

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.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the men and women who fought for our Nation during the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam War, 8.7 million Americans served in our Nation's Armed Forces, with over 2.7 million being deployed to Vietnam. Tragically, 58,281 servicemembers would lose their lives in the conflict, and many more were wounded in action. Moreover, there are nearly 1,600 Americans who are still classified as missing in action or having died in captivity as a prisoner of war. I am thankful for our Department of Defense's continued commitment to searching for our missing soldiers, and I am very hopeful that we can one day bring closure to each and every family member and friend of our POW/MIA servicemembers in this conflict.

At present, it's estimated there are just over 5 million Vietnam veterans still alive today. Many have experienced hardships with little recognition. Despite this, they have persevered and served our country in other ways. A great number of Vietnam veterans have become fast responders, industrial workers, farmers, truck drivers, and public servants. We are exceptionally grateful for their continued selfless service to our great Nation. Since the conflict, the relationship between the United States and Vietnam has also progressed to remarkable milestones. Vietnam has emerged to become one of our closest allies in the Pacific and is a strategic partner in our efforts to account for missing servicemembers.

On this occasion, I would also like to thank Captain Dave Carey for his special keynote address. Capt. Carey is a distinguished American patriot and aviator who served as a U.S. Navy pilot in Vietnam. After enduring nearly six years as a prisoner of war, Capt. Carey served in key leadership positions in the Navy and became a passionate motivational speaker and author.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to commemorate and honor our Vietnam Veterans to ensure their heroism and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

HONORING DR. LYUDMILA SARDER  
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, Dr. Lyudmila Sarder, M.D., is a highly esteemed internal medicine resident physician who has made remarkable contributions to the healthcare field across nine districts of Florida and the greater Central Florida region.

With years of experience treating patients for a variety of conditions in both hospital and clinical settings, she has dedicated her career

to serving underserved populations with compassion and commitment. Through hands-on rotations at prestigious healthcare institutions, including HCA Florida Osceola Hospital, AdventHealth Cancer Institute, Winter Haven Hospital, and Lakeland Regional Health, Dr. Lyudmila Sarder has gained invaluable expertise and national recognition for her dedication to advancing medical research. Her commendable efforts in addressing the financial barriers associated with cancer treatment have provided hope to countless patients and their families. She remains steadfast in her mission to pave the way for a more equitable healthcare system, ensuring that cost-effective treatments are accessible to those who need them most. The AdventHealth Cancer Institute has proudly unveiled findings marking a significant milestone in the field of cancer research, with Dr. Lyudmila Sarder playing a pivotal role in these advancements. As a dedicated health advocate, Dr. Lyudmila Sarder leads initiatives to expand healthcare access for uninsured and underserved populations. She works tirelessly to reduce health disparities by improving social determinants of health and enhancing community resources. She volunteers at Kissimmee Women's Health Center and Osceola Cancer Center, providing vital medical care to underserved populations in need. Additionally, she continues to serve as a resident physician for uninsured patients throughout Central Florida. Dr. Lyudmila Sarder co-authored the Amazon bestselling book, "Intern Mastery: A Roadmap from Med School to PGY-1 Internal Medicine Excellence," a crucial guide for medical students transitioning into residency. She is also a member of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and serves as a judge for ACP student presentations.

Beyond her contributions to medicine and education, Dr. Lyudmila Sarder actively promotes sports and public health by participating in and volunteering as a physician for marathons such as the Hollis Cancer Marathon and Disney marathons. She is a core member of the Internal Medicine Academic Curriculum Board and Resident Recruitment and Selection Committee, mentoring medical students and shaping innovative educational strategies. Despite her demanding career, Dr. Lyudmila Sarder is also a devoted mother to two boys, balancing her professional and personal responsibilities with grace and determination. Her unwavering commitment to medicine, education, and advocacy continues to inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals while improving the lives of countless patients in her community.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF  
JAMES DOHERTY

**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 the life of James Doherty—a remarkable public servant and family man whose perseverance and loyalty will continue to serve as an example for all those hoping to make a change in the world. A graduate of Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School and Buffalo State University, Mr.

Doherty went into the world wanting to make a difference. Upon graduation, he worked as a special education teacher at South Park High School until he ran for office.

Mr. Doherty was the youngest elected At-Large Councilman in the Buffalo Common Council. During his tenure, he was a fierce advocate for the people he represented, especially the most vulnerable in our community, including women, people of color, and anyone who was disenfranchised. He always kept a picture of his two beloved daughters, Brigid and Leah, behind his desk. Whenever someone came in with a request, he would point to the photo and say: "I do everything for those two, so make sure whatever you're asking of me I can be proud to share with them."

Mr. Doherty would go on to be a mentor and a friend to many and remained active in city policymaking, inspiring generations of civic-minded Buffalonians. After retiring from politics, Jimmy led a selfless career in student transportation, holding executive roles at National School Bus, Laidlaw Education Service, and later First Student. Each Fall, Western New Yorkers could rely on Jimmy to help them usher in a safe return to school. A president of the Wanakah Country Club, Jimmy was an avid golfer and passionate sports fan.

When he wasn't helping others, he could be found on the green with his favorite golf partner and best friend, his brother Jerry. Jimmy is survived by his beloved wife Marleah, his devoted children Brigid Doherty and Leah Roberts, his loving grandchildren, Haley and Sophia Jones, and Anna and Harrison Roberts, as well as countless other nieces, nephews, family members, and friends. Jimmy's loyalty to his family and devotion to his city made him a model leader—one whom all Buffalonians can look up to with pride and admiration.

PROCLAMATION FOR DEFIANCE  
COLLEGE'S  
DEMISEMISEPTCENTENNIAL

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 18, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

I have the honor of representing Ohio's 9th Congressional District, a region that embodies the industrious spirit, deep-rooted history, and rich educational traditions of our great state. Today, I am privileged to join in commemorating an extraordinary milestone in our community—the 175th anniversary of Defiance College.

Whereas, Defiance College, founded in 1850 as Defiance Female Seminary, has served as a beacon of higher education for 175 years, fostering a tradition of academic excellence, service, and leadership; and

Whereas, the institution has remained steadfast in its commitment to scholarship, social responsibility, and inclusion, evolving over the decades to meet the needs of a changing world while preserving its core values; and

Whereas, Defiance College has played a vital role in the development of Northwest Ohio and beyond, shaping generations of students into leaders in their professions and communities, and providing a rigorous education rooted in the liberal arts and experiential learning; and