

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 re-joined 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.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR.
JOSEPH I. CASTRO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and legacy of Dr. Joseph Isaac Castro, a devoted educator, public servant, and beloved son of California's San Joaquin Valley, who passed away on August 14, 2025, at the age of 58, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Dr. Castro's life embodied the American Dream. Born and raised in Hanford California, the grandson of Mexican immigrants and farmworkers, and the son of a single mother, he rose from humble beginnings to become a national leader in high education. He was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning degrees from the University of California Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University in Higher Education Policy and Leadership.

His remarkable career spanned more than three decades, during which he held senior leadership roles across the University of California system, including Berkeley, Davis, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and as a part of the founding leadership at UC Merced.

In 2013, Dr. Castro made history by becoming President of California State University, Fresno; the first native Californian and first Mexican American to serve in this role. Under his transformative leadership, Fresno State emerged as a national leader in supporting and graduating students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

On January 4, 2021, Dr. Castro assumed the role of CSU Chancellor, becoming the first Mexican American and the first California native to lead the 23-campus CSU system. His appointment represents a milestone for diversity in higher education and a hopeful future for the nearly half a million students across the CSU system.

Dr. Castro was more than an accomplished academic administrator; he was a kind and compassionate man who inspired thousands. He believed deeply in the transformative power of education to change lives, families, and entire communities. His leadership earned national recognition, including the prestigious Ohtli Award, the highest honor given by the Government of Mexico for service to the Mexican and Mexican American community.

To his family, Dr. Joseph I. Castro was a devoted husband, father, and man of faith. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Mary; their children Isaac, Lauren, and Jess; and daughter-in-law, Marilyn; as well as by his friends and the many lives he touched throughout his life. Even in his final months, he remained guided by purpose and a deep belief in every student's potential. His legacy lives on in the lives he changed, the institutions he strengthened, and the communities he served.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Joseph Isaac Castro for his extraordinary service to California and the Nation. May his life continue to inspire future generations to lead with vision, compassion, and an unshakable commitment to justice and opportunity for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEE
GARY "TOT" BOOKER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lee Gary "Tot" Booker, who passed away peacefully on September 10, 2025, at the age of 85. Mr. Booker was a trailblazing firefighter, a dedicated public servant, and a beloved member of the Marin County community.

Born on July 9, 1940, in Bryant, Mississippi, Gary overcame a childhood marked by serious illness through the care of his grandparents, who raised him as their own. He excelled in both academics and athletics, showing early signs of the determination and perseverance that would define his life. He left Mississippi after high school and moved to Marin City, California, where he joined his mother and stepfather and immediately began working at Marin General Hospital.

In 1961, Gary was drafted by the state of Mississippi but chose instead to enlist in the United States Navy in San Rafael, California. He served nearly six years, including aboard the U.S.S. Ticonderoga during the Vietnam War, where he worked on crash, firefighting, and rescue teams. His service shaped his lifelong calling to protect others.

Upon completing his military service, Gary joined the Marin County Fire Department in 1966. Over the course of three decades, he broke barriers and blazed trails of firsts. In 1970, he became the first African American Fire Captain in Marin County, leading the Marin City Station and establishing its first community relations program. His leadership, professionalism, and courage earned him successive promotions to Assistant Fire Chief in 1981, Battalion Chief in 1984, and County Safety Officer later in his distinguished career. Through his many years of service, Mr. Booker received numerous awards and honors for his dedication to the safety and well-being of Marin County residents.

In 1970, Gary married Judith Ann Du Pont. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished time with his family and found joy in the outdoors. An avid hunter and fisherman, Gary's annual trips to Colorado and Montana were a source of great happiness. His warmth, humor, and storytelling made him a pillar in his community and a mentor to countless colleagues and friends.

Mr. Booker is survived by his daughter, Lomia and her husband Allen, stepdaughter Donnailla, and his grandchildren Nicole, Alayah, and Jordan. He is also survived by his brothers Ralph and Drew, sisters Trellis and Norma, and his uncle Tobe, as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Judith, daughter Garrian "Beetle," and several siblings.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Lee Gary "Tot" Booker was a man of courage and vision whose trailblazing service helped shape the Marin County Fire Department and inspired generations of firefighters who followed. I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring his extraordinary life and extending condolences to his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING VINCE MARCHETTA
AS THE CHAMPION OF THE
WEEK FOR OHIO'S 13TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vince Marchetta as the Champion of the Week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Vince recently earned the State Lead Ambassador of the Year Award from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. This award recognizes his efforts to help make cancer a national priority.

After losing his wife, Betsy, to metastatic cervical cancer, Vince became dedicated to supporting families affected by cancer and fighting for a cure. As an American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteer for the past six years, Vince has worked tirelessly alongside some of the most dedicated and passionate advocates to ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Specifically, he has worked to advocate for better screening to prevent late-stage diagnosis, improving access to health care and treatment, clinical trials, and funding for research for those battling cancer. He is passionate about ensuring all Americans have access to the medical care that could save their lives.

With this award, and all the hard work that came before it, Vince is a shining example of why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is known as the "Birthplace of Champions." He has certainly made our community proud.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
ERICA "RIKKI" MILLER AND HER
WORK ON BEHALF OF MICHIGAN'S
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the remarkable contributions of a woman who needs no introduction, Ms. Erica "Rikki" Miller, to our country and to the House of Representatives. For nearly the last decade, Rikki has served with integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of duty. Whether it was driving a Member as a humble staff assistant, enhancing the caucus communications, directing communications on energy policy for a senior Member of Energy and Commerce or helping a brand new freshman establish her office as chief of staff, Rikki approached every task with the same commitment—to make life better for the people we serve.

Rikki's decade of congressional service began as an intern for Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, where she was soon hired full time as constituent relations and press assistant. After two years with Congresswoman DINGELL, Rikki joined now Leader JEFFRIES inaugural leadership team. As their press assistant, Rikki helped plan the Caucus issues conference and lead the Caucus's communication