

ecosystems and compound the challenges posed by invasive species and diseases. The combination of habitat loss and climate change has created an urgent need for coordinated conservation efforts to ensure the survival of Hawaii's extraordinary biodiversity.

Another major threat to Hawaii's native species is the introduction and spread of invasive species. Non-native plants, animals and insects, whether intentionally or accidentally introduced, have caused significant ecological damage. Invasive species such as the mongoose, rats and predatory insects have decimated native bird populations. Invasive plants like the fireweed and strawberry guava overwhelm native vegetation, altering habitats and disrupting the food chain. These invaders not only outcompete native species for resources but also introduce diseases, further endangering the delicate balance of Hawaii's ecosystems. Effective control of invasive species is crucial for the long-term survival of Hawaii's native flora and fauna.

Together, these interconnected threats create a complex and urgent challenge for the conservation of Hawaii's native species, making coordinated, science-based efforts more critical than ever.

To address these pressing challenges, our Hawaii Native Species Conservation and Recovery Act proposes a competitive grant program to support the conservation and recovery of these species. This grant program will provide vital funding to local organizations, government entities and academic institutions to develop and implement science-based, coordinated conservation strategies that protect Hawaii's native species. This includes efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species, restore critical habitats and engage communities in the conservation process.

These communities of interest include the Native Hawaiians, who stewarded our natural resources successfully through generations pre-contact as a matter of both kuleana (responsibility) and survival. By providing a pathway for collaboration across local, state and federal stakeholders, this bill empowers Native Hawaiian communities to actively participate in the recovery of their native species. It also recognizes the critical role of Native Hawaiian organizations, many of which possess traditional ecological knowledge that is vital for successful conservation outcomes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill that will help secure the future of Hawaii's native species for generations to come. By working together, we can protect one of the world's most exceptional natural environments and ensure its remarkable biodiversity remains a source of pride and inspiration for all.

HONORING NORMA FERRIZ DE  
MASSARO

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norma Ferriz de Massaro. I have named Ms. Ferriz de Massaro as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Napa County because of her excellent work in our community. This

honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in Mexico City, Ms. Ferriz de Massaro immigrated to the United States in 2007 and became a naturalized citizen in 2013. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, where she was awarded the prestigious Medalla Gabino Barreda for academic excellence. She went on to earn a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis in Nonprofit Organization Administration from the University of Washington. Ms. Ferriz de Massaro was also the recipient of the Fulbright-Garcia Robles Scholarship and the MacArthur-Ford-Hewlett Scholarship during her studies. She further expanded her expertise by earning an Associate Degree in Accounting from Napa Valley College and achieving certification as an Advanced Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional.

Ms. Ferriz de Massaro has been a pillar of the Napa Valley community for nearly two decades. She currently serves as the Finance and Operations Director for the Up Valley Family Centers of Napa County, where she has been a dedicated staff member for the past 17 years, strengthening programs that provide vital support to local families. She has also been an active member of numerous civic and nonprofit organizations, including Soroptimist International St. Helena Sunrise, the St. Helena Star Editorial Board, the St. Helena Library Committee, the St. Helena Library Foundation, the St. Helena Multicultural Committee, and the Napa Valley Community Foundation's Community Programs and Grants Committee. Her leadership in these organizations has helped make our community more inclusive. Additionally, Ms. Ferriz de Massaro led a Girl Scout Troop in St. Helena for 12 years, mentoring Latina girls and providing them with opportunities for growth, leadership, and joy.

Her dedication to public service was recognized in 2019 when she was named St. Helena Citizen of the Year. She further deepened her engagement with community leadership as a participant in the 2020 Leadership Napa Valley program, gaining insight into the inner workings of local governance.

Ms. Ferriz de Massaro is widely known for her enthusiasm, positivity, and ability to bring people together. Whether through social media, community outreach, or personal connections, she works tirelessly to link individuals with resources, foster collaboration, and turn good ideas into great initiatives. She embodies the words of Mr. Rogers: "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Ms. Ferriz de Massaro is one of those helpers, always ready to support others with her energy and optimism.

Beyond her professional and civic contributions, Ms. Ferriz de Massaro and her husband, Evan Massaro share a love for adventure. Each year, they embark on multi-week cycling or trekking journeys, embracing exploration both at home and abroad. Her passion for life and community shines through in everything she does.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Ferriz de Massaro for her remarkable service and dedication to our Napa Valley community. Through her leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to inclusion and empowerment, she

has left an indelible impact on those around her. It is fitting and proper that I honor her here today.

