

only wrestler to win three titles two years in a row.

In August, Amit won an Olympic gold medal in the women's freestyle 68kg wrestling event. This historic victory made Amit the youngest wrestler from Team USA to ever win gold. Since 2019, Amit has accumulated 42 wins and outscored her opponents 375–19. We are eager to see her make history again in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Our community is beyond proud of Amit and it has been a delight to root for her during this year's Paris Olympics alongside California's 10th Congressional District. Please join me in congratulating Amit on her incredible accomplishments and the many more to come.

#### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR CONSTITUTION DAY

#### HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, Constitution Day is a time set aside to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America—the most important document in our Nation's history.

In 1787, the thirty-nine men that convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, forever altered history when they formed the supreme law of our land—written by the people, for the people.

Through times of prosperity and times of hardship, our constitution has never wavered. Let this Constitution Day remind us of the liberty, justice, and freedom for all—and the never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREST LEGACY MANAGEMENT FLEXI- BILITY ACT

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act.” I thank my colleagues, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA), JIM COSTA (D-CA), ANN M. KUSTER (D-NH), and SUZANNE BONAMICI (D-OR) for cosponsoring my House bill.

As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior, I know our national conservation goals cannot be achieved through public land ownership alone. The federal and state governments can and must work with private landowners who want to do their part to conserve America's natural landscapes, as my family did for our cattle ranch in 1998. This Act would unlock billions in federal funding to help states conserve working forestlands, create local jobs, and support sustainable forest management practices that reduce wildfire risk.

The “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act” would allow States to choose to designate accredited, nonprofit land trusts to hold conservation easements purchased with federal funding under the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Current law requires that only the federal or state governments can

hold conservation easements purchased under the Forest Legacy Program.

Allowing States participating in the federal Forest Legacy Program the flexibility to partner with accredited, nonprofit land trusts will help permanently conserve more land by working with private landowners who want to have their land conserved but are wary of selling the federal or state governments an easement on their property. Expanding opportunities to conserve working forestlands will benefit our rural economies and encourage sustainable forest management practices that help prevent wildfires.

This Act maintains the integrity of the Forest Legacy Program by holding all accredited, nonprofit land trusts participating in the Program to the highest possible standards. In addition, it implements safeguards to prevent misuse of the Program and allows the U.S. Forest Service or State to reclaim easements if a land trust falls into noncompliance with the Program.

We will need every tool in the toolbox to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's “America the Beautiful” National Conservation Goal to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California. This Act takes a critical step towards meeting these goals and protecting our country's natural resources and forests for future generations.

The “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act” would unlock new opportunities and funding for permanent land conservation. My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this legislation to preserve America's working forests and bolster our rural economies. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF ROBERT T. SCOTT

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Robert T. Scott as he is bestowed the prestigious title of President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Scott began his career as a religion teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1971. Over time, he served as a social studies teacher, vice principal, principal, and then president. In 2001, Mr. Scott earned his Letters of Affiliation, the highest honor bestowed by the Institute of Brothers of Christian Schools, the religious order that founded St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1861. Scott retired in 2017 after a tremendous 48-year career at the all-boys high school.

Throughout his career, Mr. Scott has exemplified the mission of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, to transform the lives of students from diverse backgrounds through academic excellence and care for the whole person in a respectful, Lasallian Catholic community, developing each student's unique talents in preparation for college and life. The students that Mr. Scott impacted throughout his tenure have excelled in their personal and professional lives in large part due to the mentorship and dedication of Mr. Scott.

Today, Mr. Scott continues to inspire all who know him, sharing his compassion and dedication to his family, friends, country, and faith. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert T. Scott on an inspiring career in education, and the continuation of his commitment to education and the Lasallian tradition as President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

#### HONORING EDWARD D. PETTITT, SR.

#### HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Edward “Ed” D. Pettitt, Sr. Born on June 27, 1961, in Newfane, NY. Ed was a man of deep conviction and unwavering principles. Raised on his family's farm, Ed's early years were steeped in the values of hard work, independence, and a deep connection to the land. He was the beloved son of George and Marion Pettitt, who instilled in him a commitment to family and community that would guide him throughout his life.

