

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

first bid for city council, she persevered and ultimately earned the trust of her community. Through her integrity, vision, and dedication, Kari Birdseye continues to inspire those around her to serve with courage and purpose. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Kari Birdseye for her exemplary service and unwavering commitment to our community.

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HONORING CLAY COUNTY  
VETERANS

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day is a day when our Nation pauses to give thanks to the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America.

In Clay County, Florida, honoring our veterans isn't just something we do once a year, it is part of who we are. This county's history is woven with stories of service: from generations who trained at Camp Blanding, to those who served overseas in defense of freedom, and to the many veterans who continue to serve our community today as teachers, business owners, first responders, and volunteers.

Clay County's patriotism runs deep. You see it every day, in the flags flying over our neighborhoods, the quiet moments of respect at community events, and the countless ways our citizens care for those who've returned home from service. This is a county that not only thanks its veterans but walks beside them.

Today, as we reflect on their courage and sacrifice, we remember that our freedom was, and is, secured by ordinary Americans who answered an extraordinary call. We honor those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

So, on behalf of a grateful Nation, We thank the veterans and military families of Clay County. They are the living heart of our freedom, and we are thankful every single day for all they have given. God bless our veterans, God bless Clay County, and God bless the United States of America.

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CELEBRATING COMMUNITY COL-  
LEGE OF AURORA'S CENTER FOR  
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECH-  
NOLOGY

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the recent opening of the Community College of Aurora's Center for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) Building in Aurora, Colorado.

This is the first new building the college has opened in 20 years, and it marks a significant milestone. The CAST Building will house high-demand programs such as construction, diesel power mechanics, cybersecurity, engineering,

and renewable energy. It will open new pathways for students and create lasting opportunities that will benefit both the college and the surrounding community for years to come.

CAST will host programs in partnership with BuildStrong Academy of Colorado, including industry aligned workforce training programs in construction, skilled trades, and applied technologies. This will open up further pipelines of skilled students who will enter the Colorado workforce in industries that are in considerable demand.

Furthermore, with the leadership of Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, the Community College of Aurora has experienced remarkable growth and progress. In August, the college opened its third campus in Centennial, focused on health care and first responder training. This new campus expands access to career-ready health sciences programs and student support services.

Additionally, the college reached record enrollment levels this year, with more than 9,500 students enrolled for the Fall 2025 semester, an increase of approximately 1,000 students from Fall 2024. This is the highest enrollment in the college's history and is due, in part, to incredible partnerships that the college fostered with Aurora Public Schools to create more accessible pathways to careers and higher education for high school students. These pathways include dual-enrollment, which will allow more high school students to graduate with college credits, OSHA certifications, and industry-recognized credentials—at no cost.

CAST will help meet the needs of this growing and diverse student body by providing expanded access to in-demand career training and education. It is a powerful example of how institutions like the Community College of Aurora are preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

My district, our state, and our Nation are stronger when we invest in our workforce, create opportunities for growth, and empower our communities. I congratulate the Community College of Aurora on the opening of the Center for Applied Science and Technology and thank them for their continued service to our community.

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HONORING WARDS MARINE  
ELECTRIC'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable milestone: the 75th anniversary of Wards Marine Electric, headquartered in my district in Fort Lauderdale. Seventy-five years—three-quarters of a century—is a rare achievement in American business. It speaks to resilience, vision, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Wards Marine Electric was founded under the bold vision of Ward, Sr., and that vision is being carried out tenfold today under the leadership of CEO Kristina Herbert. They have supported a plethora of non-profits, shown leadership in industry associations and fostered job growth and innovation in Fort Lauderdale and beyond. They strongly advocate for the marine industry at both local and national levels, and in doing so help build a fu-

ture for the industry that exhibits the highest standards and steadfast commitment to improvement. Wards Marine Electric has proven themselves to be a pillar of the community, and I am proud to host their headquarters in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Wards Marine Electric on 75 years of remarkable achievement. May their past inspire continued innovation, their community engagement continues to uplift South Florida, and their vision for the future ensure the next 75 years are even brighter.

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HONORING KATHERINE STOKES 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 Katherine Stokes, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Katherine is an innovator, entrepreneur, and community leader whose compassionate vision has reshaped how care, education, and service are delivered across California. As the founder and CEO of Spongies Comfort, a medical innovation company based in California, Katherine has brought humanity and creativity to healthcare. Katherine's invention of the Spongies Heart Armrest, a reusable, medical-grade cushion is now used in oncology, infusion, and radiology departments across leading hospitals such as Stanford, Kaiser, and UCSF. Her simple yet transformative design has improved patient comfort, reduced anxiety, and supported healthcare providers in delivering more compassionate care. Beyond her entrepreneurial achievements, Katherine serves on the Board of Directors of A Loving Organization Consortium (ALOC), a nonprofit dedicated to transforming healthcare systems from fear-based to love-based operations. She is also the founder of Innovation Rewards in School (IRIS), an educational initiative that teaches middle school students creativity, entrepreneurship, and purpose-driven leadership. Locally, Katherine coaches youth soccer for the Solano County Surf Soccer Club and continues to donate Spongies cushions to under-resourced clinics, children's hospitals, and veteran care facilities, providing comfort where it is needed most. Her latest project, a purple Heart Armrest and under-knee wedge, designed specifically for veterans, honors service members with dignity and care. Through every endeavor, Katherine exemplifies integrity, empathy, and resilience. She approaches every challenge with grace, turning obstacles into opportunities to serve. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my privilege to recognize Katherine Stokes for her groundbreaking innovation, compassionate leadership, and unwavering dedication to uplifting others.