

of numerous social movements fighting for change, we have seen how conflicts around the world can affect some racial minorities harder than others. In keeping with the United Nations' values on this day, we recognize each of us can contribute to a future built on the premises and promises of human rights, everywhere.

I am incredibly humbled by what the coalition members in New Jersey's 3rd District are doing today to honor our commitment to build stronger communities and extend hope for empathy internationally. As they prepare to honor the United Nation's call for peace, I extend my best wishes to everyone in this district for doing their part to spread positivity and peace.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING  
EDWIN J. 'DICK' MORRIS, JR.

### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edwin J. 'Dick' Morris, Jr. of Peculiar, Missouri, in celebration of his 100th birthday on September 16, 2022.

Mr. Morris still lives at his home in Peculiar and continues to live life to the fullest. He makes weekly trips to visit his wife, Maxine, at her nursing home in nearby Harrisonville, and stays independent, still doing his own cooking, cleaning, and even mowing his own lawn.

Although his independence and drive today is inspiring, Edwin Morris is nothing short of an American Hero. Drafted in 1942, Morris served his country with the Forest Rangers, Coast Guard, Air Force and 442nd Signal Battalion. Joining the Armed Services at the same time as his brother, Morris first spent time on the West Coast as part of the Forest Rangers and Coast Guard and was then shipped out to New Guinea at the beginning of 1943 when they declared independence. He then spent the latter half of the war in Japan. Morris's service didn't stop after WWII; after returning home to his farm in Missouri for a few years, he reenlisted in the spring of 1951 to serve in the Korean War, where he worked with the only B-36 bomber in the area. After his service in the Korean War, Morris became a farmer and tractor salesman, and now spends his time visiting with friends and family at the Belton Senior Center.

Today, there are very few WWII Veterans like Edwin still with us, making the celebration of his service and this milestone in his life even more admirable. Mr. Morris is undoubtedly an American Hero and Treasure, and this country is better for people like him. Please join me in recognizing Edwin and wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, my first vote on September 13, 2022, was not cast because of a proxy vote communications error. Further,

my letter sent to the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives on September 13, 2022, altered my proxy designation before Roll Call No. 421, which was received and verified pursuant to H. Res. 8. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 421.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF OFFICER BLAIZE MADRID-EVANS

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with an aching in my heart as Missouri's Fifth Congressional District marks a somber occasion. I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Officer Blaize Alyxander Madrid-Evans, a 22-year-old member of the Independence Police Department who was killed one year ago today while responding to a call. Independence lost an incredible young man who wished to dedicate his life to protecting and serving everyday people as a police officer. Today, on this painful anniversary, we reflect on the selflessness and courage that Officer Madrid-Evans displayed throughout his 22 years of life.

Blaize Madrid-Evans was born on June 2, 1999 in North Kansas City, Missouri. Blaize grew up in Kansas City up until his senior year of high school. In 2018, he graduated from Smithville High School. He then began working for the American Medical Response (AMR) as an Emergency Responder, where he remained for nearly two years. In July 2021, Blaize graduated from the Police Academy and started his tour with the Independence Police Department. Sadly, Officer Madrid-Evans' tour would last only two months.

Officer Madrid-Evans is remembered as being a sharp-dressed coffee connoisseur who loved going out to eat, playing computer games, and putting Sriracha on all sorts of foods. Blaize was an organ donor, and in the year since his passing, he has saved seven lives and enhanced another thirty-seven. Through the donation of his corneas, skin, muscles, tendons, bones, and other tissues, the Midwest Transplant Team estimates that Blaize will impact the lives of up to seventy-five people. In one instance, Blaize's kidney was donated to a fellow police officer in Springfield, Missouri who was critically injured in the line of duty. Even after ending his watch, Blaize has continued to make his charitable presence felt through acts of service and sacrifice. Blaize's life came to an end far too soon, but in his death, he has bestowed the gift of life upon others. He would not want it any other way. He was a beloved son, brother, fiancé, friend, and police officer. According to his family, Blaize was loving, kind, respectful, and brought joy to all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a bright light in his loved ones' lives and has been missed terribly this past year.

