

when she began volunteering at assisted living facilities and later co-founded the Professional Women Veterans Association, the first non-profit in Broward County dedicated to female veterans. Through workshops, retreats, and outreach, she helped elevate the voices and needs of women in uniform and played a formative role in the early development of Mission United, a program supporting homeless veterans. Ms. Young's story is one of resilience, vision, and unwavering commitment. She is a global traveler, a devoted mother and grandmother, and a beacon of optimism who sees the glass half full. Her life reflects a profound dedication to service, safety, and the belief that every challenge is an opportunity to uplift others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Loretta Young for her decades of leadership, advocacy, and community-building. Her legacy is etched into the fabric of South Florida and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have when guided by purpose, compassion, and a deep love for country and community.

REMEMBERING HMONG COMMUNITY LEADER WA CHONG VANG

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Wa Chong Vang and to offer my deepest condolences to his family and express my sincere appreciation for his leadership and service in the Hmong Community.

Wa Chong Vang was the son of notable Hmong General Vang Pao who fought alongside American troops in the often forgotten "Secret War" against communism in Laos. While headlines of the Vietnam War dominated American news outlets, tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers supported separate CIA coordinated conflicts in Southeast Asia. When American troops withdrew from the region, many of the Hmong who fought alongside them followed. Many fled through the jungles of Laos, and some found new lives in America. Once in America, many settled and built businesses and communities in Minnesota.

Wa Chong was one of those refugees. After watching his father and family members serve in conflicts at home, Vang was determined to continue his family's service in the United States. In 1974, he became the first Hmong American accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. However, this incredible achievement would not be his last, or most impactful.

When his father passed away, Vang stepped up to fill his father's shoes. He worked with the community to preserve their shared history, honor the Hmong veterans who served alongside U.S. assets in Southeast Asia, and unite the community.

Wa Chong Vang's life reminds us that patriotism and duty knows no borders, and that the quest for freedom falls on all who have the courage to defend it. While we will miss his spirit and quiet leadership, his legacy will carry on not only in the hearts of his family and friends, but in the country and community he loved and served for decades.

To offer my condolences to the Vang family, we mourn Wa Chang's passing with them and pray that his memory will bring them peace and comfort during this difficult time.

HONORING SRIYA SRINIVASAN 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 Sriya Srinivasan, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Sriya is a remarkable young leader from Solano County whose dedication to public service and advocacy has already had a profound impact across California. At just seventeen years old, her leadership exemplifies the spirit of community empowerment and equity. Sriya's most notable achievement is her instrumental role in the passage of AB 2229, the "Know Your Period Act." Drawing from her own experiences, she championed menstrual education as a vital component of the California Healthy Youth Act, lobbying tirelessly, shaping legislative language, and testifying before lawmakers. Her efforts garnered widespread community support, securing over 500 signatures and multiple co-signers, ensuring millions of California students gain essential knowledge and dignity around menstrual health. In addition to her legislative work, Sriya has made history as the youngest-ever Student Trustee and is currently the Student President of the Solano Community College Board, where she advocates fiercely for student needs and equity. She also founded the campus Reproductive Health Center, providing free access to menstrual and sexual health products—an initiative that removes barriers and supports student wellbeing. Her visionary leadership and compassionate service make her a shining example to her peers. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Sriya Srinivasan for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH SEEBODE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph Seebode on his retirement from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Seebode has dedicated 44 years of Federal service to USACE and his many achievements and contributions as an Environmental Engineer should be celebrated.

As Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management for the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Joe oversaw a diverse team of engineers and scientists delivering major military and civil works construction, and regional infrastructure improvements in New York and New Jersey. Mr. Seebode's leadership has

played a pivotal role in delivering life-saving technical expertise and environmental restoration during national crises. Together, we have worked on projects to reduce storm and coastal flood risks to protect residents, properties, and infrastructure. He has overseen vital beach replenishment, dredging, and flood control projects, working in coordination with federal, state, and local entities. It has been an honor to work with Joe to protect our communities, and I and the residents of the 6th Congressional District of New Jersey thank him for his leadership.

