

projects that prioritized the well-being of residents in the Central Valley. In 2018, Mr. Bowers joined Centric Healthcare, where he currently serves as the Vice President of Public Relations and Government Affairs. Over his career, Mr. Bowers has been incredibly involved in our community, including sitting on the boards of the Alzheimer's Association, Kern Health Systems, and the Kern Law Enforcement Foundation. He was also the Chairman of the Board of the Housing Authority of the County of Kern and helped the agency raise over \$500,000 for the supportive living program, which provides low-income families in Kern County with the opportunity to become first-time home buyers. This year, Mr. Bowers was appointed Commissioner of the Kern County Civil Service Commission. Mr. Bowers has received numerous accolades recognizing his decades of service to the community. He has been recognized by the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Bakersfield Life Magazine, California Teachers Association, and other organizations for his decades of leadership, dedication, and advocacy for residents of Kern County.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mr. Michael Bowers as he is awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award and thanking him for his service to the people of the Central Valley.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF THE YEAR: TAMURI RICHARDSON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Tamuri Richardson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Tamuri is a dedicated and passionate leader and advocate who has touched the lives of countless members of the Solano County community. Tamuri is President of the Solano Black Chamber of Commerce where she works to support, uplift, and build Black businesses. Under her leadership, the chamber has expanded its membership, growing from 50 paid participants to over 700, established the first Fairfield Juneteenth festival, established a Business Entrepreneurship Academy providing mentorship to over 25 new businesses, and secured multiple grants to assist local small businesses. She has also led the way in building relationships between the Chamber and elected officials, allowing her to advocate effectively for the needs of businesses in her community.

Tamuri is also a business owner herself as President and CEO of TLeanne Speaking Pros. She is an international best-selling author, motivational speaker, and mental health advocate who is known for her strength and resiliency.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Tamuri Richardson for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING MARCELA RESTREPO FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Marcela Restrepo has been a professional in the construction industry for more than 24 years. She is the co-owner of SkyBuilders USA, general contractors, and co-founder of the nonprofit SkyBuilders 4 ALL.

Marcela has served on several boards through Orange County. She is the vice president of Casa de Mexico, a member of the Women Business Advisory Board in Seminole College, a former member of the BOD Neighborhood Grants Advisory Board in Orange County, and a former member of the BOD Community Development Advisory Board in Orange County.

Marcela advocates for minority-owned businesses. She vigorously promotes to get certification through seminars that she is invited to or through her foundation. Her company was awarded the Don Quijote award in 2022 by HCCMO. She was also recognized as Mujer de Impacto 2023 by Mujer Empeñe Latina.

Marcela loves her community. With SkyBuilders 4 ALL, she created a food pantry in one of Orlando's local schools and they provided food during the pandemic to families that were struggling. Her foundation also provides financial education to young kids and promotes reading.

Marcela also helps the community through space that the Mexican Consulate provides, with financial education for the Hispanic community six days a week at no cost. That program counts on about 20 allies, including banks, financial institutions, accountants, and realtors all working as volunteers.

Additionally, housing is a priority. With her foundation, she has been able to help people in the community improve their way of living. Giving back to the community is a must in her life because she wants to leave her children, Manuela, Pablo, David, and Ximena, and her grandson Valentino, a legacy of pride in their roots. She will continue serving as long as God lets her.

GEORGE CAPPUCIO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, in April, I had the pleasure of attending the Quilt of Valor Ceremony honoring George Cappuccio, a World War II Veteran who served our country as an artilleryman. During the war, he was stationed in Germany, France, and Italy and for each he can recount many harrowing tales. After the war, he moved back to Hamonton to care for his aging parents and has lived there ever since. During the 1950's, George and his brother started a local business called Capp's Greenhouse which was loved by many in the area. Throughout his life, George had a passion for music, giving trumpet and guitar lessons for years as well as a stint as a member of a

band. He shared this passion with his wife, Aggie, as the two of them taught dance lessons for members of their community. After celebrating his 102nd birthday this past February, George is now the oldest member of the American F.A. Funston Post 186.

