

and community trust that continues to define our region today.

HONORING MELISSA NICKSON AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Melissa Nickson as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her exceptional leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to survivors of violence across Solano County. Her dedication to trauma-informed advocacy and her tireless pursuit of justice have profoundly strengthened our community. Under her direction, Napa Solano SANE-SART's advocacy and case management programs have expanded to provide comprehensive, survivor-centered care for thousands affected by sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She has built an organization grounded in compassion and respect, ensuring that every survivor is met with dignity and the support needed to rebuild their life. One of Melissa's most significant contributions has been her leadership in the regional response to human trafficking. She has spearheaded collaborations with local law enforcement, county task forces, and community partners to create a coordinated and effective safety net for trafficking survivors. Her efforts have led to the development of a 24/7 human trafficking crisis line, the expansion of emergency housing options, and the implementation of long-term recovery pathways that address both immediate and systemic barriers to healing. Melissa has also been a tireless advocate and educator. She engages in civic organizations, professional groups, and schools to raise awareness about exploitation, victim rights, and prevention. Her outreach to youth is particularly impactful and through school presentations and youth programs, she has equipped young people with the knowledge and confidence to recognize and resist the signs of trafficking and abuse. Survivors and colleagues alike describe Melissa as a beacon of hope and a steady, empathetic presence in moments of crisis. Her courage, compassion, and tireless advocacy for survivors have restored lives and fostered community resilience. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Melissa Nickson for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUSAN L. ZOLOTOROFE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the beautiful life, leg-

acy, and memory of my Constituent Susan L. Zolotorofe who was a cherished daughter, a treasured friend, and a beloved member of our Bucks County community. Susan passed away on October 24, 2025, at her home in Ivyland, Pennsylvania, at the age of 53, after courageously enduring complications stemming from radiation treatments she underwent as a teenager to overcome a brain tumor. Her life is a testament to courage, perseverance, and a heart overflowing with love.

Born on August 17, 1972, at Abington Hospital, Susan entered this world with a radiant smile. Her smile would go on to warm the hearts of everyone privileged enough to know her. From her early years, Susan possessed a gentleness of spirit that enriched the lives of all who crossed her path.

Susan dedicated her life to helping children grow, learn, and feel seen. She spent many years working in preschools and day care centers across Bucks County, including her service at the YMCA in Warminster. For Susan, child care was not merely a profession but a calling. She believed that every child deserved compassion, patience, and encouragement, and she gave those gifts freely. Her kindness was not loud but was quiet, steady, and deeply felt.

For over twenty years, Susan faithfully served at Addisville Church, assisting with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School alongside her devoted mother. Her work within the church reflected her strong faith and the values she lived each day. The values of care, humility, service, and love.

Some of Susan's happiest moments were spent near the water. From her childhood visits to Silver Bay on Lake George, New York, to cherished days walking the beaches of Ocean City, New Jersey, these places offered her peace and filled her with wonder. They were her sanctuaries, where the world slowed enough for her heart to feel light.

Though she was strikingly tall and beautiful, it was her smile, a smile that was warm, gentle, and unmistakably genuine that defined her. Even during her most difficult medical challenges, that smile remained. It was a symbol of her resilience, her faith, and her refusal to let hardship dim her spirit.

Susan is survived by her loving parents, Eileen (née Fetter) and Don Zolotorofe, along with a large, devoted family and a circle of friends who will forever hold her memory close. Each carries with them the profound imprint of her kindness and the example of how to live with grace.

Mr. Speaker, the true measure of a life is not found in what we accumulate, but in the hearts we touch. By that measure, Susan lived a life overflowing with purpose and love. She showed us what it means to persevere with dignity, to care without condition, and to walk through this world with a smile that reminds others they matter.

May her memory be a blessing, and may we honor her legacy by living as she did, with compassion, faith, and joy.

