

efforts during the Mueller trials and historic first impeachment. She then spent four years with Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR as her communications director, where she led the team during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

After four years with Congresswoman CASTOR, Rikki was called back home to Michigan to be chief of staff for my district office. As chief, Rikki helped build the office from the ground up, leading the team through my first term. There, Rikki established herself as a mentor to those in the office, and to other chiefs as well.

Public service isn't always glamorous. It demands patience, perseverance, and quiet strength. There are early mornings, late nights, and countless moments when the work you do goes unnoticed by the world outside. But it's people like Rikki who keep everything running—the unseen hands and steady hearts behind the work we all depend on, whether we realize it or not.

Rikki has been so much more than a House employee, she's been a mentor to new young staff, a colleague, and a friend to all. Rikki lights up any room she walks in. She knows everyone's name and treats everyone the same. She has shared her knowledge generously, guided others through challenges, and shown us what public service truly looks like. Many of us here have learned from her—not just how to do our jobs, but how to do them with purpose.

We will miss Rikki and her steady presence, her joyful spirit, and her years of experience. But we take comfort in knowing that the values she has instilled will continue to guide this workplace in the dozens of new staffers she has trained and inspired. She has left it stronger, kinder, and more resilient than when she arrived.

On behalf of a grateful country, and especially the people of Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, we thank her.

HONORING THE VISIT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. SARAH MCBRIDE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, this September, our Nation had the distinct honor of welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C. As the spiritual leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world, His All-Holiness has earned global recognition. His decades of service have been marked by moral clarity and a steadfast belief that faith must be a force for reconciliation.

In every part of the world, the Ecumenical Patriarch has used his respected voice to unite religious leaders against the use of violence in the name of faith. At the same time, he has advanced the causes of human rights and environmental protection—issues that reflect his conviction that moral responsibility extends to both humanity and creation. His visit to Washington this September was a continuation of that mission, as he met with President Donald Trump and Members of Congress from

both parties to reaffirm our shared values of peace and understanding.

During this historic visit, His All-Holiness was also recognized in New York with the Templeton Prize—one of the world's most distinguished honors celebrating spiritual vision and leadership. This recognition, together with his meetings in our capital, reflects the vital role that faith leaders of his stature play in advancing the universal principles of liberty, mutual respect, and dialogue that strengthen our common humanity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN CHARLES HARRIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Charles Harris, a giant of California agriculture and the San Joaquin Valley, who recently passed away at the age of 81. He was a devoted husband, visionary businessman, mentor, leader, and dear friend whose contributions shaped generations of farmers, ranchers, and horsemen throughout our state and Nation.

John was born on July 14, 1943, and was a lifelong resident of Fresno County. A proud graduate of UC Davis, he also served honorably in the United States Army. His roots in the Valley ran deep, and his lifelong dedication to agriculture and community set him apart as a pillar of integrity and service.

As the driving force behind Harris Farms and Harris Ranch Beef Company, John played a pivotal role in building one of California's largest and most innovative agricultural enterprises. From his family's beginnings in farming, he helped grow Harris Farms into a sprawling multimillion-dollar operation known for its innovation, quality, and sustainability. The farm produced over 30 different crops including garlic, pistachios, and wine grapes, and was home to the iconic Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant, a familiar and beloved stop for travelers on Interstate 5 between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Under John's leadership, Harris Ranch Beef Company became one of the largest beef producers in the Western United States.

Beyond the ranch, John was revered in the world of Thoroughbred horse racing. He bred and raced numerous champions and stood out as a passionate advocate for the industry. His leadership extended to roles on the California Horse Racing Board, California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Thoroughbred Owners of California, and the Jockey Club.

John's influence transcended business and horse racing. He was deeply committed to education, mentorship, and philanthropy. John's leadership extended far beyond agriculture and racing. He was a devoted advocate for education and public service. Whether through philanthropy, mentorship, or policy leadership, he was always focused on empowering the next generation. John supported Fresno State's Maddy Institute and established the Jack A. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund to help young agricultural leaders succeed. His acts of generosity, whether public or private, were grounded in a genuine belief in uplifting others and investing in the future of his community.