EULOGY BY SAM IACOBELLIS FOR  
DOROTHY CHRISTIANA

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to include in the RECORD the Eulogy of Dorothy Christiana, delivered at her funeral by her grandson, Sam Iacobellis. Her granddaughter Nina Bloom provided the prayers of her passing and was followed by Sam, whose eloquence, tone, humor, with compassionate care captured a truly remarkable woman and the family she raised. I have had the privilege of knowing the Christiana family for over sixty years. The farm on 1215 Silver Lane was a magical and welcoming place made so by Dorothy's cooking and her delightful daughters, Linda, Patty, and Karen, always the center of her life, and the man to whom she was devoted—Carman F. Christiana. Carman ran the iconic family farm in East Hartford, thus carrying on a tradition and farming skill he acquired throughout his life, along with the woman who loved and cared for him deeply.

The story of Dorothy and her family, her husband Carman, her daughters, Linda, Patty, and Karen, is a story of love for the ages captured with eloquence by her grandson, Sam Iacobellis.

Thank you all for being here today as we celebrate a truly extraordinary life.

To know her was to love her. My grandmother went by many names in her dynamic 97 years.

Dotty. Dot. Aunt Dot. Mrs. Christiana. Mother Dear. Ma. Gram. Great Grammie.

But to me, Dorothy Christiana was always Dee Dee. Born on the 17th Day of the 7th month in the year 1927 in Manchester, Connecticut. She was the youngest of three children to Frank & Letitia Irwin. A graduate of Manchester High School's Class of 1945. Active in planning class reunions, which, appropriately, were always at the Manchester Country Club. Dee Dee loved her hometown.

Whether it was regaling stories about working at a local movie theater, parading down Main Street with her family and friends after the Allies were victorious in the Second World War, never missing a Memorial Day parade where she would always point out her brother Ernie's Boy Scout troop or her long-time Sherwood Circle neighbor, Frank, behind the wheel of an 8th Utilities District fire truck, or holding court next to my parent's fireplace on Thanksgiving Day with the familiar refrain of, "There are the runners," as soon as the Road Racers returned, Dee Dee just loved Manchester. That love will be forever eternalized, as she will be laid to rest just a few miles from where she entered the world, next to her parents, her brother Ernie, and her beloved husband, Carman.

It is also appropriate that we are here today, in East Hartford, the place where my grandmother met her love, Carman, and started a family. The divine serendipity of a faulty bus on Silver Lane where two strangers met and set off a series of events that led to nearly all of us being together today. That divine serendipity also led to three daughters: Linda, Patty, and Karen. Three

strong, gritty, accomplished, intelligent women. Women whom my grandmother knew better than they knew themselves and saw different parts of herself in each of them. The keenest of maternal instincts.

The farm they called home for decades was a place for family, friends, food, laughter, and memories made. She was a surrogate mother for the phalanx of people who always walked through her front door. Speaking for my cousin Nina and I, we so wish we could have been flies on the wall at one of those legendary gatherings.

It is said that there's a special place in heaven for the father of three girls. I remember seeing that written on a piece of art hung in the home of dear family friends, Ray and Peg Ramsey's home for years. I do not dispute that claim at all. Ray Ramsey is certainly there. As is my grandfather Carman, a man whom Nina and I never had the honor of meeting but have heard glorious stories about for our entire lives.

I would like to say that I firmly believe that such a special place also exists for the mother of three girls. My grandmother raised three extraordinary women. Simply amazing. While my grandfather's light was extinguished far too early, it lived on in his wife and daughters. The strength and vibrancy of these three women are in no small part due to the fierce determination, iron-clad will, and overwhelming dignity of my grandmother. What an example. That is simply special.

What brings a smile to my face is that this legacy lives on dynamically as ever with her granddaughter, Nina. Nina and her husband Orion are raising three incredible young women: Annie, Adalin, and Noelle. Three brilliant, kind, and loving sisters who look after one another and lift each other up. The symmetry is undeniable. It is a blessing beyond measure that our grandmother got to be a great-grandmother three times over and had the opportunity to get to know these three dynamos and watch the torch passed to another generation of impressively wonderful Christian women. She was a matriarch in the truest sense of the word.

Her home was always open. Food was always on the table. All were always welcome. And a card game was never far away. She was the fiercest of competitors at the card table. A skill and focus that she passed to her daughter Karen, who is probably the best card player and partner anyone could ever have. Was often reminded by my grandmother that "there are no friends in cards." But moments later, she would tell us, "Oh no, it's just for fun. It's just a game." Mhm . . . whether it was 9-5, set back, poker, Yahtzee, Uno, duckpin, or Wii bowling. No-body was going to stand in her way.

My grandmother was a prolific cook but was truly an iconic baker. Pies: apple, blueberry, chocolate cream, banana cream, lemon meringue, pineapple squares, Irish soda bread, cinnamon tarts, red sauce (pretty good for an Irish woman), French fries, clam dip, brownies with the best frosting you will ever have, and so much more.

