

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

the species that inhabit them are critical to the balance and vitality of our oceans.

Unfortunately, coral reefs and the marine life living in them are under threat due to the high demand for ornamental reef species. This has resulted in unsustainable and harmful collection practices, such as overcollection of species, particularly younger specimens; reef dredging; the use of harmful gill nets, explosives, or poisons; and excessive mortality of specimens during transit.

These practices not only deplete species populations but also cause irreversible damage to the coral ecosystems themselves. In some cases, this damage has led to the extirpation of species from specific areas and the introduction of invasive species, which further disrupts the ecological balance. The long-term consequences of these practices are the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of habitats that are vital to the health of our oceans.

Many of these harmful collection practices occur in international waters, particularly in regions such as Southeast Asia, where most of the world's coral reefs are located. In many of these countries, there are weak or insufficient regulations to prevent destructive collection methods. As the largest importer of ornamental reef fish and corals, the United States bears a significant responsibility in perpetuating the demand for these species, which drives destructive practices in coral reef ecosystems worldwide.

We have an opportunity to take decisive action. My Saving NEMO Act would prohibit the importation into the United States of protected reef species taken through unsustainable or destructive practices. Going beyond complementing the Lacey Act, CITES and the Endangered Species Act, my bill will also fill a critical gap by addressing those species that, while not endangered, are still collected through methods that harm marine ecosystems. It also includes a process for delisting a species if the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce determine that its collection no longer poses a substantial risk to its sustainability, providing an incentive for the industry to adopt responsible practices.

Furthermore, the Saving NEMO Act would support industries that focus on sustainability and environmentally friendly practices, which is the future of the industry. In doing so, this bill will ensure that the aquarium trade evolves in a way that protects our oceans and promotes long-term ecological balance.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation to help safeguard our coral reefs and the diverse marine life they support. By restricting the importation of ornamental reef species collected through harmful practices, we can protect these vital ecosystems for future generations.

Mahalo.

HONORING PABLO H. CATAÑO

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved public servant from the 43rd Congressional District of California, and a favorite son of the City of Hawthorne, the Honorable Pablo H. Cataño.

Pablo Cataño was born in Texas on June 29, 1939, and moved to California with his high school sweetheart in 1954. They raised three children, two daughters and a son, Pablo, Jr., who tragically passed away in 1985. Pablo worked as a machinist at Rockwell International, where he contributed to the development of the escape hatch on the Apollo 11 spacecraft. His time at Rockwell also ignited his passion for social justice and political involvement through his active role in the union.

Pablo later became a political activist. He was proud of having marched with labor leader Cesar Chavez, and he worked with local politicians and various community organizations. He was admired by elected leaders for his activism and knowledge of city politics in Hawthorne and surrounding communities. This led to Pablo being hired as a District Representative for both California State Senators Teresa Hughes and Edward Vincent.

A pillar of the community, Pablo was supportive of and served on the board of several organizations in Hawthorne, which included Moneta Gardens Improvement, Behavioral Health Services, Hawthorne Lions Club, and the Hawthorne Moose Lodge 1746, just to name a few.

In 2001, Pablo Cataño was elected to the Hawthorne City Council, becoming the first Chicano/Latino elected official in the city. His leadership was recognized when he assumed the role of mayor pro tempore, and after serving two terms on the city council, he retired in 2009 to focus on his health following a stroke.

Pablo Hernandez Cataño passed away on November 3, 2024, leaving behind to cherish his memory, his daughters Sylvia and Cynthia, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and many close friends. On March 20, 2025, I will join Pablo's family, friends, and the entire Hawthorne community when the City of Hawthorne hosts a celebration of life for a great public servant, a devoted family man, and my friend, the Honorable Pablo Cataño.

HONORING MELANIE THOMAS 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, Melanie Thomas of Saint Cloud, Florida is the public affairs officer for the Orlando VA Health Care System (OVAHCS), where she leads strategic communication efforts to enhance public awareness and engagement for Veteran healthcare services.

With a strong background in public relations, media relations, and strategic communication, Melanie plays a vital role in shaping the organization's messaging, fostering transparency and strengthening connections with Veterans, stakeholders, and the broader community.

In her role, Melanie oversees media outreach, crisis communication, and community engagement initiatives, ensuring that Veterans and their families are well-informed about the services and resources available to them. She collaborates with leadership, government

agencies, and community partners to promote the mission of serving those who've served.

Driven by her servant leader approach and her commitment to effective communication, Melanie works diligently to amplify the voices of Veterans and highlight the impactful work of the Orlando VA Healthcare System. Her expertise in storytelling, branding, and stakeholder relations makes her an invaluable asset to advancing programming for Veterans and healthcare services.

Prior to her current role, she served as the public affairs officer for the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS), was a public affairs specialist and TCF intern for the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, and held a voluntary service assistant position with public affairs collateral duties at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Thomas holds a master's degree in business administration and an undergraduate degree in organizational communication with concentrations in public relations and rhetoric from Wilkes University located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH
BIRTHDAY OF GLADYS DIJI

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 the 75th birthday of Ms. Gladys Dijj, who is a shining example of resilience, grace, and unwavering dedication to her family, community, and profession. Her life's journey has been dedicated to bettering the lives of those around her.

Born on February 14, 1950, in Clarion, Pennsylvania, Ms. Dijj has spent a lifetime inspiring others with her strength and compassion. She is the proud mother of three daughters and one stepson, and the cherished grandmother of twelve grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Beyond her impressive professional and community contributions, Ms. Dijj is known for her deep love of family and her passion for hosting family gatherings. Her matriarchal role is the cornerstone of her family's unity, and her wisdom continues to guide them across five generations.

A registered professional nurse and clinical nursing instructor, Ms. Dijj's career is a testament to her love of healthcare and education. She earned her Master of Science degree in Community Health Nursing from D'Youville University in Buffalo, New York, and has served in numerous roles, including as an adjunct clinical professor at D'Youville University. Throughout her career, she has impacted the lives of many through her work in mental health, substance abuse, and chronic illness care, as well as her contributions to nursing education. In her retirement, she also served as a Community Liaison for my office in the New York State Senate, where she helped the constituents of the 63rd Senate District with various issues they were facing and attended many community events and meetings as my representative.

Ms. Dijj's dedication to community service is equally impressive. She has served on