

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING SALLARULO'S RACE FOR CHAMPIONS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous work and 20th Anniversary of Sallarulo's Race for Champions, an annual, inclusive 5K run/walk that takes place in my Congressional district.

Sallarulo's Race for Champions was founded by Paul Sallarulo, whose relationship with Special Olympics began more than 45 years ago as a volunteer in high school. Paul's efforts and relationship deepened when his son, Patrick, began participating as an athlete at age eight. Patrick is now 30 years old, and for more than two decades has trained and competed in swimming, bocce ball, bowling and skiing. Patrick and his sister Samantha serve each year as Race for Champions team captains.

This event celebrates respect and compassion for all by providing an opportunity for the entire community to walk or run alongside Special Olympics Florida athletes and each year, grows in size, visibility and fundraising capacity thanks to Paul's leadership and connection to the community.

The funds raised by Sallarulo's Race for Champions benefit Special Olympics Florida and help serve more than 6,000 athletes and their families each year. This includes year-round sports training and competition in a variety of 19 sports, health services, inclusive programming and leadership training. Through the transformative power and joy of sport, Special Olympics Florida and Sallarulo's Race for Champions help athletes live richer, fuller lives.

I am grateful to Paul Sallarulo, his family, and the team at Sallarulo's Race for Champions for improving the lives of thousands in our community. I congratulate them on 20 meaningful years and look forward to many more exciting years to come.

HONORING SARAH WALLY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Sarah Wally and to honor her as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Richmond community. With over 30 years of experience in real estate development, historic preservation, and community-based initia-

tives, Ms. Wally has dedicated her career to fostering economic growth, sustainability, and inclusive opportunity in Richmond and the greater Bay Area. Since moving to Richmond 11 years ago, Ms. Wally has played a pivotal role in revitalizing the city through her leadership at Richmond Main Street and PLANN-A Development. She has also served on the Richmond Workforce Development Board for more than a decade, helping prepare residents for meaningful employment and sustainable careers. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Wally actively engages with youth through partnerships with the Richmond Police Activities League and she contributes to her community as a member of the Rotary Club. Her dedication to community empowerment, mentorship, and economic development embodies the spirit of service that strengthens our neighborhoods. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Sarah Wally for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL MARLENA PARKER, RETIRED

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero from Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Colonel Marlena Parker, Retired, United States Air Force, and to commemorate the inaugural presentation of the "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award". This award bears her name for a reason. It celebrates the rarest kind of courage one could imagine. The courage not only to serve, but to continue serving even when the world demands more than we ever thought we had to give.

Colonel Marlena Parker represents the very best of our Nation. A distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, she went on to fly the KC-10 Extender, one of the most demanding and mission-critical refueling aircraft in the U.S. military. She deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Desert Shield and for nearly a decade, served on active duty, enabling and protecting missions around the world. She is known not only for her exceptional skill as a pilot but for her steadfast leadership, grace under pressure, and quiet strength.

Following her transition from active military service to focus on family life, Colonel Parker embarked on a notable civilian aviation career as a commercial pilot with United Airlines. Throughout this professional shift, she persistently demonstrated the discipline, composure, and commitment to public service cultivated during her years with the United States Air Force. The events of September 11, 2001,

marked a significant turning point in her career trajectory. While piloting an aircraft that day, Colonel Parker was confronted by the magnitude of the national crisis and, in response, reaffirmed her dedication to public service by seeking once again to contribute to the Nation's defense. This critical moment underscores the continuity of her commitment across both military and civilian roles.

She put on her uniform again with the United States Air Force Reserves, continuing to fly and command, shaping the careers and lives of the airmen entrusted to her. Later she became the first female Commander of the 73rd Airlift Squadron at Scott Air Force Base. After her 2017 promotion to Colonel, she was appointed Vice Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, overseeing major operations and humanitarian missions until her retirement in April 2020, concluding 26 years of distinguished service. Her commitment to her country was unwavering, and so was her dedication to those she led.

Today, Colonel Parker faces an adversary that no training, no aircraft, and no mission briefing can prepare a person for: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as ALS. This unforgiving disease has taken from her the ability to fly, a calling that defined much of her life. Yet, even in the face of profound physical challenge, her courage remains unbroken.

Colonel Parker's enduring influence upon those around her is rooted in her demonstrated resilience, which serves as a powerful source of inspiration. The manner in which she confronts adversity, marked by her optimism and profound faith, exemplifies that the essence of service transcends the quantitative metrics of duration or achievements accrued during military tenure. Instead, her persistent resolve and commitment illustrate that the true impact of service lies in the integrity, compassion, and purpose with which individuals approach every responsibility. Whether fulfilling missions in defense of the Nation or educating others on the value of gratitude and purposeful living, Colonel Parker's resilience reinforces an inspirational model for service and leadership.

The "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award" will be presented every year to a veteran who reflects the character, strength, and unwavering spirit embodied by its namesake. It will be presented to someone whose life reminds us that service does not end when the uniform comes off.

Colonel Parker's life teaches us that courage is not just found in the sky but is found in the everyday choices we make to lead with compassion, to persevere through hardship, and to serve others with humility and grace.

On behalf of a grateful community and a grateful Nation, we thank her for her service, thank her for her sacrifice, and thank her for her inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this recognition of Colonel Marlena Parker and the establishment of the "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award" be entered into the RECORD so that her legacy of service and courage may endure for generations to come.

• 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 MAYOR KENNETH
"KEN" SUNSERI

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor Mayor Kenneth "Ken" Sunseri of my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama, as he retires after many years of dedicated service to his community. Mayor Sunseri has faithfully served as Mayor of Haleyville since 2008, providing steady and visionary leadership for the people of our community. Throughout his tenure, he has exemplified a spirit of service and commitment to the wellbeing of every citizen. His leadership has been marked by progress, integrity, and a deep love for his hometown.

Before his time in public office, Mayor Sunseri served his country with distinction in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a platoon leader with the First Infantry Division. He went on to complete 28 years of military service, retiring with the rank of Colonel. His leadership and dedication to his soldiers and his country exemplify the best of American service.

Beyond his military career, Mayor Sunseri has been deeply involved in every facet of civic life in Haleyville. He has served as President and Deputy District Governor of the Haleyville Lions Club, President of the Haleyville Chamber of Commerce, President of the Haleyville Merchants Association, and as a member of the Haleyville Library Board, Housing Authority, and Industrial Recruiting Committee. He has also served on the Individual and Family Support Board and as Chairman of the 310 Board for Winston and Marion Counties.

In addition to his mayoral duties, he has served on the Haleyville Water and Sewer Board since 1986, chairing it since the early 1990's. Under his guidance, Haleyville has advanced key infrastructure improvements and strengthened its community services.

Over the years, Mayor Sunseri has received numerous awards recognizing his contributions, including: Civitan Citizen of the Year (2004); Alabama Communities of Excellence Volunteer of the Year (2005); State of Alabama RC&D Council Member of the Year (2017); and Outstanding Mayor Award from Alabama Communities of Excellence in both 2015 and 2024.

One of his proudest achievements as Mayor was the construction of the new Haleyville City Hall, completed in January 2016, which now stands as a lasting testament to his leadership and vision for future generations.