In June of this year, John married Cookie Harris. He is survived by Cookie, extended family, and many cherished friends, colleagues, and mentees who were touched by his humility, wisdom, and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the extraordinary life of John Charles Harris, my dear friend whose legacy, rooted in hard work, vision, and generosity, will live on through the land he stewarded, the horses he raised, the communities he served, and the countless lives he inspired.

RECOGNIZING FREEMAN JOHNSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Freeman Johnson, a resident of Centerville, Massachusetts and the oldest survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Born on March 11, 1920, Johnson was raised in Waltham, Massachusetts. After graduating high school, Johnson attended Massachusetts Nautical School in Boston, presently Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay. He then went on to enlist in the United States Navy in December 1939. After completing training in Newport, Rhode Island, Johnson was assigned to serve aboard the USS *St. Louis* as a Machinist First Class.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, the USS *St. Louis* was docked at Pearl Harbor awaiting repairs to its boiler. Johnson was working at the bottom of the ship in the boiler room when the attacks began. Although he could not see the strikes, he could feel and hear the vibrations as the USS *Arizona* and USS *Oklahoma* were struck. Understanding the urgency of the situation, Johnson and his fellow shipmates quickly got to work to repair the boiler. In less than 40 minutes the USS *St. Louis* was up and underway, earning the nickname "the Lucky Lou."

After Pearl Harbor, Johnson was transferred to the USS *Iowa* to help commission the ship that would bring President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic Ocean for the Tehran Conference with Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin in November 1943. It was also on the USS *Iowa* in Tokyo Bay, where Johnson would watch the Japanese sign the Instrument of Surrender on the USS *Missouri*.

After the war, Johnson returned home to Waltham and married Ruth Hills. Together they raised three daughters, Diane, Edie, and Cindy. For many years, Johnson worked as a machinist at W.H. Nichols. Known for his steadfast work ethic, he retired at age 90 from Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Freeman Johnson, and I ask that my colleagues join me this Veterans Day in thanking him and the millions of veterans and service members who have bravely dedicated their lives to protecting our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 130TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FAIR OAKS

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fair Oaks on their 130th Anniversary. Originally founded as an agricultural colony, Fair Oaks has grown into an area of deep cultural history and a strong sense of community.

The land in Fair Oaks was part of the original 1844 Mexican Land Grant, Rancho San Juan, and was advertised as a new paradise waiting for farmers looking to make a comfortable living. Even though founding residents experienced hardships like the Great Depression, World War II, and a devastating freeze that wiped out many citrus crops, the area continued to thrive and develop.

As Fair Oaks grew, so too did its industry and commerce. The completion of the Folsom and Nimbus dams, and arrival of Aerojet signaled a new page in Fair Oaks' history. Fair Oaks is a booming town that continues to change with its fast-growing population.

It is with great appreciation to the Fair Oaks Historical Society that the founding and legacy of Fair Oaks has continued to be preserved and honored. On this day, the Society celebrates their 50th Anniversary alongside Fair Oaks' 130th Anniversary.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this day as Fair Oaks' 130th Anniversary and commend this community's beautiful history.

HONORING KENTUCKY CHIEF
JUSTICE DEBRA LAMBERT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first female Chief Justice of Kentucky Debra Hembree Lambert, who was elected to the helm of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by her fellow Justices. Chief Justice Lambert will serve a four-year term, which began on January 6, 2025.

Chief Justice Lambert is a proud native of Bell County, a rural community in Kentucky's Appalachian Mountains and part of Kentucky's 5th Congressional District. During her investiture, she reflected on how her childhood shaped her pursuit of justice, stating, "When you grow up so modestly, you develop a strong sense of a need for a level playing field and for everyone to be heard. Those concepts are foundational in my world view."

Chief Justice Lambert has 17 years of experience on the Kentucky Court of Justice, having served as Circuit Judge/Family Court division for the 28th Judicial Circuit, Kentucky Court of Appeals, and Justice for Kentucky's 3rd Supreme Court District. She was also tapped to lead the first Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health in 2022, working to improve the justice system for individuals with mental health issues, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. In fact, she volunteers as a certified

suicide prevention trainer, training others how to properly intervene to prevent suicide.