It is my pleasure to honor her in the United States Congress, so that future generations may know of the extraordinary kindness and courage of Susan L. Zolotorofe, a woman whose light continues to shine.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY "TONY" ANELLO

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Anthony "Tony" Anello, who passed away at the age of 77 on September 28, 2025. Tony was a beloved and celebrated member of Bodega Bay, a renowned fisherman, and a pillar of this coastal community.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1948, Tony was raised in Guerneville, California. Tony was a rodeo calf roper when he married Carol Zucca, his wife of 58 years. To support their growing family, Tony began an excavation business, while earning additional income as a fisherman and selling produce.

In 1968, Tony joined the Guerneville Fire Department as a volunteer, launching his steadfast career as a firefighter and EMT. He served the Sonoma County fire departments for decades and rose through the ranks of captain, training officer, and battalion chief during his tenure. Tony's excellence and commitment as a training officer is credited for shaping generations of paramedics and firefighters in Sonoma County.

Most notably, Tony had a deep-rooted love for fishing. The grandson of a Sicilian fisherman, Tony purchased his first of many commercial fishing boats in 1969. On his days off from the fire department, Tony would go commercial salmon and crab fishing.

In 2004, Tony and Carol founded Spud Point Crab Co. in Bodega Bay, a small harbor stand that grew to become an iconic, homestyle restaurant for both tourists and locals. Tony and his son, Mark, provided seasonal crab and wild king salmon fresh from the dock of the marina across from the restaurant. The waterfront stand, inspired by Old Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, still attracts lines of customers seeking Carol's prize-winning clam chowder and Tony's Dungeness crab. A beacon of the community, Spud Point Co. is a critical hub for the town and a charitable supporter of many local organizations.

Along with his well-respected work ethic, Tony was well known for his larger-than-life character, humor, and generous spirit. Tony was a stalwart advocate for the local fishing community and hosted many vital community gatherings to preserve the future of the fishing industry at Bodega Bay. While he will be greatly missed, Tony's legacy will live on through the innumerable positive impacts he has had on his community. Tony is survived by his wife and their four children, Lori, Gina, Lisa, and Mark, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom have carried on his passion for fishing and firefighting.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Tony's family and many friends and in expressing deep appreciation for his decades of service to his community.

HONORING MARIE CARAYANIS AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Marie Carayanis as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her decades of outstanding service and commitment to her community. In 1970, together with her husband, Marie opened Nick & Marie's Delicatessen and Catering, a cornerstone of downtown El Sobrante for 30 years. Through her work as a small business owner, she became a dedicated advocate for the needs of local businesses and an active leader in the community. Marie has served on the El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce Board since 1968, holding the office of President in 1984 to 1985, 2003 to 2004, and again from 2014 to 2016. She currently serves as Membership Chairperson. She was also one of the founders of the El Sobrante Stroll, the community's signature festival, and continues to serve as Director of Vendor Booths for this beloved annual event. Her commitment to civic life extends far beyond business. Marie has served for many years on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of El Sobrante, including as President and Director of the Volunteer Program. She has also been active in the American Business Women's Association and the Soroptimists, working to advance opportunities for women and strengthen community service. While Marie's priorities have always centered on her family, including her three daughters and grandchildren, she has never wavered in her dedication to her friends, neighbors, and the well-being of the El Sobrante Valley community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Marie Carayanis for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**HONORING QUEEN MOTHER
SIRIKIT OF THAILAND**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S.-Thai Alliance Caucus, I want to extend my deepest condolences to both the Royal Family and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother. Born in Bangkok on August 12, 1932—a day now celebrated as Mother's Day—she married the future King Bhumibol Adulyadej, crowned Rama IX, in 1950.

Her Majesty led a life dedicated to public service and was a champion of furthering rural development in Thailand. As a steadfast companion of the King for more than four decades, she traveled with him throughout the country touring rural villages and advocating for projects to help the poor.

Queen Sirikit was also an advocate for the preservation of traditional silk-weaving and is

credited with helping to revitalize Thailand's silk industry.

