

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
WILLIE MIMS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Willie Mims.

Throughout his life, Willie has shown his commitment to educating, serving, and empowering residents of East County. He was raised in what is now Bay Point, California and graduated from Pacifica High School in 1963. It was around this time that Willie began engaging in local politics, advocating for the Rumsford Fair Housing Act which aimed to combat racial discrimination in housing. Willie also worked as a stevedore at the Concord Naval Weapons Station from 1965 to 1970. He went on to obtain his Associate Arts Degree from Diablo Valley College and his Bachelor of Arts and M.A. in English & Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Willie obtained his teaching credentials in 1978 and went on to have a long career in teaching with the Vallejo City Unified School District. Willie worked as a teacher at John Finney High School, formerly known as Peoples High School, for over 25 years. After retiring in 2009, Willie continued to advocate on behalf of Contra Costa students and families, still regularly attending school board meetings.

Willie has worked tirelessly to support families and promote equity within the East Bay. He is a former mentor of S.I.M.B.A. (Safe in My Brother's Arms), a youth program for boys 8 to 16, former board member of the East County Boy's and Girl's Club, and served as a volunteer historian for the Parents Connected Organization. Additionally, he is an original member of Pittsburg's Black Political Association and part of Executive Committee of the East County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was also instrumental in the creation of the Antioch School District's African American Male Initiative which sought to address racial disparities in education. Willie received the Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Fighter Award in 2008 in recognition of his efforts to promote racial justice and equity. Willie's community and the greater Bay Area have significantly benefited thanks to Willie's dedication and hard work.

Willie is a true leader in our community and we are grateful for the positive impact that his work has had across the county. Please join me in recognizing Willie for his many years of devoted service.

HONORING MRS. GLORIA MORENO
OF CAMERON PARK, BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MAYRA FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mrs. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Gloria Moreno of Cameron Park, Brownsville, Texas on her amazing work as the community leader of Cameron Park.

Mrs. Moreno currently serves as the community leader of Cameron Park, Brownsville.

For the past 45 years, Mrs. Moreno has served her *colonia* by lobbying her local and state officials for the needs of her community. Her work as a community leader has brought many needed utilities to her neighborhood such as the paving of the streets and the installment of running water and sewer lines. Mrs. Moreno is the prime example of a community leader who is focused on helping her community grow.

Mrs. Moreno has served Cameron Park faithfully by being a voice for her fellow residents and advocating for the needs of Cameron Park and beyond. Her commitment to her home and her community deserves honor, praise, and gratitude. It is only fitting that Mrs. Moreno celebrates amongst her friends and family as her impact will be felt by generations to come.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Moreno for her accomplishments.

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF JOSEPH
McMAHON: MT. EPHRAIM TOWN
HALL HONOREE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, originally born in Pennsauken, New Jersey, Command Master Chief Joseph McMahon has been a resident of the Borough of Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey for thirty-one years. Deployed nine times in total, Joseph McMahon joined the United States Navy in 1976 where he served for twenty-one years before being honorably discharged in 1997.

During his twenty-one years of service, he was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia; Charleston, South Carolina; San Diego, California; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He served on the USS *Ponce*, USS *Barney* DDG6, USS *Conolly* 979, USS *Beagle* Grove LSD 32, YTB 802 an ocean tugboat, *Conningham* and USS *Forrestal*. He was involved in two major military campaigns, the Persian Gulf War and the war in Bosnia.

Command Master Chief Joseph McMahon is the recipient of eighteen campaign medals and ribbons, many of which he received on more than one occasion. He has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (3 times), Navy Achievement Award (5 times), Navy Expeditionary Services Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, NATO Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, as well as several others.

Following his retirement from the United States Navy, Joseph McMahon continued his dedication to public service, joining the Camden County Sheriff's Office as a police officer for fifteen years. In 2015, he returned to the Navy once more, working at the Foundry, an old navy shipyard.

