

2008, he began serving as a patrol officer with The Colony Police Department. Building upon that foundational experience, he became a Field Training Officer (FTO), where he mentored new recruits to the department, serving as an example and instructing them with the knowledge necessary to perform capably in a challenging and rewarding profession. In addition, Montemayor was assigned the sensitive and crucial position as a Hostage Crisis Negotiator, where he proficiently displayed his abilities to remain calm under pressure, communicate effectively and diffuse dangerous situations.

During his two-decade tenure with TCPD, Mr. Montemayor also served as a Marine Safety Officer, enforcing regulations and ensuring the safety of the public on local lakes and rivers. Additionally, he paid tribute to fallen officers and their families as a member of TCPD's Honor Guard.

After twelve years protecting the citizens of The Colony on its streets and waterways, Mr. Montemayor was assigned as a School Resource Officer at The Colony High School. As an SRO, he had the opportunity to interact with students, staff and parents, to build critical relationships toward a safer and more supportive educational environment. After only a year on the job, he was recognized for his dedication and effectiveness as he received the Texas Association of Resource (TASRO) School Resource Officer of the Year Award in 2019. He was nominated for this statewide award by Lewisville ISD's Safety and Security Director.

Detective Omar Montemayor will truly be missed by his fellow officers and colleagues in The Colony Police Department. He was a consummate law enforcement professional, fostering key relationships with the citizens, schools and businesses within the community he served so well. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ACKNOWLEDGING RUSSELL M. NELSON DAY IN THE STATE OF UTAH AND CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUSSELL M. NELSON

### HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Russell M. Nelson Day in my home state of Utah as well as President Russell M. Nelson's 100th birthday.

President Russell Marion Nelson was born on September 9, 1924, in Salt Lake City. While a student at the University of Utah, he met and married Dantzel White. They shared nearly sixty years together, raising ten children before Dantzel's passing in 2005. He later married Wendy L. Watson in April 2006, and together they are grandparents to 57 and great-grandparents to over 100.

President Nelson is an internationally renowned heart surgeon and medical researcher. Dr. Nelson received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Utah. He served his residency in surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and the University of Minnesota, where, in addition to earning his Ph.D., he served on the research

team that developed the heart-lung machine which successfully aided the first human open-heart surgery in 1951.

During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and worked with surgeons focused on improving treatment methods for the wounded. He left with the rank of Captain.

His accolades include the American Heart Association's Heart of Gold Award and the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement. He has held prestigious positions such as president of the Society for Vascular Surgery and chairman of the Council on Cardiovascular Surgery.

Russell M. Nelson was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 7, 1984. He was called again as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2018. Under his leadership, the church has played a large role in both domestic and international humanitarian aid efforts, with the faith often being among the first groups to respond with food, medical, and other practical aid for those enduring the effects of conflict and natural disaster.

I again thank President Russell M. Nelson for a lifetime of achievement, service, and leadership and invite myself and my colleagues to look to his exemplary behavior as we find ways to better the lives of those we serve as members of Congress.

### REMEMBERING JAVIER ARCE

### HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Javier Arce, Editor, Reporter, and Digital Producer for La Voz Arizona and the Arizona Republic, who recently passed away. Mr. Arce's success as a voice for Latino and immigrant communities in Arizona has inspired many.

Mr. Arce began at La Voz and The Republic in 2014, providing coverage for Arizona readers for over two decades. A Mexicali native, he understood the experience within trans-border communities and helped inform others of immigration and election coverage, showcasing everyday Arizonans and their pursuit of bettering their neighborhoods. He became a strong voice and a fixture in the community, highlighting the lives and successes of Latinos and immigrants who call Arizona home. His passion, commitment, and dedication to the Latino and immigrant community positively impacted the Valley.

As an expert on anti-immigration laws, Mr. Arce was dedicated to creating a mission to find the voices of Latino and immigrant communities that would otherwise go untold. He knew the community and the issues they cared for. He leaves a legacy that will greatly impact the next generation of the Latino and immigrant community in Arizona.

I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Arce's family and friends.

