

RECOGNIZING IZZY SOTO AND THE  
U.S. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
TEAM

**HON. RUSSELL FRY**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Izzy Soto and her teammates on the United States National Development Team for winning a gold medal at the 2025 Pan American Inline Hockey Championships in Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico.

Representing our Nation with pride and determination, the team demonstrated remarkable resilience by winning four consecutive games to capture the championship title. I am especially proud to note that Izzy is from Myrtle Beach and was the only member of the Women's Junior Team from South Carolina, making her achievement even more meaningful for our state and the Grand Strand community.

Their accomplishment reflects the best of American spirit, teamwork, and perseverance. Competing at this level not only showcased their skill but also provided invaluable experience playing alongside and against some of the best athletes in the world.

I commend Izzy, her teammates, and their coaches for their dedication and sportsmanship, and I extend my best wishes to all those continuing to compete in future tournaments. Their success brings great pride to the United States and serves as an inspiration to young athletes everywhere.

CONGRATULATING KYLE WELK ON  
BEING NAMED THE 2025 MERLE  
HOWARD AWARD WINNER

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Kyle Welk of Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania, on being named the 2025 Merle Howard Award winner at the 58th World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin.

Having grown up on a dairy farm, Kyle has dedicated his life to the dairy industry from a young age. On October 3, 2025, he received the Merle Howard Award, which is one of the highest honors a young person can achieve in the dairy industry.

Kyle's work ethic is demonstrated by his steady determination and pursuit of excellence. He began by showing cattle at local shows and progressed to state, regional, and national competitions. His commitment took him from working on a prestigious farm in Lancaster County to traveling across the United States and even to New Zealand. Kyle also won numerous state awards for his homebred cattle and swept the fitting contest at the 2024 World Dairy Expo.

Dairy farming is not an easy profession, but Kyle approached every task—from washing animals to packing their bedding—with passion, drive, and humility. These same qualities have made him stand out as one of the very best in fitting, raising, and breeding cattle.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pennsylvania's 11th District, and we are fortunate to

have a strong dairy industry. The grit and perseverance of individuals like Kyle Welk make this possible. His character and grit have earned him well-deserved recognition as the 2025 Merle Howard Award winner.

Through his achievements, Kyle sets an excellent example for young people in Pennsylvania's 11th District and beyond who aspire to careers in dairy and agriculture. I congratulate him and look forward to seeing all that his bright future holds.

HONORING SHERIFF-CORONER  
THOMAS A. FERRARA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize Solano County Sheriff-Coroner Thomas A. Ferrara as he retires from law enforcement after 40 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and more than 45 years in law enforcement.

Born and raised in Lodi, Sheriff Ferrara began his law enforcement career in 1978 as a police cadet with the Rio Vista Police Department. He went on to serve as a reserve officer and later as a full-time officer with the Isleton Police Department before joining the Solano County Sheriff's Office in 1984. Over the next four decades, Sheriff Ferrara rose through the department's ranks, serving as Sergeant, Chief Deputy, Captain, and Under-sheriff. Sheriff Ferrara was appointed Sheriff-Coroner in 2012 and has been elected to three consecutive terms.

Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Ferrara has provided steady, principled leadership and left a lasting mark on our Solano County. He established the Concealed Carry Weapons program, which became a model for departments across the state, and founded the annual statewide CCW Conference, which brings together hundreds of participants from nearly 100 law enforcement agencies for training and collaboration. Under his leadership, our Solano County Sheriff's Office has completed major public safety improvements at their facilities, including the Stanton Correctional Facility, the Rourke Vocational Training Center, and key upgrades to the Justice Center Detention Facility and Animal Care Shelter.

Sheriff Ferrara has also guided our Solano County through some of its most challenging moments. He oversaw emergency operations during the 2014 Napa earthquake, the 2015 Wragg Fire, the 2017 Atlas Fire, the 2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fire, multiple severe winter storms, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout all these crises, Sheriff Ferrara reacted with calm, decisive leadership, helping ensure the safety of our community members and first responders.

