming "State of the Bay" Summit to bring together stakeholders from all nine Bay Area counties to advocate for children, families, and the providers who serve them. Her tireless efforts have uplifted families, empowered fellow professionals, and shaped policy conversations that will benefit generations to come. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Rebecca Grasty for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Episcopal Church

for the organization's 150 years of dedicated service and commitment to the people of our community.

Grace Episcopal Church was founded in 1875 in St. Helena and remains the oldest stone church in Napa County. Episcopal worship in St. Helena began in 1871, when a small group of parishioners gathered as a fledgling congregation. Their efforts culminated on December 12, 1875, when Bishop A.W.D. Wingfield consecrated the newly built church and confirmed fourteen founding members. In 1882, the congregation constructed the stone sanctuary at the corner of Oak and Spring Streets, where the church continues to stand today. What began as a small congregation without a permanent home grew into a mission and, in 1954, achieved full parish status. For nearly a century and a half, generations of families have sustained Grace Episcopal Church as a place of worship, service, and community life in our town.

Grace Episcopal Church's deep commitment to our community is reflected in its long history of service and outreach. For more than a century, the church has been a place of refuge and fellowship for the people of our St. Helena. Since 1975, Grace Church has hosted "Joe's Group," the oldest Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in St. Helena, continuing its tradition of providing support in times of need. Grace Church's "Common Table" program provides free community meals twice a month, offering nourishment and connection to all who attend. The church's community involvement also extends to youth development, with the Reverend Irving Baxter founding Troop One St. Helena Boy Scouts at Grace Church in 1920, just twelve years after the scouting movement began in the United Kingdom.

Grace Church has been recognized for its steadfast response to community needs during times of crisis. It serves as the Red Cross hub for our northern Napa County community, offering disaster relief and shelter when disaster strikes. During recent wildfires, the church distributed more than \$10,000 in assistance to low-income families who were displaced. During the pandemic, the Napa Valley New Deal was founded at Grace Church to provide free food, supplies, and prepared meals to vulnerable residents throughout our region. The church continues to partner with faith-based organizations to provide essential goods, collecting and distributing food staples to families in need.

Grace Church's dedication to service also extends to affordable housing advocacy and spiritual wellness. Its participation in the Adopt-a-Family program for more than 20 years has brought comfort and stability to families during the holidays. Its ongoing advocacy for affordable housing has helped secure homes for more than 30 low-income families. In 1997, the parish committed to tithing 10 percent of its income to support work beyond its walls, producing a lasting impact locally and around the globe. In 2015, the church built and dedicated a community labyrinth modeled after the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth

to serve as a public space for meditation and spiritual reflection. Periodic Taizé services continue this spirit of inclusion, offering ecumenical worship dedicated to Christian unity.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Grace Episcopal Church for its dedication and service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today on their 150th anniversary.

HONORING SARATOGA COUNTY SHERIFF MICHAEL ZURLO

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saratoga County Sheriff Michael Zurlo, a lifelong resident of Saratoga County who has dedicated his career to keeping our communities safe, strong, and connected.

Elected Sheriff on November 5, 2013, Sheriff Zurlo brought decades of hands-on experience to the office, having served as a deputy, sergeant, lieutenant, and senior criminal investigator within the Saratoga County Sheriffs Office. A graduate of Mechanicville High School and former Town of Stillwater Judge, Sheriff Zurlo embodies a deep understanding of both law enforcement and public service.

Over more than thirty years, he has worked tirelessly to protect the people of Saratoga County, leading with fairness, integrity, and respect for the men and women who serve beside him. His leadership has advanced several initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the county's safety and quality of life. He placed school resource officers in districts across the county to ensure students and staff have trusted and visible protection. He expanded street patrols to strengthen community policing and enhance public safety. He modernized the county's emergency communications system to improve coordination among first responders. He also built partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to better combat crime and support shared missions.

Sheriff Zurlo has also demonstrated a strong commitment to innovation and compassion. He implemented stricter penalties for those charged with driving while intoxicated, launched the "Blue Envelope" program to assist drivers on the autism spectrum during traffic stops, and oversaw the opening of the county's \$20 million Paul E. Lent Public Safety Facility. Under his leadership, the Sheriffs Office introduced programs in the county jail designed to support veteran inmates and individuals struggling with addiction, offering accountability, rehabilitation, and a path forward.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Sheriff Michael Zurlo for his dedicated service, steady leadership, and lifelong commitment to the people of Saratoga County. His work has strengthened the foundation of public safety

● 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.

and community trust that continues to define our region today.

**HONORING MELISSA NICKSON 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 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Melissa Nickson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her exceptional leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to survivors of violence across Solano County. Her dedication to trauma-informed advocacy and her tireless pursuit of justice have profoundly strengthened our community. Under her direction, Napa Solano SANE-SART's advocacy and case management programs have expanded to provide comprehensive, survivor-centered care for thousands affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She has built an organization grounded in compassion and respect, ensuring that every survivor is met with dignity and the support needed to rebuild their life. One of Melissa's most significant contributions has been her leadership in the regional response to human trafficking. She has spearheaded collaborations with local law enforcement, county task forces, and community partners to create a coordinated and effective safety net for trafficking survivors. Her efforts have led to the development of a 24/7 human trafficking crisis line, the expansion of emergency housing options, and the implementation of long-term recovery pathways that address both immediate and systemic barriers to healing. Melissa has also been a tireless advocate and educator. She engages in civic organizations, professional groups, and schools to raise awareness about exploitation, victim rights, and prevention. Her outreach to youth is particularly impactful and through school presentations and youth programs, she has equipped young people with the knowledge and confidence to recognize and resist the signs of trafficking and abuse. Survivors and colleagues alike describe Melissa as a beacon of hope and a steady, empathetic presence in moments of crisis. Her courage, compassion, and tireless advocacy for survivors have restored lives and fostered community resilience. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Melissa Nickson for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF SUSAN L. ZOLOTOROFE**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the beautiful life, leg-

acy, and memory of my Constituent Susan L. Zolotorofe who was a cherished daughter, a treasured friend, and a beloved member of our Bucks County community. Susan passed away on October 24, 2025, at her home in Ivyland, Pennsylvania, at the age of 53, after courageously enduring complications stemming from radiation treatments she underwent as a teenager to overcome a brain tumor. Her life is a testament to courage, perseverance, and a heart overflowing with love.

