

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE RIZZA

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize Salvatore Rizza, a prime example of an Italian immigrant who came to this country, started his own business, married the woman of his dreams, raised three amazing daughters, and at the age of 90 is still going strong and contributing to the country he loves. Born in Siracusa, Italy, to Antonio and Nancy Rizza, husband to his beloved Josephine, and father of Nancy Larson, Susan Mahoney, and Cynthia Campbell, Sal's story is an example of the rich contributions immigrants make to our communities, our culture, and our Nation. Sal is the former owner and operator of the S & G restaurant in Hartford and was a star soccer player. He was the captain of the Italian-American Stars Soccer team that won the 1967 amateur soccer championship and was later inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in 2018. And while he himself never had the privilege of a college education, Sal worked hard and sacrificed to make sure all three of his daughters did.

It is in tribute to Sal and his accomplishments—his love of family, his Italian heritage, his community, his state, and the Nation he loves. On behalf of his daughter, Nancy, his grandson, Matthew, his granddaughter, Arianna, and his son-in-law, Tim, it is a privilege to honor this remarkable man—another great story in American history.

HONORING ROSETTA KIRKLAND  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Rosetta Kirkland, a dedicated community leader, advocate for workers' rights, and steadfast supporter of her neighborhood in the Bronx. In celebration of Women's History Month, we recognize Rosetta for her exceptional contributions to her community, her advocacy for social justice, and her ongoing efforts to improve the lives of working people in the Bronx.

Rosetta is a pillar of her community, serving as the President of the Board of Directors for Concourse Village. As an active leader, she has worked alongside elected officials, including Congress Member RITCHIE TORRES and Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, to improve the quality of life for her fellow residents. Through her tireless work, Rosetta has become a vital force in making her community a better place for all.

In addition to her leadership in the Bronx, Rosetta has been deeply involved in her faith community, contributing to the Greater Universal and New Seasons Churches. She has served in various capacities, including as a Choir Member, President of the Pastor Aide Committee, Deaconess, and Chair of the Prayer Warriors. Her commitment to her faith

and her community is an integral part of who she is, inspiring others through her example of service and devotion.

Professionally, Rosetta has had an impactful career, having worked for 21 years at MTA/NYCT, and today serving as a proud member of 1199 SEIU. Her peers elected her as their Union Delegate, a role in which she demonstrated tireless advocacy for the rights of workers. As a Delegate, Rosetta has been instrumental in grievance procedures, ensuring that workers' rights were upheld and protected, as well as engaging members in campaigns to preserve essential healthcare funding. She also serves on the 1199 Candidates Screening Team, where she plays a crucial role in helping the union choose and endorse political candidates who share their values and commitment to improving the lives of working people.

In her personal life, Rosetta enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, attending Broadway musicals, watching movies, socializing with friends, cooking, and studying God's word. She finds fulfillment in encouraging others to remain faithful, regardless of the challenges they may face in life.

It is with immense respect and admiration that I honor Rosetta Kirkland for her dedicated service to her community, her advocacy for workers' rights, and her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of those around her. Her leadership, compassion, and tireless work on behalf of others exemplify the values we celebrate during Women's History Month.

PULASKI DAY SPEECH BY JUSTICE  
AURELIA PUCINSKI

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks made by Justice Aurelia Pucinski on Pulaski Day, March 3, 2025, at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.

We celebrate Casimir Pulaski as twice a hero. First, he sacrificed everything: his home, his family, his freedom, fighting the evil Czar of Russia to protect his beloved Poland. Then he came here, to help the American Colonists fight the tyranny of King George. He died for our freedom and liberty. It was worth his life. It was everything.

LIBERTY: THE CORE OF OUR POLISH IDENTITY

We've had other Polish heroes in America. The Polonians who came to the shores of Jamestown with Captain John Smith in 1609, not knowing what in the world they faced, but knowing it was better than the life they left behind. Those brave glassmakers led the first labor strike in the new colony for the right to vote and own land: Liberty. They fought for it and won.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko joined our Revolution for the principles of freedom from tyranny and the goal of independence: both values etched into the heart of every Pole. So fiercely did he believe in liberty that he provided in his will for the freedom of slaves.

There are more modern heroes too: Thaddeus Senzimer, the inventor of modern steel techniques. Henry Magnuski, who developed the WWII walkie talkies that became out modern cellphones. Paul Baran, an internet pioneer. Steve Wozniak, the co-founder of Apple. Roman Pucinski, who had to fight

tooth and nail to get Black Boxes into all commercial airplanes.