### HONORING THE MUSICAL TALENT OF MISSISSIPPI NATIVE, HARDY

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize "Nashville's nu-metal king," Hardy, from my home state of Mississippi. Hardy was born in Meridian and grew up in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where he attended Neshoba Central High School. Born on September 13, 1990, to Mike and Sarah Hardy, Hardy started playing guitar around age 13. When he was in high school, he took pen to paper to write his first song to, "Impress a Girl." His song writing skills gave him an opportunity to move to Nashville in 2010. While in Nashville, Hardy penned the words to the well-known country song made famous by Blake Shelton called, "God's Country." In 2013, Hardy landed a publishing deal with Relative Music Group. Hardy is the pride of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and has earned his reputation as "a promising purveyor of keeping the spirit of classic heavy Southern rock alive," according to American Songwriter. He is a five-time ACM award winner and two-time CMA award winner. In 2022 he was named the BMI Country Songwriter of the Year.

Music has always been the heartbeat of Mississippi, and I am proud to see Hardy soaring to the top like other Mississippians have done before him. I thank Hardy, for his dedication to the art of music and contributions to our great Nation through song writing.

CELEBRATING  
HOULIHAN  
CHATTERJEE

CHRISTIE  
AND  
RAHUL

### HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise in celebration of the union of Mrs. Christie Houlihan and Mr. Rahul Dev Chatterjee.

Christie and Rahul came from different walks of life—Rahul moved to Texas from India in the year 2000 to study at Texas A&M University, while Christie grew up in New York and had relocated to Dallas in the last several years. Their first date allowed them to bond over their Irish and Indian backgrounds, developing a mutual understanding of their love for their families and for travel.

Towards the end of that first date in June of 2022, when Christie began to make her exit. Rahul presented her with a parting gift: a small box with a bottle of Shalimar perfume by Guerlain. The same type of perfume that Christie's late grandmother used to wear every day and shared with her when Christie was a young child. As was described in the New York Times. Rahul had no way of knowing the significance this small bottle had for Christie, but to her, it was a sign. They were wed on November 18, 2023, in Palm Beach, FL., surrounded by loving family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I am elated to recognize Christie and Rahul, and I extend my enthusiastic well-wishes as they continue this chapter

of their life together. Please join me in celebrating the marriage of Christie Houlihan and Rahul Dev Chatterjee who are so beloved by their community and whose partnership brings joy to so many. I was honored to pay witness to their nuptials and ask Congress to join me in celebrating them as their one-year anniversary approaches.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF CAST

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Community Actors' Studio Theatre (CAST) organization.

CAST was incorporated as a 501(c)3 in October of 1999. Since that time, CAST has remained committed to its mission to give everyone in the community an opportunity to be engaged, educated and entertained in the theatrical arts.

In its 25 years, CAST has produced over 130 shows, engaged over 600 individuals from the community in the production of those shows and has provided school-day performances to over 10,000 school children.

CAST is unique in the community because it offers the opportunity for those who want to participate in theatre and provides families a chance to act together. Besides two schools, CAST offers the only instructional program in the theatrical arts in the area, CAST Kidz, teaching weekly classes in dance, voice and acting to over 100 students aged 5–18. These students perform in local productions of their own and compete in and win regional and national theatrical competitions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking CAST for all they do for the community and the children in the area and wishing the organization a happy 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF  
KAREN ELAINE THOMPSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of Karen Elaine Thompson; a beloved daughter, sister, wife, and mother.

On May 11, 1960, Karen was born to Allan and Elaine Johnson in Moscow, Idaho. Just two weeks after her birth, Karen, her mother, and her brother reunited with Allan in Watsonville, California where he had recently taken his first position with Bank of America. Karen began her schooling in Modesto, but as Allan rose through the ranks at the bank, she continued her education wherever work took him including Novato, Shafter, Lindsay, and finally Madera where she graduated high school in 1978.

