

strengthening the communities of San Pablo and the greater East Bay.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE FOFŌ
IOSEFO FITI SUNIA

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mrs. RADEWAGWEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of High Talking Chief Fofō Iosefo Fiti Sunia, the first Delegate from American Samoa to the United States Congress, who passed away on October 14, 2025, at the age of 88. Born on March 13, 1937, in Fagasa, Pago Pago, Fofō was a lifelong servant of the people of American Samoa. He graduated from Samoana High School and earned a degree in economics from the University of Hawaii before returning home to begin a career marked by leadership and public service. He served as translator and interpreter for the territorial governor, Director of Tourism, Election Commissioner, Senator for Manu'a District No. 1, and Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Elected to Congress in 1980, Fofō served four consecutive terms from 1981 to 1988, where he championed legislation to strengthen education, infrastructure, and economic development in the islands. He was instrumental in securing recognition for children of American Samoans born abroad and was known for his steadfast commitment to protecting Samoan culture, traditions, and land rights. Beyond his public service, Fofō was a renowned author, historian, and cultural advocate. His writings and televised programs helped preserve and promote the Samoan language, culminating in the establishment of the Samoan Language Commission. Among his many works are *Puputoa*, *Timata le Gagana*, and *Auafa o Upu: Treasure Trove of Rare Samoan Words*.

Congressman Sunia was a dear friend and counselor to me. I cherish his memory and kindness. He was helpful as I followed in his footsteps as a Representative in Washington, where he was our first under the current rules, although we sent representatives beforehand too that did not have the privileges of Members of Congress. I saw him always as a mentor, advisor, and counselor. I benefited from his prior role as a representative for our territory, and I remember that he too took pride in decorating his D.C. office to reflect our South Pacific home and culture. He worked for important rights such as nominating our youth to the U.S. Service Academies, including our first ever successful nominee and graduate, my Chief of Staff Leafaina Tavai, so his work was foundational for many future successes, including our Medicaid program. He had the wisdom of experience and a gentle but effective way of expressing his opinion and views. He was an accomplished author, and his books are valuable additions to our library and schools. He will be deeply missed. May God bless his family and loved ones in this time. American Samoa honors him as a public servant and statesman. God has welcomed him home as a man of faith.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE ENDEAVORS
HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER
IN EL PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the grand opening of the Endeavors Health & Wellness Center in El Paso, Texas. Endeavors is a distinguished Texas-based nonprofit organization dedicated to serving veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, caregivers, and their families through comprehensive housing, behavioral health care, wellness, and community support services.

Endeavors has demonstrated commitment to the El Paso community through the establishment of the Endeavors Health & Wellness Center, a centrally located facility designed to expand access to integrated, whole-person care that complements and strengthens existing local, state, and federal resources.

The Endeavors Health & Wellness Center in El Paso represents a significant investment in community care, strengthening El Paso's continuum of services through increased access to critical behavioral health resources, collaboration with local and national partners, and the promotion of dignity, resilience, and recovery among those who have served and sacrificed for others. This community-focused asset will undoubtedly help thousands of El Pasoans in need of support. I am grateful for Endeavors' commitment to care for veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, caregivers, and their families and look forward to continuing to collaborate for the greater good of so many.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE
TOWN OF CUTLER BAY

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor twenty years of the Town of Cutler Bay, a beautiful town in Florida's 27th District, and a shining example of local leadership, community strength, and the American promise at work.

On November 8, 2005, the people of Cutler Bay voted to chart their own destiny, becoming Miami-Dade County's newest town. In just two decades, from the Deering Coast to Saga Bay, Cutler Bay has shown what happens when citizens don't wait for change—they build it. I am honored to represent them in Congress, and I have been delighted to stand shoulder to shoulder with this remarkable community to help them become even stronger.

My support for Cutler Bay's versatile efforts has been constant, from recognizing our health partners during National Health Center Week, to advocating for small businesses and delivering federal resources to strengthen local infrastructure and environmental resilience.

