

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.

Judy remains deeply involved in ranching alongside her daughters and their families, who now operate Running Deer Ranch. Despite the devastation caused by wildfires in 2018 and 2020, the Ahmann family has continued to rebuild, demonstrating resilience and an unwavering commitment to sustainable ranching and responsible land management.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Judy Ahmann for her decades of leadership in the cattle industry, dedication to agricultural education and advocacy, and commitment to supporting the next generation of farmers. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2025 Member of the Year.

HONORING REGINA WHITNEY 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 Regina Whitney as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional

District's Women of the Year for her extraordinary public service and mentorship, for more than four decades she has advanced justice, equity, and opportunity for countless Californians. Regina began her professional journey as a legal secretary in family law, where for over a decade she supported attorneys and families facing some of life's most challenging circumstances. Her compassion and meticulous attention to detail reflected her belief that every person deserves dignity and fairness under the law. Building upon that foundation, Regina devoted more than 20 years to the California State Attorney General's Office, where she served with distinction in the Department of Justice. Her work supported major legal operations that safeguarded the rights of Californians and strengthened public trust in government. During this time, she helped organize Blacks in Government, a national network advocating for equity in public service. Regina's leadership within the organization opened pathways for advancement, mentoring, and professional development for countless Black employees across state agencies. Today, Regina continues her advocacy with SEIU Local 1000, one of California's largest and most influential public-sector unions. In her role as a leader in labor relations and organizing, she has fought tirelessly for fair contracts, safe workplaces, and respect for

public employees. Her work has secured tangible gains in wages, benefits, and working conditions, improving the lives of thousands of workers and their families across the state. Beyond her professional achievements, Regina has spent decades serving her community through volunteerism and mentorship. She has long been involved with Battered Women's Alternatives, providing shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence; serves as Secretary of the Richmond Commission on Aging, advocating for seniors' health and dignity; and contributes her energy to the NAACP Richmond Branch, promoting civil rights and community empowerment. She has also led women's mentoring programs for many years, teaching self-confidence, etiquette, and leadership to young women entering adulthood. Through her compassion, professionalism, and leadership, she has demonstrated that true service is measured not by recognition, but by the lives uplifted and the opportunities created for others. Her impact on California's public institutions and her enduring mentorship of others represent the highest ideals of civic leadership and public service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Regina Whitney for her invaluable contributions to our community.