Poles started coming to Chicago in 1830. By 1920 there were 400,000 in Chicago. Today there are 900,000 people of Polish heritage in Cook County.

The first and largest immigration was between 1850-1920. Then huge numbers of immigrants were displaced by World War II. Many left in the 1980's after martial law was declared in Poland and the struggle to bring democracy to Poland took new strength from "Solidarity."

John Napieralski, is believed to be the first Pole in Chicago, arriving around 1830. He dreamed of a vibrant Polonia in our City. He might have predicted the hard-working men and women of Polonia building neighborhoods anchored by beautiful churches: St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity, St. Adalbert, St. Mary of the Angels, St. John Cantius and so many more.

We have benefitted from major Polish language newspapers, a vibrant Polish theater, radio and now TV community. And our truly remarkable Polish organizations: the Polish Museum, the Polish Roman Catholic Union the Polish National Alliance, the Polish American Congress the Highlanders, the Alliance of Polish Clubs, the Legion of Young Polish Women, our hundreds of Polish schools and more.

Generations of Poles have come to Chicago. A very few of us actually remember the horrors of the Nazi invasion of Poland, the death and destruction of Nazi occupation, the cruelty of war, the horror of Russian genocide at Katyn, the death of freedom under the new Russian czars of communism. But if we are not old enough to actually remember it, we certainly have heard the stories from family, or read the history.

Whether your family came here in 1830 or later we are here because someone in our family decided to leave behind the life of uncertainty and oppression for a life of opportunity and freedom. To seek free speech, economic opportunity, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and most important, the freedom of ideas. Things that are unreachable in nations under Russian influence. Would we trade our freedoms here for the slow death of the new communism?

Poland is democratic and free now. Some of us plan to return, and why not? It is a beautiful country. How much do we want to keep it free? What about the nations in the former Soviet bloc?

WHAT WOULD PULASKI DO?

Those who left that life behind are heroes too. They forged for us the opportunities we enjoy here. They gave us freedom. They gave us liberty. They gave us everything. We honor those who fought to get here. We recognize that some of us did it ourselves. Some of us rest on the shoulders of those who made the choice to leave that empty life behind. But no matter what the history of your family, it requires that we always remember what we left behind and why.

RECOGNIZING 150 YEARS OF BAY  
VIEW ASSOCIATION

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and celebrate Bay View Association for 150 years of dedicated service and charity. Bay View Association serves as an inspiration to the community, standing by their mission of

promoting Christian values through lively services and events for those in Northern Michigan.

Founded in 1875, Bay View Association has since played an integral role in the Petoskey area. The organization has evolved into a vibrant community dedicated to cultural and educational enrichment and spiritual growth. Bay View boasts over 337 acres of land, encompassing more than 30 public buildings and 440 cottages. This feat earned Bay View the designation of a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service in 1987.

For 150 years, the list of services that Bay View Association offers, have expanded substantially. Bay View is renowned for its exceptional religious services, educational lectures, summer programs, and so much more. The distinguished Music Bay View Music Festival stands as the country's longest-running collegiate music festival. Bay View Association's commitment to lifelong learning is also evident through its robust educational program, which offers courses in history, literature, religion, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Bay View Association for 150 outstanding years of service to the Northern Michigan community. I'd like to thank Bay View for their continued commitment to education, the arts, and spiritual enrichment, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE  
LESTER

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of George Lester, who passed away on January 31st at the age of 85. Mr. Lester is regarded as one of the most important business leaders and community advocates in the Martinsville-Henry County region of Southside Virginia.

On April 4, 1939, Mr. Lester was born. His father, of the same name, raised his son and the rest of his family in the Martinsville area. Mr. Lester graduated from Martinsville High School before attending college at North Carolina State University.

In 1963, Mr. Lester started working full-time for the family business.

Working hard and dedicating great amounts of time towards the family business, Mr. Lester eventually took over the business. He became president in 1974. Following this rise to a monumental role, Mr. Lester reorganized the business as the Lester Group, and diversified the business. New deals included work with lumber manufacturing, real estate and retail store development, among other endeavors.

Because of Mr. Lester's leadership, the Lester Group promoted strong economic growth in the region. This growth contributed to robust job creation and business development. His tenure lasted until 2018, when he retired from the Lester Group.