I extend my utmost gratitude for George's service to this country and to his dedication to his South Jersey community. God Bless George Cappuccio, and God Bless our United States of America.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE KHOURY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I want to recognize the outstanding contributions of George Khoury, a community leader who proudly served as founding board member of ACCESS, a leading service organization in Michigan's 12th District, as we mourn his loss.

Mr. Khoury was born in Jerusalem, Palestine in 1942 and immigrated to the United States in 1961, eventually making his home in southeast Michigan. Mr. Khoury knew firsthand the challenges facing immigrants and new Americans. Through his strong connections to the Arab American community, Mr. Khoury came together with others who saw the need for an organization that would create a welcoming space, as well as connect people with critical human services, such as English as a Second Language classes, career training, and healthcare. George Khoury was incredibly proud of seeing his vision for community empowerment come to life and to see ACCESS thrive and grow in the services it offers.

In addition to his monumental work with ACCESS, Mr. Khoury served in leadership roles at a number of local and national organizations. He co-founded the Detroit chapter of Arab American University Graduates as well as the Organization of Arab Students (OAS) at Wayne State University. He was an active member of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee of Michigan.

Please join me in recognizing the legacy of George Khoury. He was an inspiration and a leader, whose loss is deeply felt.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS F. WILLIAMS

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of the life and legacy of Louis F. Williams, a distinguished Navy Veteran who passed away earlier this year. Lou was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, who proudly dedicated his life to serving our country in the United States Navy. During this difficult time, my thoughts and condolences are with the Williams family, including Lou's loving wife, Theresa, his children, Katherine Arsenault, Frederick Williams, and Patricia Berube, his 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Born in Warren, Pennsylvania, Lou enlisted in the Navy the year he graduated high school, selflessly serving as an Aviation structural Mechanic (Hydraulic) Petty Officer 3rd Class. After his honorable discharge, Lou dedicated 35 years as a machinist foreman for the Wakefield Corp. in Wakefield, Massachusetts. Always one to pursue his passions, Lou turned his hobby for maple sugaring during his retirement into a full-fledged product, Williams Bros. Maple Syrup. In their golden years, given the importance of family to the couple, Lou and Theresa moved to Fremont, New Hampshire to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Lou loved to share stories of his cherished childhood memories on the family farm, learning to shoot and fish, and continued this passion throughout his life.

Lou will be fondly remembered by the communities he touched and those he loved for years to come. His legacy of service, connection, and family will continue to inspire others. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I would once again like to extend my condolences to the Williams family and wish them all the very best in this time of grieving.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: MAYOR PRO TEM-
PORE TANISHA WALKER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mayor Pro Tempore Tanisha Walker as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Tanisha is a dedicated and passionate leader who has touched the lives of countless members in her community. Tanisha proudly represents her home as Mayor Pro Tempore of Antioch while simultaneously working as Executive Director of the Safe Return Project. Since joining the Antioch City Council in 2020, Tanisha has played an instrumental role in creating city programs to reduce gun violence, reduce oil and gas projects in her city, and implement a rent stabilization program to benefit those who are currently unhoused. Tanisha has also demonstrated a commitment to protecting formerly incarcerated individuals by helping found the Safe Return Project. Throughout her time with the organization, Tanisha has helped thousands of residents of Contra Costa County effectively transition out of the prison system and into meaningful and successful lives. Tanisha's unwavering devotion to her community is clearly shown through her outstanding leadership on the Antioch City Council and her unyielding dedication to protecting those impacted by the criminal justice system.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Tanisha Walker for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING LIZZETTE MARRERO
FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Lizzette Marrero was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, where her passion for education was deeply influenced by her parents' dedication to teaching as well as her maternal grandmother. She graduated from la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras, with a bachelor's degree in secondary education, majoring in Spanish. In 1987, she became a Spanish teacher at a local Catholic school while pursuing a master's degree in curriculum and teaching, specializing in Hispanic studies.