Command Master Chief Joseph McMahon celebrated forty years of marriage with his wife Diane McMahon on October 16, 2022 and continues to serve his community as a member of the Knights of Columbus and as the Deputy Post Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 262.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Command Master

Chief Joseph McMahon of Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community, country, and those who have bravely served and defended the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100 year anniversary of Soroptimist International, a worldwide volunteer service organization for women who work to provide access to education and training to achieve economic empowerment. Soroptimist was formed in 1921 in Oakland, California, when women were not permitted to join service organizations. The name Soroptimist—loosely translated from Latin means best for women.

Today the organization has over 72,000 members and supporters in over 120 countries and territories across the world. The Golden West Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas provides administrative support to clubs in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, with multiple locations inside California's 8th Congressional District, including in Big Bear and Twentynine Palms. In total, the Golden West Region has 38 clubs and nearly 1,000 members, all working to improve the lives of women and girls.

Organizations like Soroptimist International provide vital services to our community and we owe them tremendous gratitude for the work they do to support women. Their fundraising efforts have allowed the various clubs across California to raise millions of dollars to improve the lives of Southern Californian locals through their various projects and programs. I congratulate this amazing organization on their 100 years of service to our communities and hope that they continue the great work they do for many years to come.

HONORING ISABELLA CASTRO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Isabella Castro, who dedicated her time to serve the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Isabella has proven to be a very capable young woman and shows great promise for her future endeavors.

Isabella has assisted my office in foreign policy research of the Western Hemisphere and constituent engagement. She primarily informed my office and constituents of ongoing events and issues happening in South America and the islands of the Caribbean. Isabella has demonstrated her ability to adapt and excel in her responsibilities.

The daughter of Carmen Silvia Briceño and Carlos Felix Castro, Isabella, a proud first generation Peruvian-American, was raised in Miami, Florida. A proud graduate of the Burnett Honors College at the University of Central Florida, she is a 2022 Charles B. Rangel

International Affairs Fellow. She received her bachelor's degree in International and Global Studies with minors in Diplomacy and French.

Upon transitioning from her congressional fellowship, Isabella will travel to Belgium as a Fulbright Scholar where she will complete an English Teaching Assistantship. Once she completes her Fulbright Program, she will pursue a Master of Science in Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Inspired by her foreign service work in Nicaragua, Haiti, and Ecuador, Isabella will soon become a Foreign Service Officer.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Isabella Castro for her bright future and inevitable success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY VALDEZ AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with ZOE LOFGREN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship to thank Anthony Valdez for his service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Anthony received his bachelor's degree and a master's in public policy from the University of Maryland. He first joined the Judiciary Committee as an intern with our Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. After nearly a year interning while in college, and a further fellowship with the committee, Anthony joined us permanently as Staff Assistant to the full committee in January 2020. That August, Anthony was named Professional Staff Member and Legislative Aide for the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

As Staff Assistant, Anthony supported the full committee's senior staff and me directly. As part of my administrative team, Anthony played a leading role in our committee's seamless transition to remote and hybrid work at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is remembered as a committed advocate and mentor by the many interns and incoming junior staff that he helped shepherd through our committee. Anthony was also a vital member in the Committee's oversight of the Trump Administration, which included pouring through critical evidence, assisting in Member preparation, and staffing high-profile congressional hearings. Regardless of the hour, Anthony answered the call of duty and became a trusted member of the Committee's impeachment and senate trial teams.

Finally, Anthony was promoted again to serve as Professional Staff and Legislative Aide to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. For two years Anthony served as clerk for all Immigration subcommittee business and his work was essential to the success of much of the subcommittee's activities. Substantively, Anthony was the point person on private bills and was instrumental in the passage of five private bills this Congress, H.R. 187, H.R. 680, H.R. 681, H.R. 739, and H.R. 785. He worked with counsel to prepare myself and Ms. Lofgren for the annual refugee consultation and helped us fight to raise the

refugee admissions goal and increase processing. Anthony also contributed significantly to our markup of H.R. 3648, the Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment Act of 2022 or the EAGLE Act of 2022.

