

commendable. I am more than honored to recognize him today and wish him nothing but the best for the future.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE
CARATAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Caratan on his retirement from the Board of Directors at the Delano Growers Grape Products. Mr. Caratan is a native of the Central Valley. From an early age, he learned the values of hard work and perseverance, spending his youth assisting his father with the family grape-growing business, Anton Caratan & Son in Delano. Mr. Caratan graduated from St. Mary's High School in Moraga Valley and then attended St. Mary's College. After his studies, he returned to the family business where he established his career in the agriculture industry. In 1940, Caratan & Son joined Delano Growers Grape Products (DGGP), a cooperative of grape farmers in the Central Valley. Mr. Caratan was selected as a board member of Delano Growers Grape Products in 1953. For 71 years, Mr. Caratan has helped lead Delano Growers Grape Products through the development of the grape growing business in the Central Valley, and his expertise and passion for the industry has been crucial to their success. Mr. Caratan's commitment to agricultural innovation was instrumental in the commercialization of two table grape varieties—rouge and blanc seedless grapes. Mr. Caratan has also dedicated his career to serving on several boards, including the Kern Tulare and Rag Gulch Water District, the California Fresh Fruit Association, and the American Slavonic Social Club. In 2014, Mr. Caratan received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the California Fresh Fruit Association in recognition of his significant contributions to the industry. The success of the Central Valley agriculture industry owes much to the dedication of our community's growers, and I want to thank Mr. Caratan for his commitment to innovative, high-quality and delicious grapes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Mr. George Caratan on his incredible career. His service to the Central Valley agriculture industry will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OLNEY
RESIDENT ERIC RINEHART

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eric Leroy Rinehart, an incredible public servant from Olney, Illinois. Eric was born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on February 19, 1953. After graduating from Flora High School, Eric chose to attend the University of Illinois, where he received his degree in mathematics. After college, Eric dedi-

cated his career to his community and worked for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

After retiring in 2005, Eric became dedicated to gardening, establishing gardens around the Springfield region. If you used to call the Illinois Extension Office about which vegetables grow the best in Central Illinois' climate, you'd be transferred to Eric. Eric's passions extended beyond gardening; he especially loved spending time with his family, Manchester City Football Club, Star Trek, and Science News Magazine.

As a computer programmer in the 1970s and an early adopter of the internet, he was constantly learning about and fascinated by the latest developments in the tech world. He enjoyed discussing science, engineering, physics, technology, and statistics with anyone.

Eric's greatest accomplishment, however, was his incredible family. Eric married his wife, Penny, in 1977 after meeting her at the University of Illinois. Penny and Eric had two sons, Jonathan and William, and two granddaughters Claudette and Camille. I will be keeping them in my prayers during this very difficult time. Eric's incredible life has left a lasting mark on his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all of those who call Central Illinois home.

HONORING 170 YEARS OF THE
INGHAM COUNTY FAIR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Ingham County Fair, a staple of the community and an annual celebration of the best Michigan has to offer.

The Ingham County Agricultural Society held the first Ingham County Fair in 1855 in Mason. It began as a "free street fair" held at the Court House Square and since then has had several different homes. In fact, the fair was so popular in its first year that the following year, the Agricultural Society purchased a four-acre plot of land in Vevay Township to host the annual event. The fair stayed there until 1871, when it once again needed to find a larger venue and was moved to a plot of land on the corner of Jefferson Street and Kipp Road. Finally, in 1930, the Ingham County Road Commission purchased the land off Ash Street in Mason, which remains the fairgrounds' home today.

Each year, the Ingham County Fair hosts a wide variety of activities that cater to a diverse range of interests. While some people may attend for the carnival rides, others spend all year preparing for the shows and competitions the fair hosts. For example, it partners with the Ingham County Junior Livestock Association to provide kids and young adults the opportunity to showcase their projects in areas of science, health, and agriculture. The fair also hosts animal auctions that give young people experience showing and selling livestock—skills that are becoming harder and harder to foster in an online world. Educational opportunities such as these are essential to our communities and are just one of the many reasons why the Ingham County Fair is so special.