Beyond his public service, Mayor Sunseri's greatest source of pride has been his family. He and his wife Kay Sunseri have three children—David Sunseri, Beth Moore, and Jennifer Sunseri—and are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Kenneth "Ken" Sunseri has lived a life devoted to faith, family, community, and country. His legacy in Haleyville will continue to inspire those who follow him in public service. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 4th Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mayor Sunseri for his decades of exemplary service and wish him and Kay all the best in the years to come.

HONORING MR. PAUL-RAYMOND
BUITRÓN, III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professeur Paul-Raymond Buitrón, III—an internationally acclaimed martial artist, educator, and cultural ambassador whose life's work has elevated both the sport and the spirit of martial arts.

Professeur Buitrón began his training at the age of six under his uncle, Maître Isidro Chapa, studying the Basque art of Zípora. His early discipline and creativity shaped a lifetime dedicated to mastery, mentorship, and cultural exchange.

Through years of study in Aikido, Kung Fu, Kenpo, Boxing, and especially Savate, Professeur Buitrón broke barriers.

He became the first American and first non-Frenchman to earn the title of Professeur in all disciplines of Savate and was the first American to receive France's prestigious Silver Glove and Silver Troisième Degré.

After an injury cut short his competitive career, he founded the first official School of Savate in the United States, training generations of champions and introducing Savate to countless communities.

His leadership through the Buitrón Academy and his creation of the Savate Danse De Rue movement have bridged cultures and inspired athletes worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Professeur Paul-Raymond Buitrón, III's achievements as a teacher, innovator, and cultural ambassador embody excellence and perseverance.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend him for his lifelong contributions to sport, education, and international friendship.

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

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Shelmae Turner, who is being honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her outstanding service and unwavering dedication to the Solano County community for over 50 years. Ms. Turner has long been a steadfast advocate for young people, a cultural ambassador, and a committed community servant. Her work has ensured that essential resources are accessible to those in need, and her impact is deeply felt across generations. For more than 25 years, Ms. Turner has been an active member of the Chinese American Association of Solano County, an organization with deep personal meaning to her since her father was one of its founding members. In the past decade, she has served as Secretary of CAASC, continuing her family's legacy of service and civic involvement. Under her leadership, CAASC has awarded scholarships to 409 students. Ms. Turner has

also played a key role in promoting cultural awareness and diversity in Solano County. She has organized Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year celebrations and ensured CAASC's active participation in local events such as the Vacaville Fiesta Days Parade and the Fairfield 4th of July Parade, uplifting Asian American voices and traditions in the community. In addition to her cultural work, Ms. Turner has dedicated over 13 years to Fairfield High School, her alma mater, as the Associated Student Body Treasurer. Her efforts have allowed countless students to experience safe and memorable events, from proms to club activities, ensuring that every student feels valued and supported. Recognizing the growing needs of students and families, Ms. Turner has also volunteered for the past 10 years to manage Fairfield High School's clothing closet and food pantry. Thanks to her dedication, up to 20 individuals a day receive clothing, supplies, and food. Ms. Turner represents the very best of our community. Her legacy of compassion, inclusion, and service will continue to inspire generations to come. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Shelmae Turner for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JESSE LOVE, JR.

HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, over the past weekend, on November 1, 2025, Jesse Love, Jr. brought home the 2025 NASCAR Xfinity title from Phoenix, Arizona. Love held the lead for the final 24 laps, displaying his dominance as he secured his third career victory on his first-ever non-superspeedway track.

At just 20 years old, Love is no stranger to winning and bringing back hardware to the stock car racing capital of the world. At age 15, he set a record as the youngest winner of the ARCA Menards Series West and the youngest winner in any NASCAR-sanctioned race.

North Carolina is proud of its long heritage in racing. Love drives for Richard Childress Racing out of Welcome, North Carolina, a team known for its historic caliber of elite racers, from Dale Earnhardt claiming six NASCAR Cup Series championships and two Daytona 500s, to Austin Dillon bringing home a third Daytona 500 victory in 2018. RCR racing continues to represent the pride of North Carolina in the stock car racing community around the world.

I congratulate Love and the entire RCR racing team. The future of NASCAR is with the drivers who represent the sport with honor and spirit.

HONORING ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize St. Benedict Catholic Church, a mainstay

of the Ahwatukee community, as it celebrates its 40-year anniversary. St. Benedict has helped families live out the Gospel through worship and service for four decades.

Ahwatukee began to grow rapidly in the mid-1980's. The community was still discovering its identity as new families moved in and schools and neighborhoods took shape. In an era of great change, St. Benedict became a spiritual home for the people who built Ahwatukee. It offered a place for neighbors to gather, raise their children in faith, and support one another through service.

St. Benedict Catholic Church began in 1985, holding its first Mass with 79 families. As the parish grew, it moved to Ahwatukee in 2003, next to the newly established St. John Bosco Catholic School, which became one of its key ministries.

Today, under Father Manasseh Iorchir, St. Benedict serves more than 2,000 families today and continues to grow, including liturgical and outreach programs, youth formation, and volunteer groups such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Knights of Columbus. Its new church building, dedicated in 2024, stands as a testament to the faith, perseverance, and generosity of its parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Benedict Catholic Church on this remarkable milestone. Its 40 years of faith and service have strengthened Ahwatukee and enriched the lives of families in Arizona.

HONORING MS. NAYLA MCCLURE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Ms. Nayla McClure. She has shown what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a steadfast commitment to change.

For Ms. McClure, the path to advocacy did not begin with a grand plan to change the world. Instead, it began with a willingness to listen, adapt, and act. A native of Utica, Mississippi, she was recently recognized for her leadership in developing The People's Water Project, an initiative designed to address water accessibility in Utica and neighboring communities while creating a blueprint that other towns can follow.

Ms. McClure received a \$20,000 grant from the Southern Poverty Law Center's Advocacy Institute, an annual nine-week program that trains fellows across Mississippi in practical advocacy skills. When she first joined the Institute, her project was not centered on water. The shift came after reflecting on the dire needs of her community and the realities of Mississippi's ongoing water crisis.

The project provides immediate relief by ensuring residents have access to clean, safe water, while also focusing on long-term solutions. Ms. McClure is developing an impact report and a Water Justice Toolkit to bridge the gap between policy and community.

For her, the work is deeply personal. Communities like Utica often lack the funding and infrastructure necessary to sustain basic services, highlighting the need for equitable re-

source allocation. From intern to national policy analyst, Ms. McClure's journey has been shaped by both academic study and hands-on experience. She began as an intern with the Mississippi Public Service Commission and now serves as a full-time policy analyst with national reach.

As Mississippi continues to grapple with aging infrastructure and ongoing water challenges, leaders like Nayla McClure remind us that solutions do not always come from the top down. Sometimes they begin with listening, adapting, and acting, one community at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Nayla McClure for her dedication and service to her community, and for reminding us all that true leadership begins with courage, compassion, and the will to act on behalf of others.

RECOGNIZING CARVER FIRE CHIEF CALLY TRIMBO AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant from my district, Carver Fire Chief Cally Trimbo. Chief Trimbo retired earlier this year after 22 years of service to the City of Carver and surrounding areas.

Founded in the late 1800's, the Carver Fire Department provides fire safety and prevention services to an area of 32 square miles, including the City of Carver and Dahlgren and San Francisco townships, and employs 32 paid on-call firefighters who respond to nearly 300 calls per year.