Karen then chose to further her education at Fresno City College and Heald Four C's Business College with a special focus on secretarial courses. Utilizing her education, she

landed her first secretary position at Fresno Federal Land Bank where she met her first love, Mark Thompson. Later, Karen shifted her focus to marketing as the administrative assistant for the CEO of Fresno-Madera Farm Credit before taking her expertise to Citizens Business Bank in Madera. The zenith of Karen's career would come in the years she spent working as an executive assistant at Fresno Heart Hospital, EyeQ, and Community Cancer Institute, places where her importance cannot be understated. One of her greatest achievements was her work alongside executives in building the Cancer Institute in Clovis.

During these years, Karen also raised her two sons, Kyle and Alex, in Madera. Then, when the opportunity presented itself, Karen and Mark took a chance and purchased a home and acreage in Madera Ranchos and eventually married in 2014.

Wherever she lived, Karen always sought to improve her community. She engaged in a variety of volunteer activities for the Big Fresno Fair Livestock Auction, The Kids Breakfast, and the Toolbox Program. Additionally, Karen was always willing to lend a helping hand in events related to agriculture such as those put on by the Cattlemen's Association. Fresno County Farm Bureau, and Reedley College Ag Backers. Equally important, Karen served in a variety of different capacities through her memberships in PEO and Chapter VO where she provided excellent leadership and communication skills. She also was a member of the Clovis Rodeo Association where she served as secretary of the board since 2022.

Her love for life was reflected in her many hobbies, Karen loved photography, camping, sporting clays, gardening, fishing, camping, hand crafts, traveling, and of course, her grandson Liam.

In Karen's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her family; husband Mark and sons Kyle and Alex. May we draw inspiration from Karen's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Karen Elaine Thompson.

RECOGNIZING THE USS NEW  
JERSEY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Commissioning of the Naval Vessel, the USS *New Jersey* on September 14, 2024.

The third naval vessel named after the great State of New Jersey, this *Virginia* class submarine is a nuclear-powered cruise missile fast-attack vessel that will prove invaluable to the efficacy of our great Navy. After rigorous tests and trials at sea, this ship has proved its capability to perform her designed mission and join America's strong Naval fleet.

Upon being commissioned, the USS *New Jersey* will welcome our brave sailors from the Commanding Officer to the crew who are entrusted with maintaining and operating the submarine during peacetime and time of war.

Not just a phrase but a guiding light through high seas and troubled times, the submarine's motto—Firepower for Freedom—inspires all of its crew members to preserve our Nation's values in fighting for valor and freedom across the globe.

With many Americans coming together in Monmouth County to celebrate the commissioning of the USS *New Jersey*, we also celebrate the long legacy of tenacity and bravery that the Navy has proved time and time again. The brave sailors on all three USS *New Jersey* vessels, and vessels across the globe, exemplify the honor, courage, and commitment stated in the Navy's core values.

As the crew begins their service aboard this exceptional naval vessel, I am grateful for the devotion each and every one of them has to serving their country. I look forward to continuing to support the USS *New Jersey* and its servicemembers in achieving their many missions to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THELMA HOLTZCLAW MATHEWS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Mathews was born on September 26, 1924, and grew up with her parents and seven siblings in Titus, Alabama. She moved to Buffalo fifty-four years ago where she has lived since.

After graduating high school, Mrs. Mathews's top priority was her family. Together with the love of her life, Luther, they raised six incredible children, three daughters and three sons. Mrs. Mathews' family continues to grow, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is most proud to be a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

When Mrs. Mathews is not with her family, she is with her friends and neighbors. They know they can always rely on her for a warm smile and a laugh. Deeply devoted to her faith, Mrs. Mathews is an active member of the Greater Refuge Temple of Christ on Jefferson Avenue.

Further, Mrs. Mathews deeply values civic engagement, having voted in every presidential election she has been able to. She was very excited to vote for the first Black President, President Barack Obama, and is looking forward to casting her ballot for Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman nominated by a major party for President.

Today, Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews continues to inspire all who know her, sharing her compassion and dedication to her family, friends, country, and faith. Please join me in celebrating Mrs. Thelma Holtzclaw Mathews on her 100th birthday.