Born on August 17, 1972, at Abington Hospital, Susan entered this world with a radiant smile. Her smile would go on to warm the hearts of everyone privileged enough to know her. From her early years, Susan possessed a gentleness of spirit that enriched the lives of all who crossed her path.

Susan dedicated her life to helping children grow, learn, and feel seen. She spent many years working in preschools and day care centers across Bucks County, including her service at the YMCA in Warminster. For Susan, child care was not merely a profession but a calling. She believed that every child deserved compassion, patience, and encouragement, and she gave those gifts freely. Her kindness was not loud but was quiet, steady, and deeply felt.

For over twenty years, Susan faithfully served at Addisville Church, assisting with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School alongside her devoted mother. Her work within the church reflected her strong faith and the values she lived each day. The values of care, humility, service, and love.

Some of Susan's happiest moments were spent near the water. From her childhood visits to Silver Bay on Lake George, New York, to cherished days walking the beaches of Ocean City, New Jersey, these places offered her peace and filled her with wonder. They were her sanctuaries, where the world slowed enough for her heart to feel light.

Though she was strikingly tall and beautiful, it was her smile, a smile that was warm, gentle, and unmistakably genuine that defined her. Even during her most difficult medical challenges, that smile remained. It was a symbol of her resilience, her faith, and her refusal to let hardship dim her spirit.

Susan is survived by her loving parents, Eileen (née Fetter) and Don Zolotorofe, along with a large, devoted family and a circle of friends who will forever hold her memory close. Each carries with them the profound imprint of her kindness and the example of how to live with grace.

Mr. Speaker, the true measure of a life is not found in what we accumulate, but in the hearts we touch. By that measure, Susan lived a life overflowing with purpose and love. She showed us what it means to persevere with dignity, to care without condition, and to walk through this world with a smile that reminds others they matter.

May her memory be a blessing, and may we honor her legacy by living as she did, with compassion, faith, and joy.

It is my pleasure to honor her in the United States Congress, so that future generations may know of the extraordinary kindness and courage of Susan L. Zolotorofe, a woman whose light continues to shine.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY "TONY" ANELLO

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Anthony "Tony" Anello, who passed away at the age of 77 on September 28, 2025. Tony was a beloved and celebrated member of Bodega Bay, a renowned fisherman, and a pillar of this coastal community.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1948, Tony was raised in Guerneville, California. Tony was a rodeo calf roper when he married Carol Zucca, his wife of 58 years. To support their growing family, Tony began an excavation business, while earning additional income as a fisherman and selling produce.

In 1968, Tony joined the Guerneville Fire Department as a volunteer, launching his steadfast career as a firefighter and EMT. He served the Sonoma County fire departments for decades and rose through the ranks of captain, training officer, and battalion chief during his tenure. Tony's excellence and commitment as a training officer is credited for shaping generations of paramedics and firefighters in Sonoma County.

Most notably, Tony had a deep-rooted love for fishing. The grandson of a Sicilian fisherman, Tony purchased his first of many commercial fishing boats in 1969. On his days off from the fire department, Tony would go commercial salmon and crab fishing.

In 2004, Tony and Carol founded Spud Point Crab Co. in Bodega Bay, a small harbor stand that grew to become an iconic, homestyle restaurant for both tourists and locals. Tony and his son, Mark, provided seasonal crab and wild king salmon fresh from the dock of the marina across from the restaurant. The waterfront stand, inspired by Old Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, still attracts lines of customers seeking Carol's prize-winning clam chowder and Tony's Dungeness crab. A beacon of the community, Spud Point Co. is a critical hub for the town and a charitable supporter of many local organizations.

Along with his well-respected work ethic, Tony was well known for his larger-than-life character, humor, and generous spirit. Tony was a stalwart advocate for the local fishing community and hosted many vital community gatherings to preserve the future of the fishing industry at Bodega Bay. While he will be greatly missed, Tony's legacy will live on through the innumerable positive impacts he has had on his community. Tony is survived by his wife and their four children, Lori, Gina, Lisa, and Mark, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom have carried on his passion for fishing and firefighting.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Tony's family and many friends and in expressing deep appreciation for his decades of service to his community.

HONORING MARIE CARAYANIS 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 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Marie Carayannis as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her decades of outstanding service and commitment to her community. In 1970, together with her husband, Marie opened Nick & Marie's Delicatessen and Catering, a cornerstone of downtown El Sobrante for 30 years. Through her work as a small business owner, she became a dedicated advocate for the needs of local businesses and an active leader in the community. Marie has served on the El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce Board since 1968, holding the office of President in 1984 to 1985, 2003 to 2004, and again from 2014 to 2016. She currently serves as Membership Chairperson. She was also one of the founders of the El Sobrante Stroll, the community's signature festival, and continues to serve as Director of Vendor Booths for this beloved annual event. Her commitment to civic life extends far beyond business. Marie has served for many years on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of El Sobrante, including as President and Director of the Volunteer Program. She has also been active in the American Business Women's Association and the Soroptimists, working to advance opportunities for women and strengthen community service. While Marie's priorities have always centered on her family, including her three daughters and grandchildren, she has never wavered in her dedication to her friends, neighbors, and the well-being of the El Sobrante Valley community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Marie Carayannis for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING QUEEN MOTHER  
SIRIKIT OF THAILAND

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S.-Thai Alliance Caucus, I want to extend my deepest condolences to both the Royal Family and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother.

Born in Bangkok on August 12, 1932—a day now celebrated as Mother's Day—she married the future King Bhumibol Adulyadej, crowned Rama IX, in 1950.

Her Majesty led a life dedicated to public service and was a champion of furthering rural development in Thailand. As a steadfast companion of the King for more than four decades, she traveled with him throughout the country touring rural villages and advocating for projects to help the poor.

Queen Sirikit was also an advocate for the preservation of traditional silk-weaving and is

credited with helping to revitalize Thailand's silk industry.

