

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

to drought and climate change impacts. They have successfully engaged the community through working groups and annual meetings, with nearly 60 percent of landowners along the creek participating in restoration projects. The Committee owns specialized equipment including earth movers and hydroseeders that allow them to accomplish restoration tasks effectively. Most notably, Chinook salmon have returned to Putah Creek each fall to spawn, a remarkable comeback that has been celebrated by our community members and environmentalists. The Winters Salmon Festival now celebrates the return of these iconic fish each October, honoring both the salmon and the decades of restoration work by countless volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee for their dedicated service to our community and their commitment to protecting our natural resources. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today on the 25th anniversary of the Putah Creek Accord.

**HONORING NAOMI WILLIAMS 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 Naomi Williams as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Williams is a true pillar of the Richmond community whose dedication to service has spanned over five decades. Her leadership has left an indelible mark on every corner of the city. Elected President of the Pullman Neighborhood Council in 1974, a position she continues to hold today. Naomi has long been a driving force behind Richmond's neighborhood empowerment movement. She helped establish the Crime Prevention Executive Board, one of the first local collaborations between residents and the Richmond Police Department and served as both a Police Commissioner and a member of the Commission on Aging, ensuring that accountability and inclusion were at the center of public decision-making. Naomi's advocacy has extended across numerous civic and community groups, including Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), the League of Women Voters, and the West County Democratic Club, where she has inspired voter participation and mentored new generations of community leaders. Her work with the Alcohol Policy Working Group has been especially impactful, fighting to protect neighborhoods from problem liquor stores, promoting public safety, and standing up for youth and families. Beyond her civic service, Naomi is deeply devoted to preserving Richmond's culture and history. As an organizer of the city's annual Juneteenth Festival, she has helped ensure that the legacy of African American achievement and resilience remains a vibrant part of Richmond's identity. Through changing times and many challenges, Naomi has remained steadfast in her belief that every resident deserves to be heard and respected. Her compassion, humor, and unrelenting commitment

to justice have made her both a trusted voice and a beloved figure in the community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Naomi Williams for her invaluable contributions to our community.

**CELEBRATING THE CONTRI-
BUTIONS OF COURTNEY FRY**

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the public service of Courtney Fry, who is departing Capitol Hill after almost 19 years with the House of Representatives.

Ms. Fry's tenure began in 2007 when she started working as a staff assistant in the office of then-Majority Leader STENY HOYER. Her competence, hard work, and dedication led to a 16-year career in that office, where she worked her way up to Director of Legislative Operations.

She then continued her service with the office of House Democratic Caucus Chairman PETE AGUILAR, where she has worked for almost three years as Director of Member Services. In this capacity, she has been a tireless servant to all members of the House Democratic Caucus, providing advice, guidance, and resources. Ms. Fry has not only been an invaluable partner to my office and my staff—she also became a friend.

I thank Ms. Fry for her countless contributions to the Caucus. She will certainly be missed here on Capitol Hill, and I wish her great success as she moves on to the next chapter of her career.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LASMOCKIE OCTAVIA FOUN-
TAIN**

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Lasmockie Octavia Fountain, who tragically lost her life to domestic violence on May 23, 2015. This year marks the 10th anniversary of her passing, and in that decade, her memory has ignited a movement that continues to bring awareness, healing, and advocacy to families affected by domestic violence in Georgia and across the nation.

Born on April 4, 1985, Lasmockie was the beloved daughter of Stephanie Fountain Burton and Charles Nixon, and a devoted mother to four children: Solano Fountain, Sole Fountain, Shannon Fountain, and London Fountain. Her life was full of promise, and her sudden loss at the age of 30 left an unfillable void in the hearts of her family and community.

In response to this tragedy, Lasmockie's aunt, Dr. Sharon Lynn Fountain Stafford, founded the organization: A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D. (Loved Ones Against Domestic Violence). This organization has worked tirelessly to ensure that

Lasmockie's story is not forgotten—transforming grief into advocacy and education for others impacted by domestic violence. Among its many community initiatives, the organization hosts the annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on the last Saturday in October, uniting survivors, families, advocates, and community members in remembrance and in action. Additionally, "Lasmockie Day" is observed on October 23rd in Macon, Georgia, honoring her legacy with community outreach and education.

A Tree of Hope has been planted in Macon, GA—a deeply meaningful location as it was the home of Lasmockie's grandparents, the late Willie Frank Fountain, Sr. and Syella Fountain, and is also the location where Lasmockie's life was tragically taken. The tree bears the names of individuals lost to domestic violence and stands as a living memorial—a symbol that their lives mattered, that they are not forgotten, and that their stories continue to inspire change. A memorial bench featuring a mural of Lasmockie was also placed at the site, creating a space for reflection, healing, and remembrance.

Additionally, "Purple Light Day" is observed annually on October 26th in Macon. Initiated by Dr. Stafford, Purple Light Day encourages homes, businesses, and public spaces to be illuminated in purple—the color representing domestic violence awareness as a visual show of support for victims and a call to action for prevention.

Lasmockie's legacy continues to live on through her children, family, and loved ones, including her aunt, Dr. Sharon Lynn Fountain Stafford, who have taken up the fight against domestic violence. They work tirelessly to honor Lasmockie's memory through advocacy, education, and outreach. Together, they actively lead the work of A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D., focusing on empowering underserved communities where domestic violence is often underreported and support is limited.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, as well as the people of Georgia's 2nd District, in honoring the life and ongoing impact of Lasmockie Octavia Fountain and the work of A Voice for Lasmockie/Lasmockie's L.O.A.D. on the 10th anniversary of her passing. May her memory continue to be a beacon of hope, and may her story inspire continued action to end domestic violence.

**CELEBRATING DIPESH AND DIPTI
PANDYA'S 30TH WEDDING ANNI-
VERSARY**

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 31, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two of my remarkable constituents of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Dipesh and Dipti Pandya, as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

On this joyous occasion, we celebrate not only thirty years of marriage, but thirty years of partnership, commitment, and steadfast love. Dipesh and Dipti's marriage is a profound example of what it means to build a life rooted