

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

place in debate. The following year, she became a member of the Napa County Farm Bureau and purchased an agricultural property in Oakville. By 1989, she had terraced the hillside and planted four acres of Cabernet Sauvignon on the property her vineyard crew would later name Tierra Roja for its distinctive red volcanic soil.

After two decades leading M&L Vineyard Management, Ms. Neal turned her focus to her own properties. She operated Mellowood Vineyard in El Dorado County before selling the winery in 2018 to concentrate fully on Tierra Roja. Working closely with vineyard manager Ruben Rubio, Ms. Neal manages every aspect of her four-acre vineyard year-round, with each vine individually tended. She produces about 250 cases annually of highly regarded Cabernet Sauvignon from what has been called "Magic Hill" for its location among Oakville's most celebrated vineyards.

In addition to her professional success, Ms. Neal has been a driving force for agricultural education and community engagement. Twenty-five years ago, she worked with local farmers, including Larry Bettinelli, to establish the Agriculture Program at St. Helena High School, where she served as treasurer, secretary, and fundraiser. What began as a vision for a single classroom has grown into a three-teacher program with more than half of St. Helena High School's students participating. Ms. Neal was also elected by local farmers to serve on the USDA Farm Service Agency Committee, where she advocated for agricultural producers across the region. Throughout her career, she has mentored many young people entering agriculture, giving individuals who are now industry leaders their first start in the field.

Ms. Neal's commitment to service extended beyond our Napa Valley when she joined the Peace Corps in 2018 and served in Morocco until 2020, sharing her agricultural expertise with communities abroad before returning to continue her work here at home.

Mr. Speaker, through decades of work in viticulture, dedication to agricultural education, and commitment to mentoring the next generation of farmers, Linda Neal has made lasting contributions to our Napa Valley's agricultural community. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2025 Agriculturist of the Year.

RECOGNIZING THE HIGH PLAINS HONOR FLIGHT

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate our Nation's brave men and women and to recognize the High Plains Honor Flight Network, which conducts trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the monuments built to honor their bravery and service. The High Plains Honor Flight gave some of our fellow brave men and women the chance to visit our Nation's Capital. As a fellow veteran myself, I am pleased to honor the High Plains Honor Flight and to recognize the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Mr. Speaker, the veterans who participated in this flight are as follows:

Veterans of the Korean War: Howard Kennedy and Robert Kinnison.

Veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars: James Myers.

Veterans of the Cold War: Marvin Clark and Charles Portz.

Veterans of the Vietnam War: Leron Allred, Albert Amen, Walter Anderson, Sammy Archer, John Babich, Clifford Baker, Virgil Barnhart, Weslie Bater, Selby Batty, Richard Block, Louis Branch, Jr., Miles Brekke, C. Brown, Charles Brown, John Bunning, Jens Burnett, Bruce Carlson, Daniel Carson, James Coleman, Bruce Conley, David Cook, Rhonda Corchado, Charles Cowan Jr., Daniel Cutler, Douglas Davenport, Steven Davison, Eugene Dorsey, George Dowell, Jerry Downie, Joseph Eddins, Richard Edens, Rodney Ellner, Bryan Ericson, Daryl Frank, Timothy Fulton, John Goodman, Michael Graff, Lester Greene, Duane Hahn, Gary Hausman, James Hawkins, David Hedgpeth, Joseph Heide, Jr., Larry Hobbs, James Hoefer, David Holm, George Horgan, Richard Horwat, Donnie Huff, Donald Huss, Larry Johnson, Martin Jones, Sidney Keller, Bruce Kemp, Michael Kennedy, Ronald Kessinger, Thomas King, John Knespel, Bruce Koerwitz, Michael Konshak, Robert Kronberg, John Kupfer, William Langridge, Gerard Lemke, Cecelia Long, Johnny Lorenzini, John Loth, Gary Marison, Karen Marison, Cisco Martinez, Harry Marxmiller, Rudolph Mazur, George McCambridge, Daniel McKinney, Maurice Mertens, Allan Miller, Dean Nelson, Ron Nelson, Wesley Nelson, Joseph Novak, Stephen Olt, Cameron Paterson, Kenneth Pearce, Paul Piper, Thomas Redmond, Randolph Reed, James Rippeth, Rolando Romo, James Ronk, Sylvester Roubideaux, Gail Rowse, Steven Sample, Donald Sanchez, Lyndel Saxbury, Kenneth Schossow, Earl Seahorn, Barry Sittlow, Richard Skinner, Richard Steedley, Marion Stille, Harry Stordahl, Ashley Sumerford, Robert Tramp, Raymon Valdez, Gerald Vargo, Daniel Warren, Floyd Watson, Jr., Larry Weickum, Donald Weightman, James Widlar, Linda Wingate, David Wining, Juan Zavala, Joe Zavala, Jr., Donald Zeidler.

It is my honor and privilege as a veteran and the United States Representative of the 8th District of Colorado to recognize the sacrifice and service of these men and women and all other members of our Nation's military. I thank them for their bravery and service to our Nation.

HONORING MARBEYA ELLIS AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CON- GRESSIONAL 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 Marbeya Ellis, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As Family Resource Center Manager for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD), Ms. Ellis has transformed three school-based centers—at Anna Kyle, Cleo Gordon, and Suisun Elementary—into trusted community hubs providing essen-

tial support, stability, and hope for local families. Through her leadership, FSUSD's Family Resource Centers have become models of wraparound service, connecting families to vital resources, including hygiene products, school supplies, housing referrals, and financial assistance, all in an environment of dignity and care. Marbeya's innovative approach has expanded partnerships with organizations such as SparkPoint Solano for financial coaching, CommuniCare+OLE for mobile health clinics, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to provide free tax preparation that helps low-income families secure critical refunds. Beyond her district role, she serves as Board Secretary for the Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Solano County Family HealthCare Board, championing equitable access to healthcare and economic opportunity. Her commitment to collaboration ensures that families can find relief and empowerment in the very schools their children attend. Under her guidance, FSUSD's Family Resource Centers have become national examples of how public education can anchor community wellness. Marbeya's work is not just about meeting needs, it's about transforming systems with compassion, cultural humility, and persistence. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Marbeya Ellis for her visionary leadership, her tireless service, and her profound impact on families across Fairfield and Suisun City.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESO- LUTION COMMEMORATING OCTO- BER 2025 AS HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a joint resolution commemorating October 2025 as Head Start Awareness Month, recognizing the extraordinary impact this program has had on more than 40 million children and their families over the past six decades.

Since its founding in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, Head Start stands as one of America's most effective and enduring investments in our nation's future—helping children from low-income families build a strong foundation for lifelong success. From early childhood education to health, nutrition, and parental engagement, Head Start has transformed the lives of families in every corner of this country.

Head Start isn't just about education, it's about empowerment. It ensures that every child, regardless of their zip code or background, has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Parents are not just participants, but partners shaping programs that reflect the needs and values of their communities.

Today, nearly 750,000 children are enrolled in Head Start programs across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal nations, and U.S. territories. The results speak for themselves: Head Start alumni are more likely to graduate high school, attend college, and achieve greater economic security as adults.