Chief Trimbo led the department through many major changes and challenges during his 22 years of service, including the construction and completion of Carver's new fire station. Completed in 2005, the new fire station replaced the Old Carver Fire Hall, which originally opened for service around 1880.

The Old Carver Fire Hall stored the volunteer Carver Fire Department's one horse-drawn hook and ladder wagon and one horse cart. Now, the department serves the community with three fire engines, one rescue truck, one tanker, one brush utility vehicle, one command vehicle, and one boat for water rescue operations—all based out of the new fire station Chief Trimbo helped envision.

Chief Trimbo has also made connecting with the community a priority. Throughout the year, the Carver Fire Department hosts and participates in numerous community events including National Night Out, Touch a Truck, an Open House, and a Trunk or Treat event.

Throughout his career at the Carver Fire Department, Chief Trimbo has served with a community-first mindset and led the department with the values of respect and hard work. I thank Chief Trimbo for his years of service to Carver and the surrounding community. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING RENNAE ROSS AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rennae Ross, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Ross is a Marine Corps veteran, skilled tradeswoman, and tireless advocate for equality and inclusion within the labor movement. A proud member of Boilermakers Local 549, she has dedicated her career to advancing opportunities for women and underrepresented workers in the skilled trades. Rennae's journey began after completing the W.I.N.T.E.R. Program, known as Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles, in Los Angeles. She later worked as a Petroleum Tank Field Fabricator before being organized into the Boilermakers through California's SB-54 "Skilled and Trained Workforce" legislation for high-hazard facilities. A graduate apprentice of Local 549, she now serves as an elected Trustee on the Executive Board and as the Chairperson of the Boilermakers Women at Work Committee. In these roles, she has become a mentor and role model, guiding members across trades and championing her vision to "Bridge the Gap" for equality on every job site. Rennae's passion for advocacy extends beyond her local union—she participates in all-female cohorts of MC3 pre-apprenticeship programs and outreach initiatives in correctional facilities, inspiring women to pursue meaningful, well-paying careers in the trades. Her leadership embodies the true spirit of solidarity: empowering others and fostering solidarity. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Rennae Ross for her service to country and community, her exceptional leadership in organized labor, and her unwavering commitment to advancing equality in the workforce.

RECOGNIZING THE GLOBAL MEDICAL RESPONSE 2025 STARS OF LIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BRANDON GILL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present to you the Global Medical Response (GMR) Stars of Life award recipients for 2025. A proud member of the American Ambulance Association (AAA), GMR is a leader in emergency medical services across the country—providing care to communities and residents of all walks of life.

The AAA created the Stars of Life program to celebrate the contributions of ambulance professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to their communities and the EMS profession. By honoring the contributions of these heroes, the Stars of Life program also highlights the critical role EMS plays in our healthcare infrastructure.

The opportunities to save lives—whether it's someone who suffered a cardiac arrest following a motor vehicle incident in Evansville,

Indiana, or a 12-day old infant who stopped breathing in Clackamas, Oregon—are the situations for which EMS professionals train and prepare. But we should also honor the everyday professionalism, skill, and commitment to doing what is right for the patient that is at the forefront of everything emergency medical responders do, both on duty and off. By putting their own lives on the line every time they answer the call for help, EMS professionals are heroes in their local communities, even if some are too humble to see themselves that way.

I thank all first responders for answering the call and I thank the 2025 GMR Stars of Life award recipients for providing care to the world at a moment's notice. I include in the Record the following Global Medical Response's 2025 Stars of Life Award Recipients:

Carlos Bautista, Base Aviation Manager, Fixed Wing Pilot, EagleMed, Dodge City, Kansas; Chris Crawford, Paramedic, Field Training Officer, American Medical Response, Portland, Oregon; Nathanael Day, Flight Nurse, Paramedic, EagleMed, Dodge City, Kansas; Rudy Drago, Dispatch Lead, AMR River Medical, Lake Havasu City, Arizona; Aaron Durette, Paramedic, Field Training Officer, American Medical Response, West Hartford, Connecticut; Arianne Emling, Flight Nurse, Base Clinical Lead, Air Evac Lifeteam, Marion, Illinois; Jimi Estrada-Velazquez, Paramedic, American Medical Response, Riverside, California; Marc Flores, Flight Paramedic, Air Evac Lifeteam, Abilene, Texas; Kenny Glimmee, Flight Paramedic, REACH Air Medical Services, Alpine, California; Aaron Goodloe, Paramedic, American Medical Response, Kansas City, Kansas; Dylan Graves, Lead Paramedic, Field Training Officer, Clackamas County, Oregon; Terry Gray, EMT, Crew Chief, American Medical Response, Seattle, Washington; Julie Humes, Flight Nurse, Air Evac Lifeteam, Macomb, Illinois; Joseph Ketcham, Paramedic Supervisor, MedicWest, Las Vegas, Nevada; PJ Lowe, Advanced EMT, American Medical Response, Jackson, Mississippi; Matt Magiera, Paramedic, Medstar EMS, Summerdale, Alabama; Beau McFarlin, Flight Paramedic, Air Evac Lifeteam, Marion, Illinois; Alexander Megquier, Paramedic, American Medical Response, West Hartford, Connecticut; Douglas Milks, Paramedic, American Medical Response, Buffalo, New York; Magen Morris, Paramedic, Special Events Administrative Supervisor, MedicWest, Las Vegas, Nevada; Holly Nasello, Paramedic, Life Line, Prescott, Arizona; Trey Phillips, Flight Nurse, Paramedic, Air Evac Lifeteam, Snellville, Georgia; Rick Pringle, Paramedic, Field Training Office, AMR Temple EMS, Temple, Texas; Julie Purick, Critical Care Paramedic, American Medical Response, Rochester, New York; LeAnn Riley, Emergency Dispatcher, 911 Call Taker, American Medical Response, Modesto, California; Ryan Rizen, Clinical Education Manager, American Medical Response, Evansville, Indiana; Samantha Sabol, Paramedic, Field Training Officer, AMR Temple EMS, Temple, Texas; Missy Satterfield, Flight Nurse, Paramedic, Air Evac Lifeteam, Abilene, Texas; Morgan Stanley, EMT, American Medical Response, Independence, Missouri; Talitha Crowe, EMT, AMR Temple EMS, Temple, Texas; Dustin Wilson, Paramedic, American Medical Response, Stockton, California; and Brannen Zilka, Paramedic, American Medical Response, Concord, California.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

For two decades, the NMIFA has been a source of pride, opportunity, and unity for our islands. Since its founding in 2005, it has transformed football from a small community of enthusiasts into a thriving Commonwealth-wide movement that brings together players, coaches, referees, and families across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Under the theme "20 Years of Passion, Purpose, and Promise," the Association has built a legacy of perseverance and inclusion. Through programs that nurture youth athletes, develop women's football, and expand access to quality facilities, the NMIFA has created a pathway for the next generation to dream bigger and reach farther.

This year alone, the Northern Mariana Islands national teams competed in five major international tournaments, including the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, where our women's team secured the NMI's first-ever AFC victory, which represented a milestone that captured the spirit of determination and resiliency that defines our islands.

I commend the NMIFA's leadership, member clubs, and countless volunteers and families who have made these achievements possible. Their dedication has built not only better players, but stronger communities.

