

Not only are the President's tariffs hurting my constituents, but he is also damaging our relationship with Canada: an ally, a partner, and for many—a good neighbor. Other than oil and electricity, Canada imports more goods from the United States than we import from Canada. They are our best customer, and we should not alienate our best customer. I'm a former social studies teacher. I know that tariffs can be a useful tool. But these tariffs on Canada are unprompted, unnecessary, and make no sense at all.

As a Minnesotan, the only thing I want to fight with Canadians about is who has the better hockey team and who can catch the most fish in the others' waters.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 71, H.J. Res 25, during the Legislative Day of March 11, 2025. Had I been present for the Roll Call Vote on the Passage of H.J. Res. 25, I would have cast the following vote: Roll Call No. 71: YEA.

HONORING DR. CAROLINA CRUZ-NEIRA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira, a University of Central Florida faculty member and member of the National Academy of Engineering, is a pioneer in the areas of virtual reality (VR), interactive visualization, and digital twins. Her innovations have been instrumental in facilitating data analysis, decision-making, design reviews, and training and education. Her work evolved into standard tools used in industry, government, and academia. She is known worldwide for being the creator of the CAVE VR system, for transferring research into practice by spearheading Open-Source initiatives, and for supporting entrepreneurial initiatives to commercialize research. She is recognized for founding successful applied research centers: the Virtual Reality Applications Center at Iowa State University, the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, and the Emerging Analytics Center at the University of Arkansas. Her research leadership has received recognition from major companies for increasing product safety and improving design and production processes that have saved time, lives, and millions of dollars. She enjoys intersecting her research with the arts and the humanities through dance performances and museum installations. She has been named among the top innovators in virtual reality and one of the top three greatest women visionaries in VR. She is the first person inducted into the National Academy of Engineering for immersive technologies and virtual reality, she is a member of the IEEE VR Academy, an IEEE Fellow,

an ACM Computer Pioneer, an AWE XR Hall of Fame member, and a Modeling and Simulation Hall of Famer. She received the IEEE VR Achievement Award and the International Digital Media & Arts Society Distinguished Career Award, among many national and international recognitions. She serves on national and international technology boards as well as government technology advisory committees. Her life's work addressing large problems through interdisciplinary teams has become a key to innovation and is considered standard practice in driving American competitiveness in the global economy.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY FOR ALL AND PARADE GRAND MARSHALL JUDY COLLINS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Judy Collins, whose artistry and social activism have long inspired audiences worldwide. In the 1960s, she evoked both the idealism and steely determination of a generation united against social and environmental injustices. Five decades later, her luminescent presence shines brightly as new generations enjoy her iconic 55-album body of work, drawing inspiration from her spiritual discipline and her ability to thrive in the music industry for half a century.

Judy Collins has long been esteemed for her imaginative interpretations of traditional and contemporary folk standards, as well as her own poetically poignant original compositions. Throughout her career, she has garnered several top-ten hits and gold- and platinum-selling albums. Judy has long used her platform to advocate for the marginalized and the underserved, making her the ideal choice to lead as the Grand Marshal for the St. Pat's for All Parade, which celebrates the beauty of our shared humanity.

Established on March 5, 2000, the parade takes place in Queens' Sunnyside and Woodside neighborhoods, historically home to Irish Americans in New York. The St. Pat's for All Parade offers a welcoming space for all and highlights Irish American heritage while promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion, bringing together people of all backgrounds in a shared celebration of love and unity.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Collins' appointment as Grand Marshal for the St. Pat's for All Parade is a fitting tribute to her lifelong commitment to inclusivity, justice, and the celebration of diverse voices. Her presence as Grand Marshal not only honors the rich Irish heritage of the parade, but also reinforces the values of unity and equality that she has championed throughout her career. By leading this remarkable event, Judy continues to inspire us all to embrace our differences, stand up for what is right, and celebrate the strength found in our shared humanity.

