

Mr. Azevedo is not only a dedicated farmer, but he is also heavily involved in advocating on behalf of the Central Valley Ag community. He has served on the board of the California Water Alliance—an advocacy organization focused on uniting water leaders in the community to achieve equitable and reliable water supplies from Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Additionally, he currently serves on several local irrigation district boards—doing all he can to achieve reliable water for Valley farmers.

For Mr. Azevedo and his family, farming is not simply a job or a way to earn a paycheck, but it is a way of life. Their family operations have faced droughts, bad harvests, constantly changing environmental regulations and unreliable water supplies for years. Through it all, Mr. Azevedo has learned to adapt to changing circumstances, and always find a way to keep his farms alive and well.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mr. Tony Azevedo for being named Agriculturalist of the Year. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient.

**DAMARIS DEVORA'S 20 YEARS OF
PUBLIC SERVICE**

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to honor Damaris Devora, a dedicated public servant, as she celebrates her 20 years of service to our communities in Chicago.

For two decades, Damaris has embraced and nurtured everyone that has walked through the doors of the office of Illinois' 4th Congressional District with a sole mission—to provide quality, thoughtful and much needed assistance to anyone that seeks it out.

Damaris proudly hails from Humboldt Park in my district, a community that is as culturally rich and vibrant as she is. She's a daughter of the 4th; from the district through and through. An expert on all things Humboldt Park and Chicago, she'll tell you there is nowhere else she would rather be. Outside of our office, she is a devoted mother and grandmother who fiercely defends, supports and protects her family and loved ones.

Service above self is Damaris' mantra. She is passionate, humble, yet unassuming. She's the type of individual that rocks your world with a clever comment, an astute observation that makes you laugh, or an outburst of joy and energy that is simply contagious. Her co-workers, past and present, love her as much as our constituents do.

The quality of her service to our constituents is truly unrivaled. She has been so effective in helping the federal government work for constituents that people ask for her by name when they need help, often choosing to face wait times rather than leave without seeing or speaking with her. She is, effectively, the embodiment of what public service means.

The amount of individuals she has assisted over the years is impossible to count, but they hail from all parts of Illinois, the United States and even the world. She has fought tirelessly to keep families together and to reunite loved ones from all across the globe. Her service

transcends the borders of the 4th Congressional District. There is no greater joy in Damaris's eyes than that of a favorably closed case, signaled by her signature bell ring in the office. When you hear bells in our office, you know Damaris has worked her magic. She deserves a medal for her work, yet she's only motivated by her deep desire to help her community, not by recognition.

Damaris Devora reminds us that a life dedicated to public service is beautiful and rare. This is why Damaris must be celebrated and appreciated. Having good, kind hearted, and selfless people in our team will always be our greatest asset as Members of Congress, and we're lucky to have Damaris on our side. Damaris is an important member of our team, and her abilities and contributions have been crucial to our continued success. I thank Damaris for all that she does. Congratulations on 20 Years of Service.

REGARDING H.R. 139

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I must say that I am perplexed by the Chairwoman's statements on the COCOA Act. Her interpretation of the COCOA Act is misleading and inaccurate. There have been instances in past election cycles where election officials were not aware of Congress' role and responsibility in having its own observers on site to watch the election administration process and, as a result, were denied access. As I stated earlier, this bill fixes a bi-partisan problem by providing a citation of convenience for existing law that gives the House authority to deploy official observers to watch the conduct of congressional elections in the States and territories. This way, there is no question regarding Congress' authority to have observers present.

To my surprise, the Chairwoman identifies two late breaking concerns she has with the bill. First, she states that while the bill provides broad authority to Congress, it fails to provide election officials with the ability to protect personally identifiable information. This concern appears to be a novel one, particularly in light of the long history of the Congressional observer program. We certainly would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss it further in our multiple efforts to work with majority staff on this topic.

