

As we mark this milestone, we must reaffirm our commitment to supporting and strengthening Head Start. For 60 years, this program has enjoyed bipartisan support—a testament to its effectiveness and the shared belief that every child deserves a fair start in life.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors the families, educators, and communities who have made Head Start the success story it is today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in commemorating October 2025 as Head Start Awareness Month, and in celebrating the generations of children and families who have benefited from this transformative program.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
JAMES A. MURPHY, III

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable James A. Murphy, III, for his distinguished and lasting service to Saratoga County and the State of New York.

Judge Murphy served for ten years as Saratoga County Court Judge and as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, where he presided over serious felony jury trials and complex civil litigation. Before his election to the bench, he devoted twenty-five years to prosecutorial work, serving as Saratoga County District Attorney from 1997 to 2014 after being re-elected in 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013.

As District Attorney, Judge Murphy led with innovation and compassion, establishing drug treatment courts, alternatives-to-incarceration programs, and New York State's first Domestic Violence Integrated Court. He was a vocal advocate for reform of the Rockefeller drug laws and worked closely with the State Legislature to modernize New York's criminal justice system. His leadership extended beyond the county, as Governors Pataki, Spitzer, and Cuomo appointed him to statewide boards including the Commission for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Forensic Science Commission. He is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy and earned a Certificate in Leadership from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Judge Murphy and his wife, Laurie, reside in Saratoga Springs and are the proud parents of two daughters. Outside of his legal career, he continues to serve his community in other ways, including as a certified U.S. Rowing referee.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge James A. Murphy, III, for his decades of public service, principled leadership, and unwavering dedication to justice. His career stands as an example of integrity and commitment that has strengthened both the legal system and the community he has served so faithfully.

HONORING MALAYSIA GALLON 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 Malaysia Gallon, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. At only 24 years old, Malaysia has already devoted more than a decade to community service, embodying compassion, leadership, and resilience far beyond her years. Since the age of 12, she has dedicated her life to uplifting others through her involvement with Keyz 2 the Future and Motivated 2 Help Others (M2HO), organizations committed to providing food, mentorship, and trauma-informed support to those in need. As Secretary for Keyz 2 the Future, Malaysia helps lead youth mentorship and art therapy programs that empower children and teens affected by gun violence. Through her service with M2HO, she has been on the front lines of feeding the unhoused and ensuring that vulnerable community members are met with dignity and care. Alongside her tireless volunteer work, Malaysia is building a career in healthcare as a licensed EKG Technician and Unit Assistant, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing. Despite facing profound personal loss to gun violence, Malaysia has transformed her grief into purpose, becoming a role model for young women navigating hardship. Her dedication has resulted in thousands of meals served, hundreds of youths mentored, and a legacy of empathy and service that continues to grow. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Malaysia Gallon for her extraordinary compassion, her unwavering community spirit, and her outstanding contributions to Solano County.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL JAMES E. LIV-
INGSTON, USMC, RETIRED

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medal of Honor winner Major General James E. Livingston, USMC Retired, and the University of North Georgia's permanent dedication of the North Plaza at the Gen. William "Lipp" Livsey Drill Field as the 'Major General James E. Livingston Medal of Honor Plaza'. This permanent naming is in recognition of Major General Livingston's lifelong service to America, his commitment to the mission and work of the University of North Georgia—The Military College of Georgia, and his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" for which he earned our Nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

A native of McRae, Georgia, in Telfair County, James E. Livingston attended North Georgia College (NGC) from 1957 to 1958. He departed NGC to study engineering and was

commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1962 from Auburn University. His early assignments included service as a platoon commander, intelligence officer, and as a Recruit Training Regiment series commander. Major General Livingston served as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS *Wasp* and then joined the 3d Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam in August 1967. On May 2, 1968, while serving as Commanding Officer, Company E, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, he distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy forces at the Battle of Dai Do, Republic of Vietnam.