Beyond his service to our Solano County, Sheriff Ferrara has been a respected leader among his peers statewide. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California State Sheriffs' Association and has chaired multiple committees, advancing training, standards, and collaboration across California law enforcement. Sheriff Ferrara is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 205th Session and holds numerous professional certifications

from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Sheriff Ferrara's lifelong dedication to public safety and his commitment to integrity, professionalism, and community service have earned him the respect of colleagues and the gratitude of the people he has served. A resident of Vacaville, he and his wife, Judi, look forward to retirement filled with travel, local car shows, and time with family.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff-Coroner Thomas A. Ferrara has devoted more than four decades to protecting the people of Solano County and strengthening our community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him today for his exemplary leadership and service to our district.

HONORING LAKISHA MITCHELL-  
KEITH 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 Lakisha Mitchell-Keith, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. A proud Richmond native and third-generation member of the Mitchell family, renowned for civic and faith-based service, Lakisha has long exemplified leadership rooted in purpose and compassion. Her 15-year career as a federal law enforcement officer and supervisor with the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security demonstrated integrity, professionalism, and an enduring commitment to justice and safety. After her federal service, Lakisha earned her Juris Doctor from Golden Gate University School of Law with a specialization in Public Interest Law, preparing her to advance equity and uplift underserved communities. She brings that same passion to her volunteer and advocacy work across Richmond and the Bay Area. A lifelong member of Bethel AME Church in San Francisco, she serves in multiple leadership roles, including President of the Lay Organization, Trustee Board Member, and is a part of the Stewardship & Finance Commission and Strategic Planning Team. She also holds regional leadership positions in the California Annual Conference Lay Organization and the Conference Board of Trustees. In 2025, she embraced a new chapter in her spiritual journey, becoming a licensed Licentiate in the AME Church. Lakisha's recent advocacy at Stege Elementary School further demonstrates her drive for educational justice. As a School Site Council member, she helped bring visibility to longstanding facility concerns and was a key force behind renewed public commitment to the school's future. Whether in law enforcement, legal advocacy, faith leadership, or local activism, Lakisha Mitchell-Keith brings courage, vision, and integrity to everything she does. Her life's work reflects the highest ideals of public service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Lakisha Mitchell-Keith for her devotion to justice, community empowerment, and spiritual service.

## CONGRATULATING THE TABB HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS GOLF TEAM

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tabb High School Tigers Golf Team of York County, Virginia, for winning the Virginia Class 3, Region A Golf Championship—their first regional title since 2001.

The Tigers were led by Cooper Guldin, whose round of 74 earned him the individual medalist honor followed by outstanding performances from Jack Houseknecht and Brodi Bartee, who each contributed standout performances shooting their lowest scores of the season, Ethan Thompson, Chriss Bassett, and Ainsley Asbury.

Competing among seven strong teams at Dogwood Trace Golf Course in Petersburg, the Tigers captured the championship by narrowly edging York High School by just three shots for the victory. This hard-fought win secured Tabb a well-earned berth in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) state tournament and marked a historic return to regional prominence for the golf team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Tabb High School Tigers Golf Team of York County, Virginia. May they continue to represent their school with great pride.

## HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, I rise today alongside my colleague and Chair, Mr. HUIZENG of Michigan, to honor and congratulate the people of Kazakhstan as they mark the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, which commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty independent of the Soviet Union on October 25, 1990. The United States has remained committed to Kazakhstan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Now, as a valued strategic partner of the United States, our nations work together to advance security, peace, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan inherited a massive nuclear stockpile and legacy sites for chemical and biological weapons research following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The voluntary commitment to rapidly remove these weapons from its territory and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other key arms control measures was a model for the region and the world. Kazakhstan has also made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including independent deployments of peacekeepers from 2024. These efforts support stability and security in both Central Asia and the wider world.