On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I congratulate the NMIFA on its 20th anniversary and thank them for their continued commitment to building a future for our youth grounded in teamwork, discipline, and pride.

HONORING THE HISTORIC VISIT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide and the First Among Equals of the Orthodox Church. The Ecumenical Patriarchate traces its history back nearly two thousand years to the Apostle Andrew, whose preaching established the Church of Byzantium, later Constantinople, and today Istanbul.

Elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople in 1991, His All-Holiness is the longest-serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history. For more than three decades, he has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and reconciliation among peoples of all faiths. He has convened historic councils of

the Orthodox Church, worked to heal divisions, and promoted understanding across Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities.

Known throughout the world as the "Green Patriarch," he has also been a pioneer in raising awareness about environmental stewardship, organizing international gatherings to highlight our shared responsibility to protect creation. For his leadership, he has been honored by institutions across the globe and in 1997 received the Congressional Gold Medal here in the United States Capitol.

This September, His All-Holiness visited Washington, D.C. to receive the Templeton Prize, the world's most prestigious award in religion and science, an honor previously bestowed on Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His selection reflects his lifelong mission to promote faith, freedom, peace, and reconciliation. On behalf of my Greek Orthodox constituents in Staten Island and Brooklyn, and Orthodox Christians throughout our Nation, I am proud to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C. His ministry is a living testament to the power of faith to transcend borders, build understanding, and serve humanity.

HONORING RITA XAVIER AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilmember Rita Xavier, a dedicated public servant, community leader, former mayor, and longtime resident of the City of San Pablo, whose commitment to civic engagement, policy planning, and regional collaboration has left a lasting impact on the City of San Pablo as well as throughout the Bay Area. A proud resident of San Pablo for 35 years, Councilmember Xavier has devoted much of her life to advancing public service and improving the quality of life for local families. She has served on the San Pablo City Council for the past seven years, where she has been a strong advocate for economic development, neighborhood safety, and community partnerships that reflect the city's diverse and dynamic character. Before joining the Council, she served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of San Pablo, where she helped shape responsible growth and long-term planning initiatives. Her leadership has also extended across the region; she has held an appointment with the League of California Cities East Bay Division, served as Past President of the League of Women Voters of Contra Costa County, and as Board Treasurer for Lao Family Community Development, Inc., among other roles. Throughout her decades of service, Councilmember Xavier has exemplified integrity, vision, and compassion. Her work reflects a deep dedication to inclusive governance and to building stronger, more resilient communities for all. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Councilmember Rita Xavier for her exemplary leadership, her unwavering dedication to public service, and her lifelong commitment to

strengthening the communities of San Pablo and the greater East Bay.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE FOFO
IOSEFO FITI SUNIA

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mrs. RADEWAGWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of High Talking Chief Fofō Iosefo Fiti Sunia, the first Delegate from American Samoa to the United States Congress, who passed away on October 14, 2025, at the age of 88. Born on March 13, 1937, in Fagasa, Pago Pago, Fofō was a lifelong servant of the people of American Samoa. He graduated from Samoana High School and earned a degree in economics from the University of Hawaii before returning home to begin a career marked by leadership and public service. He served as translator and interpreter for the territorial governor, Director of Tourism, Election Commissioner, Senator for Manu'a District No. 1, and Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Elected to Congress in 1980, Fofō served four consecutive terms from 1981 to 1988, where he championed legislation to strengthen education, infrastructure, and economic development in the islands. He was instrumental in securing recognition for children of American Samoans born abroad and was known for his steadfast commitment to protecting Samoan culture, traditions, and land rights. Beyond his public service, Fofō was a renowned author, historian, and cultural advocate. His writings and televised programs helped preserve and promote the Samoan language, culminating in the establishment of the Samoan Language Commission. Among his many works are *Puputoa*, *Timata le Gagana*, and *Auafa o Upu: Treasure Trove of Rare Samoan Words*.

Congressman Sunia was a dear friend and counselor to me. I cherish his memory and kindness. He was helpful as I followed in his footsteps as a Representative in Washington, where he was our first under the current rules, although we sent representatives beforehand too that did not have the privileges of Members of Congress. I saw him always as a mentor, advisor, and counselor. I benefited from his prior role as a representative for our territory, and I remember that he too took pride in decorating his D.C. office to reflect our South Pacific home and culture. He worked for important rights such as nominating our youth to the U.S. Service Academies, including our first ever successful nominee and graduate, my Chief of Staff Leafaina Tavai, so his work was foundational for many future successes, including our Medicaid program. He had the wisdom of experience and a gentle but effective way of expressing his opinion and views. He was an accomplished author, and his books are valuable additions to our library and schools. He will be deeply missed. May God bless his family and loved ones in this time. American Samoa honors him as a public servant and statesman. God has welcomed him home as a man of faith.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE ENDEAVORS
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER
IN EL PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the grand opening of the Endeavors Health & Wellness Center in El Paso, Texas. Endeavors is a distinguished Texas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to serving veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, caregivers, and their families through comprehensive housing, behavioral health care, wellness, and community support services.

Endeavors has demonstrated commitment to the El Paso community through the establishment of the Endeavors Health & Wellness Center, a centrally located facility designed to expand access to integrated, whole-person care that complements and strengthens existing local, state, and federal resources.

The Endeavors Health & Wellness Center in El Paso represents a significant investment in community care, strengthening El Paso's continuum of services through increased access to critical behavioral health resources, collaboration with local and national partners, and the promotion of dignity, resilience, and recovery among those who have served and sacrificed for others. This community-focused asset will undoubtedly help thousands of El Pasoans in need of support. I am grateful for Endeavors' commitment to care for veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, caregivers, and their families and look forward to continuing to collaborate for the greater good of so many.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE
TOWN OF CUTLER BAY

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor twenty years of the Town of Cutler Bay, a beautiful town in Florida's 27th District, and a shining example of local leadership, community strength, and the American promise at work.

On November 8, 2005, the people of Cutler Bay voted to chart their own destiny, becoming Miami-Dade County's newest town. In just two decades, from the Deering Coast to Saga Bay, Cutler Bay has shown what happens when citizens don't wait for change—they build it. I am honored to represent them in Congress, and I have been delighted to stand shoulder to shoulder with this remarkable community to help them become even stronger.

My support for Cutler Bay's versatile efforts has been constant, from recognizing our health partners during National Health Center Week, to advocating for small businesses and delivering federal resources to strengthen local infrastructure and environmental resilience.

In 2023, I secured \$4.4 million in federal funding for the Marlin Road Improvement

Project, a major investment to bring new sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, upgraded lighting, and high-visibility crosswalks to make Cutler Bay safer and more accessible for everyone. These improvements will revitalize a key corridor for residents, students, and small businesses, making daily life safer and more connected.

But their work doesn't stop at the surface. I have also worked hard to secure funding for what lies beneath Cutler Bay's homes, our water, our wetlands, and our way of life. That's why I recently toured the Cutler Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the largest ecosystem restoration effort in the world, authorized and funded by Congress. This project restores the natural flow of freshwater from the C-100 canal system into the coastal wetlands along Biscayne Bay, helping rebalance salinity levels, reduce saltwater intrusion into the Biscayne aquifer, and revive native wetland habitats.

