

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

Whereas, during the presidency of Kevin McCann, Defiance College experienced significant growth, expanding its campus, enhancing academic facilities, and welcoming national figures, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who laid the cornerstone for the Anthony Wayne Library of American Study in 1953 and returned in 1963 to deliver a commencement address; and

Whereas, Defiance College remains a distinguished institution dedicated to the betterment of society, housing the Thoreau Wildlife Sanctuary, supporting service initiatives, and providing an education that encourages critical thinking, ethical leadership, and civic engagement; and

Whereas, the college's commitment to its students, alumni, faculty, and staff has created a legacy of intellectual curiosity, innovation, and community engagement that continues to inspire future generations; and

Whereas, on this occasion of its demisemiseptcentennial, we celebrate Defiance College's enduring legacy, its significant contributions to the educational and civic landscape, and its bright future in the years ahead;

Now, therefore, I, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, proudly recognize and commend Defiance College on its 175th anniversary. May this milestone serve as a testament to its remarkable history, its commitment to academic and community excellence, and the enduring impact it has had on Northwest Ohio and beyond.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand to honor Defiance College and its distinguished history on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LORRAINE SALAZAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lorraine Salazar a third-generation partner of Sal's Mexican Restaurants, a cherished institution and "A Valley Tradition Since 1942." Her family's entrepreneurial spirit has been a beacon of perseverance and success in our community.

From an early age, Lorraine embraced the values of hard work and dedication, learning restaurant operations alongside her parents and grandparents. She contributed in every way possible, from preparing her grandmother's signature recipes to working the cook line to serve guests.

Understanding the importance of education, her father encouraged Lorraine to pursue her studies. She earned her Bachelors Degree from UCLA in 1982 and returned in 1991 to manage the family business. Lorraine's passion for Mexican culinary heritage has led her to travel extensively, studying regional specialties from renowned chefs. These experiences have influenced the seasonal menu items offered at Sal's.

Sal's Mexican Restaurants received the 2001 California Small Business Award and multiple "Best of the Valley" and "People's Choice" awards. Lorraine's impact reaches well beyond her restaurant. In recognition of her dedication, she was awarded the 2017 California Faces of Diversity honor by the Cali-

fornia Restaurant Association. Additionally, in 2022, the Marjaree Mason Center recognized her as one of the "Top Ten Professional Women."

Lorraine has also been a distinguished public servant. In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed her to The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, where she served as co-convenor of its Higher Education and Workforce Development Group. In 2015, Lorraine served as the Chairwoman for the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Currently, Lorraine serves on the California Office of Small Business Advocate's Entrepreneurship and Economic Mobility Task Force and has been a member of the California State University, Fresno Foundation Board of Governors since 2017. She has dedicated over 28 years to the California and Fresno Restaurant Associations and served as Chairperson of the California Restaurant Association State Board.

Today, celebrating 83 years in business in 2024, Sal's Mexican Restaurants employ over 150 dedicated team members across three locations. The next generation, including Lorraine's son Aaron and her brother Karl's children—sons Sal and Roman and daughter Karly—are also continuing the family legacy.

Beyond her professional and civic achievements, Lorraine finds joy in culinary and wine travel, beachside relaxation, concerts, movies, and professional sports. Above all, she cherishes time spent with her husband Tom, son Aaron, and beloved grandsons, Ethan, Tyler, and Landon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lorraine Salazar for her incredible contributions to the culinary industry, small business community, and public service. Her dedication is an inspiration, and her legacy will continue to enrich our community for generations to come.

HONORING BETH KNIGHT AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN- TRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Beth Knight is a driving force behind Osceola County, Florida's progress, with almost 38 years of unwavering dedication to public service.

As chief operating officer for Osceola County, she oversees daily operations, leading a workforce of more than 1,800 employees who serve a rapidly growing population of over 450,000 residents that hosts another 10 million visitors annually.

Ms. Knight's passion for public service was inspired by her father, Gordon Hedley, a World War II veteran who later served as a police officer in Detroit and Winter Haven. His commitment to duty and community instilled in her a profound sense of responsibility, which continues to guide her today.

Beginning her tenure with Osceola County in 1988 as a crime scene technician with the Sheriff's Office, Ms. Knight transitioned to the county government in 1997 as communications director. Her extensive experience in

government operations has made her a transformative leader, driving initiatives that enhance efficiency, sustainability, and innovation in areas such as workforce development, public safety, transportation, and education—ultimately improving the quality of life for residents. Ms. Knight has played a pivotal role in carrying out landmark projects, including Osceola Prosper, a one-of-a-kind program that catapulted the county from 61st to 4th in Florida for college-going graduates.

She has been a key staff member supporting the advancement of NeoCity, a 500-acre technology district poised to revolutionize high-tech manufacturing. A respected figure in the community, Ms. Knight, served on numerous community boards, including the Osceola Chamber Foundation and Experience Kissimmee. She and her husband, Terry, have raised three children in Osceola County and have five grandchildren. A lifelong learner, Ms. Knight holds a master's degree from the University of Central Florida, cementing her legacy as a leader shaping Osceola County's future and its mission to "Be First to What's Next!"

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY FOR ALL AND PARADE SPECIAL GUEST CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND HELENA NOLAN

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 Consul General Helena Nolan, who has been serving as the Consul General of Ireland in New York since August 2021. Consul General Nolan's career is a testament to her unwavering commitment to public service and diplomacy. She joined Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs in 1990, after an initial seven years in the Department of Education, where she worked on educational policy. Her passion for international relations and public service led her to transition to diplomacy, where she has achieved a remarkable career.

Throughout her career, Consul General Nolan has held a wide variety of roles both at home and abroad, showcasing her versatility and dedication. Most recently, she served as Ireland's Ambassador to Belgium from 2017 to 2021, a role that was critical in strengthening Ireland's ties with the European Union and NATO. During this time, she also headed the Partnership for Peace Liaison Office, representing Ireland's interests in international security and peacekeeping. This diverse range of experience has made her a well-rounded and insightful leader in Ireland's foreign service, committed to advancing Ireland's role in global diplomacy and international relations.

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, Consul General Helena Nolan's distinguished career is a testament to