U.S. companies remain the largest source of foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan,

helping build resilient supply chains driving Kazakhstan's economic diversification, supply chain resiliency, and sustainable economic development. Last month, Wabtec Corporation and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy announced a \$4.2 billion locomotive deal, reflecting deepening cooperation between Kazakhstan and American firms.

We reiterate our commitment to advancing repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which will allow us to fully realize the potential of this relationship. We also applaud Kazakhstan's efforts to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. We believe it is in our shared interest to improve Central Asian connectivity with global markets to boost the resilience of supply chains, and will seek ways to support the realization of the Trans-Caspian "Middle Corridor." In addition to continued dialogue to safeguard critical technologies and improve the investment climate, we hope that the ongoing process of constitutional and political reform in Kazakhstan initiated in 2022 will strengthen governance and human rights.

On the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day, we can reflect on our enduring friendship and the bright future of our strategic partnership. We look forward to continued high-level engagement with Kazakhstan, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In particular, we believe the anticipated [EA5] C5+1 Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. would be a pivotal opportunity to strengthen longstanding United States cooperation with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and Representative HUIZENG in honoring Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

## HONORING DR. LATYNA YOUNG 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 Dr. Latyna Young, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Dr. Young is a lifelong educator, community leader, and advocate whose 45-year career in education has left an enduring mark on Vallejo and Solano County. Elected to the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Trustees in 2020, where she represents Area 4, Dr. Young's leadership reflects her deep commitment to equity, empowerment, and excellence in education. A proud graduate of Vallejo schools herself, she began her career in the same district as a teacher before serving as coordinator, vice principal, principal, and director of student support services. Though retired from full-time service, she continues to champion educational opportunity and student success as a trustee and mentor to the next generation of educators. Beyond her service to the school district, Dr. Young is President of Fighting Back Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending poverty and strengthening families in Vallejo and across Solano County. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa

Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Kappa Beta Omega Chapter), the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA), and the Solano-Napa Chapter of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA). Dr. Young's academic achievements are as impressive as her professional record—holding two master's degrees, in early childhood and special education from Sonoma State University and in counseling from the University of La Verne, along with a doctorate in educational leadership in urban schools. Her lifetime of service embodies perseverance, compassion, and faith in the transformative power of education. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Dr. Latyna Young for her remarkable leadership, her dedication to the Vallejo community, and her lifelong commitment to public service.

## HONORING MR. SCOTT GOMEZ

**HON. NICHOLAS J. BEGICH III**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 28, 2025*

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a trailblazer in Alaska's sports history, Scott Gomez for his induction into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame. As the first Alaskan to receive this extraordinary distinction, Mr. Gomez has not only broken barriers in the world of professional hockey but has also served as a role model for generations of young Alaskans.

Born in Anchorage and a graduate of East Anchorage High School, Mr. Gomez rose swiftly through the ranks of professional hockey. He made an immediate impact in his rookie season with the New Jersey Devils, by winning the NHL's Calder Memorial Trophy. His career would go on to include two Stanley Cup championships, over 1,000 games in the NHL, and international representation with Team USA at the Winter Olympics.

Beyond his accolades on the ice, Mr. Gomez's legacy is defined by his commitment to community. During the 2012 NHL lockout, while many of his peers played overseas, he returned home to Alaska to play in front of local fans. He has continued to mentor youth and invest in the sport through coaching roles, including his current position with the USHL's Surrey Eagles.

Mr. Gomez also founded the Scott Gomez Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting youth hockey and increasing opportunities for underserved communities. Through scholarships, clinics, and community work, the foundation reflects his deep commitment to giving back and uplifting the next generation of players.

Scott Gomez embodies the values of perseverance, excellence, and service that make Alaska proud. His journey from local rinks to national recognition reflects the very best of our state's spirit of optimism, hard work, and generosity. I offer my congratulations on this well-deserved honor and thank him for the inspiration he continues to provide both on and off the ice.