During my visits to Thailand, I have seen firsthand the warmth of the people and their love for the King and Queen, offering only the highest of praises. The Thai people's admiration of the monarchs is a testament of their patriotism and to national unity in Thailand. I am grateful to have been able to have seen these sentiments firsthand, in addition to the numerous other aspects of their rich culture. Thailand is a valued ally of America.

Once again, I offer my deepest condolences to Queen Sirikit's family and friends, and to the people of the Kingdom of Thailand.

**HONORING THE MADISON COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL**

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishment of Madison County High School in Madison, Virginia, for being selected as one of the Top 25 schools nationwide—and the only school in Virginia—in T-Mobile's Friday Night 5G Lights competition.

This remarkable achievement distinguishes Madison County High School from thousands of schools across the nation that participated in this innovative program. The Friday Night 5G Lights initiative is more than just a contest—it is a nationwide movement designed to fuel school pride, performance, and possibility. Through this multimillion-dollar program, T-Mobile supports small towns and rural communities by empowering high schools to showcase their school spirit, strengthen community engagement, and compete for a football field upgrade that enhances student and fan experiences.

Madison County High School's selection as a Top 25 finalist reflects the extraordinary dedication of its students, faculty, staff, and community. Their collective enthusiasm and spirit exemplify the pride and resilience of Madison County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madison County High School for its recognition and commend the entire community for rallying behind their students. I know this community will continue to support their school as they inspire our young leaders in demonstrating that teamwork, community, and perseverance can light up even the smallest towns in the brightest ways.

**HONORING MARIA STATS AS ONE
OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF
THE YEAR**

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Stats, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Maria is a proud first-gen-

eration American who has participated in community service and the arts as a performer, director, activist, author, and educator for more than thirty-five years. She is the founder and artistic director of On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts, an international award-winning arts company. Maria is also the first DEI chair for the National Organization for Women, California, working directly under Helen Grieco. One of her major achievements was bringing Rock the Vote with MTV News and the State Registrar's office to Solano County. She is a founding member of the S.H.E. Institute, the Vallejo Charter School, and the Vallejo Literacy Alliance. Maria was also recognized by Playbill magazine in 2020 as one of the five community theatres giving the most back to their community. Maria was also recognized in 2024 as a Freddie G Fellow, the highest musical theatre teaching award outside the Tony, a teaching award from Music Theatre International and the Broadway League recognizing teachers who change the world one musical at a time. Currently, Maria is serving her second term as the Vallejo Museum's Board President. Her original musical, Wonderlandia, was workshoped in Vallejo and will be performed in conjunction with Día de Muertos bringing a new Vallejo tradition to the downtown. Maria is most proud of being a mom to four amazing kids. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Maria Stats for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING LINDA NEAL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Neal, who has been named the 2025 Agriculturist of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Ms. Neal is being recognized for her decades of dedicated service and lasting contributions to Napa Valley's agricultural community.

Ms. Neal's path to agriculture began after her family moved from Orange County to Oakdale in Stanislaus County during her childhood. Inspired by local students involved in farming, she joined the Future Farmers of America (FFA) at Oakdale High School, where she earned a State Farmer Degree and numerous awards. Ms. Neal has often said that everything good in her life can be traced back to her involvement with FFA, where she came to see agriculture as the only truly essential industry. She went on to earn an Associate of Science degree in Agricultural Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business, graduating summa cum laude, and became a licensed Pest Control Advisor.

Ms. Neal arrived in Napa Valley in 1983, where she initially worked as a sales representative for the French agricultural manufacturer Rhone Poulenc. Soon after, she and her then-husband, Michael Neal, co-founded M&L Vineyard Management, which began with a single quarter-acre vineyard and grew to manage more than 1,000 acres for renowned wineries including Cakebread, Mondavi, and Opus One. In 1986, she represented Napa County at the California Farm Bureau Federation competition in Monterey, earning first