

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CSU CHANCELLOR DR.  
MILDRED GARCIA

**HON. ROBERT GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mildred Garcia as she celebrates her first anniversary as Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system. Throughout her career, Dr. Garcia has been a tireless champion of economic opportunity and educational equity, particularly for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

As the first Latina to lead the largest public four-year university system in the U.S., Dr. Garcia is breaking barriers and creating transformational opportunities for students. Under her leadership, CSU serves over 450,000 students, with more than half coming from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, and over one-quarter being first-generation college students. As a proud alumnus of California State University, Long Beach, I know firsthand the immense impact of this institution.

CSU's 23 universities consistently deliver high-quality, affordable education and are ranked amongst the best in the nation for promoting social mobility in prestigious college rankings. Notably, the Wall Street Journal's 2025 Social Mobility Ranking placed seven CSU campuses in the top 10 for social mobility, a true testament to its role in elevating students' futures.

Dr. Garcia has held numerous prestigious positions and received countless awards, broadening her influence beyond CSU and establishing herself as a visionary leader who is paving the way for the next generation of educated, empowered citizens.

She was the first Latina to lead the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and has served on several national advisory boards. This year, she was honored with the TELACU "CREO" Award and inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Garcia often refers to CSU as a model for serving America's new majority. In fact, she embodies that new majority. Her leadership and vision for an equitable future are what public education—and our nation—need today. On this special anniversary, I want to commend Dr. Garcia for leading CSU forward with courage, innovation, and compassion for the benefit of all students.

HONORING DARLENE RAMÍREZ-RIVERA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Darlene Ramírez-Rivera holds a bachelor's degree in natural

sciences from the University of Puerto Rico, with a major in chemistry and biology. She is also a pianist and flutist, having graduated from the Escuela Libre de Música in Puerto Rico.

Her background as a chemistry and biology teacher demonstrates her commitment to scientific education. Darlene is the founder of Casa del Artesano Fine Arts and Educational Consulting, a nonprofit organization established in 2018 to support Puerto Rican artisans who arrived after Hurricane Maria. Together with her husband, Igor Báez-Muñoz, she is now expanding Casa del Artesano with Pa'l Callejón, the first center in the Kissimmee region that combines an art gallery with a cultural restaurant.

In 2004, she became the leader of the bobbin lace group "Mundillo en Orlando" and organized the first Bobbin Lace "Mundillo" Festival in Downtown Kissimmee. Darlene and her daughter, Vanahi, also founded a group of young "Mundillo" spidering lacers. Certified as an artisan by the Puerto Rican Industrial Development Company's Artisan Development Program in 2007, she has been instrumental in promoting Puerto Rican craftsmanship. In 2010, she received a proclamation for Bobbin Lace "Mundillo" Festival Day from Orange County Mayor, Richard T. Crotty, celebrated on April 11.

Her accolades include the "Women Who Make a Difference" award from La Prensa in 2010 and the "Florida Folklife Program Bobbin Lace Mundillo Master Award" in 2018. She was named Artisan of the Year by the Asociación de Artesanos y Artistas PR de Florida in 2019 and received the Eugenio María de Hostos Award from the National Puerto Rican Association in New York in 2022.

Since 2017, Darlene has been an instructor for the GED YouthBuild program at Valencia College, where she has graduated over 300 students in Osceola.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM HARVEY REEVES WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present William Harvey Reeves of Trinity, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to the Nation and community speaks to the best of Texas. William enlisted into the United States Army on December 4, 1963, proudly serving in the 716th Military Police Battalion. He was stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, eight months and twelve days. His Active Duty concluded with an honorable discharge, November 29, 1965, and he continued his service as an Army Reservist until December 3, 1969. He was awarded the Expert Rifle Badge, Armed Forces Expedi-

tionary Medal, Driver badge with bar, Overseas Bar and a Good Conduct Medal.

William has been a well-respected resident of Trinity County for over 30 years. He has served his community and veterans as a previous businessowner and is an active member of several local and state organizations, which include the Masonic Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Trinity County Veterans Wall of Honor Society. He also volunteers his time serving on the Deep East Texas Military Service Academy Board. William was instrumental in the formation of the Trinity County Veterans Wall of Honor and served as the Treasurer for 16 years before becoming President in 2023.

For his unwavering service to the Nation and leadership to his community, it is my honor to award William Harvey Reeves with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING WARE COUNTY

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ware County, Georgia for celebrating its 200-year anniversary.

Ware County was founded in 1824 and resides in Georgia's first Congressional District, which I have the honor and privilege of representing.

Originally carved from Appling County, Ware County was named after the United States Senator, Nicholas Ware, who served as the mayor of Augusta, Georgia before his term in the Senate.

Today, Ware County is recognized as one of the leading counties in South Georgia, as it is home to the 451st militia district, the oldest in our entire country.

The county site, Waycross, has grown from a small town with nothing more than a log courthouse to a city serving 14,000 people and large manufacturing companies such as Stewart's Candy Company.

Waycross is also bordered by the beautiful Satilla River, which became a busy route in the early 1800's for transporting longleaf pine trees to sawmills on the coast.

I am proud to celebrate this anniversary with Ware County and our great state of Georgia.

HONORING MARY RICHARDS

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Mary Richards.

Born on August 16, 1943, to parents Gus and Helen Sesia, Mary was a lifelong resident

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of Clinton, Massachusetts. Growing up, Mary's parents always emphasized the importance of community advocacy and standing up for underrepresented groups. This was a sentiment that Mary would carry with her throughout her life and career. After graduating from Sacred Heart Academy, Mary went on to receive her bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from the College of Our Lady of the Elms, followed by a certificate in environmental law from Tufts University-Lincoln Filene Center.

