

Law, he has been an unwavering source of support for his community.

A decade ago, Carlos chose Orlando as his home and established Acuña-Araujo Law, with a clear mission: to assist the Colombian and Hispanic communities. His firm has become a beacon of hope, enabling community members to address legal matters in Colombia without the need for travel. His passionate commitment to defending the rights and well-being of his clients has earned him their trust.

Carlos Acuña also serves as the president of the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce in Orlando. Under his leadership, the organization has worked tirelessly to strengthen trade and cultural ties between Colombia and the United States in the region. He has promoted business collaboration and economic growth, benefiting Colombian and American entrepreneurs alike.

In addition to his achievements in the legal and business fields, Carlos has dedicated himself to serving the Hispanic community in Orlando during his 10-year tenure in the city. He has offered free legal advice to those facing challenges, demonstrating his commitment to social justice and support for those in need.

His passion for the community and dedication to justice have made him an exemplary community leader. Carlos not only works within the Chamber of Commerce but also actively engages in activities that promote Colombian and Hispanic culture in Orlando, proudly sharing the richness of his heritage.

In summary, Carlos Acuña is a Colombian attorney with an outstanding legal career and a deep commitment to the Hispanic community in Orlando, Florida. His leadership in the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce, his passion for justice, and his solidarity with the community make him a role model and tireless advocate for the rights and well-being of those around him. His legacy will endure as a beacon of hope and support in Central Florida.

DIANNE GOVE

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my pleasure to recognize and honor the illustrious career of Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove who has dedicated her life to serving our South Jersey community. DiAnne's journey began with a strong educational foundation. After graduating from Southern Regional High School, she pursued her passion for teaching, earning degrees in Social Science from Cabrini University and Monmouth University. For an impressive 32 years, she dedicated herself to educating and inspiring students, and her exceptional commitment earned her the well-deserved distinction of High School Teacher of the Year in 1992.

In 1984, DiAnne was appointed to complete the term of a former Commissioner in Long Beach Township. Her dedication and leadership were evident, as she was elected to a full term the following year. DiAnne has also served in various community roles, including

as an Eucharistic Minister and Lector at St. Francis parish and as a board member of the Southern Ocean County Hospital and the Ocean County Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. In 2003, DiAnne was called upon once again to serve her community, filling a vacancy as Mayor and Commissioner. She was subsequently elected to a fall term and served as President of the Ocean County Mayor's Association. In 2009, DiAnne's commitment to public service led her to the General Assembly, where she was selected to fill a vacant seat, and was reelected many times since. She is a champion of veteran's issues and she authored the "Veterans' Business Assistance Act," a bill that supports veteran-owned businesses that was signed into law in 2011. Because of her dedication, she has been recognized with awards such as the Southern Ocean County Women of Achievement award and the VFW Legislator of the Year.

I thank her for her lifelong commitment and service to her community and to the people of South Jersey. God Bless Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove, and God Bless our United States of America.

### CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAMPA DIVISION OF VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to congratulate the nationally renowned Tampa division of Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and the Veteran Mentor Program on their 10th anniversary. It is my honor to express my deep appreciation for this incredible milestone and for the impact that this team of mentors, judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys continues to have on helping veterans to recover from challenging times and the criminal justice system.

Started in 2013 by retired U.S. Army Colonel DJ Reyes, the Tampa VTC was formed to approach and mitigate the gap on many veteran requirements and needs often unavailable by the courts, local government or community services. Furthermore, the initiative seeks to build a platform to support, advocate and train veterans who find themselves in trouble with the law due to substance abuse disorders or conditions incurred during military service.

The Tampa VTC launched with six veterans and one mentor. Limited to about 25 veterans at any time and created with existing resources without additional funding from the county, state or federal government. The Tampa VTC soon overcame adversities, such as no additional funding or staff, to provide support to this vulnerable community. The initiative established strong roots and the trust of the community grew. It now operates with a consistent budget and small judiciary support staff. I am proud of the more than 900 veterans who graduated over the last 10 years and of Tampa VTC's graduation rate of 88 to 92 percent, making it one of the most suc-

cessful among the 623 divisions throughout the Nation. Even after the COVID-19 pandemic and other legal procedure issues, when numbers decreased, 50 mentors are actively serving and around 60 veteran defendants are on the docket. In addition, with the passage of the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act, the Tampa VTC was able to access grants and technical assistance from the Department of Justice.

I would also like to honor two Tampa Bay veteran leaders for their unwavering dedication to serving our community: Retired U.S. Army Colonel DJ Reyes and the Honorable Judge Michael J. Scionti. Colonel Reyes and his contributions, commitment and invaluable work with the Tampa VTC have shined light in the life of many of my neighbors. Judge Scionti, a highly decorated military officer and advocate for this vulnerable community, brings his own military experience to the bench to help address the unique challenges that our veteran community faces with a fair and impartial administration of justice. I am proud to have Colonel Reyes and Judge Scionti as allies in our commitment to improving the quality of life for those who sacrificed so much for our country. They exemplify the spirit of public service and represent the best of Florida.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to the service of the Tampa division of Veteran Treatment Court and its passionate leader, Colonel DJ Reyes, for their meaningful contributions to ensure no veteran is left behind. I want to congratulate this courageous organization on its 10th anniversary of public service and offer my sincerest wishes to their future.

### COMMEMORATING TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE BELL ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTEX

### HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to commemorate the extraordinary service of Texas State Representative Gregory Keith Bell from Forney, Texas, and his company, Intex Electrical Contractors, founded in 1983 when Mr. Bell was the young age of twenty-one. Rep. Bell continues to serve as President and CEO of Intex, working with an outstanding leadership team.