During my visits to Thailand, I have seen firsthand the warmth of the people and their love for the King and Queen, offering only the highest of praises. The Thai people's admiration of the monarchs is a testament of their patriotism and to national unity in Thailand. I am grateful to have been able to have seen these sentiments firsthand, in addition to the numerous other aspects of their rich culture. Thailand is a valued ally of America.

Once again, I offer my deepest condolences to Queen Sirikit's family and friends, and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand.

HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of Madison County High School in Madison, Virginia, for being selected as one of the Top 25 schools nationwide—and the only school in Virginia—in T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights competition.

This remarkable achievement distinguishes Madison County High School from thousands of schools across the nation that participated in this innovative program. The Friday Night 5G Lights initiative is more than just a contest—it is a nationwide movement designed to fuel school pride, performance, and possibility. Through this multimillion-dollar program, T-Mobile supports small towns and rural communities by empowering high schools to showcase their school spirit, strengthen community engagement, and compete for a football field upgrade that enhances student and fan experiences.

Madison County High School's selection as a Top 25 finalist reflects the extraordinary dedication of its students, faculty, staff, and community. Their collective enthusiasm and spirit exemplify the pride and resilience of Madison County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madison County High School for its recognition and commend the entire community for rallying behind their students. I know this community will continue to support their school as they inspire our young leaders in demonstrating that teamwork, community, and perseverance can light up even the smallest towns in the brightest ways.

HONORING MARIA STATS AS ONE  
OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRE-  
SSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Stats, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Maria is a proud first-gen-

eration American who has participated in community service and the arts as a performer, director, activist, author, and educator for more than thirty-five years. She is the founder and artistic director of On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts, an international award-winning arts company. Maria is also the first DEI chair for the National Organization for Women, California, working directly under Helen Grieco. One of her major achievements was bringing Rock the Vote with MTV News and the State Registrar's office to Solano County. She is a founding member of the S.H.E. Institute, the Vallejo Charter School, and the Vallejo Literacy Alliance. Maria was also recognized by Playbill magazine in 2020 as one of the five community theatres giving the most back to their community. Maria was also recognized in 2024 as a Freddie G Fellow, the highest musical theatre teaching award outside the Tony, a teaching award from Music Theatre International and the Broadway League recognizing teachers who change the world one musical at a time. Currently, Maria is serving her second term as the Vallejo Museum's Board President. Her original musical, *Wonderlandia*, was workshoped in Vallejo and will be performed in conjunction with Dia de Muertos bringing a new Vallejo tradition to the downtown. Maria is most proud of being a mom to four amazing kids. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Maria Stats for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING LINDA NEAL

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Neal, who has been named the 2025 Agriculturist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Ms. Neal is being recognized for her decades of dedicated service and lasting contributions to Napa Valley's agricultural community.

Ms. Neal's path to agriculture began after her family moved from Orange County to Oakdale in Stanislaus County during her childhood. Inspired by local students involved in farming, she joined the Future Farmers of America (FFA) at Oakdale High School, where she earned a State Farmer Degree and numerous awards. Ms. Neal has often said that everything good in her life can be traced back to her involvement with FFA, where she came to see agriculture as the only truly essential industry. She went on to earn an Associate of Science degree in Agricultural Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business, graduating *summa cum laude*, and became a licensed Pest Control Adviser.

Ms. Neal arrived in Napa Valley in 1983, where she initially worked as a sales representative for the French agricultural manufacturer Rhone Poulenc. Soon after, she and her then-husband, Michael Neal, co-founded M&L Vineyard Management, which began with a single quarter-acre vineyard and grew to manage more than 1,000 acres for renowned wineries including Cakebread, Mondavi, and Opus One. In 1986, she represented Napa County at the California Farm Bureau Federation competition in Monterey, earning first

place in debate. The following year, she became a member of the Napa County Farm Bureau and purchased an agricultural property in Oakville. By 1989, she had terraced the hillside and planted four acres of Cabernet Sauvignon on the property her vineyard crew would later name Tierra Roja for its distinctive red volcanic soil.

After two decades leading M&L Vineyard Management, Ms. Neal turned her focus to her own properties. She operated Mellowood Vineyard in El Dorado County before selling the winery in 2018 to concentrate fully on Tierra Roja. Working closely with vineyard manager Ruben Rubio, Ms. Neal manages every aspect of her four-acre vineyard year-round, with each vine individually tended. She produces about 250 cases annually of highly regarded Cabernet Sauvignon from what has been called "Magic Hill" for its location among Oakville's most celebrated vineyards.

In addition to her professional success, Ms. Neal has been a driving force for agricultural education and community engagement. Twenty-five years ago, she worked with local farmers, including Larry Bettinelli, to establish the Agriculture Program at St. Helena High School, where she served as treasurer, secretary, and fundraiser. What began as a vision for a single classroom has grown into a three-teacher program with more than half of St. Helena High School's students participating. Ms. Neal was also elected by local farmers to serve on the USDA Farm Service Agency Committee, where she advocated for agricultural producers across the region. Throughout her career, she has mentored many young people entering agriculture, giving individuals who are now industry leaders their first start in the field.

Ms. Neal's commitment to service extended beyond our Napa Valley when she joined the Peace Corps in 2018 and served in Morocco until 2020, sharing her agricultural expertise with communities abroad before returning to continue her work here at home.

Mr. Speaker, through decades of work in viticulture, dedication to agricultural education, and commitment to mentoring the next generation of farmers, Linda Neal has made lasting contributions to our Napa Valley's agricultural community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2025 Agriculturist of the Year.

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RECOGNIZING THE HIGH PLAINS  
HONOR FLIGHT

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**HON. GABE EVANS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate our Nation's brave men and women and to recognize the High Plains Honor Flight Network, which conducts trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the monuments built to honor their bravery and service. The High Plains Honor Flight gave some of our fellow brave men and women the chance to visit our Nation's Capital. As a fellow veteran myself, I am pleased to honor the High Plains Honor Flight and to recognize the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Mr. Speaker, the veterans who participated in this flight are as follows:

Veterans of the Korean War: Howard Kennedy and Robert Kinnison.

Veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars: James Myers.

Veterans of the Cold War: Marvin Clark and Charles Portz.