Second, the Chairwoman expresses concern over an election official's inability to remove congressional observers that are disruptive to the process. Contrary to the Chairwoman's statement, the bill outlines the role of congressional observers and specifically prohibits these individuals from handling ballots, elections equipment, advocating for a position or candidate, taking any action to reduce ballot secrecy, or otherwise interfering with the elections administration process. The bill also permits state and local authorities to remove any observer who misbehaves. As such, state and local election officials across the country would have appropriate protections in place and should not be distressed by the presence of congressional observers.

Over the course of the past two years, my staff made a concerted effort to engage major-

ity staff on the COCOA Act as we view this as a bi-partisan measure. We provided draft language to them for review. They did not reference either of the aforementioned concerns or flag any language that they believed to be problematic in the few conversations we had with them. My staff repeatedly offered to confer on any issue that majority staff may have with the bill and received nothing but radio silence.

It is important to note that we had an initial agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act together with the PAVA Act. However, at the eleventh hour, the majority reneged on our agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act forward. Again, here on the House Floor is the first time we are learning of any issues with the bill.

This bill benefits both sides of the aisle and serves as an additional layer of transparency and integrity in the elections process. I am concerned that, without the COCOA Act in place this fall, the majority and minority's ability to execute this House's constitutional responsibility will continue to face serious challenges.

**HONORING SUPERVISOR ROBERT
WEYGANDT**

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative LAMALFA, to recognize the decade spanning work and now retirement of Placer County Supervisor Robert Weygandt. Since his election to the Board of Supervisors in 1995, Robert has been an integral part of Placer County Government and business development; from his work to establish business centers in the community, to creating a citizen focused county government center, to work on the Lincoln Highway 65 bypass linking residents from Northern California to Interstate 80. Robert has always put the interests of his community first.

Since the beginning of his public service, Robert has led the efforts to drive new business into Placer County. Working to establish the Sunset Area Plan in 1997, which would later become known as the Placer Ranch, has created a 400-acre business park including a satellite campus for California State University, various commercial and industrial developments, and residential housing units.

Robert has also worked to create innovative government solutions for Placer County, helping the everyday citizen navigate the governmental process. This includes working with the Placer County government center to form a vibrant place for residents to conveniently obtain services and conduct county business. Today, the government center is home to several state-of-the-art amenities including a new Health and Human Services facility that will open in 2024.

Robert has also been instrumental in developing business partnerships with the United Auburn Indian Community during their bid to develop Thunder Valley Casino in Lincoln. This partnership continues today with United Auburn committing to develop the first few miles of a bypass from Highway 65 to Highway 99 in Sutter County linking these busy

corridors and benefiting many in the northern part of the state.

Robert was also instrumental in gathering support for the Lincoln Bypass, a thoroughfare for Highway 65 that opened in 2011. The bypass, which encompasses 11.7 miles and cost \$325 million to construct, moves traffic around the City of Lincoln and improves regional connections between business and residential centers. This is just another example of Robert's tireless efforts to develop Placer County.

I am proud today to congratulate Robert on his numerous accomplishments and to thank him for his decade long commitment, dedication and service to the citizens of the United States and the residents of Placer County.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE
ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES'
BREAST CANCER CAMPAIGN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Estée Lauder Companies' Breast Cancer Campaign, a co-founder of pink ribbon. Their years of service to breast cancer research, treatment, and screening are worthy of commendation.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women. According to the CDC, about 264,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and about 2,400 in men every year in the United States. Nearly 42,000 women and 500 men in the U.S. die each year from breast cancer. Unfortunately, incidences of breast cancer disproportionately affect Black and Hispanic women.

Over the course of the past three decades, the Estée Lauder Companies' Breast Cancer Campaign has become a pillar in the breast cancer community. From funding critical medical resources, services, and centers for those impacted by breast cancer, the program continues to actively seek out opportunities to help individuals connect with life-saving screenings and mammograms. They are at the forefront of this effort, advancing the conversations on the importance of breast health education and early detection by facilitating discussions between the breast cancer community, medical experts, and key leaders.

Three decades ago, breast cancer was a taboo topic. For people experiencing the difficulties of a breast cancer diagnosis and undergoing treatment, there was little discussion and understating of what care was needed for them. The pink ribbon changed all that. It brought breast cancer to the public eye and allowed for further public discussion. The now iconic pink ribbon was introduced to be a visual representation of this empowerment, it symbolizes strength, unity, and hope. Millions of survivors and their advocates wear this today.

