

HONORING EVERETT TIMOTHY SANDERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Everett Timothy Sanders.

Everett Timothy Sanders, a former resident of Jackson, Mississippi, graduated from Lanier High School and Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968. Following graduation, he enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Law. His law school tenure was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, he returned to law school and graduated in December 1972.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law, Mr. Sanders worked for the Kentucky Labor Department. In 1974, he returned home, where he passed the Mississippi Bar Examination. In January 1975, Mr. Sanders entered practice with the law firm of Brown, Alexander, and Sanders.

In 1976, Mr. Sanders was elected County Prosecutor for Claiborne County, Mississippi, becoming the first African American to hold that position. He was also elected to two terms as the Democratic National Committeeman for the State of Mississippi from 2004 to 2012. Mr. Sanders has served in over 30 prestigious positions at both the state and federal levels. He is a member of the Magnolia Bar Association (former president), NAACP, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (life member), among many other organizations. He is also an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver and Holy Family Catholic Church in Natchez, Mississippi.

He is married to Lillie Blackmon Sanders and is the father of two daughters, Aisha and Keshia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Everett Timothy Sanders for his dedicated service and his many contributions to the Natchez and Jackson, Mississippi, communities.

HONORING MRS. BRENDA ITTA-LEE

HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn respect and heartfelt sympathy that we honor the life and legacy of Brenda Itta-Lee. Her passing is a loss not only to family and community, but to the entire State of Alaska. As we reflect on her life, we recognize a trailblazer whose leadership, vision, and cultural heritage shaped the course of Alaska's history.

Brenda was the first Iñupiaq woman elected to the Alaska State Legislature. Her election in 1974 broke barriers and opened doors that had been closed to Indigenous women in public office. Yet her impact extended far beyond that groundbreaking moment. She carried the weight of that role with strength, representing her people with dignity and resolve. From her work in the Governor's Office to her influential

role as a delegate at the 1971 Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, she helped define Indigenous self-determination for many generations.

Raised in Utqiagvik, Brenda understood the responsibility of public service in deeply personal terms. She never forgot her roots, and she never stopped giving back. Her career was marked not only by political leadership, but by mentorship and advocacy. Whether testifying before Congress or encouraging young Alaska Natives to pursue their dreams, she made space for others to rise with her. Her leadership was as much about listening as it was about speaking, and her influence lives on in the many lives she uplifted.

She once said that her greatest accomplishment was simply serving as a role model to young people in her region. But that was not a simple task. It was a conscious, consistent choice to carry herself with grace, pride, and purpose in boardrooms, in classrooms, and in moments of national consequence. Through her life's work, she preserved traditions, advanced representation, and brought the full strength of Iñupiaq values into the halls of government.

Brenda's legacy will remain a guiding light for Alaska.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS OF UNITED FLIGHT 629

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to honor the victims and first responders of United Airlines Flight 629, and to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of one of Colorado's most heartbreaking tragedies.

On the evening of November 1, 1955, United Airlines Flight 629 departed Denver's Stapleton Field bound for Portland, Oregon. A short time later, the aircraft exploded in midair over Weld County—land now encompassed within my district, killing all thirty-nine passengers and five crew members on board. The cause of that explosion was later revealed to be a bomb—placed in a passenger's suitcase by her son, in an attempt to collect her life insurance benefits.

The wreckage rained down across farms near Longmont, where residents, law enforcement officers, and volunteer firefighters rushed toward the flames, with the hope of saving lives. Among them were local family farmers, whose land bore the brunt of the explosion, and community members who did not hesitate to serve in the face of unimaginable devastation.

In the days that followed, Weld County saw both deep sorrow and remarkable compassion. William "Clayton" Bearly, the longtime manager of Johnson's Corner, witnessed the explosion that night and immediately stepped forward to support first responders, investigators, and National Guard personnel. His quiet service stands as a reflection of the strength and kindness that Colorado communities show in times of crisis.

The Flight 629 tragedy would go on to leave a lasting imprint on Colorado and on the Na-

tion. It became a turning point in aviation security and a somber reminder of the fragility of life. But above all, it revealed the courage of ordinary Coloradans who responded with extraordinary grace.

