

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF DIAMOND BAR'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the City of Diamond Bar.

Founded in 1989, Diamond Bar is celebrating 35 years of cityhood this April.

Like many Southern California communities, Diamond Bar's recorded history started with a Mexican land grant for ranching, this one covering Brea Canyon and the eastern Walnut Valley.

The Diamond Bar Ranch area eventually developed into a planned residential community. More than 50,000 of my constituents now call Diamond Bar home.

This San Gabriel Valley city set against a mountain backdrop offers a lot to its resident families and visitors, including beautiful parks like Summitridge, a wonderful public library, top-rated school districts, and public safety services.

I am very proud to represent Diamond Bar as part of California's 38th Congressional District.

Happy Birthday to the City of Diamond Bar.

RECOGNIZING DR. WAYNE TAYLOR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Dr. Wayne Taylor, recently retired General Practitioner and Wound Care Specialist. He has seen patients at CARES Senior Health Clinic for more than seven years. He is also a brilliant diagnostician who is generous in every way. His caring and patient demeanor helps put patients at ease and ensures they are treated with dignity at all times.

Dr. Taylor and his colleagues who volunteer to serve this vulnerable population are making a profound impact on the lives of the patients they serve. Each of these volunteers have servant hearts, and their dedication to our community is impressive. It is said that a society can be judged by how well it treats its most vulnerable citizens. These medical professionals go above and beyond to ensure none of the patients seeking help at CARES Senior Center fall through the cracks. It is clear that Dr. Wayne Taylor and his fellow volunteers have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

HONORING CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the longstanding orga-

nization, Connecticut Humanities. Connecticut Humanities is a nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which strengthens the country's identity through extending grants to humanities-focused institutions that serve the American public. Libraries, historical societies, and museums are just some of the various recipients of these grants. CT Humanities extends residents extensive access to learning materials that divulge the deep roots of Connecticut culture and history.

For the past fifty years, CT Humanities has championed literature, arts, and history across the state. Cultural institutions throughout the state have been both empowered to thrive and extended crucial lifelines by the organization's passionate and helpful staff and its programming that has been carefully curated to meet the needs of Connecticut's humanities community. Throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis, CT Humanities worked resolutely to ensure that cultural organizations were connected to relief efforts, such as funding from the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. In my district, the nonprofit, New London Landmarks, which works to preserve the buildings, neighborhoods and parks that embody the City's history, used this vital financial assistance to maintain access for the community to interact with rich art and history while responsibly navigating the pandemic. Countless similar organizations in every corner of Connecticut were buoyed by CT Humanities throughout this devastating time and are still standing today because of its steadfast support. As a History major during my college days at Tufts University, I particularly appreciate CT Humanities dedicated work to tell our state's incredible history through our schools, symposiums, and social media. Its "This Day in Connecticut History" social media campaign is a service I greatly enjoy.

Looking beyond its capable and rapid response to organizations in the throes of crisis since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, CT Humanities has spent decades tirelessly stewarding the nonprofit cultural sector and inviting Connecticut's communities to take part in its abundant offerings. Between July 2019 and December 2022, CT Humanities hosted over 7.3 million visitors through in-person, virtual, and PreK-12 education visits. Moreover, CT Humanities supports 56,000 jobs within the Connecticut cultural sector. Through its work we are reminded of not only the cultural and historical necessity of a robust humanities network, but also of the immense economic value. Access to culture is a necessary component in creating vibrant, exciting communities to both live and work in, and CT Humanities has worked since its inception to ensure that cultural institutions have a place in the economic conversation. Throughout the years CT Humanities has supported humanities organizations in all 169 Connecticut towns, playing an indispensable role in the preservation and prosperity of our state's history and culture.

For the past fifty years, Connecticut residents have experienced Connecticut Humanities dedication to connecting people and ideas. Citizens not only gain exposure to the experiences of others, but also see themselves and their own histories reflected in these programs. In turn, residents of Connecticut feel empowered and inclined to participate and invest in our communities, preserving this sense of shared identity and con-

necting us to cultural stories from Connecticut and beyond. Access to these cultural resources allows us to walk in others' footsteps, gaining an empathy and sense of history that is crucial to the success of our democracy. Thanks to Connecticut Humanities, diverse cultural education in our state is thriving and continues to break new ground, building upon Connecticut's storied cultural identity to encourage curiosity and understanding for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RICHARD FREEDMAN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Richard Freedman, a community icon and tremendous writer in the city of Vallejo. Mr. Freedman, who passed away at the age of 67, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to the City of Vallejo, the Vallejo Times-Herald, and the Solano County community.

Born and raised in Northern California, Mr. Freedman demonstrated his passion for writing from a young age. After earning his bachelor's degree from San Jose State University, Mr. Freedman started working at the Vallejo Times, beginning a lifelong career in writing and reporting.

For 27 years, Mr. Freedman worked for the Vallejo Times-Herald, capturing a cult following with his witty and captivating style of writing. While writing for the Vallejo Times-Herald he served as a reporter, wrote his own weekly column, and ultimately became the Herald's longtime community editor. In addition, Mr. Freedman oversaw the Vallejo Times-Herald's Community Christmas Card every year, helping raise nearly \$500,000 to help feed members of our community.

Mr. Freedman's critical work as a journalist earned him wide-spread recognition and cemented his position as a legend in the California journalism community. In 2009, he was awarded Journalist of the Year by the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame, and in 2013 he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year by Theta Pi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Vallejo. His critical contributions made him a beacon of light within his community and brought joy and laughter to those around him.