Upon graduation, Marrero welcomed her first child, prompting a challenging decision to relocate with her family to Central Florida. Carrying her dreams, faith, and a profound sadness for leaving her homeland in a suitcase, she embraced this new chapter alongside her soulmate, Marcos Barreiro. As her family expanded with the addition of two more children, she adapted to a new culture, language, and community where Christmas lasted only two weeks.

In 1997, Marrero joined the Osceola County School District as a substitute teacher and was soon hired as a fifth-grade teacher at Boggy Creek Elementary School. The following year, she was appointed as a Spanish teacher, dedicating her professional life to her passion: the Spanish language, Hispanic literature, and Hispanic culture.

Marrero was among the original educators who established the Osceola County School for the Arts in 2003. Over the past 20 years at OCSA, she has excelled in nurturing a deep love for learning and culture in her students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Collaborating with her exceptional students, Marrero created and directed a vibrant Hispanic Heritage Festival that has captivated audiences for seventeen years at the Osceola Performing Arts Center. She also served on the Affirmative Action Committee in Osceola County, where she contributed to funding scholarships for graduate programs for fellow teachers in the county. Furthermore, she initiated and sponsored the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica: Capítulo Jorge Ramos and has guided students to compete at the Florida State Spanish Conference since 2007, achieving numerous awards.

Marrero's dedication to teaching AP Spanish Language and Culture has recently led her to become an AP Reader and Table Leader for the College Board. She firmly believes that setting high expectations paves the way to success and that it is an honor to be a Spanish teacher for so many wonderful humans.

DYLAN BRANCA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, this April, I had the opportunity to attend Dylan Branca's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Dylan

joined the Boy Scouts in the fifth grade and shortly after achieved the Arrow of Light, the highest honor in Cub Scouts. Once he crossed over into the Boy Scouts, he hit the ground running with his troop, embarking on many adventures such as hiking Mount Washington and Tuckerman's Ravine. One of his most memorable adventures was the twelve-day trip to Philmont Scout Reserve in New Mexico, where Dylan had the opportunity to serve as their "Leave No Trace" Guide. For Dylan's Eagle Scout project, he planted lavender in the fields at Reed's farm in Egg Harbor Township. This lavender is now being used to produce different products such as soaps and oils while the fields are simultaneously serving as the location for community yoga classes. Dylan currently studies environmental science at Cedar Creek High School in the Magnet Program while simultaneously earning college credit.

It was a pleasure to attend Dylan's Eagle Scout Court of honor and he should be proud of his scouting achievements. God Bless Dylan, and God Bless our United States of America.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
JOHN GOJMERAC FOR HELPING
TO LIBERATE FRANCE DURING
WORLD WAR II

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize John Gojmerac, an American World War II war hero, who will be receiving the highest French military honor, the National Order of the Legion of Honor, for his service in liberating France during World War II.

John Gojmerac was born in Croatia and he and his family moved to the United States when World War II broke out for fear that their home had become unsafe. Drafted into the Army in 1943, John was required to serve as a field telephone installer, first scout, and combat infantryman. Over the course of World War II, John nearly died three times. During his recovery from surgery after a nearby mortar shell explosion sent shrapnel into his shoulder, the war in Europe finally ended. After a long and hard-fought war, John was able to come home to the United States where he would later marry his wife, Jean Gojmerac (née Roberts), and settle down in Tonawanda, New York.

For his service, John Gojmerac received a Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and several other medals for saving lives during the key battles of World War II. During his time in the Army, John fought throughout France, Italy, and Germany. At 99 years of age, John will finally be receiving the Legion of Honor Medal from the French government for his part in the liberation of France.

I want to invite all present to join me in thanking John Gojmerac for his service to both the United States and France and congratulate him on receiving the recognition that he deserves.