In 2023, I secured \$4.4 million in federal funding for the Marlin Road Improvement

Project, a major investment to bring new sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, upgraded lighting, and high-visibility crosswalks to make Cutler Bay safer and more accessible for everyone. These improvements will revitalize a key corridor for residents, students, and small businesses, making daily life safer and more connected.

But their work doesn't stop at the surface. I have also worked hard to secure funding for what lies beneath Cutler Bay's homes, our water, our wetlands, and our way of life. That's why I recently toured the Cutler Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the largest ecosystem restoration effort in the world, authorized and funded by Congress. This project restores the natural flow of freshwater from the C-100 canal system into the coastal wetlands along Biscayne Bay, helping rebalance salinity levels, reduce saltwater intrusion into the Biscayne aquifer, and revive native wetland habitats.

Work like this is a testament to what happens when federal, state, and local partners come together with a shared mission: to protect South Florida's water supply, to defend Biscayne Bay, and to build resilience against sea-level rise. Cutler Bay's Coastal Wetlands Project is a local piece of a much larger Everglades restoration puzzle, one that keeps South Florida safe, strong, and sustainable for generations to come and one that I am happy to be a part of.

I congratulate Mayor Tim Meerbott, the Town Council, our first responders, and every resident of Cutler Bay, on twenty extraordinary years. They have proven that when a community lights its own path, the future shines brighter for all of Miami-Dade.

I am deeply proud to represent the Cutler Bay community in the United States Congress.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT SALUD ASAELI AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of SMSgt. Salud Asaeli, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her distinguished leadership, mentorship, and advocacy that exemplify the highest standards of dedication, compassion, and resilience. Previously as First Sergeant for both the 60th Healthcare Operations Squadron and the 60th Medical Group Staff at Travis Air Force Base, SMSgt. Asaeli supported the well-being of over 600 Airmen and civilians. Her commitment extends beyond duty hours, as she provides 24/7 leadership to address quality of life, morale, health, and readiness issues. From September 2024 to April 2025, she served with distinction as First Sergeant for the 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, offering steadfast support to deployed personnel during a critical mission period. At Travis AFB, SMSgt. Asaeli also serves as Senior Mentor to the First Sergeant Council, guiding 27 First

Sergeants responsible for over 8,000 Airmen and their families, demonstrating her far-reaching influence and leadership. Her dedication to service is equally strong in the community. For over four years, she has led Operation Warm Heart, a nonprofit that provides emergency financial support to military families. As both President and Secretary of the executive council, she has helped raise more than \$148,000, organized school supply drives, coordinated the Gold Star Family Ruck March, and supported local shelters and memorial associations. Her commitment is both personal and professional. Having experienced the challenges of deployment and reintegration in her own family, SMSgt. Asaeli has used those lessons to mentor and uplift others navigating similar hardships. Her strength, empathy, and leadership continue to shape lives and strengthen bonds across the military community. Her more than two decades of military service, selfless leadership, and profound impact on others make her a true inspiration and a deserving honoree. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize SMSgt. Salud Asaeli for her invaluable contributions to our country and to her community.

RECOGNIZING BRADY RYAN SAGE
FOR WINNING THE THERMO
FISHER SCIENTIFIC JUNIOR
INNOVATORS CHALLENGE ENGI-
NEERING AWARD

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brady Ryan Sage of Rapid City, South Dakota, who earned First Place in Engineering at the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, the Nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition.

Brady's project, "Optimizing Driver Flight Distance and Accuracy", demonstrated exceptional creativity and engineering skills, applying physics and design principles to improve golf driver performance. Selected from nearly 2,000 applicants nationwide, Brady's achievement reflects his dedication to science and the strength of STEM education in South Dakota.

I am proud to recognize Brady for his remarkable accomplishment and for representing South Dakota with excellence. His hard work and ingenuity serve as an inspiration to students across our state and our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF NEW HOPE MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to recognize the exceptional work of the New Hope

Missionary Baptist Church on their 100th Anniversary.