Work like this is a testament to what happens when federal, state, and local partners come together with a shared mission: to protect South Florida's water supply, to defend Biscayne Bay, and to build resilience against sea-level rise. Cutler Bay's Coastal Wetlands Project is a local piece of a much larger Everglades restoration puzzle, one that keeps South Florida safe, strong, and sustainable for generations to come and one that I am happy to be a part of.

I congratulate Mayor Tim Meerbott, the Town Council, our first responders, and every resident of Cutler Bay, on twenty extraordinary years. They have proven that when a community lights its own path, the future shines brighter for all of Miami-Dade.

I am deeply proud to represent the Cutler Bay community in the United States Congress.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT SALUD ASAELI AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of SMSgt. Salud Asaeli, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her distinguished leadership, mentorship, and advocacy that exemplify the highest standards of dedication, compassion, and resilience. Previously as First Sergeant for both the 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron and the 60th Medical Group Staff at Travis Air Force Base, SMSgt. Asaeli supported the well-being of over 600 Airmen and civilians. Her commitment extends beyond duty hours, as she provides 24/7 leadership to address quality of life, morale, health, and readiness issues. From September 2024 to April 2025, she served with distinction as First Sergeant for the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, offering steadfast support to deployed personnel during a critical mission period. At Travis AFB, SMSgt. Asaeli also serves as Senior Mentor to the First Sergeant Council, guiding 27 First

Sergeants responsible for over 8,000 Airmen and their families, demonstrating her far-reaching influence and leadership. Her dedication to service is equally strong in the community. For over four years, she has led Operation Warm Heart, a nonprofit that provides emergency financial support to military families. As both President and Secretary of the executive council, she has helped raise more than \$148,000, organized school supply drives, coordinated the Gold Star Family Ruck March, and supported local shelters and memorial associations. Her commitment is both personal and professional. Having experienced the challenges of deployment and reintegration in her own family, SMSgt. Asaeli has used those lessons to mentor and uplift others navigating similar hardships. Her strength, empathy, and leadership continue to shape lives and strengthen bonds across the military community. Her more than two decades of military service, selfless leadership, and profound impact on others make her a true inspiration and a deserving honoree. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize SMSgt. Salud Asaeli for her invaluable contributions to our country and to her community.

RECOGNIZING BRADY RYAN SAGE
FOR WINNING THE THERMO
FISHER SCIENTIFIC JUNIOR
INNOVATORS CHALLENGE ENGI-
NEERING AWARD

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brady Ryan Sage of Rapid City, South Dakota, who earned First Place in Engineering at the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, the Nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition.

Brady's project, "Optimizing Driver Flight Distance and Accuracy", demonstrated exceptional creativity and engineering skills, applying physics and design principles to improve golf driver performance. Selected from nearly 2,000 applicants nationwide, Brady's achievement reflects his dedication to science and the strength of STEM education in South Dakota.

I am proud to recognize Brady for his remarkable accomplishment and for representing South Dakota with excellence. His hard work and ingenuity serve as an inspiration to students across our state and our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF NEW HOPE MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to recognize the exceptional work of the New Hope

Missionary Baptist Church on their 100th Anniversary.

Founded on a warm Sunday in August 1925, New Hope Baptist Church has stood as a steadfast beacon of hope, compassion, and perseverance for the people of South Florida. From its earliest days, the church has provided not only a place of worship, but a source of strength and solidarity for generations of families in Fort Lauderdale.

Over the past century, New Hope has evolved from a modest wooden structure into a vital cornerstone of spiritual and community life in Broward County. The church has been shepherded by 13 pastors, each adding to its legacy through the establishment of new ministries, outreach programs, and community partnerships.

Under the leadership of current pastor Reverend Ricky Scott, the church continues to move forward with a renewed vision for spiritual growth and community engagement. New Hope has continually lived out its mission to serve the Lord by serving others. Through its ministries and outreach the church has fed the hungry, uplifted youth, and comforted families in times of need.

Notably, the church's participation in "Souls to the Polls" has helped strengthen democracy and amplify the voices of those too often unheard. Through efforts like these, New Hope Baptist Church demonstrates that faith and civic duty can work hand in hand to build a more just and compassionate society.

As New Hope Baptist Church marks its centennial year, we celebrate its unwavering commitment to faith, service, and community empowerment. Its century-long legacy stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a congregation dedicates itself to love, justice, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Ricky Scott and the entire New Hope Baptist Church family for 100 years of ministry and community leadership. May the next century be filled with continued blessings, growth, and service to all.

HONORING TRINA JACKSON-LIN-
COLN AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in tribute to her more than 30 years of dedicated public service. Since 1995, Ms. Jackson-Lincoln has served in the Office of the City Council, beginning with a temporary role supporting emergency services and growing into her current position as Project Coordinator and City Council Liaison. In this role, she has supported Councilmembers, coordinated key city events, and helped countless residents navigate local government. She has led or contributed to numerous community projects, including the Richmond Beautification Project, AIDS Awareness Day, the Taste of Richmond, Sisters in Solidarity, and the Literacy Fair, while also

serving as liaison to the Richmond Sister City Program and as former staff to the Richmond Youth Council. Trina also helped launch and manage the Richmond Cares Hotline during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentored student interns, and played a key role in advancing racial equity through her leadership in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. A Richmond native, Trina is a graduate of Contra Costa College and California State University, East Bay, where she earned her bachelor's degree in human development. Over her decades of service, community engagement, and commitment to inclusion, she has had a lasting impact. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln for her decades of dedicated public service, her steadfast commitment to equity, and her enduring contributions to the City of Richmond and its residents.

HONORING THE SERVICE, SAC-
RIFICE, AND LEGACY OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT GERALD J.
MELOFCHIK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and ultimate sacrifice of United States Army Air Forces First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik. He was a brave American who gave his life in defense of freedom during World War II and whose remains were finally accounted for on June 24, 2025, by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Born and raised in New York City, First Lieutenant Gerald Melofchik embodied the extraordinary patriotism and sense of duty that has long defined America's Greatest Generation. Assigned to the 615th Bombardment Squadron, 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy), Eighth United States Army Air Forces, First Lieutenant Melofchik served as a B-17G "Flying Fortress" pilot in the European Theater of Operations. On August 1, 1944, during a perilous bombing mission over Nazi-occupied France, his aircraft that was nicknamed "Stormy Weather", was struck by anti-aircraft fire, collided with another aircraft, and crashed near Néron, France. Of the nine courageous airmen aboard, two were captured and four were identified from remains found near the crash site. Three airmen, including First Lieutenant Melofchik remained unaccounted for.

For eight decades, his family lived with uncertainty, holding on to faith that he would one day be returned to American soil. His mother never stopped believing that her son would come home.

In 2013, DPAA investigators surveyed the crash site in Néron, mapping a vast debris field consistent with an American World War II air loss. From 2021 to 2023, DPAA partnered with Middle Tennessee State University to excavate the site. Through meticulous scientific analysis that included anthropological review and mitochondrial, Y-chromosome, and autosomal DNA analysis performed with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, First Lieutenant Melofchik was finally identified.

After 81 years, America now keeps her promise of leaving no one behind.

First Lieutenant Melofchik's name is inscribed on the Wall of the Missing at the Brittany American Cemetery in Montjoie Saint Martin, France. Soon, a rosette will be placed beside his name, signifying that he has been accounted for and returned to his country.