This year, as we reflect on the tragedy of that night seventy years later, the Denver Police Museum, together with History Colorado, Wings Over the Rockies, the CELL, the University of Denver, FlyteCO Tower, and the Weld County Flight 629 Memorial Committee, will unveil permanent memorials in both Denver and Weld County to honor those who were lost as well as those who answered the call.

Mr. Speaker, every passing year does not diminish the pain of this tragedy, nor does it lessen our duty to remember. Today, we honor the forty-four innocent lives who perished aboard Flight 629 by including their names into the RECORD, that they may never be forgotten:

F.E. "Jack" Ambrose, Samuel Arthur, Bror and Irene Beckstrom, John Bomelyn, Frank Brennan, Louise Bunch, Brad and Carol Bynum, Thomas Crouch, Barbara Cruse, Carl Deist, John Des Jardins, James and Sarah Dorey, Gurney and Elizabeth Edwards, Helen Fitzpatrick and son James, Lee Hall, Virgil and Goldie Herman, Elton Hickok, Jacqueline Hinds, Marion Hobgood, John Jungels, Daisie King, Gerald and Patricia Lipke, Lela McClain, Stewart and Suzanne Morgan, Peggy Peddicord, James Purvis, Herbert Robertson, Harold Sandstead, Sally Scofield, Jesse Sizemore, James Straud, Clarence Todd, Ralph and Minnie VanValin, Donald White, and Alma Winsor.

Mr. Speaker, may we remember each of these forty-four souls with reverence, and may we honor the first responders and citizens who ran toward danger that night with gratitude and respect. Their courage, compassion, and resilience continue to define the spirit of Colorado.

May their memory be eternal, and may God grant peace to the families who still carry this loss, knowing that their loved ones are remembered by a grateful state and Nation.

HONORING JOY BRUNO AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joy Bruno, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. A beloved member of our community, Joy's life is a testament to service, compassion, and leadership. Since joining the Northern Solano Lodge No. 2534 of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America in 1994, Joy has devoted over three decades to strengthening cultural heritage and community bonds. She has served as Lodge President two times and has held numerous leadership roles, including Vice President, Trustee, and Orator. Her commitment has also extended statewide, where she has served as State Deputy for several Northern California lodges and as a board member of the Grand Lodge of California. For over twenty years, Joy has chaired

the Lodge's Contra Costa and Solano Food Bank Committee, ensuring that vulnerable families receive the resources they need. Her boundless energy, optimism, and kindness have earned her the affectionate nickname "the Energizer Bunny," reflecting a spirit that continues to inspire at the young age of 90. Joy's legacy of service lives on through the members she mentors and the countless lives she has touched through her generosity and leadership. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Joy Bruno for her lifelong dedication to community, culture, and service.

**THANKING THE BOY SCOUTS OF
TROOP 39 FROM MATTHEWS,
NORTH CAROLINA FOR THEIR
HEROISM**

HON. TIM MOORE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of Boy Scout Troop 39 from Matthews, North Carolina.

While on their way up to Camp Grimes, these scouts noticed the side of Calvary's Cross Church, in Casar, North Carolina, catching fire from an arson attempt. These young men did not hesitate. They pulled over, grabbed the water bottles and drinks they had packed for the trip, and started working together to put out the flames. Their troop leader said that at one point, the flames were shoulder height. Thanks to their quick thinking and resourcefulness, they helped stop the fire before it could spread and cause severe damage to the church.

This is exactly what the Boy Scouts of America stand for—being prepared, stepping up in the moment, and serving others without being asked. These Scouts set a powerful example for all of us. They didn't wait for someone else to act. They saw a need, and they took responsibility.

I am proud of these young men for their courage and presence of mind. Their actions made a real difference, and they reminded us all of the kind of character and leadership we should be encouraging in the next generation. Casar is lucky to have had them passing through that day.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT
TITLE EQUALITY ACT**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Government Title Equality Act. This bill would amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to redesignate the Mayor as the Governor, the Council as the Legislative Assembly, the Councilmembers as Representatives and the Chair of the Council as the Speaker. The new titles are the ones used in the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth constitution, which D.C. adopted in 2016 in anticipation of

enactment of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would make D.C. the 51st state.