On September 15, 2021, a tragedy occurred, and Blaize's life was cut short by an act of senseless, indescribable violence. When news broke that Officer Madrid-Evans had passed away, all of the Greater Kansas City Area grieved alongside his family, friends, and fellow officers. As we spend this day in loving

remembrance, I keep all those who had the privilege of knowing Blaize Madrid-Evans in my thoughts and prayers. As I have been told, to know Blaize was to love him, and I am deeply saddened to have never met this fine young man. I mourn with Blaize's long list of family and friends. No parent or grandparent should have to outlive their child or grandchild. I truly hope that the love and support that Independence and the surrounding areas have offered has brought some comfort into their lives. Blaize was so loved.

Officer Madrid-Evans was awarded the highest form of recognition from the Independence Police Department, the Medal of Valor on March 25, 2022. The medal is a profound honor given only to officers that display extraordinary acts of heroism and courage that go above and beyond the call of duty. Additionally, Officer Madrid-Evans was added to the Smithville Education Foundation's Wall of Fame in February of 2022. These tributes cannot heal the loss of Blaize, but they are symbols of gratitude for his distinguished service and boundless bravery.

When tragedies like this occur, it is difficult to comprehend the loss we all feel. In times like these, I am called to Scripture. Matthew 5:1-3 says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Let us find solace in the word of God and remember that we will be reunited, once more, in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Today, my thoughts—and the thoughts of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District—are with Officer Madrid-Evans' family. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and everlasting legacy of Blaize Alyxander Madrid-Evans. Let us admire the fearlessness of Officer Blaize Madrid-Evans while never forgetting the sacrifice he made in the name of protecting others.

### NEW FEDERAL COURT OPENS IN THE MARIANAS

### HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, on September 16, the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands will be officially moved into its new courtroom and offices in Gualo Rai on the island of Saipan. The U.S. Pretrial and Probation Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Federal Protective Service are also now housed in this new building, leased by the General Services Administration from Marianas Management Corporation for the next twenty years.

To commemorate this move I want to add to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a history of the federal court in the Marianas, which is part of the ongoing story of how the people I represent have become members of the American political family and have been included in the institutions of the United States government.

I am indebted to the research of Ms. Lallane Guiao-Seng, MPA, who formerly interned with the Marianas congressional office and is now Generalist Clerk for the U.S. District Court. Ms. Guiao-Seng prepared a photo exhibition

with extensive captioning recounting the court's history for the ceremonial opening of the new courthouse this month. I am also indebted to Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who agreed to allow Ms. Guiao-Seng to share her research with the congressional office. That work is extensively excerpted here.

Section 401 of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, which the people of the Mariana approved in a plebiscite in 1975 and Congress agreed in Public Law 94-241 in 1976, provides that the United States will establish a District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. The United States fulfilled this commitment in 1977 with enactment of Public Law 95-157 establishing the District Court under Article IV of the U.S. Constitution.

According to the Senate Judiciary Committee report that accompanied this legislation, establishment of the court was a legislative priority during the 95th Congress (1977-78). The Committee noted, in part, that

After the Constitution [of the Northern Mariana Islands] becomes effective, it will take the legislature an undetermined amount of time to create the local court authorized by the Constitution and to establish it as a functioning branch of the local government. Transitional provisions of the constitution will enable the current, local courts to hear and determine cases that will be within the limited jurisdiction of the Commonwealth trial court. However, unless the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands is established by S. 2149 in this session of Congress, there will be no court in the Northern Mariana Islands to hear serious criminal and important civil cases, arising under local law. Moreover, there would be no court to hear cases involving Federal questions or Federal crimes, and there would be no appellate tribunal.

Consequently, the committee recognized "the urgent need for enactment of S. 2149 in this session of the Congress and, therefore, the committee reports the bill favorably with a recommendation that it do pass." The legislation did pass the Senate on October 13, 1977, and the House on October 25. President Carter signed the bill on November 8 of that year.