A brilliant student, Ed graduated as valedictorian from Newfane High School in 1980. He then attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, graduating magna cum laude in 1986. His love of learning led him to further his education, obtaining a Master of Science in 1998, followed by a second Master's in Creative Studies from SUNY College at Buffalo in 2002.

Ed's professional career was marked by innovation and excellence. Over his 35-year tenure at Mahle (formerly Delphi Harrison Thermal Systems), he earned more than 20 patents and was inducted into the Delphi Automotive Systems Innovation Hall of Fame in 1997. His dedication to his work culminated in receiving the prestigious 2013 “Boss” Kettering Award, and he retired as a Product Engineering Manager in 2020.

However, Ed's legacy extends far beyond his professional achievements. He was a man deeply committed to First Principles Thinking—a philosophy that guided his approach to life, problem-solving, and civic engagement. Ed believed in the importance of returning to fundamental truths and using them as a foundation to build solutions, a method that influenced both his engineering work and his advocacy.

Central to Ed's belief system was the conviction that natural rights—those to life, liberty, and property—originated not from any earthly government, but from our Creator. He held that these rights were inalienable and that governments were instituted among men to protect them, not to grant them. This belief fueled his passionate advocacy for the Second Amendment, as he viewed the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental protection of these God-given rights. To safeguard these principles, Ed founded the Second Amendment For Ever (SAFE) organization in Niagara County. He was a staunch defender of the rights of responsible gun owners, believing that public safety and personal security were interdependent, both sustained by the individual's right to self-defense. Ed's commitment to

this cause was rooted in his deepseated belief that the Second Amendment was essential to preserving all other freedoms.

Ed also championed the rights of farmers and the agricultural community in Niagara County. Recognizing the challenges faced by rural areas under the current political system, he was a vocal advocate for Rural Electoral Equity. He argued that rural communities were politically disenfranchised, with power disproportionately concentrated in urban centers like New York City. Ed believed this imbalance undermined the principles of a republic, where all regions should have an equal voice in governance.

His advocacy extended to challenging the 1964 Supreme Court ruling in "Reynolds v. Sims," which mandated that Senate districts be apportioned based on population rather than by county. Ed contended that this ruling led to political gerrymandering that favored urban areas at the expense of rural communities, affecting key issues such as gun control, energy, land use, and criminal justice.

Ed's vision was to make Niagara County a leading example of how rural areas could assert their rights and push back against state overreach. He worked tirelessly to build coalitions with other counties, strengthen local government, and create barriers to state infringement. As part of his efforts to support the agricultural community, Ed helped form the Niagara County Agricultural Rights Advisory Panel, ensuring that the voices of local farmers were heard and their rights protected. His contributions to the community were recognized through several awards, including the 2018 Ken Burner Memorial Award and the 2022 Oliver Jones Memorial Award Sportsperson of the Year from the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs, Inc.

Above all, Ed was a devoted family man. He married his high school sweetheart, Lisa (Bowers) Pettitt, in 1981, and together they raised four sons: Edward II, Jonathon, Michael, and Thomas. He was a loving grandfather to five grandchildren, with whom he shared his love of the outdoors, including fishing, camping, kayaking, and farming.

Edward D. Pettitt, Sr. will be remembered as a man of integrity, a fierce defender of constitutional rights, and a tireless advocate for rural communities. His legacy lives on through his family, his community, and the many lives he touched with his unwavering commitment to freedom, justice, and the principles upon which this Nation was founded.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOYAL  
MARTIN (MARTY) GRIFFIN, JR.

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyal Martin (Marty) Griffin Jr., MD, MPH who passed away on May 22, 2024, at the age of 103. Marty was a trailblazing environmental leader, renowned for his early focus on the intersectionality of healthcare and the environment. He made profound impacts on both fields.

Born in 1920 and raised in a mountain cabin along the Ogden River in Utah, Marty developed an appreciation of nature at an early

age. His family moved to the West Coast during the Depression, eventually settling in Oakland, California where Marty was an Eagle Scout and the valedictorian of Oakland Technical High School. He earned a zoology degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1942 and worked night shifts in the Richmond shipyards to afford Stanford Medical School. After receiving his medical degree in 1946, Marty joined the United States Army Medical Corps and served as a captain during the end of World War II.