I introduce this bill to highlight to the American people and Members of Congress that the transition to statehood would be seamless, because D.C. already operates as the functional equivalent of a state, providing state-, county- and city-level services, despite being denied voting representation in Congress and full local self-government. This bill would not change any legal authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING HIGH IMPACT
MOVEMENT**

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be asked to say a few words to celebrate such a remarkable organization that truly lives up to its name: High Impact Movement. Amos and his wife, Carol, along with every mentor and volunteer who selflessly give their own time and energy, are making lasting differences and creating deep impacts in the lives of students and their families. They not only uplift and encourage the youth who come here every day but also strengthen the entire community by shaping the minds of our future leaders and dedicated public servants.

While the team's work is certainly outstanding, this address is about something far greater; it's about why their work matters. It's about highlighting the importance of investing in our youth, taking pride in their potential, and looking ahead to the future they will, in turn, build.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan gave remarks to the Representatives of the United States International Youth Year Commission. In his speech, he said, "I believe you all know—or you wouldn't be here—the importance of our youth to the future peace, security, and well-being of our Nation and the world." He then goes on to say, "There's a spark in all of us which, if struck early enough, can light up our lives, elevate our ideals, and deepen our tolerance and strengthen our determination to make this world a better place. You couldn't make a better investment in America's future."

Investing in Arkansas' future, igniting that spark, starts here. This is why programs like High Impact Movement are so important not only for our young people, but for the future of our great state. As you continue to pour into our youth, you are also investing in the future of our communities, where the impacts will be seen for generations to come. And for that I am deeply grateful.

High Impact Movement is proof that when you invest in others, whether it be through tutoring a student after school, sharing valuable life lessons through mentorship, or just encouraging a young person to be the best that they can be, you'll find that the results have an impact that echoes far into the future.

One of my favorite quotes hangs just above the Speaker's rostrum on the House Floor. Two hundred years ago, Daniel Webster addressed a few hundred Revolutionary War veterans and spectators at the Battle of Bunker Hill was memorial groundbreaking. In his ora-

tion, he said, "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered."

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the call to action Mr. Webster gave at the end of this portion of his speech. While his audience may have only been a few hundred people on a field in the middle of summer 200 years ago, his audience continues to grow with each generation. As his audience today, in 2025, we are now the ones being tapped to do something worthy to be remembered. With your heart for service and dedication to our community, people like you are undoubtedly taking up that mantle.

I take deep pride in knowing that the future of the 4th District of Arkansas is bright because of the people proudly representing High Impact Movement. People who invest in our youth, pour into their families, and strengthen our communities through their time, compassion, and leadership.

Their dedicated work today leaves an indelible mark on tomorrow, so let me encourage you to press onward as you selflessly dedicate your time to serving your community.

**HONORING KARI BIRDSEYE AS
ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN
OF THE YEAR**

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kari Birdseye, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Kari is a respected public servant, environmental advocate, and community leader whose commitment to civic engagement has made a lasting impact on the City of Benicia and the broader Solano County region. Elected to the Benicia City Council in 2022, Kari has served her community with distinction, building upon a decade of public service that began in 2012. She served on the Benicia Human Services Board for eight years and as Chair of the Benicia Planning Commission for six years. In addition to her local leadership, Kari currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Green Empowerment Zone and Marin Clean Energy and is the incoming First Vice President of the League of California Cities, North Bay Division. She also contributes to regional policymaking as Southern County Vice Chair of the Solano County Democratic Central Committee Executive Board. Beyond her civic work, Kari has built an accomplished career as Regional Media Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, leading a team that bridges environmental science and public communication. A former CNN journalist and Emmy Award recipient for coverage of the 1996 Olympic Park bombing, Kari brings a wealth of experience in storytelling, environmental management, and public outreach. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from San Francisco State University and a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco. Kari's leadership is characterized by persistence and heart. After losing her