In his early career, Joseph served as the official Corps liaison to the City of New York in the wake of the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy. Throughout his tenure, he also was on the USACE Leadership Team leading immediate response actions in wake of Hurricane Sandy to include unwatering tunnels, emergency dredging and debris removal. As our communities worked to recover from these devastating disasters, Joseph Seebode led the way.

Mr. Seebode has received numerous awards during his career including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civilian of the Year Award, the De Fleury Medal for engineering excellence, the Department of Army Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service, a Presidential Certificate of Merit for lifesaving while on official duty, the Department of Defense Environmental Engineer of the Year Award, and the State of New Jersey's highest Heroism Award. He has recently been recognized with the Distinguished Executive Award by the New York City Federal Executive Board and was inducted as a Hero of the Harbor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Joseph Seebode on his retirement. It is my privilege to recognize his remarkable contributions to our Nation and offer my best wishes as he enters this new stage in life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FLOOD PREVENTION ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2025. This bill would amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) to make the District of Columbia an eligible entity. The House passed this bill as part of the Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act in the 116th Congress.

This bill would make D.C. eligible for federal funding for coastal zone management and give D.C. oversight of federal agency actions that affect its coastal waters. D.C. urgently needs the protection of the CZMA because of serious flood risks that affect federal assets, residents and businesses in D.C., including the National Mall and federal buildings in the Federal Triangle area.

The CZMA provides planning and technical services to assist states in protecting, restoring and developing coastal communities and resources. Once the federal government approves a state's coastal management plan, the state becomes eligible for federal funding and federal agency actions must be consistent with the state plan.

Even though D.C. is located on two rivers and has suffered substantial coastal floods, it was omitted from the list of eligible entities in the CZMA. It is notable that under the CZMA, the term "coastal state" includes the states and territories. D.C. residents pay full federal taxes and therefore D.C. is usually treated as a state for federal programs. It appears D.C.'s omission was a mistake. This oversight likely occurred because the CZMA was passed in 1972, which was before D.C. achieved home rule.

Scientists have predicted that the tides on the Atlantic Coast could rise two to four feet by 2100, causing property worth as much as \$7 billion in D.C. to be routinely under threat by floodwaters. This includes private homes and businesses, the National Mall, federal buildings and three military bases. The Anacostia and Potomac rivers, which surround D.C., are tidally influenced. In addition, the Maryland and Virginia coastal zones each include the tidal Potomac River, with Maryland's zone ending at the D.C. line.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE PENINSULA HUMANE SOCIETY & SPCA

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable contributions of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA to animal welfare and join in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the organization's founding and its great significance to my district.

As a lifelong resident of San Mateo County, I have witnessed the transformative work of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. Since its founding in 1950, the Peninsula Humane Society has expanded from its modest beginning to a new state-of-the-art facility, offering comprehensive services that go far beyond the traditional role of an animal shelter. It has expanded to include a Wildlife Care Center opened in 2024 and a soon-to-open Animal Sanctuary to provide a permanent home to animals not supported by the current model. The organization was a trailblazer from the beginning and became a leader in animal welfare practice and policy. It has grown to be one of the largest humane organizations in the United States.

The 1970's saw many innovations in animal care begin at the Society. Educational offerings were expanded, with volunteer PHS/SPCA docents offering humane education in San Mateo County school classrooms. An education center was established as well. Also in this decade, PHS/SPCA became the first humane society to have an on-site spay/neuter clinic, which meant it no longer needed to rely on outside veterinarians. Wildlife rehabilitation began on site as well.

In the early 1990's PHS/SPCA was among the first shelters to offer services for pets belonging to domestic abuse victims and a free animal behavior helpline for local pet owners. In addition, humane education offerings expanded to thousands of schoolchildren in San Mateo County. The now robust and renowned PHS/SPCA behavior and training program started in the early 2000s.

