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**HONORING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN**

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan, as it celebrates 63 years of extraordinary service to our communities. Founded by Imam Mohamad Jawad Chirri in 1962, the Islamic Center began as a dream to create a sacred space for Metro Detroit's growing Muslim population.

From its original site on Joy Road to its current home on Ford Road, the Center has grown into the largest mosque in North America. It has become much more than a place of worship—it is a hub for education, interfaith dialogue, social services, and community resilience. From Sunday breakfasts and youth programming to leading global humanitarian aid.

The Center welcomes people of all backgrounds and faiths and continues to be a space where generations gather to pray, celebrate, and organize. Its volunteers have led vital relief efforts around the world, including sending food and medical aid to families in Yemen, Palestine, and Lebanon. I extend my deepest congratulations to the Center's leaders, families, and volunteers who have made this institution a beacon of faith and hope.

**RECOGNIZING ELIJAH STIMPFEL**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elijah Stimpf for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Elijah has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Elijah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Elijah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Elijah Stimpf on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

**RECOGNIZING MARLENE LAW**

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that

Ms. Marlene Law has made to our community through her work over three decades to promote opportunities for youth with the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County 4-H program. Her tireless efforts have been mostly behind the scenes. Marlene supports the core values of 4-H, to develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility, and life skills in young people through experiential learning programs. She is a strong role model for the youth in our community. As a long-time 4-H volunteer and leader of the Ropin' the Wind 4-H club, she has sought to identify needs in the community, set goals, work in partnership with the 4-H Agent and County Extension office, and advance educational programs for youth. In 1995, with a mission to "Make the Best Better", Marlene Law was a founding member of the Citrus County 4-H Foundation. Her actions planned and produced the 1st Citrus Stampede Rodeo to benefit the Citrus County 4-H program, Past Foundation president, Hal Porter recounted "We had a dream, then . . . to raise \$100,000 for our county 4-H program." As the Citrus Stampede Rodeo Chairwoman, Marlene Law, has raised over \$380,000 for the countywide 4-H youth development program. This year, the 29th Annual Citrus Stampede Rodeo will continue to support youth in our community. Raising money for the local 4-H program is a worthy endeavor, but the true impact of those dollars are the opportunities they open for young people engaged in Citrus County 4-H programs. Marlene's support and advocacy for youth development provides vital resources for school enrichment programs, residential camping programs, adult volunteer training, teen workforce development, civic engagement, and graduating senior and 4-H alumni scholarships.

It is clear that Marlene Law has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

**RECOGNIZING THE 270TH BIRTHDAY OF LAREDO, TEXAS**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic milestone for my hometown—the 270th anniversary of the founding of the City of Laredo, Texas.

Founded in 1755 along the banks of the Rio Grande, Laredo stands as one of the oldest communities in our Nation—established even before the birth of the United States. Originally known as Villa de San Agustín de Laredo, it was founded by Don Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera. Nearly three centuries later, we continue to celebrate the enduring spirit, culture, and resilience that define our community.

Throughout its history, Laredo has flown under seven different flags: Spain, France, Mexico, the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and ultimately, the United States. Each chapter reflects the complex and vibrant story of a city shaped by shifting borders and strong people.

Today, Laredo and its sister city, Nuevo Laredo, form the Dos Laredos—creating the larg-

est inland port in both the United States and Mexico. This dynamic economic engine is a hub for land, rail, and air cargo, driving billions in trade annually and supporting families across both nations.

But Laredo is more than just a commercial gateway—it is a cultural cornerstone. From the Washington's Birthday Celebration, one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country, to our strong educational institutions and proud neighborhoods, Laredo remains rooted in tradition while embracing innovation and growth.

Mr. Speaker, Laredo is a city of hardworking families, a city rich in heritage, and a city that stands as a testament to the enduring promise of the American Dream.

Happy 270th birthday to Laredo. May we continue to thrive for generations to come.

**CONGRATULATING REVEREND LYDIE NGOIE AND THE MEMBERS OF TRINITY FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON 35 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP**

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District congratulates Reverend Lydie Ngoie and the members of Trinity Faith United Methodist Church on 35 years of spiritual worship and leadership in our community.

Trinity Faith blossomed from humble beginnings. Founded in 1918 in the basement of a building under construction on Twelfth Street, just eleven devoted charter members came together, united by a vision of faith and service. Their commitment and love for their community sparked growth, soon reaching 23 members. As the neighborhood around them evolved, so did the church, embracing change and relocating to a new home on West McNichols in 1950. By May 27, 1951, Trinity Church broke ground on their new fellowship hall, proudly serving a growing congregation of 210 strong.

While expanding their congregation and educational programs, Trinity Church opened its doors to Faith Bethany United Methodist Church, offering them a temporary home until a permanent location was secured. In 1989, the two churches united, forming what we now know as Trinity Faith United Methodist Church. Over these 35 years, they've shown a deep commitment to serving others—whether through their food pantry that nourishes those in need or through their dedication to spiritual learning and growth.

The 12th Congressional District honors their service and dedication to creating a place of friendship and learning for our community. I thank them for being a guiding light rooted in faith and service to all.