Founded on a warm Sunday in August 1925, New Hope Baptist Church has stood as a steadfast beacon of hope, compassion, and perseverance for the people of South Florida. From its earliest days, the church has provided not only a place of worship, but a source of strength and solidarity for generations of families in Fort Lauderdale.

Over the past century, New Hope has evolved from a modest wooden structure into a vital cornerstone of spiritual and community life in Broward County. The church has been shepherded by 13 pastors, each adding to its legacy through the establishment of new ministries, outreach programs, and community partnerships.

Under the leadership of current pastor Reverend Ricky Scott, the church continues to move forward with a renewed vision for spiritual growth and community engagement. New Hope has continually lived out its mission to serve the Lord by serving others. Through its ministries and outreach the church has fed the hungry, uplifted youth, and comforted families in times of need.

Notably, the church's participation in "Souls to the Polls" has helped strengthen democracy and amplify the voices of those too often unheard. Through efforts like these, New Hope Baptist Church demonstrates that faith and civic duty can work hand in hand to build a more just and compassionate society.

As New Hope Baptist Church marks its centennial year, we celebrate its unwavering commitment to faith, service, and community empowerment. Its century-long legacy stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a congregation dedicates itself to love, justice, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Ricky Scott and the entire New Hope Baptist Church family for 100 years of ministry and community leadership. May the next century be filled with continued blessings, growth, and service to all.

HONORING TRINA JACKSON-LIN-
COLN AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in tribute to her more than 30 years of dedicated public service. Since 1995, Ms. Jackson-Lincoln has served in the Office of the City Council, beginning with a temporary role supporting emergency services and growing into her current position as Project Coordinator and City Council Liaison. In this role, she has supported Councilmembers, coordinated key city events, and helped countless residents navigate local government. She has led or contributed to numerous community projects, including the Richmond Beautification Project, AIDS Awareness Day, the Taste of Richmond, Sisters in Solidarity, and the Literacy Fair, while also

serving as liaison to the Richmond Sister City Program and as former staff to the Richmond Youth Council. Trina also helped launch and manage the Richmond Cares Hotline during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentored student interns, and played a key role in advancing racial equity through her leadership in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. A Richmond native, Trina is a graduate of Contra Costa College and California State University, East Bay, where she earned her bachelor's degree in human development. Over her decades of service, community engagement, and commitment to inclusion, she has had a lasting impact. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln for her decades of dedicated public service, her steadfast commitment to equity, and her enduring contributions to the City of Richmond and its residents.

HONORING THE SERVICE, SAC-
RIFICE, AND LEGACY OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT GERALD J.
MELOFCHIK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and ultimate sacrifice of United States Army Air Forces First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik. He was a brave American who gave his life in defense of freedom during World War II and whose remains were finally accounted for on June 24, 2025, by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Born and raised in New York City, First Lieutenant Gerald Melofchik embodied the extraordinary patriotism and sense of duty that has long defined America's Greatest Generation. Assigned to the 615th Bombardment Squadron, 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy), Eighth United States Army Air Forces, First Lieutenant Melofchik served as a B-17G "Flying Fortress" pilot in the European Theater of Operations. On August 1, 1944, during a perilous bombing mission over Nazi-occupied France, his aircraft that was nicknamed "Stormy Weather", was struck by anti-aircraft fire, collided with another aircraft, and crashed near Néron, France. Of the nine courageous airmen aboard, two were captured and four were identified from remains found near the crash site. Three airmen, including First Lieutenant Melofchik remained unaccounted for.

For eight decades, his family lived with uncertainty, holding on to faith that he would one day be returned to American soil. His mother never stopped believing that her son would come home.

In 2013, DPAA investigators surveyed the crash site in Néron, mapping a vast debris field consistent with an American World War II air loss. From 2021 to 2023, DPAA partnered with Middle Tennessee State University to excavate the site. Through meticulous scientific analysis that included anthropological review and mitochondrial, Y-chromosome, and autosomal DNA analysis performed with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, First Lieutenant Melofchik was finally identified.