Veterans of the Vietnam War: Leron Allred, Albert Amen, Walter Anderson, Sammy Archer, John Babich, Clifford Baker, Virgil Barnhart, Wesley Bater, Selby Batty, Richard Block, Louis Branch, Jr., Miles Brekke, C. Brown, Charles Brown, John Bunning, Jens Burnett, Bruce Carlson, Daniel Carson, James Coleman, Bruce Conley, David Cook, Rhonda Corchado, Charles Cowan Jr., Daniel Cutler, Douglas Davenport, Steven Davison, Eugene Dorsey, George Dowell, Jerry Downie, Joseph Eddins, Richard Edens, Rodney Ellner, Bryan Erickson, Daryl Frank, Timothy Fulton, John Goodman, Michael Graff, Lester Greene, Duane Hahn, Gary Hausman, James Hawkins, David Hedgpeth, Joseph Heide, Jr., Larry Hobbs, James Hoefer, David Holm, George Horgan, Richard Horwat, Donnie Huff, Donald Huss, Larry Johnson, Martin Jones, Sidney Keller, Bruce Kemp, Michael Kennedy, Ronald Kessinger, Thomas King, John Knespel, Bruce Koerwitz, Michael Konshak, Robert Kronberg, John Kupfer, William Langridge, Gerard Lemke, Cecelia Long, Johnny Lorenzini, John Loth, Gary Marison, Karen Marison, Cisco Martinez, Harry Maxmiller, Rudolph Mazur, George McCambridge, Daniel McKinney, Maurice Mertens, Allan Miller, Dean Nelson, Ron Nelson, Wesley Nelson, Joseph Novak, Stephen Olt, Cameron Paterson, Kenneth Pearce, Paul Piper, Thomas Redmond, Randolph Reed, James Rippeth, Rolando Romo, James Ronk, Sylvester Roubideaux, Gail Rowse, Steven Sample, Donald Sanchez, Lyndel Saxbury, Kenneth Schossow, Earl Seahorn, Barry Sittlow, Richard Skinner, Richard Steedley, Marion Stille, Harry Stordahl, Ashley Sumerford, Robert Tramp, Raymond Valdez, Gerald Vargo, Daniel Warren, Floyd Watson, Jr., Larry Weickum, Donald Weightman, James Widlar, Linda Wingate, David Wining, Juan Zavala, Joe Zavala, Jr., Donald Zeidler.

It is my honor and privilege as a veteran and the United States Representative of the 8th District of Colorado to recognize the sacrifice and service of these men and women and all other members of our Nation's military. I thank them for their bravery and service to our Nation.

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

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marbeya Ellis, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As Family Resource Center Manager for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD), Ms. Ellis has transformed three school-based centers—at Anna Kyle, Cleo Gordon, and Suisun Elementary—into trusted community hubs providing essen-

tial support, stability, and hope for local families. Through her leadership, FSUSD's Family Resource Centers have become models of wraparound service, connecting families to vital resources, including hygiene products, school supplies, housing referrals, and financial assistance, all in an environment of dignity and care. Marbeya's innovative approach has expanded partnerships with organizations such as SparkPoint Solano for financial coaching, CommuniCare+OLE for mobile health clinics, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to provide free tax preparation that helps low-income families secure critical refunds. Beyond her district role, she serves as Board Secretary for the Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Solano County Family HealthCare Board, championing equitable access to healthcare and economic opportunity. Her commitment to collaboration ensures that families can find relief and empowerment in the very schools their children attend. Under her guidance, FSUSD's Family Resource Centers have become national examples of how public education can anchor community wellness. Marbeya's work is not just about meeting needs, it's about transforming systems with compassion, cultural humility, and persistence. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Marbeya Ellis for her visionary leadership, her tireless service, and her profound impact on families across Fairfield and Suisun City.

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INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESO-  
LUTION COMMEMORATING OCTO-  
BER 2025 AS HEAD START  
AWARENESS MONTH

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**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a joint resolution commemorating October 2025 as Head Start Awareness Month, recognizing the extraordinary impact this program has had on more than 40 million children and their families over the past six decades.

Since its founding in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, Head Start stands as one of America's most effective and enduring investments in our nation's future—helping children from low-income families build a strong foundation for lifelong success. From early childhood education to health, nutrition, and parental engagement, Head Start has transformed the lives of families in every corner of this country.

Head Start isn't just about education, it's about empowerment. It ensures that every child, regardless of their zip code or background, has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Parents are not just participants, but partners shaping programs that reflect the needs and values of their communities.

Today, nearly 750,000 children are enrolled in Head Start programs across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal nations, and U.S. territories. The results speak for themselves: Head Start alumni are more likely to graduate high school, attend college, and achieve greater economic security as adults.

As we mark this milestone, we must reaffirm our commitment to supporting and strengthening Head Start. For 60 years, this program has enjoyed bipartisan support—a testament to its effectiveness and the shared belief that every child deserves a fair start in life.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors the families, educators, and communities who have made Head Start the success story it is today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in commemorating October 2025 as Head Start Awareness Month, and in celebrating the generations of children and families who have benefited from this transformative program.

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HONORING THE HONORABLE  
JAMES A. MURPHY, III

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HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable James A. Murphy, III, for his distinguished and lasting service to Saratoga County and the State of New York.

Judge Murphy served for ten years as Saratoga County Court Judge and as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, where he presided over serious felony jury trials and complex civil litigation. Before his election to the bench, he devoted twenty-five years to prosecutorial work, serving as Saratoga County District Attorney from 1997 to 2014 after being re-elected in 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013.

As District Attorney, Judge Murphy led with innovation and compassion, establishing drug treatment courts, alternatives-to-incarceration programs, and New York State's first Domestic Violence Integrated Court. He was a vocal advocate for reform of the Rockefeller drug laws and worked closely with the State Legislature to modernize New York's criminal justice system. His leadership extended beyond the county, as Governors Pataki, Spitzer, and Cuomo appointed him to statewide boards including the Commission for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Forensic Science Commission. He is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy and earned a Certificate in Leadership from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Judge Murphy and his wife, Laurie, reside in Saratoga Springs and are the proud parents of two daughters. Outside of his legal career, he continues to serve his community in other ways, including as a certified U.S. Rowing referee.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge James A. Murphy, III, for his decades of public service, principled leadership, and unwavering dedication to justice. His career stands as an example of integrity and commitment that has strengthened both the legal system and the community he has served so faithfully.