For nearly four years, I have been fortunate to count Anthony among my team. I, and the American people, have greatly benefited from his passion for public service, his fine character, and his commitment to excellence. Through extraordinarily demanding times, Anthony was dependable and contributed substantially with diligence and good humor. We will greatly miss Anthony as he heads off to the University of Virginia School of Law, but we look forward to following his next steps in public service and the law.

We thank Anthony Valdez for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MAYOR JIM BRAINARD

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service career of Jim Brainard as he completes his seventh term as the Mayor of Carmel, Indiana.

Under his tenure, Carmel has experienced tremendous growth and received numerous awards. It is considered to be one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and the development of an Arts & Design District, a downtown City Center and a Midtown project has helped create a vibrant, walkable city. Additionally, Carmel is home to over 130 corporate business headquarters.

Carmel has received multiple awards for its high quality of life. Including Money Magazine's No. 1 "Best Place to Live in America" and No. 1 "Best Place to Retire in the U.S." and Newsweek's No. 1 "Best Place to Live in the Midwest."

The Mayor graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Butler University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Ohio Northern University. He also received a diploma from the Oxford Institute on International and Comparative Law from the University of San Diego.

Mayor Brainard has served as a Trustee of a variety of national taskforces, as President of the Butler University Alumni Association and was named one of the "Most Powerful Hoosiers in the World" by Indianapolis Monthly.

Carmel has the most roundabouts of any city in the country and Mayor Brainard's book, titled 'Carmel, 'round about right,' shares the story of redevelopment in Carmel during his administration.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again, formally recognize Jim Brainard for his 26 years of service as Mayor of Carmel, Indiana.

HONORING MARIA MARTINEZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Maria Martinez, my

intern who has completed her Fall 2022 semester serving the great people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Maria has proven to be a very capable young woman and shows great promise for her future endeavors.

Maria has assisted my office in various areas, including communications, research, and constituent and community engagement. She has proven to be an integral part of my team and has demonstrated her ability to adapt to the political arena. Maria always demonstrated a willingness to learn and consistently produced excellent work product.

The daughter of Mayilet Fernandez, Maria was born and raised in Hialeah, Florida. She plans to attend law school and become a humanitarian lawyer to elevate her community. She aspires to inspire the next generation of Dreamers and will surely make a positive impact on many lives.

In the Fall, Maria will begin her sophomore year at Columbia University where she is majoring in Mathematics and minoring in Philosophy.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria Martinez for her invaluable role in my office and her inevitable success.

HONORING CAROLYN HELMS AS MOORE COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Carolyn Helms as the recipient of the Moore County Woman of the Year Award.

The Woman of the Year Award is a prestigious honor presented annually by the Moore County Community Foundation to individuals that have impacted Moore County through charitable works and community service. Since 2007, Ms. Helms' leadership roles with FirstHealth of the Carolinas and Moore Regional Hospital have greatly strengthened and improved the capabilities of these organizations to provide exemplary service to all in our community. After becoming a member of both FirstHealth's board of directors and Moore Regional Hospital's board of directors in 2007, Ms. Helms became chair of the Moore Regional Hospital Board in 2010 and later became the first female chair of FirstHealth's board in 2017. She held the latter position until 2019 and now currently serves as the CARE liaison for the Foundation of FirstHealth. Through her outstanding leadership over the course of her career, she has served as a trailblazer and been an invaluable role model for all healthcare professionals in our community.

In addition to this important work, she remains a board member for many state and local organizations such as the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care and The Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina. She has previously held numerous leadership roles at multiple local churches as well as working as a nursing instructor at Sandhills Community College. In 1993, she was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Southern Pines Jaycees on account of her exceptional community service.