

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 CONTRIBUTIONS 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 FOUNTAIN

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 ANNIVERSARY

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

in respect, compassion, and shared purpose. Over three decades, they faced challenges with grace, celebrated triumphs with gratitude, and walked side-by-side through every season of life.

Dipesh and Dipti are the embodiment of the American story. They are dedicated parents, faithful friends, and generous members of our community. Their unwavering work ethic and perseverance reflect values that have strengthened both their family and those around them. Through their kindness, hospitality, and warmth of spirit, they have touched countless lives.

Together they have built a home filled with love, laughter, and understanding. Their marriage stands as a testament to the enduring power of devotion, communication, and, above all, unconditional love. They are living proof that the most meaningful legacy we leave is not measured in material achievements, but in the love we share and the lives we uplift.

As they celebrate this incredible milestone surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones, we honor their commitment to one another and to the values that make our community strong. May the next chapter of their journey be blessed with continued health, happiness, and cherished memories.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Pennsylvania's 1st District, I extend my warmest congratulations to Dipesh and Dipti Pandya on their 30th wedding anniversary. May their love continue to inspire all of us.

HONORING MIRIAM WONG AS ONE
OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRES-
SIONAL 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 and honor Miriam Wong as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Ms. Wong is the founder and Executive Director of The Latina Center, a Richmond-based nonprofit organization she established in 1999 to empower and support Latina women across the San Francisco Bay Area. For more than two decades, she has dedicated her life to advancing leadership, healing, and opportunity within the Latino community. Under her leadership The Latina Center has become a trusted community institution devoted to improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of Latina women and their families. In 2000, she founded Women, Health, and Leadership, a one-year leadership and community service program that began humbly in her own living room. What started as small gatherings to build peer support among Latina women has since grown into a transformative program that has graduated more than 420 women as Peer Leaders. The Latina Center's impact extends far beyond leadership training. Its programs provide parenting classes, mental health support, and resources for survivors of domestic violence, while also offering small business training and access to microloans to promote self-sufficiency. Graduates of The Latina Center's programs now serve as staff, volunteers, and board mem-

bers, continuing the cycle of mentorship and empowerment that fulfills Ms. Wong's vision of community-led change. Ms. Wong's leadership is defined by empathy, inclusion, and cultural pride. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Miriam Wong for her extraordinary leadership and her decades of service to Latina women and families throughout the Bay Area.

HONORING SARATOGA COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY KAREN
HEGGEN

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 Saratoga County District Attorney Karen Heggen for her decades of service, leadership, and commitment to justice in her home community.

A Malta native, DA Karen Heggen has served in the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office since 1993, beginning her career as an Assistant District Attorney and advancing through the ranks to the office's second-highest position before being elected District Attorney in 2014. Over more than thirty years, she has dedicated herself to protecting the people of Saratoga County with professionalism, compassion, and integrity.

As the first woman ever elected District Attorney in Saratoga County, Karen made history while setting a standard of excellence that inspired those who followed. Her tenure as DA was marked by both achievement and resilience during a time of significant change in New York's criminal justice system. Under her leadership, the office maintained one of the state's strongest records for case integrity and public trust despite the challenges of bail reform, discovery reform, and parole reform. Her steady hand ensured that Saratoga County avoided the disruptions that plagued many other jurisdictions.

Throughout her career, Karen focused not on politics or recognition, but on people. She emphasized teamwork, collaboration, and justice rooted in fairness. Her approach reflected her belief that a district attorney's role is not merely to prosecute, but to pursue what is right—to balance the interests of victims, public safety, and the accused. Her leadership earned deep respect from law enforcement, attorneys, and community members alike.

Karen leaves behind a legacy of fairness, compassion, and leadership that will continue to shape the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office for years to come. Karen now looks forward to spending more time with her family, who have supported her through long nights and demanding years.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize District Attorney Karen Heggen for her trailblazing career, her lifelong service to the people of Saratoga County, and the example she has set for future generations of public servants.

HONORING JUDY AHMANN

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 Judy Ahmann, who has been named the 2025 Member of the Year by the Napa County Farm Bureau. Judy is being recognized for her decades of advocacy for agriculture and her enduring commitment to the Farm Bureau and our Napa County's agricultural community.

Ms. Ahmann was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and later moved with her family to Long Beach, California. She attended Long Beach State College, graduating in 1966, a year after marrying her husband, John. Judy began her professional career at IBM, but her passion for the land soon led her and John to purchase their first 12 acres in California. After a brief relocation to New Jersey for work, they returned to California in 1970 and settled in our Napa County, where they purchased 300 acres and began raising cattle. In 1986, they acquired more than 3,000 acres along Lake Berryessa, establishing Running Deer Ranch. With no prior ranching experience, the Ahmanns turned to the Napa County Farm Bureau and local Cattlewomen's and Cattlemen's Associations for guidance so they could raise their three daughters, Christina, Anna, and Erica, in the ranching tradition.

Ms. Ahmann's commitment to our agricultural community is clear from her extensive advocacy work. She became a long-standing member and leader in California CattleWomen, serving as president at both the local and state levels, including as state president in 2007 and 2008. She later joined the Executive Board of American National CattleWomen, where her leadership earned her recognition as National CattleWoman of the Year in 2014. In 2010, Judy was selected as a member of Common Threads California, which honors women for their volunteer leadership and contributions to agriculture.

Judy has rightfully been recognized for her advocacy at the national level. In 2013, she testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation in support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act. Her testimony focused on the need to balance conservation efforts with the preservation of working ranchlands and grazing operations for future generations.

Ms. Ahmann's dedication to agriculture extends to supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers. She and her family have been generous supporters of youth in agriculture, donating time and raising funds for scholarships benefiting local 4-H and Future Farmers of America students. She has been a steadfast supporter of the Napa County Farm Bureau, actively promoting agricultural policy, education, and community engagement. In 2010, Judy and John placed a conservation easement on 1,275 acres of Running Deer Ranch through the California Rangeland Trust, permanently protecting the ranch as a working landscape while preserving its vital wildlife habitat. They also granted a trail easement to open public access to 9,100 acres of Bureau of Land Management land that had been landlocked for more than 150 years.