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

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HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Malaysia Gallon, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. At only 24 years old, Malaysia has already devoted more than a decade to community service, embodying compassion, leadership, and resilience far beyond her years. Since the age of 12, she has dedicated her life to uplifting others through her involvement with Keyz 2 the Future and Motivated 2 Help Others (M2HO), organizations committed to providing food, mentorship, and trauma-informed support to those in need. As Secretary for Keyz 2 the Future, Malaysia helps lead youth mentorship and art therapy programs that empower children and teens affected by gun violence. Through her service with M2HO, she has been on the front lines of feeding the unhoused and ensuring that vulnerable community members are met with dignity and care. Alongside her tireless volunteer work, Malaysia is building a career in healthcare as a licensed EKG Technician and Unit Assistant, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. Despite facing profound personal loss to gun violence, Malaysia has transformed her grief into purpose, becoming a role model for young women navigating hardship. Her dedication has resulted in thousands of meals served, hundreds of youths mentored, and a legacy of empathy and service that continues to grow. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Malaysia Gallon for her extraordinary compassion, her unwavering community spirit, and her outstanding contributions to Solano County.

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RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
MAJOR GENERAL JAMES E. LIV-  
INGSTON, USMC, RETIRED

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HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medal of Honor winner Major General James E. Livingston, USMC Retired, and the University of North Georgia's permanent dedication of the North Plaza at the Gen. William "Lipp" Livsey Drill Field as the 'Major General James E. Livingston Medal of Honor Plaza'. This permanent naming is in recognition of Major General Livingston's lifelong service to America, his commitment to the mission and work of the University of North Georgia—The Military College of Georgia, and his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" for which he earned our Nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

A native of McRae, Georgia, in Telfair County, James E. Livingston attended North Georgia College (NGC) from 1957 to 1958. He departed NGC to study engineering and was

commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1962 from Auburn University. His early assignments included service as a platoon commander, intelligence officer, and as a Recruit Training Regiment series commander. Major General Livingston served as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS *Wasp* and then joined the 3d Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam in August 1967. On May 2, 1968, while serving as Commanding Officer, Company E, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, he distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy forces at the Battle of Dai Do, Republic of Vietnam.

The following is a (short) excerpt from his actions that day:

"Ignoring hostile rounds impacting near him, he fearlessly led his men in a savage assault against enemy emplacements within the village. While adjusting supporting arms fire, Capt. Livingston moved to the points of heaviest resistance, shouting words of encouragement to his marines, directing their fire, and spurring the dwindling momentum of the attack on repeated occasions. Although twice painfully wounded by grenade fragments, he refused medical treatment and courageously led his men in the destruction of over 100 mutually supporting bunkers, driving the remaining enemy from their positions, and relieving the pressure on the stranded marine company." For his incredibly heroic actions on that fateful day, Major General Livingston earned the Medal of Honor which was presented to him on 14 May 1970 by President Richard Nixon in a ceremony at the White House. Today, Major General Livingston stands as one of only 61 living Medal of Honor recipients. Although, he only attended North Georgia College for one year, to this day he credits his North Georgia experience with setting the foundation for his life by instilling timeless leadership principles, fostering maturity, and making him tough. This quote is from Major General Livingston in a recent interview in late 2024: "One of the greatest things to ever happen to me in my life was the opportunity to come to (attend) what was then North Georgia College. . .let me assure you I would have never been successful in what I learned about myself, what I learned about what I needed to know and needed to reinforce through my whole life. Those values of understanding how to live your life, how to be successful in your life, how to achieve in your life . . . all values I learned at North Georgia."

His foundational experience at North Georgia was evidenced by his donation of one of his original Medals of Honor which he received from President Nixon in 1970 to UNG in October 2024. Of note, each medal of honor recipient receives only two medals—Major General Livingston is leaving one to his family and the second to the University of North Georgia, in perpetuity. In a speech to the UNG Corps of Cadets—America's Corps in September 2024, he emotionally shared how the Corps' rigorous training shaped his philosophy of leading by example and maintaining discipline under pressure, qualities evident in his heroic actions at the Battle of Dai Do. Major General Livingston's formative experience in UNG's Cadet Corps laid the groundwork for his distinguished 33-year Marine Corps career. He is the epitome of the UNG Cadet Corps and the mission and work of the University of North Georgia—The Military College of Georgia. As UNG delivers the Corps of the Future—America's Corps, it will be the legacy of leaders like Major General

Livingston who inspire the next generation of selfless Americans to answer our Nation's call.

**COMMENDING KARRY HEPTING FOR HER EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

**Mrs. MCCLAIN.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Karry Hepting, the dedicated County Administrator of St. Clair County, Michigan, who will retire at the end of this year after more than 26 years of distinguished public service.

Karry Hepting has played a central role in the effective governance of St. Clair County for over two and a half decades. A Certified Public Accountant by training, she brought not only a deep understanding of finance and operations, but also an unwavering commitment to transparency, efficiency, and service to the people of her community.

Karry Hepting began her career in St. Clair County government in the late 1990s, rising through the ranks with a reputation for diligence and fiscal expertise. She served in various key financial leadership roles before being appointed County Administrator, where she became the first woman to hold the position in the county's history.

Throughout her tenure, she oversaw significant projects such as the modernization of county infrastructure, updates to administrative systems, and the implementation of long-term strategic planning efforts.

Colleagues, elected officials, and staff throughout Michigan have come to respect Karry Hepting's professionalism, integrity, and tireless work ethic. She has set a high bar for public administration in county government and leaves behind a legacy of collaborative leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Karry Hepting's decades of leadership and dedication have left an indelible mark on St. Clair County. Her steadfast commitment to good governance, fiscal responsibility, and public service has strengthened the community and inspired those around her. As she embarks on this next chapter, we offer our deepest thanks and warmest wishes for a retirement filled with joy, health, and new opportunities.