But behind the uniform was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and young man with dreams. Gerald was the son of Stephen and Pauline, and brother to Stephen, Marie, and Henry. Though his 18 nieces and nephews never had the privilege of knowing him in life, they grew up honoring his memory through stories of a young man with a competitive spirit on the tennis court, a fondness for Hershey's chocolate bars, and a heart that deeply loved his family and his country.

His life was short, but his impact endures. His courage helped liberate a continent that was occupied for several years under the Nazis. His sacrifice helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. And now, generations later, he is welcomed home with full honors, dignity, and profound gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, let it be known that the United States of America does not forget her heroes. Today, we honor First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik, who was a patriot flying into danger so that others might live in peace. May his memory live forever in the hearts of the Nation he served.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we welcome home First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik. His mission is complete. His nation will always remember. His courage will never be forgotten. I thank him for his service and sacrifice.

HONORING MR. KEITH JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Keith Johnson, a 32-year-old musician, author, and cultural ambassador who continues to carry forward his family's musical legacy while proudly representing the Mississippi Delta on an international stage. Known on stage as the "Prince of the Delta Blues," Mr. Johnson is the great-nephew of McKinley Morganfield, better known to the world as Muddy Waters.

Born and raised in Glen Allan, a small community south of Greenville on the edge of Lake Washington in Washington County, Mr. Johnson grew up immersed in a rich tradition of gospel music. While many of his peers focused on sports, his childhood was filled with music and church singing. By the age of 15, he was already a member of the church choir and went on to form his first gospel quartet, The Delta Sensations.

During his senior year at Riverside High School, Mr. Johnson wrote his first official song, Outstanding Love, which was adopted as the school's anthem. This pivotal moment sparked his deeper commitment to music and inspired him to pursue it professionally. His passion led him to the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, where he studied audio engineering, songwriting, and performance.

In 2018, Mr. Johnson earned an MBA with a focus in human resource management, com-

binning his passion for music with business expertise to manage all aspects of his career. That same year, he released his debut album, Come to Mississippi, honoring his home State's blues legacy. He has since toured internationally, performing across Europe and later in Brazil through a cultural exchange sponsored by Delta State University.

Alongside his solo work, Mr. Johnson performs with Morgan Freeman's Blues Symphonic Orchestra, also known as the Morgan Freeman Blues Experience, contributing vocals, guitar, and harmonica. He has toured nationally with the group over the past two months.

Mr. Johnson, a published author of two books and currently at work on his third, is also channeling his creative energy into music. He is in the process of recording a new album, Deep in the Mud, alongside Grammy-nominated producer Vasti Jackson at the legendary Royal Studios in Memphis—a place steeped in musical history. Mr. Johnson describes the collaboration as "history in the making," a testament to both the studio's legacy and the project's cultural significance.

Driven by a deep sense of purpose, Mr. Johnson remains unwavering in his commitment to honoring his roots. He is passionate about shining a spotlight on Glen Allan and the broader Mississippi Delta, working tirelessly to ensure their rich cultural heritage receives the recognition it deserves on the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the achievements of Mr. Keith Johnson, and in recognizing his extraordinary contributions to music and blues in Mississippi and his unwavering commitment to proving that the blues still carries power, soul, and purpose.

HONORING SONIA BUSTAMANTE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonia Bustamante, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As Chief of Staff to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors since 2015, Ms. Bustamante has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and commitment to advancing equity and inclusion across local government. A dedicated public servant and coalition builder, Sonia has led transformative initiatives that strengthen civic engagement and expand opportunity for underrepresented communities. Her coordination of the 2025 Community Impact Fund Townhalls exemplifies her commitment to accessibility and inclusion, ensuring multilingual participation, hybrid access, and youth involvement in the policymaking process. Sonia's leadership has been instrumental in advancing key county initiatives, including the Guaranteed Income Pilot, immigrant legal services, and the African American Wellness Hub, all of which are designed to address systemic inequities in health, housing, and economic stability. A proud UC Berkeley alumna with a

bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino, Sonia brings both academic rigor and deep community insight to her work. She is also a mentor to the next generation of public servants, overseeing the county's youth internship program and empowering young leaders to pursue careers in civic engagement and public policy. Known for her ability to manage complex projects and unite diverse stakeholders, Sonia embodies the very spirit of public service, guided by empathy, integrity, and action. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Sonia Bustamante for her outstanding leadership, her lifelong dedication to equity and justice, and her enduring contributions to the people of Contra Costa County.

TRIBUTE TO LORETTA YOUNG

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary service and enduring legacy of Ms. Loretta Young, Commander of American Legion Post 365. Her steadfast leadership and tireless advocacy have shaped the lives of countless veterans and community members across South Florida. Ms. Young will be honored in Sunrise, Florida, for more than 25 years of distinguished service as Commander, the second-longest tenure of any Post Commander in the State of Florida.

Born in 1941 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and raised between the city and the heartlands of South Jersey, Ms. Young is a proud member of the Lenape Nation of New Jersey. Her early years were marked by academic excellence and a deep sense of civic duty, inspired by her father, a retired Philadelphia firefighter. That sense of duty led her to enlist in the United States Air Force, where she served with honor at Travis Air Force Base in California, achieving the rank of A3C in Administration and Base Personnel.

Since assuming command of Post 365 in the year 2000, Ms. Young has exemplified the values of patriotism, leadership, and service. Her tenure includes roles as Post Historian, Service Officer, Executive Officer, and 9th District Commander. She has served on national committees for Legislative Affairs and National Security, and chaired the Department's JROTC and Junior Shooting Sports Program for over two decades. Her leadership has extended far beyond the American Legion, touching civic institutions, youth organizations, and advisory boards throughout Broward County. Ms. Young's community engagement is both vast and impactful. She co-founded the JROTC Support Association in 2006 and currently serves as its President. She has chaired the 23rd Congressional Academy Board for the past ten years and was appointed to the Veterans Advisory Board in 2015. Her commitment to youth, veterans, and civic education has earned her recognition as a Pioneer Day Recipient by the City of Sunrise and induction into the Broward Senior Hall of Fame in 2015.

Her journey of service began in earnest after retiring from American Airlines in 1995,

when she began volunteering at assisted living facilities and later co-founded the Professional Women Veterans Association, the first non-profit in Broward County dedicated to female veterans. Through workshops, retreats, and outreach, she helped elevate the voices and needs of women in uniform and played a formative role in the early development of Mission United, a program supporting homeless veterans. Ms. Young's story is one of resilience, vision, and unwavering commitment. She is a global traveler, a devoted mother and grandmother, and a beacon of optimism who sees the glass half full. Her life reflects a profound dedication to service, safety, and the belief that every challenge is an opportunity to uplift others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Loretta Young for her decades of leadership, advocacy, and community-building. Her legacy is etched into the fabric of South Florida and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have when guided by purpose, compassion, and a deep love for country and community.

REMEMBERING HMONG COMMUNITY LEADER WA CHONG VANG

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wa Chong Vang and to offer my deepest condolences to his family and express my sincere appreciation for his leadership and service in the Hmong Community.

Wa Chong Vang was the son of notable Hmong General Vang Pao who fought alongside American troops in the often forgotten "Secret War" against communism in Laos. While headlines of the Vietnam War dominated American news outlets, tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers supported separate CIA coordinated conflicts in Southeast Asia. When American troops withdrew from the region, many of the Hmong who fought alongside them followed. Many fled through the jungles of Laos, and some found new lives in America. Once in America, many settled and built businesses and communities in Minnesota.