Due to the extraordinary effort of Rep. Bell, Intex is celebrating its 40th anniversary serving the Metroplex. The company has received numerous awards for its excellent work and has been recognized as one of the top one hundred fastest-growing private companies in North Texas. The leadership team brings over two hundred years of industry experience. Intex is a Certified Minority Business Enterprise and was ranked Top Specialty Contractor in 2005. I am proud to represent Rep. Bell, his family, and the team at Intex in Washington, and I am proud he represents my family and me in Austin.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: PIPPIN DEW

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

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

Pippin has been a realtor in the North and East Bay Areas for the last 16 years where she has gotten to know the needs of her community. She is currently President of Vallejo Main Street, an organization aimed at revitalizing the downtown area. She is President Elect of the Solano Association of Realtors and serves on the Executive Board for the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce as Chair of the Government Affairs Committee. She also served as a member of the Vallejo City Council for 9 years and is a past president of the North Bay Division for the League of California Cities. During her time on the city council, some of her many proud accomplishments included the creation of an early learning center in southern Vallejo and the creation of the first family service center of its kind in Solano County. In 2023, Pippin was appointed by Governor Newsom to the board of directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority where she helps ensure the community's continued access to a robust ferry service. Pippin is known for the dedication and enthusiasm she brings to public service and her unwavering support for the Vallejo community.

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

HONORING YIMELDA A. GOSHEA  
MARTINEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE  
MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, Yimelda A. Goshea Martinez was born in the Dominican Republic. She immigrated to the United States in 1992 and has lived in Central Florida for the past 24 years. Her life has been defined by a deep commitment to community service, faith, and education and she has dedicated herself to making a positive impact on her community. As a founding member of the Osceola Latin Lions Club, she has played a pivotal role in organizing numerous charitable events, from fundraising for vision care programs to volunteering at local food drives.

Her devotion to her faith is equally inspiring. For several years, she has been an active volunteer at Holy Cross Catholic Church, leading children's ministry and dedicating her time and energy to various programs and community initiatives. This includes volunteer work in the local school district helping new Spanish-speaking migrant children acclimate to the United States.

One of Yimelda's most notable achievements is her involvement with "Help Now" in Kissimmee, Florida. As a volunteer, she has helped advance the nonprofit's mission to assist individuals and families facing adversity by providing essential resources including food, clothing, and shelter, and ensuring that people receive the assistance they desperately need.

In addition to her community involvement, Yimelda graduated from Ana G. Mendez University in June of 2023, where she pursued a degree in social work. Her education has equipped her with the knowledge and skills needed to make an even greater impact on her community.

Whether it's helping to organize youth events, providing support to elderly members, or organizing supply drives to send back to needy families in the Dominican Republic, Yimelda's faith-driven service has touched the lives of many Central Floridians. Her life story is a testament to the power of compassion, dedication, and education. Her work with the Lions Club, her service to her church, and her contributions to "Help Now" demonstrate her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others.

Yimelda has been a real estate agent for 25 years and now does clinical social work. She lives in Central Florida with her beloved husband and three cherished children.

DANIELLE HONG

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today is my honor to bring attention to the courage and strength of Danielle Hong, a woman who fights to bring awareness to Tracheal Bronchial Malacia. At the age of 18, she was diagnosed with asthma after she noticed her lung capacity was quickly deteriorating. After a series of tests and treatment, her condition only seemed to get worse. It wasn't until she visited the professionals at South Jersey Chest Diseases in Hammonton, South Jersey did they discover that she was misdiagnosed. Her illness, Tracheal Bronchial Malacia is commonly mistaken for asthma and because of this, often goes untreated. Following proper treatment, Danielle now has zero airway collapse. Danielle fights every day to bring attention to this pressing medical condition, so others don't have to suffer as she did. Now, she works at a local hospital in South Jersey and continues to educate and bring awareness to our South Jersey community.

I thank her for her public service and dedication to this important issue. God Bless Danielle Hong, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING WHITE CANE  
AWARENESS DAY

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize White Cane Awareness Day.

White Cane Awareness Day, celebrated annually on October 15th, serves as a powerful reminder of the significance and empowerment that the white cane symbolizes for individuals with visual impairments. This day raises needed awareness of the challenges faced by the blind and visually impaired community, while also highlighting their remarkable achievements and contributions to our society.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing White Cane Awareness Day and honor the achievements of individuals who inspire us with their resilience, their strength, and their spirit.

RECOGNIZING BOBETTE FRANKLIN

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 13, 2023*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor Bobette Franklin upon her retirement from a 29-year career in the United States Congress assisting Kentuckians with the federal government processes.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Bobette, a Bowling Green native, over 30 years ago. As a staff member for my predecessor, she developed a passion for advocating for Kentuckians who had challenges with federal agencies and quickly gained the respect of many in Kentucky's Second District, especially among veterans and their families. When I was sworn in, I knew it was critical to keep her enthusiasm, knowledge, and earned constituent trust on my team. Two years later, Bobette departed my office to become Director of Constituent Services for Senator RAND PAUL, which allowed her to share her passion for public service across the Commonwealth.

In November, Bobette will be retiring after nearly three decades of service to Kentuckians. I offer my deepest gratitude to Bobette for her service and wish her happiness as she spends her retirement with her husband, Steven, and her son Noah.

HONORING THE 2023 WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR: MAYOR PRO TEM  
PRINCESS WASHINGTON

**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 Tem Princess Washington as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year.

Princess is a member of Suisun City's City Council and their youngest ever Mayor Pro Tem. She is known by many as a leader, artist, and passionate advocate who has found countless ways to give back to her community. Professionally, Princess is a licensed Pharmacy Technician working for Kaiser Permanente as well as an accomplished playwright and documentarian. She is a dedicated advocate for preserving the arts, the environment, and local business. Princess currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Fairfield-Suisun Rotary Club where she was