**HONORING MICHELE MYHAND 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 31, 2025*

**Mr. GARAMENDI.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Ms. Michele Myhand, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her exceptional leadership and service to the 60th Operations Support Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. Michele exemplifies the dedication and integrity that define our

Nation's finest public servants. Following a distinguished career in the United States Army, Michele chose to continue serving in a civilian capacity at Travis Air Force Base, demonstrating her deep commitment to country, community, and family. As Office Manager, Unit Program Coordinator, and Government Purchasing Authority, she ensures the seamless operation of her 435-member squadron by overseeing travel, logistics, and compliance programs with precision and care. Her leadership and professionalism earned her recognition as the 2024 Civilian of the Year. Michele's impact extends far beyond administrative excellence. She welcomes every new squadron member with warmth, fostering a true sense of belonging through the monthly receptions she organizes. She is also a trusted mentor, guiding Airmen through personal challenges with compassion and integrity. Her mentorship has transformed lives, helping struggling service members regain confidence and purpose. Beyond the base, Michele builds bridges between military families and the broader Fairfield and Solano County communities by connecting newcomers with local resources, schools, and volunteer opportunities. Her efforts strengthen the bond between Travis Air Force Base and the surrounding community. Michele's dedication, leadership, and selfless service inspire all who know her. She has made a lasting difference in the lives of her colleagues, her community, and the men and women who serve our Nation. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Michele Myhand for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW BEECH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

**Mr. SCOTT** of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate New Beech Grove Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. For a century, New Beech Grove has stood as a steadfast pillar of faith, service, and fellowship in the Newport News community.

In 1925, Reverends A.B. Ellis, H.L. Blackwell, and J.D. Farrow led efforts to build a new house of worship. Named for the grove of beechnut trees surrounding it, the church was dedicated as Beech Grove Church. Under the leadership of Reverends James Farmer, B.C. Harrod, Samuel Fladger, and James Lawson, the church expanded its community outreach by joining the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference and the National Progressive Baptist Conference, adopting the name New Beech Grove Baptist Church.

On March 6, 1983, the congregation held its farewell service at the original building, forming a motorcade to its new home. The church later moved into its current facility on April 29, 2018.

Guided by its vision that was established under the leadership of Dr. Willard Maxwell, Jr., "Building Kingdom Minded People to Serve the Community," New Beech Grove has consistently embodied service in action. Dur-

ing the Flint Water Crisis, members collected and sent 6,000 cases of water to those in need. The church also hosts the InTouch Community Basketball Tournament, fostering unity between first responders and the community.

Mr. Speaker, as New Beech Grove marks this remarkable milestone, I extend my sincere gratitude for a century of faithful service and lasting impact on the people of Newport News.

**HONORING LOWER PUTAH CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

**Mr. THOMPSON** of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, an outstanding organization in our community. Their 25 years of dedicated service and commitment to restoring Putah Creek demonstrate why they deserve recognition today.

The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC) was established in 2000 under the Putah Creek Accord, a landmark water settlement adopted following years of legal action between Solano County water users and Yolo County environmental advocates. The Accord mandated year-round flows to protect fish and wildlife resources while respecting landowner water rights. The Committee was created to oversee implementation of the settlement, hire a permanent streamkeeper, and coordinate creek studies and restoration. The LPCCC represents the Boards of Supervisors of Solano and Yolo Counties, the Cities of Davis, Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Vallejo and Winters, the Solano County Water Agency, the Solano Irrigation District, the Maine Prairie Water District, the University of California, Davis, the Putah Creek Council and riparian landowners. The Committee's mission is to protect, monitor, and enhance the resources of lower Putah Creek within the framework of the Accord while serving as a forum for dialogue among stakeholders.

The Committee's commitment to our community is clear from their extensive restoration work. Lower Putah Creek stretches 30 miles from below Monticello Dam to the Yolo Bypass through Solano and Yolo Counties. Over the past 25 years, the Committee has led the restoration of over 20 miles of creek habitat by remeandering channels, removing invasive species such as Arundo and Himalayan Blackberry, replanting native vegetation, and reconnecting the stream to its historical floodplain. Their work has leveraged millions of dollars in funding to enhance ecological function, water quality, flood protection, and climate resilience while maintaining strong partnerships with landowners and agencies. The Committee developed a Watershed Management Action Plan that documents the history and present conditions of the creek and provides comprehensive assessment of biological, physical, and cultural resources.

The Committee has rightfully been recognized for the measurable impact of their restoration efforts. Their work has improved groundwater recharge, reduced erosion, and increased the resilience of the creek corridor

to drought and climate change impacts. They have successfully engaged the community through working groups and annual meetings, with nearly 60 percent of landowners along the creek participating in restoration projects. The Committee owns specialized equipment including earth movers and hydroseeders that allow them to accomplish restoration tasks effectively. Most notably, Chinook salmon have returned to Putah Creek each fall to spawn, a remarkable comeback that has been celebrated by our community members and environmentalists. The Winters Salmon Festival now celebrates the return of these iconic fish each October, honoring both the salmon and the decades of restoration work by countless volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee for their dedicated service to our community and their commitment to protecting our natural resources. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today on the 25th anniversary of the Putah Creek Accord.

**HONORING NAOMI WILLIAMS 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 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Naomi Williams as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Williams is a true pillar of the Richmond community whose dedication to service has spanned over five decades. Her leadership has left an indelible mark on every corner of the city. Elected President of the Pullman Neighborhood Council in 1974, a position she continues to hold today, Naomi has long been a driving force behind Richmond's neighborhood empowerment movement. She helped establish the Crime Prevention Executive Board, one of the first local collaborations between residents and the Richmond Police Department and served as both a Police Commissioner and a member of the Commission on Aging, ensuring that accountability and inclusion were at the center of public decision-making. Naomi's advocacy has extended across numerous civic and community groups, including Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), the League of Women Voters, and the West County Democratic Club, where she has inspired voter participation and mentored new generations of community leaders. Her work with the Alcohol Policy Working Group has been especially impactful, fighting to protect neighborhoods from problem liquor stores, promoting public safety, and standing up for youth and families.