RECOGNIZING RANDY GORBMAN'S RETIREMENT

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the distinguished career of Randy Gorbman, the News Director of WXXI, who will retire at the end of March. With over 45 years in journalism, he is leaving an indelible mark on the industry and our community as one of the longest-serving news directors in all of New York State.

Randy oversees WXXI's daily news operations across radio and digital platforms, all while reporting on local issues himself. Over his career, his work has covered historic moments including Y2K, the tragedy of 9/11, the changes in Rochester's economy and iconic businesses such as Kodak and Bausch + Lomb, and the local jazz festival every year. A steadfast leader in journalism, he has continually upheld the principle that every story matters.

I have had the privilege of knowing Randy since my time in the New York State Assembly, and I have always admired his keen ability to delve into complex legislative issues with both thoughtfulness and precision. Those who know him often describe him as insightful, sharp-witted, and deeply dedicated to his craft. His contributions to journalism and our community have been invaluable, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that will be difficult to replicate.

As he embarks on this well-earned retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for his many years of service. On behalf of the WXXI community and all those who have benefited from his journalism, I wish Randy Gorbman all the best in his next chapter.

HONORING THE EDUARDO PEDREGON VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM IN SAN ELIZARIO, TEXAS

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Eduardo Pedregon Veterans Memorial Museum, an extraordinary museum in my district that embodies the highest ideals of patriotism, sacrifice, and service to our Nation.

Located in San Elizario, Texas—a historic border community founded in 1598—the Eduardo Pedregon Veterans Memorial Museum stands as a lasting tribute to the brave men and women from El Paso's Mission Valley who answered the call to serve in the United States Armed Forces. The museum commemorates the sacrifices of veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror, ensuring that their service and valor are never forgotten. It houses memorials dedicated to 20 fallen heroes and displays over 373 photographs of local veterans who have served with distinction.

Opened in 2010 and dedicated in 2011, the San Elizario Veterans Memorial Museum is named after Corporal Eduardo Pedregon, who enlisted in the United States Army at the age of seventeen and was assigned to the Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment. Corporal Pedregon fought in the Korean War where he was killed in action—receiving the Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and other recognitions.

Beyond its role as a historical archive, the San Elizario Veterans Memorial Museum plays an integral role in organizing veteran recognition events—including the Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony, the Memorial Brick Walk, and the Honor Salute.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of a remarkable group of volunteers, including Ray Borrego, Norma Reyes, Carmen Cruz, Pat Cruz, Martin Medina, Tony Grijalva, Al Borrego, and all the members of the San Elizario Veterans Committee. Their commitment to preserving the stories of our veterans ensures that future generations understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by those who served.

Mr. Speaker, as a 20-year Navy veteran, I am incredibly proud to recognize this treasured museum and the volunteers who sustain its mission. It is an honor to represent such a vital landmark in Texas' 23rd Congressional District.

HONORING LIZBETH WALKER AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lizbeth Walker is the CEO of Qwalifize, LLC, the first technology staffing and consulting firm headquartered in Kissimmee, Florida. Her journey from a telemarketer to CEO is a testament to resilience, determination, and faith.

Before founding Qwalifize, Ms. Walker held various roles—selling magazines, cleaning facilities, and working in multiple facets of human resources and operations. These included managing thousands of workers across multiple divisions, helping decision-makers stay in compliance, and fulfilling hundreds of technology roles nationwide.

A layoff drove her to be bold, creative, and fully committed to her passion for staffing, and she transformed adversity into an opportunity to make a huge impact.

In 2018, Ms. Walker established Qwalifize, officially taking it full-time in February 2020. Despite the challenges of entrepreneurship, she remained steadfast in her vision, expanding her firm's offerings into government contracting.

Her leadership continues to drive innovation in staffing and consulting, ensuring businesses connect with the right talent for success. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Walker is deeply committed to philanthropy, particularly in youth personal and professional development. She dedicates her time to empowering the next generation through mentorship and community initiatives. As a

proud mother of twin sons, she understands the importance of fostering opportunities for growth and education.