In addition to establishing a judgeship for the court and assigning it to the same judicial circuit as Guam (which, at present, is the Ninth Circuit), the legislation also authorized the President to appoint a U.S. attorney and a marshal for the Northern Mariana Islands. The legislation also granted the court the same jurisdiction as a U.S. district court (i.e., district courts authorized under Article III of the Constitution). The Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit was empowered to assign certain persons "to serve temporarily as a judge in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands whenever such an assignment is necessary for the proper dispatch of the business of the court."

Quickly, the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit did assign three senior federal judges and the new Northern Mariana Islands District Court received its first case filings on January 9, 1978. Quickly, too, President Jimmy Carter nominated Alfred Laureta, who hailed from Hawaii, to be the district judge. He was confirmed by the Senate on May 17, 1978.

The new courthouse and federal office building we are celebrating today is a far cry from quarters that Judge Laureta confronted,

when he arrived on the island of Saipan in the Marianas in August of 1978. "The Court convened in a poolside suite at the Saipan Beach Intercontinental Inn in the village of Garapan. The district judge's law clerk's office was ten yards from the Intercontinental swimming pool and thirty yards from the beach. The courtroom itself was set up at the end of the banquet room, which could be closed off from the rest of the room and then opened for jury trials," according to the research of Ms. Guiao-Seng.

Mr. Howard K.K. Luke, Judge Laureta's law clerk, recalled this scene when he and the judge first arrived:

Saipan had just had the heaviest rainfall in recent recorded history. The first thing we saw upon arriving at the Saipan Intercontinental Inn was a car that was mostly underwater. The District Court was in a small room that had been hastily repaired, as it was heavily damaged from a fire from the kitchen area next to it not long before our arrival. We found a metal desk that served as the federal bench for the next several months.

Despite these less than imposing circumstances, the court got to work. And for the next eight years, the District Court heard both federal cases and the most serious local cases, including criminal cases with penalties of five years imprisonment or more and civil cases dealing with amounts in controversy of over \$5,000. All jury trials also fell under the jurisdiction of the District Court.

As Ms. Guiao-Seng recounts, the Federal District Court also served as the appellate court for the Commonwealth Trial Court. "Cases appealed from [the Trial Court] were heard by a panel of three judges on the 'Appellate Division' of the District Court. The panel included the U.S. district judge for the NMI, a judge of the Commonwealth Trial Court, and another federal district judge assigned by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The opinions rendered by this appellate arm of the District Court for the [Northern Mariana Islands] were appealable to the Ninth Circuit."

The federal government also had begun negotiations for a more appropriate setting in which the District Court could convene. In 1981, after three makeshift years at the hotel, space was rented at the newly opened Nauru Building, a seven-story commercial venture of the Republic of Nauru, to accommodate the needs of the federal court, including a small courtroom, library, judge's chambers, and staff offices.

Judge Laureta's 10-year term ended in 1988 at which time President Ronald Reagan nominated Alex R. Munson to be District Court judge for the Northern Mariana Islands. Judge Munson was familiar with the region having served as the Chief Judge for the High Court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which encompassed the Marianas as well as Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and the Marshall Islands. Munson also initiated a relocation of the court to more spacious accommodations in the Horiguchi Building. The courtroom was located on the ground floor, the Clerk's Office and Judge's Chambers on the second floor, and a grand jury room on the third floor.

Within ten years, however, this space, too, proved inadequate. "In the wake of the 1998 Oklahoma City federal courthouse bombing, a Federal Assessment Board determined that

the courtroom in the Horiguchi Building was the least safe courthouse in the nation," Ms. Guiao-Seng reports. As a result, the General Services Administration decided to build a new federal building in Saipan, but Congress balked at the cost.

Not until 2010, when a drunk driver veered off the road and crashed a 16-passenger van into the Horiguchi Building courtroom, did the federal government agree that a more secure facility was required. Yet seven more years passed before the General Services Administration finally contracted with the Marianas Management Corporation on a construct/lease arrangement for a new federal court building. Construction dragged out in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and during the COVID-19 pandemic; but in early 2020 the District Court began its move to the new courthouse. The first judicial proceeding there took place on July 14, 2020. And this week we celebrate the official grand opening.