Beyond her civic service, Naomi is deeply devoted to preserving Richmond's culture and history. As an organizer of the city's annual Juneteenth Festival, she has helped ensure that the legacy of African American achievement and resilience remains a vibrant part of Richmond's identity. Through changing times and many challenges, Naomi has remained steadfast in her belief that every resident deserves to be heard and respected. Her compassion, humor, and unrelenting commitment

to justice have made her both a trusted voice and a beloved figure in the community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Naomi Williams for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COURTNEY FRY**

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the public service of Courtney Fry, who is departing Capitol Hill after almost 19 years with the House of Representatives.

Ms. Fry's tenure began in 2007 when she started working as a staff assistant in the office of then-Majority Leader STENY HOYER. Her competence, hard work, and dedication led to a 16-year career in that office, where she worked her way up to Director of Legislative Operations.

She then continued her service with the office of House Democratic Caucus Chairman PETE AGUILAR, where she has worked for almost three years as Director of Member Services. In this capacity, she has been a tireless servant to all members of the House Democratic Caucus, providing advice, guidance, and resources. Ms. Fry has not only been an invaluable partner to my office and my staff—she also became a friend.

I thank Ms. Fry for her countless contributions to the Caucus. She will certainly be missed here on Capitol Hill, and I wish her great success as she moves on to the next chapter of her career.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LASMOCKIE OCTAVIA FOUNTAIN**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Lasmockie Octavia Fountain, who tragically lost her life to domestic violence on May 23, 2015. This year marks the 10th anniversary of her passing, and in that decade, her memory has ignited a movement that continues to bring awareness, healing, and advocacy to families affected by domestic violence in Georgia and across the nation.

Born on April 4, 1985, Lasmockie was the beloved daughter of Stephanie Fountain Burton and Charles Nixon, and a devoted mother to four children: Solano Fountain, Sole Fountain, Shannon Fountain, and London Fountain. Her life was full of promise, and her sudden loss at the age of 30 left an unfillable void in the hearts of her family and community.

In response to this tragedy, Lasmockie's aunt, Dr. Sharon Lynn Fountain Stafford, founded the organization: A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D. (Loved Ones Against Domestic Violence). This organization has worked tirelessly to ensure that

Lasmockie's story is not forgotten—transforming grief into advocacy and education for others impacted by domestic violence. Among its many community initiatives, the organization hosts the annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on the last Saturday in October, uniting survivors, families, advocates, and community members in remembrance and in action. Additionally, "Lasmockie Day" is observed on October 23rd in Macon, Georgia, honoring her legacy with community outreach and education.

A Tree of Hope has been planted in Macon, GA—a deeply meaningful location as it was the home of Lasmockie's grandparents, the late Willie Frank Fountain, Sr. and Syella Fountain, and is also the location where Lasmockie's life was tragically taken. The tree bears the names of individuals lost to domestic violence and stands as a living memorial—a symbol that their lives mattered, that they are not forgotten, and that their stories continue to inspire change. A memorial bench featuring a mural of Lasmockie was also placed at the site, creating a space for reflection, healing, and remembrance.

Additionally, "Purple Light Day" is observed annually on October 26th in Macon. Initiated by Dr. Stafford, Purple Light Day encourages homes, businesses, and public spaces to be illuminated in purple—the color representing domestic violence awareness as a visual show of support for victims and a call to action for prevention.

Lasmockie's legacy continues to live on through her children, family, and loved ones, including her aunt, Dr. Sharon Lynn Fountain Stafford, who have taken up the fight against domestic violence. They work tirelessly to honor Lasmockie's memory through advocacy, education, and outreach. Together, they actively lead the work of A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D., focusing on empowering underserved communities where domestic violence is often underreported and support is limited.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, as well as the people of Georgia's 2nd District, in honoring the life and ongoing impact of Lasmockie Octavia Fountain and the work of A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D. on the 10th anniversary of her passing. May her memory continue to be a beacon of hope, and may her story inspire continued action to end domestic violence.

**CELEBRATING DIPESH AND DIPTI PANDYA'S 30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two of my remarkable constituents of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Dipesh and Dipti Pandya, as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

On this joyous occasion, we celebrate not only thirty years of marriage, but thirty years of partnership, commitment, and steadfast love. Dipesh and Dipti's marriage is a profound example of what it means to build a life rooted

in respect, compassion, and shared purpose. Over three decades, they faced challenges with grace, celebrated triumphs with gratitude, and walked side-by-side through every season of life.

Dipesh and Dipti are the embodiment of the American story. They are dedicated parents, faithful friends, and generous members of our community. Their unwavering work ethic and perseverance reflect values that have strengthened both their family and those around them. Through their kindness, hospitality, and warmth of spirit, they have touched countless lives.

Together they have built a home filled with love, laughter, and understanding. Their marriage stands as a testament to the enduring power of devotion, communication, and, above all, unconditional love. They are living proof that the most meaningful legacy we leave is not measured in material achievements, but in the love we share and the lives we uplift.

As they celebrate this incredible milestone surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones, we honor their commitment to one another and to the values that make our community strong. May the next chapter of their journey be blessed with continued health, happiness, and cherished memories.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Pennsylvania's 1st District, I extend my warmest congratulations to Dipesh and Dipti Pandya on their 30th wedding anniversary. May their love continue to inspire all of us.

**HONORING MIRIAM WONG 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 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Miriam Wong as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Wong is the founder and Executive Director of The Latina Center, a Richmond-based nonprofit organization she established in 1999 to empower and support Latina women across the San Francisco Bay Area. For more than two decades, she has dedicated her life to advancing leadership, healing, and opportunity within the Latino community. Under her leadership The Latina Center has become a trusted community institution devoted to improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Latina women and their families. In 2000, she founded Women, Health, and Leadership, a one-year leadership and community service program that began humbly in her own living room. What started as small gatherings to build peer support among Latina women has since grown into a transformative program that has graduated more than 420 women as Peer Leaders. The Latina Center's impact extends far beyond leadership training. Its programs provide parenting classes, mental health support, and resources for survivors of domestic violence, while also offering small business training and access to microloans to promote self-sufficiency. Graduates of The Latina Center's programs now serve as staff, volunteers, and board mem-

bers, continuing the cycle of mentorship and empowerment that fulfills Ms. Wong's vision of community-led change. Ms. Wong's leadership is defined by empathy, inclusion, and cultural pride. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Miriam Wong for her extraordinary leadership and her decades of service to Latina women and families throughout the Bay Area.