Marty's career in the medical profession quickly expanded to include environmental work, as he recognized the convergence of these two fields and their relationship to public health. He became a distinguished physician in Marin County, establishing the Ross Valley Clinic, Ross General Hospital, Tamalpais Retirement Center, and Kentfield Psychiatric Hospital. He also served as Chief of Medicine at both Marin General and Ross Hospitals.

Marty returned to the University of California, Berkeley in 1972 where he earned a master's degree in public health and subsequently became the Public Health Director of the Sonoma Developmental Center, a position he held for 15 years. In 1980, he was appointed Chief of the Hepatitis B, and later AIDS, Task Force for 11 state hospitals. In 1989, he received the Gold Medal for Superior Medical Accomplishment from the State of California.

Marty's passion for land preservation and environmental education extended beyond his professional career. In 1961, he founded Audubon Canyon Ranch, which now includes 5,000 acres of wildlife sanctuaries throughout the Bay Area and Sonoma County and is a model of conservation education. This land created the "gateway" to the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area that were later established in 1962 and 1972. Marty also cofounded the Environmental Forum of Marin, and he served as an elected official as a director of the Marin Municipal Water District. He created a model for watershed management plans through his founding of the Russian River Task Force, Friends of the Russian River, and the Russian River Environmental Forum. Beyond California, Marty helped establish a 20,000-acre preserve in Halekalā National Park and participated in wildlife efforts in Nepal.

Marty's lifetime of work inspired many, including the documentarians Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto who, in 2013, created the film *Rebels with a Cause*, detailing his and other local conservationists' fight to stop development along the Marin County coastline. What would have been a large development is now public land enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Known fondly as "the nature doctor" and "the doctor with mud on his shoes," Marty is survived by his wife, Joyce Griffin; daughters Linda Henke, Anne Oliver, Carol Griffin and Joanie Griffin; stepson Brian Nielsen; and five grandchildren. He is predeceased by his granddaughter, Gina Marin Monaco, who passed in 1998 at age 15 from leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Griffin was an innovative leader who never shied from an opportunity to advocate for our environment and the health of future generations. It was my privilege to know Marty and consider him a friend. His legacy in Marin County, California, and be-

yond cannot be understated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my appreciation for his lifetime of good work.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY

**HON. JOHN S. DUARTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Assyrian community in the Central Valley of California. In particular, Stanislaus County has had a long history of Assyrians seeking refuge from religious persecution and genocide in their ancestral homelands known as Mesopotamia. This vibrant and thriving community is determined to preserve the language, heritage, culture, and their identity as Christians.

Over fifty thousand Assyrian Americans call Stanislaus County home. The 10th Anniversary of the Assyrian Festival hosted by the Assyrian Church of the East local parishes bring thousands of visitors to the Turlock Fairgrounds to celebrate the rich heritage, cuisine, and traditional dances of the Assyrian culture. The Assyrian language, heritage, and culture form the bedrock of Assyrian communities in the Central Valley, which anchors them in traditions that span millennia while also acting as guiding lights that propel them successfully forward while preserving their unique narrative. In addition, the Assyrian Church of the East's most ancient faith dating back to the first century of Christianity offers this community spiritual nourishment. This heritage instills pride, and the language and culture fosters unity. Together, they empower the Assyrian people worldwide to preserve the rich legacy and advance as a vibrant community, forging connections across generations and continents, ensuring their enduring presence in the tapestry of humanity.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in proudly recognizing the Assyrian community in the Central Valley of California for its invaluable contributions to our Nation's history, culture, and prosperity as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Assyrian Festival this month.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE  
THOMPSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Thompson Family Foundation for Autism and Neurodevelopment, which supports families with loved ones who have autism and other neurodevelopment conditions. Their multifaceted approach raises awareness, advances public policy, and spearheads philanthropic efforts for this amazing cause.

The Thompson Foundation partners actively with the Lestonnac Free Clinic, located in the heart of Orange. The Lestonnac Clinic shares the same philanthropic vision as the Thompson Foundation, and their contributions have