

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.

RECOGNIZING LUIS MOLINA-
BARRAZA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Luis Molina-Barraza of Westminster, Colorado for receiving the United States Department of State Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. As part of this prestigious honor, Luis traveled to Morocco to study abroad.

U.S. Study Abroad programs are an important component of the federal government's efforts to ensure Americans of all backgrounds have the opportunity to gain global experiences and work across our borders to help address our world's greatest challenges. The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship provides exceptional undergraduate students with the opportunity to expand their cultural proficiencies, study critical need languages, and conduct STEM research. The scholarship has empowered over 41,000 individuals with financial need to engage in people-to-people diplomacy and prepare for distinguished careers in public service.

I commend Luis for pursuing an exemplary international education and representing America abroad as a citizen ambassador. This scholarship rightly recognizes a commitment to academic excellence. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is a privilege to recognize Luis' many accomplishments.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: TARA BEASLEY-
STANSBERRY

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 Tara Beasley-Stansberry as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Tara is a dedicated public servant, community leader, and businesswoman who has touched the lives of countless members of her community. Tara holds leadership positions in a variety of local organizations including the City of Vallejo's Planning Commission, Housing First Solano, Black Women Organized for Political Action, the Veterans Resource Program, the Vallejo Police Department's Chief Advisory Board, and the Vallejo Center for the Arts. She is also the co-founder and CEO of the local restaurant, Noonie's Place, that partnered with the Small Business Development Center to feed hundreds of essential workers, first responders, and unhoused individuals. She also worked with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to develop a revolving loan fund program to benefit small businesses in Vallejo. Tara is known to be a fierce advocate for underserved communities and has continuously demonstrated her dedication to uplifting people throughout Solano County.

On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to

honor and recognize Tara Beasley-Stansberry for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING CAROLINA WASSMER
FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Carolina Wassmer is a civic engagement specialist with over a decade of experience. Born and raised in Orlando, Carolina is the daughter of two immigrants who taught her the importance of education and hard work. Carolina received her master's degree in business administration from Herzing University and her bachelor's degree in political science with a focus on international relations from the University of Central Florida. She also has an associate degree from Valencia College. She has dedicated her career to serving Central Florida.

Carolina currently serves as the Florida state program director for Poder Latinx. Her diligent work is seen across Florida's Ninth Congressional District as well as throughout the state of Florida through her leadership on civic engagement and advocacy efforts around economic, environmental, and immigrant justice in the Latinx community. She previously served as a civic engagement specialist at UnidosUS, running Florida's largest Hispanic voter registration program in 2020. In 2018, she organized political efforts in Florida's Seventh Congressional District. In 2016, Carolina worked as a civic engagement coordinator with the Hispanic Federation, where she developed and implemented their first Central Florida-based voter registration program.

Carolina has dedicated her career to increasing Latinx participation in the American political process by expanding the electorate and empowering Latinos. Her passion is focused on developing and maintaining strong relationships with allies, stakeholders, and policymakers at both grassroots and grassstops levels. Carolina sees herself building the next generation of Latinx leaders to continue spreading the message of the importance of turning out on Election Day and showing up for the community every day.

DINO-BOTS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I want to honor the achievements of the Dino-bots, a robotics team who developed a system nicknamed "The Coolinator". The Dino-bots recognized that thermo-electric plants require cooling to operate safely and efficiently, but the water used for cooling is returned to its source fifteen degrees warmer than before. They proposed an idea that nuclear power plants using a once-through cooling system build a pipe system that allows the water to journey twenty feet underground where a heat transfer will take place, resulting in a 7.5 de-

gree Fahrenheit cooling on the water exiting the thermo-electric plants back to its source. After consulting with a scientist from NOAA, it was concluded that this proposal would improve biodiversity and result in a major positive impact. The Dino-bots developed this idea while participating in the annual robotics competition hosted by First Lego League and were selected to move on to the Mid Atlantic Innovation Project Competition. The Dino-bots are actively searching for energy solutions for our Nation, and I am very proud of them for all their accomplishments. God Bless the Dino-bots, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF
THE YEAR: SENATOR NANCY
SKINNER

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 Senator Nancy Skinner as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Nancy's public service began as a student when she was elected to the Berkeley City Council. She was a co-founder of the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives—Local Governments for Sustainability and remains a clean energy and climate change trailblazer. She was the U.S. director of The Climate Group, an international nonprofit organization that works with both private and public sector leaders to address climate change. She also served on the board for the East Bay Regional Park District and was involved with the East Bay Women's Political Caucus supporting women running for elected office. In 2008, Nancy was elected to the California State Assembly where she represented the 15th Assembly District for three terms. Elected in 2016, Nancy now represents the people of California's 9th State Senatorial District. She is chair of the Senate's Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and the California Legislative Women's Caucus. Throughout her years in public office, Nancy has authored and supported bills addressing social justice, climate change, education, gun violence, and countless other critical issues.

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

HONORING CARLOS ACUÑA FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 13, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Carlos Acuña, a Colombian by birth, is a seasoned attorney with 15 years of legal experience who has made a significant impact on the Hispanic community in Orlando, Florida. As the founder and director of Acuña-Araujo