

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

one of these grandchildren, taking the harvests of his garden to share with neighbors and friends.

I recognize Isidoro Tudela Cabrera and celebrate his over four decades' long commitment to agriculture. I thank him for all the nourishment he has gown for those of us who call the Northern Marianas our home.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. RICHARD K. VEDDER

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the work of Dr. Richard K. Vedder, a resident of Ohio's 12th Congressional District and an exemplary figure in the fields of higher education and economics.

Dr. Vedder is a Distinguished Professor of Economics Emeritus at Ohio University and the founding director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity in Washington, DC.

His contributions as a member of the Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education illustrate his commitment to reforming the higher education system. His research and proposed reforms address critical issues, including the high cost of education, the suppression of free speech on campuses, and the privatization of education by giving teachers a financial stake in schools.

Dr. Vedder's dedication to education goes beyond words. His fifty years of teaching experience at Ohio University, the University of Colorado, Claremont Men's College, and the MARA Institute of Technology reflect his lifelong commitment to educating others.

Dr. Vedder will be deservedly recognized at the Ohio Board of Trustees Symposium later this month.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OCEAN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER IN BRICK, NEW JERSEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Hackensack Meridian Ocean University Medical Center in Brick, N.J., located in the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey.

On July 4, 1984, the medical center opened its doors as Brick Hospital, part of the Northern Ocean Hospital System. Its roots go back even farther, due to its ties to Point Pleasant Hospital, which opened in 1918 with four rooms in the home of Dr. Frank Denniston. Point Pleasant Hospital became part of the North Ocean Hospital System in the 1980s, growing to 120 acute care beds by 1984 and serving patients with 200 physicians and 400 staff. Point Pleasant Hospital had 17,000 emergency room visits and 3,600 admissions.

Today the hospital boasts 317 licensed beds, another 40 rehabilitation beds, nearly 800 physicians and 2,600 staff, plus over 120

residents and fellows. Admissions have risen to over 12,500 per year, while emergency department visits have now topped 85,700 in the past year, including visits to its Ocean Care Center in Point Pleasant Beach.

The hospital takes pride in its pursuit of excellence in nursing care, as seen via its distinction as a Magnet-credentialed facility, enjoying numerous recognitions for quality care in areas such as joint replacement, stroke, colon cancer surgeries. The hospital leadership has worked hard to offer advanced care, including heart and vascular services, orthopedics and advanced surgical procedures with cutting-edge robotic technology and both inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.

The hospital's pursuit to deliver the best care possible was rewarded in 2021 with a prestigious "University" designation, which acknowledges exceptional teaching programs in the contributions to delivering high quality care.

Ocean University Medical Center acute care service is enhanced by its Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, which helps to meet the hospital's goal to provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation right on campus. That convenience aims at helping people regain their independence and reach their highest possible degree of functionality as quickly as possible following illness or injury.

The accolades over those 40 years are too numerous to mention, but I recognize just a few of the latest the hospital has achieved: U.S. News & World Report 2024–25 recognition as a High Performing hospital in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, colon cancer surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement, leukemia, lymphoma & myeloma, and lung cancer surgery; The "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade in the Spring 2023 Hospital Safety Grade report; The American College of Cardiology (ACC) 2023 Platinum Performance Award-National Cardiovascular Data Registry for Chest Pain-MI; 2022 certification by the ACC for HeartCARE designation; The Healthgrades' 2023 Patient Safety Excellence Award, placing it among the top 5 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting patient safety; Recognition by the American Heart Association in its 2023 Get With The Guidelines awards program, earning Gold Plus Achievement Awards in the categories of: Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite; Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll; and Target: Heart Failure, and; Recognition by Practice Greenhealth in 2023 as a Top 25 Hospital in the nation for Environmental Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the future of Ocean University Medical Center looks bright. The hospital is now a member of the Hackensack Meridian Health Network, with 18 hospitals and more than 36,000 team members, 7,000 physicians and 500 patient care locations.

With the recent completion of the \$19.5 million Dr. Robert H. and Mary Ellen Harris Heart and Vascular Center, Ocean University Medical Center now boasts one of the Garden State's most advanced centers for heart and vascular diagnosis and treatment.

Additionally, the hospital hosts a variety of local classes and programs to help people quit smoking, manage diabetes, treat stroke and brain injuries, identify heart attack risks and prevention methods, lower risk of falls, take advantage of health screenings or with other quality of life matters.

These programs complement the many health care services and accolades I just cited, and together they combine to help the hospital deliver on its mission of providing quality healthcare, and simultaneously developing students, residents, fellows, faculty and an overall health care environment that strives for the highest possible quality of healthcare for all patients.

Their approach is unique because it utilizes the best components of different, evidence-based teaching methods, and structures curriculum specifically to give students what they need to excel in today's modern, technically demanding clinical settings.

Mr. Speaker, you, I and many of our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives host the annual Congressional Art Competition for high schools in congressional districts across America.

It is with pride that I note Ocean University Medical Center hosted my annual Congressional High School Art Competition in 2023. In 2025, the hospital will once again host art students, their teachers and parents. The 2023 month-long exhibition was so warmly welcomed by staff, patients and visitors that I am eager for the show to open in the Spring of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 5, 2024, the leaders and staff at Ocean University Medical Center will officially celebrate four decades of delivering health care to the Brick, Point Pleasant and surrounding communities . . . truly a noteworthy accomplishment in which they should take great pride.

I congratulate President and Chief Hospital Executive Frank Citara, the Board of Trustees, the Foundation, the entire medical staff and all employees of the Ocean University Medical Center family on reaching this milestone.

HONORING GISELA ALVAREZ 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, Gisela Alvarez is a proud flight attendant with Southwest Airlines. In 1993, she started her career with the company as a customer service agent, eventually transferring to her current position as a flight attendant. She has been awarded many honors, including the Flight Attendant of the Year in her Orlando base and the coveted President's Award from Southwest Airlines.

Her passion for understanding obstacles and breaking through barriers led her to select and complete a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies from Bowling Green State University. Her commitment to fighting for better working conditions, especially for those who don't have a voice, is evident in her involvement in her community, at work, and beyond.

In the early 2000's, she was elected as a shop steward with the Transport Workers Union (TWU) LOCAL 556. She currently serves on the Language of Destination and Origin (LODO) subcommittee.

Since 2010, she has volunteered with the nonprofit organization Giving4Hope, where she has traveled around the world to help