The following is a (short) excerpt from his actions that day:

"Ignoring hostile rounds impacting near him, he fearlessly led his men in a savage assault against enemy emplacements within the village. While adjusting supporting arms fire, Capt. Livingston moved to the points of heaviest resistance, shouting words of encouragement to his marines, directing their fire, and spurring the dwindling momentum of the attack on repeated occasions. Although twice painfully wounded by grenade fragments, he refused medical treatment and courageously led his men in the destruction of over 100 mutually supporting bunkers, driving the remaining enemy from their positions, and relieving the pressure on the stranded marine company." For his incredibly heroic actions on that fateful day, Major General Livingston earned the Medal of Honor which was presented to him on 14 May 1970 by President Richard Nixon in a ceremony at the White House. Today, Major General Livingston stands as one of only 61 living Medal of Honor recipients. Although, he only attended North Georgia College for one year, to this day he credits his North Georgia experience with setting the foundation for his life by instilling timeless leadership principles, fostering maturity, and making him tough. This quote is from Major General Livingston in a recent interview in late 2024: "One of the greatest things to ever happen to me in my life was the opportunity to come to (attend) what was then North Georgia College. . . let me assure you I would have never been successful in what I learned about myself, what I learned about what I needed to know and needed to reinforce through my whole life. Those values of understanding how to live your life, how to be successful in your life, how to achieve in your life . . . all values I learned at North Georgia."

His foundational experience at North Georgia was evidenced by his donation of one of his original Medals of Honor which he received from President Nixon in 1970 to UNG in October 2024. Of note, each medal of honor recipient receives only two medals—Major General Livingston is leaving one to his family and the second to the University of North Georgia, in perpetuity. In a speech to the UNG Corps of Cadets—America's Corps in September 2024, he emotionally shared how the Corps' rigorous training shaped his philosophy of leading by example and maintaining discipline under pressure, qualities evident in his heroic actions at the Battle of Dai Do. Major General Livingston's formative experience in UNG's Cadet Corps laid the groundwork for his distinguished 33-year Marine Corps career. He is the epitome of the UNG Cadet Corps and the mission and work of the University of North Georgia—The Military College of Georgia. As UNG delivers the Corps of the Future—America's Corps, it will be the legacy of leaders like Major General

Livingston who inspire the next generation of selfless Americans to answer our Nation's call.

COMMENDING KARRY HEPTING
FOR HER EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP
AND DEDICATION TO ST.
CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Karry Hepting, the dedicated County Administrator of St. Clair County, Michigan, who will retire at the end of this year after more than 26 years of distinguished public service.

Karry Hepting has played a central role in the effective governance of St. Clair County for over two and a half decades. A Certified Public Accountant by training, she brought not only a deep understanding of finance and operations, but also an unwavering commitment to transparency, efficiency, and service to the people of her community.

Karry Hepting began her career in St. Clair County government in the late 1990s, rising through the ranks with a reputation for diligence and fiscal expertise. She served in various key financial leadership roles before being appointed County Administrator, where she became the first woman to hold the position in the county's history.

Throughout her tenure, she oversaw significant projects such as the modernization of county infrastructure, updates to administrative systems, and the implementation of long-term strategic planning efforts.

Colleagues, elected officials, and staff throughout Michigan have come to respect Karry Hepting's professionalism, integrity, and tireless work ethic. She has set a high bar for public administration in county government and leaves behind a legacy of collaborative leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Karry Hepting's decades of leadership and dedication have left an indelible mark on St. Clair County. Her steadfast commitment to good governance, fiscal responsibility, and public service has strengthened the community and inspired those around her. As she embarks on this next chapter, we offer our deepest thanks and warmest wishes for a retirement filled with joy, health, and new opportunities.