Her compassion and fortitude for justice as a Family Court Judge inspired her to create the first Drug Court for Lincoln, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties. As the founder of Operation UNITE, I worked tirelessly to ensure those successful Drug Court efforts were funded and expanded into every county in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District, which are still in existence today. In 2002, Lambert was inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. She also volunteered at local middle schools, working 10 weeks each semester with at-risk children and families to help them avoid truancy charges.

As Chief Justice Lambert leads Kentucky's Judicial Branch of government, I am confident that she will continue to serve the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the utmost integrity and resilience, first forged in the hills of southeastern Kentucky. May God continue to bless Chief Justice Lambert and her family during her historic service as the first woman to lead our Judicial Branch.

HONORING THE MILESTONE OF
MIKE ROOS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my esteemed colleague, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, to honor and celebrate the 80th birthday of Mr. Mike Roos, a devoted public servant, legislative leader, and lifelong advocate for California communities.

Born on August 6, 1945, in Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Roos brought to California a deep passion for public policy and a Tennessee drawl and smile that could put anyone at ease. After earning his bachelor's degree from Tulane University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC), Mike embarked on a career defined by public service and civic leadership.

In 1977, he was elected to represent Los Angeles' 46th District in the California State Assembly, a role he held for 14 years as he championed issues that shaped the future of his community and the state. During his tenure, Mike rose to the role of Majority Floor Leader, and later Speaker Pro Tempore, presiding over the Assembly in the final years of his service. Throughout, he earned the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his extraordinary work ethic, sharp policy acumen, and gift for building consensus.

Mike's legislative accomplishments were both timely and visionary. In the early days of the AIDS crisis, when few dared to touch the issue, Mike took bold action to protect the state's blood supply and the public's health. He authored pioneering legislation that laid the groundwork for HIV testing protocols and blood safety, long before it became part of the national conversation. He was also instrumental in advancing California's first recycling law, helping negotiate key amendments to move the "Bottle Bill" out of committee after years of delay. And of course, he co-authored the landmark Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons

Control Act of 1989, the first law of its kind in the Nation, setting a precedent for common-sense gun reforms that still resonate today.

But what truly made Mike stand out was his political compass, he proudly led what he called the "radical center," a group of legislators who reached across the aisle to forge compromises and get things done. In an era when bipartisanship was both a necessity and an art, Mike was a master. His humor, eloquence, and deep sense of purpose made him a trusted leader and an impassioned voice on the Assembly floor. When Mike got serious, people listened.

Beyond his legislative achievements, Mike has been a tireless advocate for education, civil rights, public health, and responsible governance. Whether leading the Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Restructuring Now (LEARN) or mentoring the next generation of civic leaders, Mike has never strayed from his core belief in the power of public service.

Mike is also a devoted and loving father to two daughters—Shelby and Melissa—and a proud grandfather. He welcomed his daughters into his life in his early-to-mid-30's, during the height of his Assembly service, and raised them with the same generosity, humor, and grace he brought to the Legislature.

After his retirement in 1991, Mike continued to influence public policy and community development through his public affairs firm and as President of the Southern California Leadership Council, where he remains a respected voice on economic and infrastructure policy.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Roos is more than a public servant. He is a champion of reform, a proud grandfather, and a dear friend to those who have had the honor of working alongside him. As he celebrates his 80th birthday, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring Mike's enduring legacy and wishing him continued health and happiness in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. CARLOS J. FINLAY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School, a dual-language professional development school dedicated to academic excellence and innovative instruction in Miami, Florida.

Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary first opened its doors in the fall of 2000 under the visionary leadership of Principal Lourdes P. Gimenez, who spearheaded the school's founding and development. Since then, successive principals, most recently Ms. Madelyn Rodriguez, have carried forward the mission of providing a world-class child-centered education.

Named in honor of Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay, the world-renowned Cuban epidemiologist who discovered that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito was the carrier of yellow fever, the school proudly celebrates his legacy of scientific discovery. Its students, affectionately known as the "Skeeters," embody Dr. Finlay's persistence, curiosity, and commitment to learning.

As a proud Title I school, Finlay Elementary combines its dual-language Bilingual School