Throughout the last four decades, the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. judicial system have played a pivotal role in the life of our community. The case of *Commonwealth v. Atalig* established the right to a jury trial for defendants facing a substantial period of incarceration. *Wabul v. Villacrusis* let stand the land alienation restrictions in the Commonwealth Constitution. And the court presided over the conviction of a Lt. Governor on charges of corruption.

The court is also the venue for the swearing in of new U.S. citizens, a regular and inspirational event I have many times attended.

The federal court is a focal point of local pride, too. Though the first two judges were off-islanders, in 2011 President Barack Obama nominated Ramona V. Manglona, a person of Northern Marianas descent, to the bench; and the U.S. Senate confirmed her that year. It is my sincere hope that President Biden will acknowledge the exceptional work of Chief Judge Manglona and nominate her for a second, 10-year term.

In the meantime, I join Judge Manglona, her staff, and the members of the U.S. Pretrial and Probation Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Federal Protective Service in celebrating their new workspace.

As so many Americans individually did and our governmental and civil institutions, as well, the U.S. District Court made substantial adjustments in practice to continue functioning during the pandemic. In-person proceedings were discontinued, trials and grand jury sessions were held remotely. Eventually, however, and with the cautions we have become accustomed to—N95 masks and other personal protective equipment—the court was able to hold an in-person jury trial last year. In part, the 35,696 square-feet of space provided by the new Gualo Rai courthouse made the necessary social distancing feasible. The design is also forward-looking in its incorporation of innovative lighting and landscaping; and energy efficient fixtures and wastewater technologies are projected to realize future cost savings and conserve resources.

So, the grand opening celebration this week is more than just a ribbon cutting. It has the feel of a return to normalcy. It is a new normal, however, enhanced by a fine new facility ready to serve the cause of justice in the Northern Mariana Islands.

HONORING LES CLARK II ON HIS SELECTION AS KERN COUNTY FAIR PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 2022

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to honor Les Clark on his selection as the 2022 Kern County Fair Person of the Year. This significant achievement builds upon Les' incredible legacy of 50 years of community service, which has been recognized by the City of Taft, the Kern County Board of Supervisors, and the State of California.

Nearly five years ago, Congressman DAVID VALADAO and I rose to recognize and pay tribute to Les on his retirement as Executive Vice President of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency after 37 years of dedicated service to hardworking local oil producers. In that statement, we spoke to Les' character, drive, knowledge of the Kern oil patch, and vision for our community. And most importantly, we attested to his life of service, which has never stopped, even after his official retirement. That is why Congressman VALADAO and I are proud to see Les being honored at this year's Kern County Fair.

Dating back to 1916, the Kern County Fair has a rich history that cuts across generations and brings Californians together to celebrate all Kern County has to offer. During the 12 days of festivities, community members have the opportunity to play carnival games, eat barbeque, and listen to lively music, including the famous "Bakersfield Sound." It is also where our next generation of agricultural producers exhibit a variety of their livestock showings, demonstrating their husbandry skills. With Les being recognized as Person of the Year at this year's fair, his name will forever be tied to the Kern County Fair's rich history and all that it represents in our community and across the Central Valley.

On behalf of the 23rd and 21st Congressional Districts of California, Congressman VALADAO and I would like to thank Les for the impact he has made and continues to make on countless individuals, both professionally and privately, and congratulate him on receiving this special recognition. We wish him and his family, including his wife, June, two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, son "Little Les," ten grandchildren, Arizona, Ayana, Cash, Darius, Easton, Keylan, Logun, Sierra, Tanisha, and Willow, and six great grandchildren, Zaria, Ivy, Koast, River, Luka, and Kaisley the very best as they celebrate at this year's fair.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RITZ THEATER'S 115TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Ritz Theater on its 115th anniversary. The occasion was marked with a ribbon cutting, birthday cake, and historic tour on September 2, 2022.

In 1906, Italian immigrant and talented wax modeler S.Z. Poli built the Ritz Theater—then called the Poli—for \$250,000. The grand theater could seat more than 2,000 theatergoers in its orchestra, balcony, and second story balcony. On Labor Day 1907, the theater opened its doors as Scranton's premier vaudeville theater and attracted some of the biggest names in the industry including Harry Houdini, W.C. Fields, and Will Rogers. News stories from the time reported a young Buster Keaton tended bar across the street in between performances. The reputation of the theater and the superstars who performed on its stage sparked the popular saying "if you can play Scranton, you can play anywhere."