HONORING MICHELE MYHAND 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 recognize the contributions of Ms. Michele Myhand, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her exceptional leadership and service to the 60th Operations Support Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. Michele exemplifies the dedication and integrity that define our

Nation's finest public servants. Following a distinguished career in the United States Army, Michele chose to continue serving in a civilian capacity at Travis Air Force Base, demonstrating her deep commitment to country, community, and family. As Office Manager, Unit Program Coordinator, and Government Purchasing Authority, she ensures the seamless operation of her 435-member squadron by overseeing travel, logistics, and compliance programs with precision and care. Her leadership and professionalism earned her recognition as the 2024 Civilian of the Year. Michele's impact extends far beyond administrative excellence. She welcomes every new squadron member with warmth, fostering a true sense of belonging through the monthly receptions she organizes. She is also a trusted mentor, guiding Airmen through personal challenges with compassion and integrity. Her mentorship has transformed lives, helping struggling service members regain confidence and purpose. Beyond the base, Michele builds bridges between military families and the broader Fairfield and Solano County communities by connecting newcomers with local resources, schools, and volunteer opportunities. Her efforts strengthen the bond between Travis Air Force Base and the surrounding community. Michele's dedication, leadership, and selfless service inspire all who know her. She has made a lasting difference in the lives of her colleagues, her community, and the men and women who serve our Nation. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Michele Myhand for her invaluable contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF NEW BEECH GROVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate New Beech Grove Baptist Church in Newport News, Virginia, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. For a century, New Beech Grove has stood as a steadfast pillar of faith, service, and fellowship in the Newport News community.

In 1925, Reverends A.B. Ellis, H.L. Blackwell, and J.D. Farrow led efforts to build a new house of worship. Named for the grove of beechnut trees surrounding it, the church was dedicated as Beech Grove Church. Under the leadership of Reverends James Farmer, B.C. Harrod, Samuel Fladger, and James Lawson, the church expanded its community outreach by joining the Eastern Virginia Christian Conference and the National Progressive Baptist Conference, adopting the name New Beech Grove Baptist Church.

On March 6, 1983, the congregation held its farewell service at the original building, forming a motorcade to its new home. The church later moved into its current facility on April 29, 2018.

Guided by its vision that was established under the leadership of Dr. Willard Maxwell, Jr., "Building Kingdom Minded People to Serve the Community," New Beech Grove has consistently embodied service in action. Dur-

ing the Flint Water Crisis, members collected and sent 6,000 cases of water to those in need. The church also hosts the InTouch Community Basketball Tournament, fostering unity between first responders and the community.

Mr. Speaker, as New Beech Grove marks this remarkable milestone, I extend my sincere gratitude for a century of faithful service and lasting impact on the people of Newport News.

HONORING LOWER PUTAH CREEK
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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 the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, an outstanding organization in our community. Their 25 years of dedicated service and commitment to restoring Putah Creek demonstrate why they deserve recognition today.

The Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee (LPCCC) was established in 2000 under the Putah Creek Accord, a landmark water settlement adopted following years of legal action between Solano County water users and Yolo County environmental advocates. The Accord mandated year-round flows to protect fish and wildlife resources while respecting landowner water rights. The Committee was created to oversee implementation of the settlement, hire a permanent streamkeeper, and coordinate creek studies and restoration. The LPCCC represents the Boards of Supervisors of Solano and Yolo Counties, the Cities of Davis, Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Vallejo and Winters, the Solano County Water Agency, the Solano Irrigation District, the Maine Prairie Water District, the University of California, Davis, the Putah Creek Council and riparian landowners. The Committee's mission is to protect, monitor, and enhance the resources of lower Putah Creek within the framework of the Accord while serving as a forum for dialogue among stakeholders.

The Committee's commitment to our community is clear from their extensive restoration work. Lower Putah Creek stretches 30 miles from below Monticello Dam to the Yolo Bypass through Solano and Yolo Counties. Over the past 25 years, the Committee has led the restoration of over 20 miles of creek habitat by re-meandering channels, removing invasive species such as Arundo and Himalayan Blackberry, replanting native vegetation, and reconnecting the stream to its historical floodplain. Their work has leveraged millions of dollars in funding to enhance ecological function, water quality, flood protection, and climate resilience while maintaining strong partnerships with landowners and agencies. The Committee developed a Watershed Management Action Plan that documents the history and present conditions of the creek and provides comprehensive assessment of biological, physical, and cultural resources.

The Committee has rightfully been recognized for the measurable impact of their restoration efforts. Their work has improved groundwater recharge, reduced erosion, and increased the resilience of the creek corridor