In 2006, the Mobile Spay & Neuter Program was started, providing free spay and neuter surgeries in underserved communities. Taking these services out into the community reduced unwanted or abandoned litters. As more and more organizations followed suit and offered accessible spay and neuter services, the number of euthanized animals has vastly decreased. It was in this era that the foster program began, allowing the Society to take in more animals. The Kitten Nursery was also founded, which now see hundreds of orphan kittens taken in and placed in loving homes each year. And the 100 percent donor-funded Hope Program began, enabling the Society to provide enhanced behavior and medical support to pets who need it to become ready for adoption.

In 2011, PHS/SPCA opened the Tom and Annette Lantos Center for Compassion, named after one of my predecessors in this Congressional District and his wife. This shelter was built to modern standards, centered on the best possible animal care and allowing the public to see and engage more fully with the animals.

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA has reduced the number of animals euthanized in San Mateo County by 99 percent since 1970, ensuring that nearly every animal brought into one of its facilities finds a home. It holds monthly pet food drives for low-income residents and responds to every reported case of animal abuse within San Mateo County, removing animals from harmful environments and working with authorities to prosecute their abusers.

The organization also runs an impressive variety of impactful programs and resources that go beyond the ordinary vaccinations and microchipping services many other organizations offer. The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA offers behavior and training consultations and classes, continuing care when a pet's owner passes away and family or friends are unable to take them in, pet loss support groups to help owners with the death of their pet, wildlife education programs so children of San Mateo County understand the animals of the place where they live, and pet-assisted therapy that brings a team with a pet to healthcare and correctional facilities, drug rehabilitation centers, schools, and libraries to provide unique therapeutic interaction.

Its open-door policy—welcoming every animal regardless of health, age, or circumstance—demonstrates a deep and abiding commitment to compassion and leading to the organization rescuing 4,093 animals in 2024 alone. Whether it is a lost pet or an injured wild animal, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA answers the call with expertise and care. In 2024, the great work of the PHS/SPCA is reflected in the nearly 150,000 volunteer hours given by members of the community who walked dogs 17,000 times, cleaned wildlife enclosures, played with kittens, and bottle-fed baby animals—equivalent of the work of 69 full-time employees.

I am proud that the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is part of the 15th Congressional District. The 75th anniversary of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is not just a celebration of the past—it is a powerful reminder of the good we can do when we lead with compassion. On this day, let us honor its legacy and thank all those who have contributed to its mission.

HONORING TANYA JACOBS 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 Tanya Jacobs, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her tireless work that has brought healing, justice, and hope to countless individuals in Northern California. As the founder of Community Villages, Tanya has built a critical support network for underserved communities facing food insecurity, homelessness, and mental health challenges. Her leadership has been defined by compassion, strategic vision, and an unshakable commitment to equity. Tanya has also served with distinction at the District Attorney's Office, where she advocates for survivors of crime with empathy and strength, ensuring they are seen, heard, and supported during life's most difficult moments. Over the past two decades, Tanya has made a deep impact on behavioral health, community development, and education. She has mentored young professionals, served on the Board of the East Bay California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and volunteered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, always leading with integrity and care. Having overcome significant adversity, she brings lived experience to her work, turning hardship into healing and modeling the very strength she inspires in others. Her unwavering dedication to justice, healing, and human dignity makes her a role model and a true force for good in our communities. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Tanya Jacobs for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Corpus Christi Catholic Church of Ahwatukee as it celebrates forty years of faith and service. Since its founding in 1985, Corpus Christi has grown into a vibrant spiritual and community center for thousands of families in the Valley.

Corpus Christi was established by Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien to serve the fast-growing Ahwatukee area. Parishioners celebrated their first Mass at Mountain View Lutheran Church, sharing worship space while they organized for a permanent home. In just a few years the small congregation tripled in size, and the parish was able to build its own worship space with classrooms, parish offices, and a rectory.

As the community continued to grow, parishioners completed a second building fund and constructed a permanent church, dedicated by Bishop O'Brien in 1997. What began as a community of 300 families has grown to