On October 6, 1930, the theater began screening films and was rebranded as the Ritz Theater. In 1937, the theater was remodeled in the Art Deco style; the second story balcony was removed; and it was again renamed and became the Comerford Theater. By 1941, the theater was managed by the legendary Paramount Pictures, Inc. through their subsidiary, Frank Walker. The theater was once again remodeled, and on May 5, 1950, the theater reopened with a screening of *Paid in Full* which starred Scranton's own Elizabeth Scott.

Over the next several decades, the theater thrived, drawing crowds of moviegoers downtown, but when the theater began to struggle financially, the main floor was converted into a mini mall in 1978 with the theater operations relocating to the former balcony. As competition from two multiplexes continued to mount, the Ritz shifted to showing short-run movies, and in July 2000, "U-571" was the last film shown before the theater closed.

In the early 2000s, the building was purchased, and the buyer found many of the treasures of the theater's heyday still intact. In 2016, the Creative and Performing Arts Academy of NEPA, an arts program for kids, teens, and adults, took up residence in the Ritz. Today, more than 300 students attend classes in music, theater, and dance and participate in more than 24 annual productions. The Ritz also houses the Ritz Mainstage Players, a semi-professional, audition-based company that performs musicals and plays.

Through triumphs and challenges, the Ritz Theater has been a beacon for the arts in downtown Scranton for more than a century, and I admire the ingenuity and determination it took to preserve its legacy. I am honored to join with everyone at the Ritz Theater to celebrate their 115th anniversary. May they continue to find great success and welcome audiences through their doors for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE

### HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I recognize Sojourner Truth House as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, Sojourner Truth House will celebrate with a special event taking place on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

Sojourner Truth House, located in Gary, Indiana, is a ministry organization sponsored by Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ which provides shelter, support, and hope for homeless and at-risk women and children. The compassionate employees and volunteers at Sojourner Truth House assist and encourage their clients to regain their dignity and sense of purpose for themselves, their children, and their communities. The organization is dedicated to its mission which includes an emphasis on dignity and respect for all, strength in diversity and inclusion, and fostering a safe environment for its clients to identify and overcome the barriers in their lives. In addition, the organization is proud to provide numerous programs that have been immensely successful and provide clients with access to resources, classes, counseling, and various activities aimed at healing the mind, body, and spirit. For its noteworthy and lifelong positive impact on the community of Gary and the entirety of Northwest Indiana, Sojourner Truth House is worthy of the highest praise.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize some of the inspiring leaders in Northwest Indiana who have worked with Sojourner Truth House to bring about impactful change and to inspire the community. They include Sister Joan Fisher, PHJC, Sister Peg Spindler, CSA, Executive Director Angela Paul, Chairperson Scott Yahne, Vice-Chairperson Michael Gluszewski, Treasurer Sharon Morales, Secretary Greg Lee and other current members of the Board of Directors: Tai Adkins, Jodi Allen, Leo Barron, LaToya DuBose, Sister Annemarie Kampwerth, PHJC, Rozanne Morton, Margaret Tarchala, and Candace Williams.

I am also grateful for the sponsorship of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, and for the grant partnerships, organizations, friends, and community groups who work tirelessly to support this incredible organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Sojourner Truth House on its 25th anniversary. For the past 25 years, the staff and leadership have touched the lives of countless individuals through their unwavering commitment to those in need. The ministry is a beacon of hope for so many and serves as an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SINCLAIR LODGE

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2022*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Sinclair Lodge No. 154 of Ancient Free Masons in West Columbia, South Carolina.

The Sinclair Lodge was organized on November 1, 1869, with 20 members, and through continued growth still maintains true to the vision statement of being men of faith, morality, and perseverance.

The Sinclair Lodge exemplifies greatness, taking good men and teaching them to be better men. The organization also demonstrates outstanding generosity through their support of various charities. Among these include academic scholarships to local high schools and even the Special Olympics of South Carolina.