Another significant idea by Mr. Lester resulted in the founding of an influential committee that advocated for a future highway connecting Roanoke, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina. The modern-day I-73 corridor greatly benefited from the creative

and authentic thinking of leaders like Mr. Lester.

Appreciated by many in the community, Mr. Lester dedicated a lot of time to different local projects. He served as chairman of the local United Way, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the separate Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. In recognition of his work on the Chamber, he received the Heck Ford Award, the Chamber's highest honor. A charitable and thoughtful man, Mr. Lester gave land for civic causes and also donated to charitable organizations. Numerous community leaders and officials credit Mr. Lester for his positive impact on the region.

Mr. Lester is survived by his wife, Lee; daughters, Elizabeth Walsh of Lynchburg, Virginia, Ann Papadakis of Melbourne, Australia, and Sara Jedelsky, of Monroe, North Carolina; stepdaughter, Tracy Turlington of Barboursville, Virginia; mother-in-law, Ina Richmond; 11 grandchildren, and many other family members.

Mr. Lester was an exceptional business entrepreneur and community member. The Martinsville-Henry County region are incredibly grateful for his powerful leadership and influential support. He will be missed by many, including his family, his community and myself.

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HONORING VANESSA L. GIBSON  
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor and celebrate Vanessa L. Gibson, the 14th Bronx Borough President, in recognition of her exemplary leadership, dedication to public service, and unwavering commitment to the people of the Bronx. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we reflect on the incredible achievements of women like Ms. Gibson, who continue to shape and inspire our communities with their hard work and determination.

A proud native New Yorker, Ms. Gibson's journey in public service began while she was still a student at the University at Albany, when she joined the New York State Assembly Intern Program in 2001. There, she was assigned to work with then-Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene, where she quickly demonstrated her passion for legislative work and serving her community. From that moment, Ms. Gibson knew that public service would be her life's calling.

Upon graduating, Ms. Gibson transitioned to the role of Legislative Aide and later became the District Manager of Assemblywoman Greene's Bronx office. As District Manager, she played a vital role in ensuring effective administrative services and constituent outreach. After Assemblywoman Greene's resignation in 2009, Ms. Gibson ran in a special election for the 77th Assembly District, winning the seat and making a powerful mark on the state legislature.

During her two terms in the New York State Assembly, Ms. Gibson was a dedicated advocate for the issues that matter most to the Bronx. Her tireless work on education, afford-

able housing, public safety, and criminal justice reform earned her respect from her colleagues and the community alike. In 2013, she ran for a seat on the New York City Council, was elected, and quickly became known as a leader in the fight for tenant protections, alternatives to incarceration, enhanced police training, and criminal justice reform.

One of her landmark achievements as a Council Member was her collaboration with then-Council Member Mark Levine to pass the Right to Counsel legislation in 2017, which ensures free legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction. Additionally, she championed the development of a ten-year food strategy for New York City, which addresses food deserts and promotes access to healthy, sustainable food options for all New Yorkers. It was my immense honor to have served alongside Ms. Gibson in the New York City Council.

In 2020, Ms. Gibson announced her candidacy for Bronx Borough President, presenting a bold vision for the future of the borough. With a focus on public safety, food equity, housing insecurity, health and wellness, gender equity, and support for the LGBTQIA+ community, Ms. Gibson's campaign resonated deeply with Bronx residents. After winning both the primary and general elections, she made history as the first woman and the first African American to be elected as Bronx Borough President.

As Borough President, Ms. Gibson has continued her lifelong work of advocating for equitable opportunities and improving the quality of life for all Bronxites. Her leadership is transforming the borough, with a focus on community-centered initiatives that empower residents, strengthen neighborhoods, and create sustainable economic growth.

It is with great admiration and respect that I honor Vanessa L. Gibson for her trailblazing accomplishments, her dedication to justice, and her unwavering commitment to the Bronx. Ms. Gibson exemplifies the power of public service and the profound impact that women can have on shaping our communities and our future.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was on the phone with a constituent and missed the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

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HONORING THE LEGACY AND  
STRENGTH OF LAUREN SMALL

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Lauren Paige Small, whose courage in the face of cancer will continue to inspire countless individuals.

Lauren Small was born on August 1, 1994, to her caring parents, Kevin and Tuesdy in