The Estée Lauder Companies' Breast Cancer Campaign has funded more than \$108 million for lifesaving global research, education, and medical services, including \$86 million funding medical research grants through the Breast Cancer Research Foundation that fuels research across the entire spectrum of the disease. Their work has been critical in getting us

one step closer to our shared goal of a breast cancer-free world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Estée Lauder Companies' Breast Cancer Campaign. We are grateful for their decades of impactful work and wish the campaign continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING JEFF RAINES AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Jeff Raines, President of the Iowa Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, as Iowan of the Week. April is Parkinson's Awareness Month, so there is no better time to recognize the amazing work Jeff and his team are doing to help Iowans living with this disease.

The American Parkinson Disease Association is the largest grassroots network dedicated to fighting Parkinson's disease, with local chapters across the county. The organization works tirelessly to help the approximately one million people in the United States that struggle with Parkinson's disease to live their life to the fullest in the face of a chronic neurological disorder.

The American Parkinson Disease Association has raised and invested more than \$226 million to provide outstanding patient services, educational programs, elevate public awareness about the disease, and support research designed to solve the mysteries of Parkinson's disease, with the ultimate goal of putting an end to the illness.

Jeff has been a tireless advocate for combating Parkinson's disease, educating the community about the illness, and a community advocate for seniors for over 12 years. Jeff believes that with the right research and development, Parkinson's disease can be a treatable disease that we are able to subside as a community. His day-to-day efforts are helping local families navigate challenging circumstances and moving the needle on an issue that affects Iowans across the state.

I admire Jeff's mission to educate his neighbors, use his voice to advocate for those in need, and his goal to ultimately cure Parkinson's disease. His leadership and determination are helping to create a future without Parkinson's disease, a goal we can all get behind. It is my pleasure to name him Iowan of the Week.

HONORING THE CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2022

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF) for over 50 years of service to their community.

In 1970, the California Agricultural Leadership Program seated its first class with the mission to enhance the long-term viability of California cultivation through developing leaders who can positively impact the communities and people that agriculture serves. Since its establishment, the program has seen over 1,300 graduates go on to become influential leaders across the industry, which is why it is revered today as a premier leadership development program. Although there were many dedicated individuals and groups involved in the formation of the program, much of its success is credited to founders Dean Brown and J.G. Boswell II who always stood out as visionary leaders and were consistently committed to the success of the program.

In effort to accomplish their mission of growing leaders who made a difference, CALF developed a 17-month fellowship program that provides individuals with a formative leadership experience through executive coaching and a comprehensive curriculum delivered by its esteemed partner universities: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Fresno; and the University of California, Davis. By maximizing classroom and experiential learning, the California Agricultural Leadership Program provides potential leaders with the skills and tools necessary to expand their impact, increase their leadership capacity and ultimately overcome the complex challenges surrounding agriculture. A blueprint for success, program graduates have gone on to become distinct leaders in their families, businesses, communities, and throughout the industry.

In addition to this, CALF also offers several educational exchange programs that aim to raise awareness through education, as well as foster better communication and understanding across sectors. Established in 1982, the Washington, DC Educational Exchange Program promotes dialogue between government and agriculture and allows participants to gain a greater understanding of priority topics and related policies surrounding farming such as water quantity and quality, food safety and security, trade imports and exports, and much more. Similarly, the California Educational Exchange Program takes a more local approach to addressing these matters by connecting participant with California regulatory organizations, nonprofits, and local agriculturalists all while deepening their understanding of food production and ecosystems throughout the Golden State. 2023 will also introduce the California County Educational Exchange Program which will aim to facilitate effective communication, relationship development, and leadership skills amongst those who specialize in community engagement on the county and regional level.

All this, in addition to their Lifelong Leadership Learning Program, exemplifies the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's commitment to education and leadership development, which has been essential to the continued success of California agriculture.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring over 50 years of California's Agricultural Leadership Foundation. May we continue to be inspired by their vital work.