In 2009, the Ingham County Fair Foundation was established to support and enhance the fairgrounds to serve agricultural, business, cultural, educational, recreational, urban and youth interests of Ingham County. Most recently, the Fair Foundation has focused on raising funds to build a new grandstand, which hosts widely-attended events including demolition derbies, truck and tractor pulls and mud drag racing. The first grandstand was constructed in 1939, providing covered seating for all events on the fairgrounds. Unfortunately, it was torn down in 2015 due to structural issues and since then, the Fairgrounds has rented portable seating solutions that do not meet the demand. To put it simply: the grandstand is the pulse of events at the fairgrounds, and this is why community members have come together to build a new one. I was happy to assist in that mission by securing \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding and I cannot wait to see the many ways it will serve as a place for folks across the state to come together to enjoy all that the Fairgrounds have to offer.

It is with great pride that I honor the Ingham County Fair's 170 years of providing enjoyment, education, and community. May the Fair continue to serve as a highlight of the summer for many more years to come.

HONORING CARLSBAD CAVERNS
NATIONAL PARK ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in Carlsbad, New Mexico. On October 25, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge took a momentous step by designating a remarkable natural wonder—what was then known as the Carlsbad Cave—as a National Monument. He described it as "a limestone cavern of extraordinary proportions and of unusual beauty and variety of natural decoration." This decision marked the beginning of a century-long journey that would captivate millions of visitors from around the world.

Nestled beneath the Chihuahuan Desert in southeastern New Mexico, this vast and stunning cave system has continued to enchant and inspire. Anyone who has been to Carlsbad Caverns understands how special it is—from watching the evening bat flight to descending more than 750 feet to reach the bottom, Carlsbad Caverns is a New Mexican treasure.

Furthermore, in 1995, Carlsbad Caverns received an extraordinary accolade when it was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This prestigious recognition not only celebrates the park's global significance but also ensures its protection and preservation for future generations.

The Caverns are also critical to the nearby community of Carlsbad, supporting the local economy as tourists from around the world travel our beautiful district to travel nearly 1000 feet underground to view this natural wonder. Over 500,000 people visit the Caverns each year, supporting hundreds of jobs in

hospitality, food service, and other tourism-related industries.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of the park rangers, park service employees and support staff who have worked to protect, conserve and maintain Carlsbad Caverns for the last century and for centuries to come.

Let us take a moment to celebrate Carlsbad Caverns National Park—not just as a site of state pride, but as a cherished national treasure.

**RECOGNIZING MICHELLE REIMERS
ON HER RETIREMENT AS THE
TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GENERAL MANAGER**

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Reimers, who recently retired as General Manager of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID).

TID was founded in 1887, making it the oldest irrigation district in California. Today, TID provides water from Don Pedro Reservoir to over 150,000 acres of farmland in Stanislaus and Merced counties through 250 miles of canals. It is one of only four irrigation districts in California that provide retail electricity to homes, farms, and businesses in its service territory.

Michelle was with TID for 18 years, starting with its public information operation, but through hard work and dedication to the District, she assumed various other leadership positions, culminating in becoming the first female General Manager in 2020. During her time leading the agency, she focused on transparency, collaboration, and commitment to its customers, but always prioritized ensuring that TID had water supplies to serve its communities, such as through creating new water rights for the District to capture flood flows on the Tuolumne River. In addition, under Michelle's leadership, TID electricity rates remained among the lowest in California, without wavering on reliability.

Just three months into her role as General Manager, Michelle successfully navigated the most challenging pandemic of our time. Additionally, she led TID through extreme weather conditions, including the third driest three year stretch on record and then one of the wettest winters in history, and through significant wildfires multiple years in a row all the while maintaining the reliability our community expects and deserves. Michelle was also a driving force in the long-term relicensing of the Don Pedro Project, a federally licensed water storage facility with hydroelectric energy generation on the Tuolumne River, with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Pragmatic and results oriented, Michelle would bring disparate groups together from the Environmental Defense Fund to the American Public Power Association to get the job done. While she encouraged collaboration, she never shied away from her main objective—to ensure our communities and farms had a reliable supply of water and power. And when she was not leading TID or representing the District in water-related negotiations, she

could be found growing walnuts and almonds on her farm.