Mr. Freedman will be remembered for his decades of service to the City of Vallejo and for the impact his life and writing had on our community. His enduring spirit will live on in his family and the community he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Freedman's loved ones. I know they and the people of California will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE VON VOIGTLANDER WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for serving the community for over 70 years. Touching countless lives over their storied history, their dedication and impact on the greater Michigan community is worthy of commendation.

Established as the University of Michigan Women's Hospital in 1950, the University of Michigan sought to provide world-class maternity and obstetrics services while opening a facility to teach nurses and medical students and support research dedicated to transforming care for all women. With their program philosophy based on multispecialty team care, the hospital provides well-rounded care for women, including midwifery, a family planning clinic, fetal diagnosis and therapy, and minimally invasive surgery. The hospital also conducts advanced research and treatment on comprehensive infertility services, BRCA gene mutations, and cervical, ovarian, and other women's cancers.

With nearly 90 expert physicians and over 133,000 patient visits per year, Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital delivers over 5,400 children and performs nearly 4,000 procedures each year. The hospital provides comprehensive and specialized treatment for women's health. Women face specific health challenges and the Von Voigtlander Hospital ensure that they have the best healthcare possible for their needs. One specific area of work is on endometriosis, a condition that impacts women only and is a chronic condition that can significantly reduce a woman's quality of life. The Hospital's commitment to excellence has helped Michigan Medicine achieve exceptional rankings among national medical programs each year and helped Michigan Medicine achieve the number one overall rank for hospitals in Michigan. Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital has been recognized as the No. 3 gynecology program in the Nation, the No. 1 gynecology department in the State of Michigan, and was awarded Magnet Status Designation in 2017. Only 6 percent of U.S. hospitals received the Magnet status Designation, which required organizations to meet rigorous standards for patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice. The hospital has also been recognized as a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

Providing world class medical care requires world class facilities. In 2011, the University of Michigan Women's Hospital became the Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital following a \$15 million gift from the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation. The program moved into a new state-of-the-art 12-story facility on the University of Michigan Medical Campus that is now home to both Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital and C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. The new facility is the length of two football fields, and at 1.1 million square feet, it has all the resources needed for the hospital to continue providing the best care for women possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital at the University of Michigan. For more than 70 years, the hospital has demonstrated all exceptional dedication to furthering the study and treatments for women's health while providing incredible care for women across the State of Michigan. We thank the physicians, nurses, and staff of Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital for their com-

mitment and service to their community. We need more hospitals dedicated to women's health research and treatment, and I am excited to see all that is accomplished at Michigan Medicine over the next 70 years.

RECOGNIZING LEE JOHNSON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Lee Johnson, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundred of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Lee Johnson and fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service.

COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF SONIA IRIS COLLAZO

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today commemorate the passing of Sonia Iris Collazo, a beloved matriarch, community advocate, and proud daughter of Puerto Rico. Sonia I. Collazo was born on February 23, 1948 in Orocovis, Puerto Rico to Alfredo Gonzalez and Adela Melendez de Gonzalez. She passed away in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 26, 2024.

Sonia's journey is one of strength and perseverance. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she learned the value of community and the power of education from an early age. After receiving her formal education in Orocovis, she attended the Universidad Interamericana de Puelto Rico—Bananquitas before moving to Philadelphia. Upon arriving in Philadelphia, she continued her education at Temple University and worked as a kindergarten teacher at Potter-Thomas School.

She also quickly became involved in her community, becoming one of the first employees at Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM), a Latino-based health, human services, community, and economic development non-profit organization serving the Philadelphia area. Sonia went on to have a long and respected career in the City of Philadelphia's Department of Human Relations, retiring after more than 26 years of service. She was a proud member of AFSCME District Council 47.

Her warmth and generosity have touched countless lives, bringing hope and encourage-

ment to those in need. Whether through volunteering, advocacy work, or simply lending a listening ear, Sonia's impact was felt far and wide. Sonia's advocacy extended beyond her immediate circle, as she was one of the lead organizers of the 'Walk for Peace,' an initiative that began in 1996 to address violence among young people. In retirement, Sonia volunteered much of her time at Congreso de Latinos Unidos retirees' program.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to serving others, we honor Sonia as a loving mother, community organizer, and champion of Puerto Rico. Her legacy inspires us all to strive for a more just, compassionate, and inclusive society.

COMMEMORATING THE WARSAW MASONIC LODGE'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Warsaw Masonic Lodge No. 73 F.&A.M in Warsaw, Indiana, as they prepare to celebrate their 175th anniversary on May 30, 2024.

Since its founding in 1849, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge has played an integral role in the Kosciusko County community. As a fraternal organization, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge is dedicated to the kind of values that all of us should espouse: respect for history, duty to country, a desire to serve others, and a commitment to forge a better future.

As the oldest institution still in existence in Warsaw, Indiana, the Warsaw Masonic Lodge has stood the test of time and made significant and long-lasting contributions to the social and cultural life of Warsaw and all of Kosciusko County.

This is above all a testament to quality of its members and the men who have walked through the Lodge's doors over the years. The Warsaw Masonic Lodge and organizations like it do much to contribute to the health of our communities in northern Indiana, and for that I am extremely grateful.

I join many other Hoosiers in wishing the Warsaw Masonic Lodge a very happy 175th anniversary and many more successful and active years ahead.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER REY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Jennifer Rey, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause- to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members