**RECOGNIZING ADALINA CASTILLO**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adalina Castillo for earning the

Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Adalina has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Adalina, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Adalina's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Adalina Castillo on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MARTHA NARVAEZ  
AND VINCENT LEANDRY

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Martha Narvaez and Vincent Leandry have made to our community through their volunteer service at the American Red Cross, Mid-Florida Chapter. Every now and then, we encounter volunteers who not only serve with dedication but inspire everyone around them. Martha and Vincent are such a team. Partners in life and in service, this dynamic Army Veteran duo continues to embody the very best of the American Red Cross. After a lifetime of service in the military, they chose to extend that calling with the American Red Cross for the last five years—and we are truly grateful. Every day, they give their time, energy, and hearts to advance the mission of the organization. Whether responding to house fires in the middle of the night, supporting major disaster operations, or assisting at Yellow Ribbon events for deploying service members, their commitment never wavers. They are always the first to raise their hands and often step in before the need is even spoken. Their compassion knows no bounds. Fluent in Spanish, they ensure no one is left out of critical recovery conversations—like when a displaced family in a shelter needed urgent help. A FaceTime call quickly turned into a 60-mile drive to provide in-person support, gifts for the children, and hours of comfort and reassurance. Their actions transformed a moment of isolation into one of connection and healing. In the wake of hurricanes and amid logistical challenges, they've served hundreds of meals, including stepping up at the last minute to support a community feeding event for an elected official. They showed up with no expectation of recognition—just a desire to help. Whether at Moon Lake Park or on a roadside in rural Florida, Martha and Vincent bring warmth and hope wherever they go. Their service touches every corner of the Red Cross: Disaster Action Team (DAT), Disaster Relief Operations (DRO), Service to the Armed Forces (SAF), and countless outreach events. You'll find them at Homeless Veteran Stand-Downs, the Mexican Consulate, VA hospitals, and more. They respond with empathy, uplift fellow volunteers and staff with kind words and hugs, and lead with quiet strength. Team SAF can always rely on them to take initiative, represent the Red Cross with profes-

sionalism, and bring their signature warmth to every event. They give so much of themselves and ask for nothing in return. Their dedication, humility, and boundless compassion serve as a beacon for what it truly means to be part of the Red Cross family. Martha and Vincent don't just serve—they show up, wholeheartedly and without hesitation.

It is clear Martha Narvaez and Vincent Leandry have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for their service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING GEORGE R.  
CUNNINGHAM

**HON. JUAN CISCOMANI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George R. Cunningham, a dedicated public servant who passed away at age 80 on May 7, 2025 at his home in Tucson, Arizona.

George moved to Tucson as a boy with his family from Nashua, New Hampshire and it didn't take long for him to immerse himself in the civic affairs of his new home. His successful run for class president at Catalina High School was a clear indication of the path he was destined to take.

Over the decades that followed, George rose through the ranks like few others. He went from working as an intern for the city manager of one of Arizona's smallest municipalities to the top of state government. He served in the executive branch of government and he served in the legislative branch of government. He worked for Democrats and he worked for Republicans.

George never stopped serving and working for Arizona.

George was a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Arizona when he started as an assistant city manager for the City of South Tucson. He helped run this one-square-mile city as he earned a Master's Public Administration from his alma mater. This, too, was a sign of the path George was destined to take. He would go on to be a master at public administration.

Still in his twenties and now married, George left the city to become the executive director of the Tucson Urban Area Regional Review Committee. Under his leadership, the organization wisely streamlined its name to the Pima Association of Governments. This was 1970 and George was making \$11,700 a year.

Opportunity knocked a year later and George took a position as an assistant to William Jacquin, a Tucson Republican who served as president of the Arizona Senate. George's salary went up to \$13,200 a year and George moved up to Phoenix. When Jacquin stepped down to run for governor, George stayed on to work for his successor, Bob Stump, who would go on to serve 26 years in Congress. Stump at the time called George a hard working guy—"maybe the hardest working guy in the building."

George's thorough understanding of the legislative process led to his next post, as an assistant to the president of the University of Ari-

zona. Here, too, he rose through the ranks. He would go on to serve in a number of key positions at the university and play a leading role in shaping the institution we know today. One of his principal duties was lobbying state lawmakers—a task George understood and did well.

George was a UA vice president in 1988 when he was tapped to serve as chief of staff to Governor Rose Mofford, Arizona's first female governor and one of only three female governors in the country. It was a tremendous source of pride in Tucson at the time to have one of our own in such an influential position. According to a front-page profile in the Tucson Citizen, they suggested George could well be "the most powerful man in all of state government."

George was back in Tucson a couple years later and in 1992 launched his career as state lawmaker. He served in Arizona's House of Representatives until 1997 and in the Arizona Senate from 1997 to 2001.

After running for Congress and the Arizona Corporation Commission, George became Governor Janet Napolitano's Deputy Chief of Staff for Finance and Budget. And then, in what his son Paul says he considered one of his greatest accomplishments, George created the Grand Canyon Institute, a non-partisan think tank focused on public policies that affect the future of Arizona.

The future of Arizona mattered to George Cunningham. He served our state well.

HONORING DOROTHY "DOT"  
ROGERS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the honorable life of Dorothy "Dot" Rogers. Her daughter, Ann Rogers, Deputy Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives, is a dear friend, and we appreciate her service to the country. My thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends.

Her loving obituary has been published by the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home:

"Born in Metairie, Louisiana, on January 12, 1930, to Harold and Mae Iley, Dorothy Iley Rogers (known throughout her life as Dot) quickly blossomed from a Depression-era baby to a Renaissance woman. As a child, Dot was a swimmer and scholar-athlete in New Orleans. She received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Chemistry from Tulane University. She went on to coach swimming and taught chemistry before meeting her future husband while visiting her uncle, a Navy Chaplain, on the south coast of France. Dot married Lieutenant James Rogers in 1954.

As a proud Navy wife, Dot handled her husband's frequent deployments with determination and lots of chocolate milkshakes. While living in Carmel, California, Dot modeled for local fashion stores and discovered her talent for art. She excelled in many media, including acrylics, oils, water color, charcoal, and pastels.

Perhaps Dot's proudest achievements came from raising her two children, David and Ann. She assumed the roles of tutor, cheerleader, coach, PTA president, and all-around