She loved to host backyard picnics, Christmas Eve and morning celebrations, weekly card games with her group of best friends, going to Shady Glen for a strawberry milkshake, and sitting in her chair and reading the latest Janet Evanovich book. My grandmother's talent for hosting and making her home so warm for others lives on in her daughter Patty. People are always comfortable under her threshold. A tradition she proudly carries on every single day.

Dee Dee was a die-hard fan of UConn basketball, the Boston Red Sox, the Green Bay Packers, and horse racing. She loved Elvis, Barry White, Lou Rawls, the Price is Right and murder mysteries (whether in print or

on TV). It was often a cause of great consternation when the holiday movies bogarted the regularly scheduled programming of Hallmark's murder mystery roster. She had so many interests and talents and loved to share them with all of us.

In the past few days, I have been seeking some comfort and wisdom in processing the loss of a woman that all of us loved so much and loved you all in return.

Two such examples have resonated with me, and I hope they can do the same for you.

In *Les Miserables*, a musical adored by her daughter Linda and rooted in sacrifice, selflessness, and dignity (all traits that my grandmother embodied to a "T"), the closing lines of the show encapsulate the simple, but pure divinity of living a life full of love. As the show comes to a close, the hero, Jean Valjean, is welcomed to heaven after a life of reformed selflessness and love. The bishop, who inspired the story's hero to live a new life devoted to others, shared a simple truth with Jean Valjean as he could finally rest: "And remember the truth that was once spoken . . . to love another person is to see the face of God." This sentiment, based on the divinity of humanity and the power of love, is something I have felt loving my grandmother and something I hope she felt loving all of us here.

Finally, in the *Wizard of Oz*, a film my grandmother loved (which may have something to do with the name of the leading lady), a love she also passed on to our entire family, the titular wizard also shares some wisdom about love and affection.

As the Tin Man asks him for a heart, the Wizard says, "Hearts can never be made practical until they can be made unbreakable." The Tin Man responds, "But I still want one." After finally giving the Tin Man a garland-adorned, ticking, heart-shaped timepiece, the Wizard concludes by saying, "And remember, my sentimental friend, that a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others."

If the Wizard is correct, then no one had a bigger heart than Dorothy Christiana. She was just so loved. Loved unconditionally by so many. The compassion she showed, often in her unique way, was the privilege of a lifetime.

In closing, it's hard to fathom how much I'll miss my grandmother. The chats about basketball, politics, cooking, the family. All of it. It's equally difficult to put into words how much she loved all of the people here. But there is a silver lining. One week ago, a bus arrived. Except this one was not faulty this time. It was right on time. It took my grandmother on. It took her to a table where Lil, Clara, and Fawn were. Where Ernie & Beatty were already dealt on the table. A blueberry pie was in the oven. Elvis was playing on the radio. Ten duckpin bowling pins were reset. Her parents were waiting for their little girl with arms wide open. And her beloved Carman, smiling. Finally reunited. Showered with love. What a life well lived.

I love you so much.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PEARL HUNT

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest admiration, respect, and heartfelt gratitude that I write to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Pearl Hunt, who reached the remarkable milestone of her 100th birthday on March 1, 2025.

Pearl Hunt is a beloved figure whose legacy of kindness, wisdom, and generosity has deeply impacted the lives of many. Over the course of her century of life, she has been a source of inspiration and guidance for her family, friends, and community. Through her unwavering commitment to supporting those around her, she has become a pillar of strength and compassion.

Throughout her life, Pearl has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to bring people together. Her warm heart and giving spirit have touched the lives of countless individuals, shaping the community and enriching the lives of all who have had the privilege of knowing her.

Pearl's legacy extends beyond her remarkable longevity. She has lived a life filled with purpose, making significant contributions to the lives of those fortunate enough to cross her path. As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we reflect on the profound impact she has had and continue to draw inspiration from her example of living a life of service, kindness, and love.

Today, as we honor Pearl Hunt on her 100th birthday, we also extend our deepest congratulations and warmest wishes. Her accomplishments and her lasting impact on those around her will never be forgotten.

On behalf of the people of Fort Worth and the U.S. House of Representatives, I express my sincere congratulations to Pearl Hunt on this monumental achievement. May she continue to experience good health, happiness, and the love of those around her for many years to come.

I thank Pearl for her enduring legacy and the many ways in which she has touched all of our lives. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as a member of our community, and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones with her.

HONORING WILDA SHOCK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Wilda Shock. I have named Ms. Shock as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Lake County because of her excellent work in our community. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

A fifth-generation Lake County resident, Ms. Shock was born in Gainesville, Texas, to her parents Royal and Jane Keeling Dorsett. Her family soon returned to Lake County, where she attended Upper Lake Union Elementary and High Schools, graduating as student body president and class valedictorian. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Business Administration from Sacramento State College. Furthering her education, she pursued postgraduate studies at UC Berkeley and CSU Sacramento, specializing in Nonprofit Management and Local Government.

Ms. Shock has been a steadfast advocate for our community through her leadership in