Ms. Walker is also a sought-after speaker, providing workshops on operations infrastructure, data-for-decisions, and niche recruitment strategies. Her expertise and passion have positioned her as a leader in workforce development, making a lasting impact on businesses and job seekers alike.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY
FOR ALL AND PARADE GRAND
MARSHAL LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST,
IRELAND COUNCILLOR
MICKY MURRAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Right Honorable, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Micky Murray, who has been serving as the Lord Mayor of Belfast since June 3, 2024. Representing the Balmoral electoral area in South Belfast, Councillor Murray has been a member of Belfast council since 2022.

Councillor Murray made history as the first openly gay individual to hold the position of Lord Mayor of Belfast, a significant achievement for both the city and the LGBTQ+ community. Before entering politics, he worked in the housing sector, where he specialized in supporting individuals facing homelessness and addiction challenges—a testament to his commitment to serving the most vulnerable in society.

As Lord Mayor, Councillor Murray has been an outspoken advocate for inclusivity and representation, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community. His participation in events such as the Belfast Pride march and his support for LGBTQ+ veterans highlight his ongoing efforts to ensure that all voices are heard and valued in Belfast.

This year, Councillor Murray's leadership will be celebrated as he serves as Grand Marshal of the St. Pat's for All Parade. Established on March 5, 2000, the parade takes place in Queens' Sunnyside and Woodside neighborhoods, historically home to Irish Americans in New York. The St. Pat's for All Parade offers a welcoming space for all and highlights Irish American heritage while promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion, bringing together people of all backgrounds in a shared celebration of love and unity.

Mr. Speaker, Councillor Micky Murray's groundbreaking leadership as the first openly gay Lord Mayor of Belfast stands as a powerful symbol of progress and inclusivity. His steadfast advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community and his dedication to creating a more compassionate Belfast resonate deeply with the spirit of the St. Pat's for All Parade. Councillor Murray's work embodies justice and unity, highlighting the importance of representation and support for all. His efforts inspire us to embrace diversity and work toward a brighter, more united future for everyone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALAN M.
SCHWARTZ

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Alan M. Schwartz who passed away on Thursday, September 26, 2024, surrounded by his loved ones. Alan was a business and civic leader in the South Bay region of Los Angeles County.

Alan Schwartz was born in Torrance, California on June 20, 1947, to Ella (Levy) Schwartz. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law, and a Certificate of Merit in International Jurisprudence from McGeorge School of Law.

Alan had illustrious careers in both business and the entertainment industry. He was the head of Asset Management Solutions, a firm built upon the legacy of his grandfather, philanthropist Sam Levy. His career in entertainment boasts 25 long years, wherein he brushed shoulders with the likes of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Bernadette Peters, and Cher.

Alan also upheld an unwavering dedication to civic affairs and education. He served four years as President of Royce Center Circle at the University of California, Los Angeles, and was a member of the Advisory Board of the School of Arts and Architecture. With a strong proclivity for the arts, Alan served as a Trustee of the California Summer School of the Arts, a position appointed by the Governor of California.

Long active in the Jewish community, Alan served on the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University and was a member of the International Board of Trustees of the Moshe Dayan Institute of Middle Eastern and African Studies. Since running for a Congressional seat in 1998, Alan stayed involved in state, national, and international politics.

Alan kept to his Torrance roots through his commitments to the South Bay community. Alan served as President of the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce and was honored as Torrance Chamber 60th Anniversary Businessman of the Year. He served as a Trustee of Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital, a member of the Harbor-UCLA Community Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute, and in many other roles supporting underserved communities in Los Angeles County.

Amongst Alan's many achievements, his proudest was his son, Adam Schwartz. Alan and Adam shared a great love for travel that led to many worldly adventures, such as savoring a dinner in the Eiffel Tower and kayaking the Amazon River. Alan is survived by Adam, his daughter-in-law, Isabel Schwartz, as well as his beloved Australian Shepard, Lady. Adam and Isabel wish their future children had the chance to meet their Papa Alan, but they will have many stories to share about him. May his memory be a blessing to all that knew him.