

Uribe as the Abraham Lincoln of Colombia, a unifying figure who preserved his nation's democracy and restored hope to millions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing President Alvaro Uribe Vélez for his historic contributions to the people of Colombia and to the cause of freedom and democracy.

HONORING DENICE GERSTENBERG
FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER
IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Denice Gerstenberg on the occasion of her retirement after more than three decades of exceptional service in municipal government. Throughout her distinguished career, Denice Gerstenberg has embodied the values of professionalism, compassion, and community commitment that define true public service.

Before joining the City of Algonac, Denice Gerstenberg devoted over twenty-six years to the City of Sterling Heights, Michigan, where she developed a deep understanding of city operations, policy development, and community engagement. Her dedication, integrity, and strong work ethic earned her the respect of colleagues, elected officials, and residents alike.

In 2017, Denice Gerstenberg accepted the position of City Manager for the City of Algonac. Bringing with her a wealth of experience and steady leadership, she guided the city through a period of continued growth and renewal.

Under her leadership, Algonac has continued to thrive as a welcoming waterfront community, a place where residents, visitors, and businesses alike can live, work, and play. Her prudent management of city finances, steadfast support for public works, and calm guidance during times of transition, both infrastructural and public health related, have left a lasting mark on the city's stability and success.

A proud graduate of the University of Michigan, Denice Gerstenberg earned both her Bachelor's Degree in Arts & Sciences and her Master's Degree in Public Health. She also holds a certification as a Professional Emergency Manager. Her academic achievement, coupled with her extensive professional experience, made her uniquely effective in connecting policy, people, and public well-being.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Denice Gerstenberg will be remembered for her integrity, compassion, and mentorship. She cultivated collaboration within City Hall, encouraged professional growth among city staff, and strengthened partnerships with community organizations and residents. Her belief in teamwork and civic engagement has left an enduring legacy in Algonac and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Denice Gerstenberg for her remarkable career and in wishing her every happiness in retirement. Her leadership, integrity, and service to the people of Michigan exemplify the best of local government and public service.

HONORING MRS. YAKITTA
LANDRUM-LOVETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding healthcare professional, Mrs. Yakitta Landrum-Lovett, for her dedication, compassion, and exemplary service to her patients, colleagues, and community.

Mrs. Lovett has been employed at The Medical Center for 23 years, where she continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to excellence in patient care and leadership. Her professionalism, integrity, and service-minded spirit have earned her the respect and admiration of her peers.

She has been married for 22 years to Mr. Larry R. Lovett, Jr., and together they have two children, Lailah and Keelan. Beyond her professional achievements, Mrs. Lovett is deeply rooted in her faith and community. She is an active member of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves on the Health Ministry and as a Youth Advisor.

Mrs. Lovett's passion for nursing extends beyond the workplace. She is a member of the Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses Association for District 2, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and serves on the board of My Preemie & Me, Inc.—a testament to her commitment to advancing the field of nursing and supporting families in need.

Her colleague, Chrissy Nicholson, Chief Human Resources Officer, shared, "Yakitta displays true leadership in her role with the added bonus of a caring, dedicated, and compassionate nurse. I am grateful that she is on our team."

In her own words, Mrs. Lovett said, "I enjoy helping my community become healthier one step at a time. I like working here because of the close-knit family atmosphere and how we show up for each other in times of need and adversity."

Outside of her professional and community endeavors, Mrs. Lovett enjoys shopping, traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Yakitta Landrum-Lovett for her outstanding service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to her profession and community.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MADDY INSTITUTE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th anniversary of the Maddy Institute, headquartered at California State University, Fresno, for its extraordinary contributions to civic education, leadership development, and public policy engagement in the San Joaquin Valley, California, and our Nation.

The Maddy Institute was founded in 1999 through California Senate Bill 733, making it

the first and only public policy institute formally established by the California Legislature. Since its inception, the institute has embodied the vision and values of its namesake, the late Senator Kenneth L. Maddy, a distinguished public servant whose nearly three decades in the California Legislature were marked by integrity, bipartisanship, and a deep commitment to the people of the Central Valley.

