

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

her lifelong dedication to diplomacy, cultural exchange, and public service. Her leadership not only strengthens the relationship between Ireland and the United States, but also exemplifies the values of unity, inclusivity, and mutual respect. Consul General Nolan's work continues to inspire us all to embrace our shared heritage, stand up for the causes that matter, and celebrate the power of international cooperation. Through her unwavering commitment to her country and her role in fostering stronger global connections, she reminds us of the importance of service, community, and the bonds that unite us across borders and, we are all better for it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SALARY HISTORY QUESTION PROHIBITION ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Salary History Question Prohibition Act of 2025, which would help reduce the gender and racial pay gap by prohibiting employers from asking job applicants for their salary history before making a job or salary offer. Even though many employers may not intentionally discriminate against applicants based on gender or race, setting pay based on salary history can reinforce the pay gap. Members of historically disadvantaged groups often start their careers with unfair and artificially low pay compared to their white male counterparts, and these disparities compound throughout their careers. The House passed this bill as part of the Paycheck Fairness Act in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

There is much work to do to end the pay gap. This bill represents a crucial step towards that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING ETHEL MIERS ON HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 99th birthday of Ethel Miers. Ms. Miers is a dedicated resident from the town of Milford in New Jersey's 7th Congressional District who is committed to preserving American values and strengthening our Nation's future. As we celebrate her birthday, we recognize her contributions and take this opportunity to reflect on the many blessings we share as a community. It is my honor to represent her, and I extend my warmest wishes for a joyous 99th birthday.

HONORING ANGELIQUE L. PERRY 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, Angelique L. Perry, who prefers to be called Angel, is originally from Brooklyn, New York, but moved to Orlando, Florida, in October of 2009.

Since she was a little girl, she has always wanted to serve in public office. Both of her parents were New York State employees who were proud union members. The union experience put her on the path to "always wanting to help others."

Community advocacy was part of her childhood. She volunteered with her parents, tagged in with projects in college, and even opened her home in Watertown, New York, to any newly enlisted Army recruits who did not have a family of their own. She was happy to provide meals, someone to practice PT with, and much more.

In 2014, CWA Local 3108 President Steve Wisniewski offered her the opportunity to become a shop steward. After completing her certification training, she was asked to take on more responsibilities.

In 2015, she attended additional training by the Central Florida Labor Council, which helped cement her knowledge of the political and electoral process. CWA extended an offer for Angel to become an AFL-CIO labor delegate, and she was sworn in by the Central Florida Labor Council in May of that same year.

Once certified in organizing and teaching, her role included educating on civics, constitutional law, contract negotiations, labor rights, and how unions work on a day-to-day. As an AFL-CIO delegate, she completes screenings of political candidates who are seeking labor's endorsement, attends the Family Lobby Corps in Tallahassee, and participates in grassroots campaigning for candidates who passed labor's assessment. Even with all those tasks, she was not satisfied and desired to do even more. Angel volunteered to become a chief steward for CWA Local 3108, which she happily included in her responsibilities of representing several departments for her employer.

In 2016, realizing an overwhelming need for care, Angel created a charity dedicated to helping veterans adjust to civilian life. No matter the task, she does whatever she can to help whoever needs it. This was a passion in honor of her grandfather, Charles R. Hibbler Sr., who was a WWII veteran. It is important to her for veterans to have every advantage they are entitled to. This work must continue with military individuals as she had done when she lived in New York.

After a few years of labor advocacy, she decided to run for office within CWA Local 3108. Her campaign was successful, and the members elected her as their executive vice president in 2017. Angel is currently on her third term and continues to serve on over 20 contracts and help veterans as part of her daily work.

CELEBRATING JOE KIRCHMYER, RECIPIENT OF THE SPOTLIGHT AWARD FROM THE WEST SENeca, NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Joe Kirchmyer, a lifelong resident of West Seneca, New York, and a passionate advocate for the growth and well-being of his community. Mr. Kirchmyer's dedication to his hometown has been evident for many years, and his contributions continue to make a profound impact.

In 2017, Mr. Kirchmyer was named Citizen of the Year by the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, highlighting his long-standing commitment to the community. The following year, he stepped into the role of Executive Director of the Chamber, where he has been a catalyst for positive change.

Mr. Kirchmyer has led various community initiatives to unite people and enrich the town's cultural and social fabric. He was instrumental in establishing the West Seneca Farmers' Market, a staple for local produce and small businesses. He also played a key role in organizing events such as the annual BurchFest Celebration of the Arts and the Holiday Auction at the Community Center, both of which have become beloved traditions in the town. Additionally, Mr. Kirchmyer's biannual food drives are a vital source of support for local organizations, ensuring families in need are never overlooked.

Beyond these efforts, Mr. Kirchmyer is also a passionate advocate for the town's future, working tirelessly to ensure that West Seneca remains a vibrant and thriving place for all. He has been deeply involved with the redevelopment of underused sites, ensuring the town's interests are considered as plans for the future take shape.

Mr. Joe Kirchmyer's commitment to West Seneca serves as a shining example of the power of leadership and community spirit. His contributions inspire and strengthen our community. His work has made a significant difference, and we are all the better for his efforts. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Joe Kirchmyer and thanking him for his lifetime of public service.

SAVING NEMO ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my Saving Natural Ecosystems and Marine Organisms (NEMO) Act to protect the ornamental reef species living in the fragile and invaluable ecosystems of our world's endangered coral reefs.

Our oceans, teeming with life and rich biodiversity, depend on the health of coral reefs, some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth. Nearly 25 percent of the ocean's fish rely on coral reefs for shelter, food and breeding grounds. These reefs and