Wa Chong was one of those refugees. After watching his father and family members serve in conflicts at home, Vang was determined to continue his family's service in the United States. In 1974, he became the first Hmong American accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. However, this incredible achievement would not be his last, or most impactful.

When his father passed away, Vang stepped up to fill his father's shoes. He worked with the community to preserve their shared history, honor the Hmong veterans who served alongside U.S. assets in Southeast Asia, and unite the community.

Wa Chong Vang's life reminds us that patriotism and duty knows no borders, and that the quest for freedom falls on all who have the courage to defend it. While we will miss his spirit and quiet leadership, his legacy will carry on not only in the hearts of his family and friends, but in the country and community he loved and served for decades.

To offer my condolences to the Vang family, we mourn Wa Chang's passing with them and pray that his memory will bring them peace and comfort during this difficult time.

HONORING SRIYA SRINIVASAN AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Sriya Srinivasan, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Sriya is a remarkable young leader from Solano County whose dedication to public service and advocacy has already had a profound impact across California. At just seventeen years old, her leadership exemplifies the spirit of community empowerment and equity. Sriya's most notable achievement is her instrumental role in the passage of AB 2229, the "Know Your Period Act." Drawing from her own experiences, she championed menstrual education as a vital component of the California Healthy Youth Act, lobbying tirelessly, shaping legislative language, and testifying before lawmakers. Her efforts garnered widespread community support, securing over 500 signatures and multiple co-signers, ensuring millions of California students gain essential knowledge and dignity around menstrual health. In addition to her legislative work, Sriya has made history as the youngest-ever Student Trustee and is currently the Student President of the Solano Community College Board, where she advocates fiercely for student needs and equity. She also founded the campus Reproductive Health Center, providing free access to menstrual and sexual health products—an initiative that removes barriers and supports student wellbeing. Her visionary leadership and compassionate service make her a shining example to her peers. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Sriya Srinivasan for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH SEEBODE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph Seebode on his retirement from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Seebode has dedicated 44 years of Federal service to USACE and his many achievements and contributions as an Environmental Engineer should be celebrated.

As Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management for the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Joe oversaw a diverse team of engineers and scientists delivering major military and civil works construction, and regional infrastructure improvements in New York and New Jersey. Mr. Seebode's leadership has

played a pivotal role in delivering life-saving technical expertise and environmental restoration during national crises. Together, we have worked on projects to reduce storm and coastal flood risks to protect residents, properties, and infrastructure. He has overseen vital beach replenishment, dredging, and flood control projects, working in coordination with federal, state, and local entities. It has been an honor to work with Joe to protect our communities, and I and the residents of the 6th Congressional District of New Jersey thank him for his leadership.

In his early career, Joseph served as the official Corps liaison to the City of New York in the wake of the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy. Throughout his tenure, he also was on the USACE Leadership Team leading immediate response actions in wake of Hurricane Sandy to include unwatering tunnels, emergency dredging and debris removal. As our communities worked to recover from these devastating disasters, Joseph Seebode led the way.

Mr. Seebode has received numerous awards during his career including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civilian of the Year Award, the De Fleury Medal for engineering excellence, the Department of Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service, a Presidential Certificate of Merit for lifesaving while on official duty, the Department of Defense Environmental Engineer of the Year Award, and the State of New Jersey's highest Heroism Award. He has recently been recognized with the Distinguished Executive Award by the New York City Federal Executive Board and was inducted as a Hero of the Harbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Joseph Seebode on his retirement. It is my privilege to recognize his remarkable contributions to our Nation and offer my best wishes as he enters this new stage in life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FLOOD PREVENTION ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2025. This bill would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) to make the District of Columbia an eligible entity. The House passed this bill as part of the Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act in the 116th Congress.

This bill would make D.C. eligible for federal funding for coastal zone management and give D.C. oversight of federal agency actions that affect its coastal waters. D.C. urgently needs the protection of the CZMA because of serious flood risks that affect federal assets, residents and businesses in D.C., including the National Mall and federal buildings in the Federal Triangle area.

The CZMA provides planning and technical services to assist states in protecting, restoring and developing coastal communities and resources. Once the federal government approves a state's coastal management plan, the state becomes eligible for federal funding and federal agency actions must be consistent with the state plan.

Even though D.C. is located on two rivers and has suffered substantial coastal floods, it was omitted from the list of eligible entities in the CZMA. It is notable that under the CZMA, the term "coastal state" includes the states and territories. D.C. residents pay full federal taxes and therefore D.C. is usually treated as a state for federal programs. It appears D.C.'s omission was a mistake. This oversight likely occurred because the CZMA was passed in 1972, which was before D.C. achieved home rule.

Scientists have predicted that the tides on the Atlantic Coast could rise two to four feet by 2100, causing property worth as much as \$7 billion in D.C. to be routinely under threat by floodwaters. This includes private homes and businesses, the National Mall, federal buildings and three military bases. The Anacostia and Potomac rivers, which surround D.C., are tidally influenced. In addition, the Maryland and Virginia coastal zones each include the tidal Potomac River, with Maryland's zone ending at the D.C. line.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE PENINSULA HUMANE SOCIETY & SPCA

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable contributions of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA to animal welfare and join in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the organization's founding and its great significance to my district.

As a lifelong resident of San Mateo County, I have witnessed the transformative work of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. Since its founding in 1950, the Peninsula Humane Society has expanded from its modest beginning to a new state-of-the-art facility, offering comprehensive services that go far beyond the traditional role of an animal shelter. It has expanded to include a Wildlife Care Center opened in 2024 and a soon-to-open Animal Sanctuary to provide a permanent home to animals not supported by the current model. The organization was a trailblazer from the beginning and became a leader in animal welfare practice and policy. It has grown to be one of the largest humane organizations in the United States.

The 1970's saw many innovations in animal care begin at the Society. Educational offerings were expanded, with volunteer PHS/SPCA docents offering humane education in San Mateo County school classrooms. An education center was established as well. Also in this decade, PHS/SPCA became the first humane society to have an on-site spay/neuter clinic, which meant it no longer needed to rely on outside veterinarians. Wildlife rehabilitation began on site as well.

In the early 1990's PHS/SPCA was among the first shelters to offer services for pets belonging to domestic abuse victims and a free animal behavior helpline for local pet owners. In addition, humane education offerings expanded to thousands of schoolchildren in San Mateo County. The now robust and renowned PHS/SPCA behavior and training program started in the early 2000s.

In 2006, the Mobile Spay & Neuter Program was started, providing free spay and neuter surgeries in underserved communities. Taking these services out into the community reduced unwanted or abandoned litters. As more and more organizations followed suit and offered accessible spay and neuter services, the number of euthanized animals has vastly decreased. It was in this era that the foster program began, allowing the Society to take in more animals. The Kitten Nursery was also founded, which now see hundreds of orphan kittens taken in and placed in loving homes each year. And the 100 percent donor-funded Hope Program began, enabling the Society to provide enhanced behavior and medical support to pets who need it to become ready for adoption.

In 2011, PHS/SPCA opened the Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion, named after one of my predecessors in this Congressional District and his wife. This shelter was built to modern standards, centered on the best possible animal care and allowing the public to see and engage more fully with the animals.