**HONORING DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAREN HEGGEN**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saratoga County District Attorney Karen Heggen for her decades of service, leadership, and commitment to justice in her home community.

A Malta native, DA Karen Heggen has served in the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office since 1993, beginning her career as an Assistant District Attorney and advancing through the ranks to the office's second-highest position before being elected District Attorney in 2014. Over more than thirty years, she has dedicated herself to protecting the people of Saratoga County with professionalism, compassion, and integrity.

As the first woman ever elected District Attorney in Saratoga County, Karen made history while setting a standard of excellence that inspired those who followed. Her tenure as DA was marked by both achievement and resilience during a time of significant change in New York's criminal justice system. Under her leadership, the office maintained one of the state's strongest records for case integrity and public trust despite the challenges of bail reform, discovery reform, and parole reform. Her steady hand ensured that Saratoga County avoided the disruptions that plagued many other jurisdictions.

Throughout her career, Karen focused not on politics or recognition, but on people. She emphasized teamwork, collaboration, and justice rooted in fairness. Her approach reflected her belief that a district attorney's role is not merely to prosecute, but to pursue what is right—to balance the interests of victims, public safety, and the accused. Her leadership earned deep respect from law enforcement, attorneys, and community members alike.

Karen leaves behind a legacy of fairness, compassion, and leadership that will continue to shape the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office for years to come. Karen now looks forward to spending more time with her family, who have supported her through long nights and demanding years.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize District Attorney Karen Heggen for her trailblazing career, her lifelong service to the people of Saratoga County, and the example she has set for future generations of public servants.

**HONORING JUDY AHMANN**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judy Ahmann, who has been named the 2025 Member of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Judy is being recognized for her decades of advocacy for agriculture and her enduring commitment to the Farm Bureau and our Napa County's agricultural community.

Ms. Ahmann was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and later moved with her family to Long Beach, California. She attended Long Beach State College, graduating in 1966, a year after marrying her husband, John. Judy began her professional career at IBM, but her passion for the land soon led her and John to purchase their first 12 acres in California. After a brief relocation to New Jersey for work, they returned to California in 1970 and settled in our Napa County, where they purchased 300 acres and began raising cattle. In 1986, they acquired more than 3,000 acres along Lake Berryessa, establishing Running Deer Ranch. With no prior ranching experience, the Ahmanns turned to the Napa County Farm Bureau and local Cattlewomen's and Cattlemen's Associations for guidance so they could raise their three daughters, Christina, Anna, and Erica, in the ranching tradition.

Ms. Ahmann's commitment to our agricultural community is clear from her extensive advocacy work. She became a long-standing member and leader in California CattleWomen, serving as president at both the local and state levels, including as state president in 2007 and 2008. She later joined the Executive Board of American National CattleWomen, where her leadership earned her recognition as National CattleWoman of the Year in 2014. In 2010, Judy was selected as a member of Common Threads California, which honors women for their volunteer leadership and contributions to agriculture.

Judy has rightfully been recognized for her advocacy at the national level. In 2013, she testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation in support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act. Her testimony focused on the need to balance conservation efforts with the preservation of working ranchlands and grazing operations for future generations.

Ms. Ahmann's dedication to agriculture extends to supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers. She and her family have been generous supporters of youth in agriculture, donating time and raising funds for scholarships benefiting local 4-H and Future Farmers of America students. She has been a steadfast supporter of the Napa County Farm Bureau, actively promoting agricultural policy, education, and community engagement. In 2010, Judy and John placed a conservation easement on 1,275 acres of Running Deer Ranch through the California Rangeland Trust, permanently protecting the ranch as a working landscape while preserving its vital wildlife habitat. They also granted a trail easement to open public access to 9,100 acres of Bureau of Land Management land that had been landlocked for more than 150 years.

Judy remains deeply involved in ranching alongside her daughters and their families, who now operate Running Deer Ranch. Despite the devastation caused by wildfires in 2018 and 2020, the Ahmann family has continued to rebuild, demonstrating resilience and an unwavering commitment to sustainable ranching and responsible land management.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Judy Ahmann for her decades of leadership in the cattle industry, dedication to agricultural education and advocacy, and commitment to supporting the next generation of farmers. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2025 Member of the Year.

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

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 31, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Regina Whitney as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional

District's Women of the Year for her extraordinary public service and mentorship, for more than four decades she has advanced justice, equity, and opportunity for countless Californians. Regina began her professional journey as a legal secretary in family law, where for over a decade she supported attorneys and families facing some of life's most challenging circumstances. Her compassion and meticulous attention to detail reflected her belief that every person deserves dignity and fairness under the law. Building upon that foundation, Regina devoted more than 20 years to the California State Attorney General's Office, where she served with distinction in the Department of Justice. Her work supported major legal operations that safeguarded the rights of Californians and strengthened public trust in government. During this time, she helped organize Blacks in Government, a national network advocating for equity in public service. Regina's leadership within the organization opened pathways for advancement, mentoring, and professional development for countless Black employees across state agencies. Today, Regina continues her advocacy with SEIU Local 1000, one of California's largest and most influential public-sector unions. In her role as a leader in labor relations and organizing, she has fought tirelessly for fair contracts, safe workplaces, and respect for

public employees. Her work has secured tangible gains in wages, benefits, and working conditions, improving the lives of thousands of workers and their families across the state. Beyond her professional achievements, Regina has spent decades serving her community through volunteerism and mentorship. She has long been involved with Battered Women's Alternatives, providing shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence; serves as Secretary of the Richmond Commission on Aging, advocating for seniors' health and dignity; and contributes her energy to the NAACP Richmond Branch, promoting civil rights and community empowerment. She has also led women's mentoring programs for many years, teaching self-confidence, etiquette, and leadership to young women entering adulthood. Through her compassion, professionalism, and leadership, she has demonstrated that true service is measured not by recognition, but by the lives uplifted and the opportunities created for others. Her impact on California's public institutions and her enduring mentorship of others represent the highest ideals of civic leadership and public service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Regina Whitney for her invaluable contributions to our community.