Guided by this purpose, the Maddy Institute has pursued a clear and enduring mission: to provide a nonpartisan venue for thoughtful dialogue on pressing public policy issues; to strengthen civic participation; to prepare the next generation of leaders; and to enhance the engagement, efficiency, and effectiveness of government at all levels.

Over the past quarter century, The Maddy Institute has become a cornerstone of civic life in the San Joaquin Valley. Through its flagship programs, The Maddy Report, Valley Views radio program, and The Maddy Daily news aggregator, the institute has informed and engaged thousands of residents, ensuring that critical policy issues are accessible to the communities they affect.

The institute's impact extends far beyond information sharing. Its leadership and internship initiatives, including the "Maddy Interns and Costa Scholars" programs respectively, have opened doors for countless students to serve in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., equipping them with the knowledge and experience to become the next generation of civic, business, and nonprofit leaders. Its forums and summits, including the recently launched Ag Policy Summit, bring together leaders from across sectors to address some of the most complex challenges facing California's heartland.

From producing groundbreaking documentaries on air quality to championing civic engagement through the Citizenship Academy, The Maddy Institute has consistently elevated public discourse and advanced practical solutions for regional statewide challenges. Its alumni now hold leadership roles in business, education, government, law, and public service, carrying forward Senator Maddy's enduring legacy.

In 2024, the Institute marked another milestone with the appointment of Blake Zante, a proud Maddy alumnus, as its Executive Director, building upon the leadership of Mark Keppler, who guided the Institute for two transformative decades. Today, The Maddy Institute continues to thrive as a collaborative partnership among four universities: California State University Fresno, California State University Bakersfield, California State University Stanislaus, and the University of California Merced, an unprecedented model for regional innovation and civic leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating The Maddy Institute for its 25 years of service, its ongoing commitment to civic leadership and public service, and its enduring impact on the future of our Valley and the State of California.

HONORING THE SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR GRILLERS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Santa Rosa High School Warrior Grillers for winning the Third Annual La Feria Independent School District (ISD) BBQ Cook-Off, earning the title of Grand Champion in their very first competition. This remarkable achievement reflects the Valley's deep-rooted tradition of community, culture, and culinary excellence.

What began just three years ago as a small local contest has grown into a cherished Rio Grande Valley tradition, bringing together 24 teams of talented young cooks, educators, and families from across South Texas. Competitions like these do more than celebrate great barbecue, they strengthen community ties, honor cultural heritage, and teach students lasting lessons in teamwork, creativity, and pride in where they come from.

I want to recognize La Feria ISD Agricultural Science Teacher Mr. Robert Salazar for his leadership in launching this event, and all the educators and mentors who help students develop valuable life skills through barbecue, from collaboration and confidence to craftsmanship and commitment.

I congratulate again all the teams who fired up their pits, competed in good spirit, and brought home some serious Valley flavor. I am proud to honor a tradition that is uniquely Texan and deeply rooted in the heart of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENTERGY'S NUCLEAR POWER SITE, WATERFORD 3 STEAM ELECTRIC STATION IN KILLONA, LOUISIANA

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to humbly honor and celebrate the 40th anniversary of Entergy's Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station, proudly located in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, which I represent in Louisiana.

Since 1985, Entergy's Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station has proudly served the residents of St. Charles Parish, the State of Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast region for 40 years, providing safe, reliable, and carbon-free electricity.

Waterford 3's clean, reliable generation supports Entergy's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, with interim goals of a 50 percent emission rate reduction by 2030 and a 50 percent carbon-free energy-generating capacity by 2030. This plant is a cornerstone of energy resilience in Southeast Louisiana, playing a vital role in meeting the power needs of nearly half a million customers by providing a maximum dependable capacity of 1,152 megawatts and contributing to grid stability during periods of peak demand and extreme weather events.

