

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.

The town is proudly known for serving as the gateway city to Cumberland Island, Georgia's largest barrier island and home to famous architecture consisting of the Dungeness Ruins and the Greyfield Inn mansion.

St. Marys is recognized for its beautiful downtown oak-lined streets draped in Spanish moss, 19th century churches, and grand historic homes showcasing classic southern design.

Some of the notable architecture in the community consist of Orange Hall, an 1830 Greek Revival Mansion and the first Presbyterian Church, which houses a bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry. It is a great honor to represent the town of St. Marys, and I could not be prouder of the rich history this place holds.

HONORING EDWARD J. BRAYNON,
JR.

HON. FEDERICA 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 Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr., a dedicated community-servant, civil rights activist, role model, and mentor. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Dr. Braynon has been a loyal and faithful member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 68 years and has served as Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter, Florida's State Representative, First Vice Seventh Representative (Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi), Seventh District Representative, First Vice Grand Basileus, and Grand Basileus, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon's leadership, vision, and integrity have played a vital role in building, binding, and strengthening Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Alpha Chapter. He is credited with remaining steadfast to enhancing and promoting the organization's principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon as Grand Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter played a key role in a massive "Get Out The Vote," initiative where Omega chapters around the country were actively involved and helped win Jimmy Carter the Presidency with the largest Back vote in history and landed Dr. Braynon an invitation along with several other Black leaders to a "White-House Luncheon," and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon touched and impacted the lives of countless young men as a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and won the admiration and respect of our community for his activism and community service, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon used his dental skills to meet the needs of our community, served as a member of the Dental Society providing leadership and guidance to new generations of dental professionals, and was a member of numerous civic and community organizations dedicated to the betterment of the quality of life for South Floridians, and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FedERICA S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am proud to recognize and honor Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr., for his unwavering commitment to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,

Inc., community service, our youth, and his profession.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
GENERAL KEVIN D. ADMIRAL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General Kevin D. Admiral on his nomination to serve as the next Commanding General of United States Army Europe-Africa, Allied Land Command, NATO, Germany.

For the people of Central Texas, Lt. Gen. Admiral's departure is especially significant. He first served as the Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division and later as the Commanding General of III Armored Corps and Fort Hood, where he oversaw one of the Army's premier armored formations.

Throughout his tenure, Lt. Gen. Admiral made readiness and taking care of people central to his leadership, emphasizing a combat-ready force while ensuring soldiers, civilians, and families had the support they needed. He also strengthened Fort Hood's relationship with communities throughout Central Texas, recognizing the installation's importance not only to our military but to the entire region. His professionalism, accessibility, and commitment to mission success have left a lasting impression, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working closely with Lt. Gen. Admiral during his time at Fort Hood, and I can attest that the pride he took in building a ready force there was matched only by his humility in leading it. That same standard of excellence did not go unnoticed in Washington. The job he and his soldiers did at Fort Hood helped bring him to the attention of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, paving the way for his new mission leading U.S. Army Europe-Africa. It has been an honor to call him a friend and a partner in service to Central Texas.

On behalf of the people of Texas' 31st Congressional District, I thank Lt. Gen. Admiral for his distinguished service to Fort Hood, Central Texas, and our Nation. I congratulate him on this well-deserved opportunity and wish him, his family, and the soldiers under his command continued success in this important new assignment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SCOTT HAGGERTY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Scott Haggerty.

Scott served as an Alameda County Supervisor for 24 years. First elected to represent District 1 in 1996, he worked tirelessly on behalf of working families, championed transportation initiatives, and supported vulnerable populations within the community.

During his tenure in public service, Scott drove many initiatives that improved the lives and wellbeing of his constituents. Transportation was often at the forefront of these initiatives. He spearheaded the Valley Link Rail Project, a planned zero-emission passenger rail system linking the Dublin BART station and the Mountain House community in San Joaquin County. As a leader on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and Metropolitan Transportation Commission, he oversaw key transit ventures such as the BART extension to Warm Springs, carpool and express lanes on Interstate 580, and the Highway 84 Expressway. Because of his efforts, Scott was named the California Transportation Foundation's Person of the Year in 2020.

Scott was also a proponent of renewable energy. In 2021, the Scott Haggerty Wind Energy Center brought energy to more than 45,000 homes through 23 new wind turbines in Altamont Pass.

Scott's leadership and service touched many lives in the community. Through his involvement with various non-profits, such as serving as a board member on Alameda County Meals on Wheels and chairing the Twin Valley District of the Boy Scouts of America, Scott worked diligently to serve his region. He was also involved in the creation of Goodness Village, which provides a safe and supportive community of tiny homes to previously unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley.

Sadly, Scott passed away on July 5, 2026. Please join us in honoring Scott for his unwavering dedication to the community, his outstanding leadership, and his invaluable contributions to our region.

HONORING MARIE BEERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Beery, as she is recognized for her 25 years of extraordinary dedication and service to the Lake County Wine Alliance.

Marie was born in Indiana. She began her professional career as an Accounting Specialist with Kendall-Jackson Winery, where she met winemaker Jed Steele. Together, they founded Steele Winery, contributing significantly to the growth and recognition of our Lake County wine community. She later founded the Saw Shop Gallery & Bistro, cultivating it into one of Lake County's most beloved and successful dining establishments. Her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence helped elevate the region's culinary landscape.

Marie is a founding member of the Lake County Wine Alliance. Under Marie's leadership as Vice President, as well as her creativity and unwavering persistence, the Wine Alliance has raised over \$3.2 million for vital programs throughout Lake County, more than any other local nonprofit organization. All five Lake County high schools have collectively received over \$1 million from the Alliance, supporting Music, Theatre, and Art Departments, as well as Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Culinary Programs.