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has reduced the number of animals euthanized in San Mateo County by 99 percent since 1970, ensuring that nearly every animal brought into one of its facilities finds a home. It holds monthly pet food drives for low-income residents and responds to every reported case of animal abuse within San Mateo County, removing animals from harmful environments and working with authorities to prosecute their abusers.

The organization also runs an impressive variety of impactful programs and resources that go beyond the ordinary vaccinations and microchipping services many other organizations offer. The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA offers behavior and training consultations and classes, continuing care when a pet's owner passes away and family or friends are unable to take them in, pet loss support groups to help owners with the death of their pet, wildlife education programs so children of San Mateo County understand the animals of the place where they live, and pet-assisted therapy that brings a team with a pet to healthcare and correctional facilities, drug rehabilitation centers, schools, and libraries to provide unique therapeutic interaction.

Its open-door policy—welcoming every animal regardless of health, age, or circumstance—demonstrates a deep and abiding commitment to compassion and leading to the organization rescuing 4,093 animals in 2024 alone. Whether it is a lost pet or an injured wild animal, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA answers the call with expertise and care. In 2024, the great work of the PHS/SPCA is reflected in the nearly 150,000 volunteer hours given by members of the community who walked dogs 17,000 times, cleaned wildlife enclosures, played with kittens, and bottle-fed baby animals—equivalent of the work of 69 full-time employees.

I am proud that the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is part of the 15th Congressional District. The 75th anniversary of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is not just a celebration of the past—it is a powerful reminder of the good we can do when we lead with compassion. On this day, let us honor its legacy and thank all those who have contributed to its mission.

HONORING TANYA JACOBS AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Tanya Jacobs, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her tireless work that has brought healing, justice, and hope to countless individuals in Northern California. As the founder of Community Villages, Tanya has built a critical support network for underserved communities facing food insecurity, homelessness, and mental health challenges. Her leadership has been defined by compassion, strategic vision, and an unshakable commitment to equity. Tanya has also served with distinction at the District Attorney's Office, where she advocates for survivors of crime with empathy and strength, ensuring they are seen, heard, and supported during life's most difficult moments. Over the past two decades, Tanya has made a deep impact on behavioral health, community development, and education. She has mentored young professionals, served on the Board of the East Bay California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and volunteered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, always leading with integrity and care. Having overcome significant adversity, she brings lived experience to her work, turning hardship into healing and modeling the very strength she inspires in others. Her unwavering dedication to justice, healing, and human dignity makes her a role model and a true force for good in our communities. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Tanya Jacobs for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Corpus Christi Catholic Church of Ahwatukee as it celebrates forty years of faith and service. Since its founding in 1985, Corpus Christi has grown into a vibrant spiritual and community center for thousands of families in the Valley.

Corpus Christi was established by Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien to serve the fast-growing Ahwatukee area. Parishioners celebrated their first Mass at Mountain View Lutheran Church, sharing worship space while they organized for a permanent home. In just a few years the small congregation tripled in size, and the parish was able to build its own worship space with classrooms, parish offices, and a rectory.

As the community continued to grow, parishioners completed a second building fund and constructed a permanent church, dedicated by Bishop O'Brien in 1997. What began as a community of 300 families has grown to

more than 2,000. Today, Corpus Christi continues to expand its ministries in faith formation, outreach, and community service.

Under the leadership of Father James Aboyi, the Corpus Christi parish remains a cornerstone of Ahwatukee's Catholic community. Its forty-year history reflects the faith, generosity, and unity of its members, who continue to strengthen the spiritual and civic life of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Corpus Christi Catholic Church on this milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RODERICK "ROD" FIKEL

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Roderick "Rod" Fikel of Coldwater, Michigan, as the Veteran of the Month for November for his distinguished service to our community.

Rod served as an MOS 25V Combat Documentation Specialist in the U.S. Army from 1989 to 1996 and was deployed to both Kuwait and Iraq. For his dedicated service to our country, he was awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Valorous Unit Award. He has also received numerous skill badges.

Since returning, Rod has become a cornerstone of the veteran community, actively participating as a dedicated member of the American Legion. Additionally, when the Branch County Department of Veterans Affairs sought to assemble veterans for a community committee, Rod was the first person to respond and attended every meeting. During these gatherings, Rod offered support and advice to his peers and became well-known for his positivity and sense of humor.

Rod has also shown remarkable perseverance in the face of adversity. Despite being diagnosed with cancer, he has remained strong and in high spirits, continuing to offer support to the veteran community.

Rod is truly an inspiration to many, and I express my profound gratitude for his significant and lasting contributions to our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF JERRY "PEANUTS" GAINES

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Sheriff Jerry "Peanuts" Gaines. Sheriff Gaines dedicated his life to serving the Warren County community for nearly half a century. Prior to his service in law enforcement, Sheriff Gaines served our Nation in the United States Army and as a Warren County Magistrate. In 1978, Sheriff "Peanuts" Gaines was first elected as Warren County Sheriff, serving until 1982, and then was re-elected, serving from 1987 to 2018. His 41 years of service to our county made him the longest serving sheriff in the history of Kentucky. He was a five-time President of the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association, the 1995 Sheriff of the Year, President of the National Sheriffs' Association and the only Kentucky sheriff to ever serve as President of the Kentucky Association of Counties. Sheriff Gaines was also a founding member of the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association's Boys & Girls Ranch, which has served children in every part of the Commonwealth.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Gaines family, the Warren County Sheriff's Office, and to all who had the pleasure of knowing Sheriff Jerry "Peanuts" Gaines. His legacy will endure for generations to come. He will be remembered as a stranger to none. He exemplified his kindness and love for people daily. I thank him for selflessly answering the call to serve and devoting his life to making Warren County a better place. His service should inspire us all.

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

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Tiffany Harris as one

of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. A proud Richmond native, Tiffany Harris has dedicated her career to empowering young people and strengthening her community. A former participant of the Bay Area Girls Club (BAGC), she returned to the organization as a leader in 2011 and has served as Executive Director since 2015. Under her leadership, BAGC has reached more than 7,000 girls aged five to eighteen through afterschool programs, mentoring, and enrichment activities that promote confidence and leadership. She has expanded the organization's reach by securing and distributing more than \$100,000 in scholarships for college-bound girls and launching programs in STEM, leadership, and college and career readiness. BAGC's signature event, Men Who Cook, has become a beloved community tradition and a vital source of funding to sustain youth programs. With an 89 percent participant success rate in higher education or career pathways, BAGC continues to serve as a trusted community anchor and was recently named the 2025 Best Non-Profit for Activities and Fun by the Best of El Cerrito. Beyond her role at BAGC, Tiffany is an active civic leader throughout West Contra Costa County. She has served as Chair of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Program Chair of the Richmond Rotary Club, President of the Richmond Kiwanis Club, and Co-Treasurer of the West County Forum. She also serves on the Task Force for the Black Women and Girls Initiative with RCF Connects, continuing to champion equity, leadership, and opportunity for young women of color. A graduate of The Branson School and Holy Names University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in communications and English, Tiffany combines strong academic training with deep community roots. She is also a devoted wife and mother of four whose compassion and vision continue to inspire the youth she serves and the community she represents. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Tiffany Harris for her extraordinary leadership, her dedication to uplifting the next generation, and her unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more equitable community.