RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in his 70th year and honor his 45 years of humanitarian and spiritual service through the Art of Living Foundation to communities around the world.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was born on May 13, 1956, in Papanasam, Tamil Nadu. Before becoming a spiritual leader, Shankar studied physics at St. Joseph's College in Bangalore. He has been a tireless advocate for peace across conflict zones, eventually earning recognition as the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor.

The Art of Living Foundation, founded in 1981, proudly commemorates 45 years of promoting mental wellbeing, stress relief, conflict resolution, and meditation programs. A globally revered humanitarian, spiritual leader, and ambassador of peace, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar expanded the Art of Living Foundation through more than 180 countries and reached over 800 million people.

Shankar and the Art of Living Foundation achieved international success for pioneering the SKY Breath Meditation, also known as the Sudarshan Kriya. Researchers and leading institutions worldwide recognize it as an effective measure in reducing stress, anxiety, PTSD symptoms, and depression.

The Art of Living Foundation has contributed to a number of humanitarian causes, including providing educational support in India and improving water pollution in India. The Foundation champions youth and women's empowerment, rural development programs, and educational outreach initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the Art of Living Foundation on their 70th and 45th years, respectively, for their service to the international community.

RECOGNIZING JAMEN MONBARREN OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jamen Monbarren, District Manager with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding leadership and service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through this important initiative, utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. As a District Manager and supervisor, Mr. Monbarren demonstrated leadership by example, joining his colleagues in this important mission and helping ensure their work was completed with professionalism, teamwork, and respect for the families they served.

Access to reliable electricity is something most of us take for granted, but its impact is profound. Electricity allows children to study after dark, families to safely preserve food and medicine, and elders to live with greater safety and comfort. By participating in Light Up Navajo, Mr. Monbarren helped extend these basic opportunities to families far beyond WREC's traditional service territory.

This mission reflects the very best of the cooperative spirit—neighbors helping neighbors and skilled professionals using their talents to improve the lives of others. I commend Mr. Jamen Monbarren for his leadership, compassion, and commitment to service. His willingness to answer this call reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING AGENORIA LUCILLE SPEARMAN PASCHAL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor retired educator Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, a legendary pioneer in education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; a visionary ahead of her time; an advocate for students, teachers, parents, our schools; and a dedicated community servant. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal served Miami-Dade County Public Schools and her community for over 40 years, inspiring thousands of students and developing programs that resulted in groundbreaking changes and improvements within the Miami-Dade County Public School System, for which she was honored with numerous awards and national recognition; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal held the positions of teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director, and implemented programs including the Mobile Reading Clinic, Non-Graded Grouping, Magic Circle Awareness, and extended Public Library Services; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal was instrumental in the writing of an educational proposal that led to the opening of the first segregated elementary school in the Miami-Dade County Public School System, initially called Primary School C and later named Thena Crowder Elementary School; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal opened Olinda Elementary School in Liberty City, served as its first principal and successfully ran its Triple-T Program, a collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the University of Miami that provided training and further education for teachers and paraprofessionals, many of who went on to become assistant principals, principals, and directors who also made outstanding contributions to education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, for her leadership and outstanding contributions to education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and for her selfless, unwavering commitment and dedication to our community.

HONORING ROBERT SALCEDO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate not only the recognition of Robert Salcedo as a Friends of Puerto Rico award recipient, but also his selfless and unrelenting work toward healthcare affordability.

Mr. Salcedo is the founder and CEO of OcyonBio, a pharmaceutical development and manufacturing organization. In his over 25 years specializing in biotechnology, specifically in his time helping to lead Amgen, Mr. Salcedo has molded the strategic vision for projects that have brought tremendous business and manufacturing to Puerto Rico, on top of managing billion-dollar operations.

The focus of Mr. Salcedo's work is gene and cell therapy, an endeavor he carries out to make this lifesaving healthcare affordable and widely accessible. Mr. Salcedo is not only generous in his efforts, he is also hugely successful. Throughout his career, he pioneered a new model of biological engineering and manufacturing. He worked to secure massive biologic manufacturing increases and has forged powerful strategic partnerships to continue innovating and producing at the highest of standards.

Mr. Salcedo has made monumental strides toward shaping Puerto Rico into a land of opportunity and manufacturing for biotechnology and life sciences. He has invested over $100 million dollars into the infrastructure and energy sectors of the island. He has taken care in establishing OcyonBio's base right near the campus of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez to not only provide jobs to current workers, but to create opportunities for the university's most talented students. His contributions have built and shaped the infrastructure, technology, and expertise of the island in a way that sets Puerto Ricans up for long-term success.

Under his tutelage, Mr. Salcedo's companies have built a foundation on which the industry of biologics in Puerto Rico can operate for decades to come. He lifts those who need an opportunity, and he invests his time and efforts into communities that can truly feel the impact. He is a shining example of what it means to be a good, effective, and upright leader. Mr. Salcedo is exactly what it means to be a friend to Puerto Rico.

I congratulate Robert Salcedo on this extraordinary honor and thank him for the leadership he has displayed and the work that he has done.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARYS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Marys, Georgia, for being named the prettiest town in Georgia by Architectural Digest.

St. Marys, a great representation of Georgia in this contest, is in the most southeastern corner of the State.