Waterford 3 employs more than 800 employees and contractors who have demonstrated a commitment to operational excellence, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and professional standards, exemplifying the spirit of public service and technical leadership. Additionally, Waterford 3 has maintained a strong and ongoing partnership with the St. Charles Parish community, providing local jobs, supporting charitable organizations, investing in STEM education, and preparing future generations through workforce development initiatives.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the plant's operation and the 100th anniversary of Entergy serving the state of Louisiana. This milestone honors the legacy and achievements of its employees and the plant's significant role in Louisiana's energy future.

I congratulate Entergy's Waterford 3 Steam Electric Station, its leadership, and employees, on their anniversary. I extend my best wishes to Entergy for maintaining its commitment to powering Louisiana and for being a strong community partner throughout the state.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN

HON. KEVIN KILEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and recognize the Rotary Club of Lincoln on their centennial anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Lincoln began meeting one hundred years ago in 1925 and, since then, have become a pillar of the Lincoln community and a symbol of our region's character. Weekly, the organization comes together to provide aid and comfort to the less fortunate, to honor community leaders, to promote integrity, and to work towards performing meaningful service with the purpose of building a better world. The Rotary Club of Lincoln is an award-winning service club that has obtained a wide diversity of accomplishments over the years. Some of the programs they have sponsored include blood drives, food distribution, supporting Downtown Lincoln and our local agricultural industry, advancing education initiatives and extracurricular activities for students, organizing tree-planting events, and awarding scholarships, among many other efforts.

I am grateful for their significant contributions in our community and am confident that the legacy of service they have built over these past 100 years will only continue to grow in the years to come. Their efforts have made a lasting and meaningful impact in the city of Lincoln and the surrounding region, contributing towards the quality of life and well-being in our community.

It is my distinct honor to represent exemplary organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Lincoln, in Congress. Therefore, on behalf of California's 3rd Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I extend my most sincere congratulations to them on this remarkable milestone.

HONORING JOE SILL

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative DAVID G. VALADAO, to honor Joe Sill of Shafter, California, on his recognition as the 2025 Kern County Cattleman of the Year.

Born in 1946 to Frank and Claire Clerou Sill, Joe was raised in a family whose roots run deep in Kern County agriculture. From an early age, he worked alongside his brothers, Mike and Tim, his sister, Trish, and many cousins in the family's potato shed in Shafter, where his parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and lifelong respect for honest labor. By age 14, Joe was driving feed trucks and caring for cattle at the Sill Properties feedlot, an experience that would spark his enduring passion for the cattle industry.

Joe graduated from Games Memorial High School in 1965, then attended the New Mexico Military Institute, where he played football and ran track before continuing his studies at Fresno State University. There, he joined the rodeo team and Kappa Sigma fraternity, graduating in 1970 with a degree in Agricultural Business Management. After college, Joe spent time working in Hawaii and later as a cowboy for Camp and Mebane Cattle Company, balancing hard work with his love of the outdoors.

Joe's spirit of adventure took him abroad to Australia in 1971, where he helped rancher Dick Stone establish his first feedlot and worked in the sheep and horse industries. Upon returning home to Kern County, Joe rejoined Sill Properties, managing cattle ranches in the Cuyama Valley in partnership with his future father-in-law, Jean Garcin. He also gained valuable experience at O.K. Meat Packing Company in Los Angeles, learning the packing and purchasing sides of the livestock business.

In 1979, Joe married the love of his life, Vicki Garcin, and together they made their home in Shafter, raising three children: Joseph, Danielle, and Dominic. As manager of the Sill Properties feedlot and several cattle ranches, Joe oversaw operations across California, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona, ensuring the continued success of a family legacy built over generations.

After retiring from Sill Properties in 2018, Joe remained active in the family's enterprises by serving on numerous boards. He and Vicki also founded J & V Sill Cattle Company with their three children, a venture that has become Joe's greatest joy. Today, he continues to share his deep knowledge and love of the ranching lifestyle with his eight grandchildren, who represent the next generation of Kern County cattlemen and women.

Mr. Speaker, Representative VALADAO and I, ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating Joe Sill on being named the 2025 Kern County Cattleman of the Year, and in celebrating his lasting contributions to Kern County's proud agricultural heritage.