For several decades, Mary worked for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in a variety of roles, including that of environmental analyst, section chief, and project manager. Throughout her career, Mary was a tireless advocate for increasing environmental protections, as well as women's, workers', and civil rights. Mary served as an executive board member. Vice President, and was the first woman to be elected President of the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES). Additionally, she was a founding member of the National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions (NASHTU). During Mary's time with both these organizations, she strove to improve the collective bargaining rights, wages, pension plans, and working conditions of all union members.

Over the years, Mary always remained an advocate for the issues that mattered most to her. She held the Labor Seat on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, served as Chair of the Clinton Democratic Committee, was appointed to the Electoral College in 1996, and served as a Massachusetts delegate at the Democratic National Convention this past August. Mary was also active on several local and state boards and committees, including the League of Women Voters, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Nashua River Watershed Association, ACLU, and the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus.

Sadly, we lost Mary too soon on September 2, 2024, at the age of 81. Above all, she cherished spending time with her family and friends. Mary was a dedicated wife to her husband, James, and mother to their sons, Kevin and Dennis, and her legacy will carry on through all those who had the great fortune of knowing and working alongside her.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mary Richards, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing her commitment to advocacy and bettering the lives of those around her.

#### RECOGNIZING LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lincoln Consolidated Schools of Augusta Township, Michigan on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. Their steadfast commitment to the education of our area's youth over the last 100 years is worthy of commendation.

Dr. Marvin Pittman was a visionary educator in the early 1920s who believed in the

strength and power of public education. The consolidation of thirteen one-room schools was voted for by the community on May 2, 1923, and in April 1924, the cornerstone of a new K–12 school was laid. This school was named Lincoln Consolidated School in connection between the equal education opportunity ideals of Abraham Lincoln and the goals of the district. Once welcoming 500 students in 1924, Lincoln now hosts a diverse student population of over 3,000.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools District is currently home to four elementary schools, one middle school, and one enlarged high school. Their commitment to developing students into high achieving, inspired adults is exemplified through their partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Early College Alliance. At no cost, high school students are given the opportunity to experience higher education and earn college credits, opening their eyes to the possibilities after graduation. With a \$25 million bond passed in 2018, the district was able to improve facilities for athletics, fine arts, technology, and more. The Lincoln Athletic Building with new fitness and multi-sport areas was opened in 2021 and showcases the district's dedication to community involvement by encouraging community members to also utilize the space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the staff, students, and community that have made Lincoln Consolidated Schools a tremendous educational environment for the last century. Dr. Pittman would be proud of how they have continued to build upon his ideals for public education. I am excited to see the district foster and encourage this community's students for the next 100 years.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN KELLY'S BIRTHDAY

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelly, a Queens, New York native, graduated from Notre Dame in 1956 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also earned an MBA in 1966 from St. John's University. He spent much of his career with Textron Inc., eventually rising to President of the company's Marine & Land Systems in New Orleans, after departing his role as President of Bell Aerospace Textron in Buffalo, New York.

During his time at Bell Aerospace, Mr. Kelly played a critical role in the manufacturing of the lunar ascent engine which was crucial in the Apollo 11 mission piloted by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

Mr. Kelly later joined Pan-American Life Insurance Company's Board of Directors in 1994, becoming chairman in 2004. He has been active in a multitude of organizations, including as a director of the Whitney Bank and as a founding director of the World War II Museum in New Orleans. He is also a founding member and former chairman of the Louisiana Technology Council, and additionally served on the board of directors of Rivada Networks LLC from 2005 to 2010.

Mr. Kelly is a founding member and former chairman of the Louisiana Committee of 100,

and a founding member and former vice-chairman of the New Orleans Business Council—and most importantly, Mr. Kelly is my friend. I thank him for the memories we have made over the years and for his dedicated service to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to wish John Kelly a happy 90th birthday, and I look forward to celebrating with him.

#### TRIBUTE TO ISIDORO TUDELA CABRERA

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2024*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Isidoro Tudela Cabrera, born to the late Gregorio Camacho Cabrera and Escolastica Tudela Cabrera on the island of Saipan in 1953.

Isidoro Cabrera has spent his life learning how to grow food and sharing his passion for agriculture with the rest of us in the Northern Marianas. Isidoro graduated from Vudal Agricultural College in Papua New Guinea with a degree in Tropical Agriculture and later received certification in seed technology from the University of the Philippines. Then, he began his professional career working for the United Nations Trust Territory Government, as an intern and an entomology technician.

With the formation of the Commonwealth Government, Mr. Cabrera transitioned to work for its plant division, as an agriculturist. In 1987, he moved to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, where he was an agriculture extension agent until his retirement in 1998. He then joined Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services where he serves as a consultant to this day.

Outside of this professional career, Mr. Cabrera is equally passionate about agriculture. He taught students with an interest in farming and gardening to start their own school garden at his alma mater, Marianas High School. He has worked with students at Kagman Elementary School and Kagman Headstart to demonstrate his love for growing food.

He is a founding member of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Association, which started a regular farmer's market. He has served the boards of the Saipan Farmers Market Association, Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, the CNMI Farmers Cooperative and the AMOT Natibu Association that created a field guide to medicinal plants in the Northern Marianas in the Chamorro and Carolinian languages.

Understanding the significance of soil and water, Mr. Cabrera has spent a significant part of his career working on soil and water conservation as it relates to agriculture. Additionally, he studied hydroponics and set up his own farm, sharing his knowledge of this technology with anyone interested.

Last year, Isidoro lost the love of his life, Susana, with whom he shared three children: Isidoro Victor, Shani Joy, Antonette Esco; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. It is not unusual to see him, accompanied by