Michelle was a tireless advocate of our community and farmers and always led with the customer in mind. She should be proud of all she accomplished while leading TID and, as she begins this new chapter in her life, I am confident she will continue to make positive impacts in our Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a woman whose professionalism, passion, and determination has benefited many of the water and power users of California's San Joaquin Valley. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Michelle Reimers on her retirement from the Turlock Irrigation District. I want to wish Michelle and her family all the best as she embarks on this new phase of life.

**REMEMBERING MUSIC LEGEND
JUAN JOSE "JOHNNY" CANALES**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the legacy of the legendary Juan Jose "Johnny" Canales, who passed away on June 12, 2024. Johnny was a cultural icon whose influence on the Latino community, particularly in South Texas, is uncontested. Beyond Johnny's beloved music and television host careers, he was a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless aspiring Hispanics and Latinos.

Canales was born in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and raised in Robstown, Texas. He's best remembered today for his groundbreaking bilingual variety show, The 'Johnny Canales Show.' This show began in 1983 in Corpus Christi and provided an unprecedented stage for Tejano and Latino artists when such opportunities were scarce. It became a vital part of the cultural fabric of South Texas and beyond, showcasing emerging talents and giving them a chance to shine.

Johnny's enthusiastic support of young artists helped launch numerous careers, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment within the Latino community. His catchphrase, "You got it! Take it away!" symbolized encouragement and empowerment. His show was more than entertainment; it celebrated Latino culture and identity.

Beyond his contributions to music, Johnny served in the Army and was an avid supporter of civil rights and veterans' issues. During his three years of active-duty service, he formed the foundation of his advocacy for the troops and veterans, a dedication that made him a cherished community figure.

Despite facing health challenges later in life, Johnny continued influencing and uplifting his community. Alongside his wife, Nora, he returned to television with "El Show de Johnny y Nora Canales," ensuring that the voices of Latino artists remained heard and celebrated.

Johnny is survived by his two daughters, Nora Seleste Canales and Miroslava Canales.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor and celebrate the life of Johnny Canales, a man who truly embodied the spirit of the Latino community and a pioneer who paved the way for future generations of artists.

**COMMEMORATING HIS MAJESTY
KING MAHA VAJIRALONGKORN
PHRA VAJIRAKLAOCHAOUHUA'S
(RAMA X) 6TH CYCLE BIRTHDAY
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2024

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of the Kingdom of Thailand's (Rama X) 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary on July 28, 2024, which marks the completion of 72 years. I would like to take this opportunity to offer our most heartfelt congratulations.

I applaud His Majesty's many accomplishments and contributions to the prosperity and welfare of the people of Thailand. Despite the many global challenges faced since his ascension to the throne in December 2016, His Majesty continues to preserve and build upon the Royal legacy of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great (Rama IX).

His Majesty's long-standing relationship with the United States dates back 64 years to June 1960 when King Rama X accompanied his father and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, during a Thai royal visit to the United States. During his address to a joint session of the United States Congress, His Majesty's father expressed admiration for the United States' ability to maintain harmony among diverse peoples and emphasized our nations' deep ties and mutual respect.

In the 1980s, King Rama X, then the Crown Prince, completed U.S. Air Force (USAF) advanced fighter training and conversion courses for the F-5 fighter aircraft at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, logging over 2,000 hours of flight time. As a Marine Corps helicopter pilot myself, I wholeheartedly commend His Majesty's aviation achievements. His Majesty's passion and dedication to military affairs is reflected in the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand's shared desire to elevate our alliance and military cooperation. The U.S. designated the Kingdom of Thailand as a major non-NATO ally in 2003, and the annual Cobra Gold Exercise remains the largest multinational military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region. Participating in Cobra Gold during my own military career was a true honor.

The Kingdom of Thailand remains a key U.S. ally and partner in Southeast Asia. The U.S.-Thailand relationship is vital to the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region, and the Thai monarchy plays an integral role in cultivating this crucial relationship.

Last year, the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand celebrated the 190th anniversary of our shared diplomatic relations, signifying the enduring bond of trust and collaboration established by the signing of the 1833 Treaty of Amity and Commerce, making the Kingdom of Thailand the first Asian nation to enter diplomatic relations with the United States. From then on, the Thai monarchy, our governments, and our peoples have worked to solidify and modernize our relationship and the unwavering alliance that we enjoy today. The anniversary was an opportunity to reaffirm our long-standing alliance and commitment to facing our shared global challenges together.