

I would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Silverado Ranch Community Center. Their tireless efforts, professionalism, and welcoming spirit have made this first year a resounding success.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let it serve as a testament to what can be accomplished when local government, public servants, and community members come together with a shared vision. This is a great milestone in our community.

I look forward to many more years of growth, service, and celebration at Silverado Ranch.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on May 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No 122.

CELEBRATING DAWNA DURHAM

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor an exceptional individual, Ms. Dawna Durham, whose impact in the fields of entertainment, literature, and community service have been nothing short of inspiring. As a creative and compassionate leader, Ms. Durham has left a permanent mark on both her community and the social setting of Western New York.

As an event planner, Ms. Durham has arranged some of the Western New York's most iconic events, including The Health Care Ball, The Homage Awards, Wild 'N Out Buffalo Style, Buffalo Soul Train, and Wild 'N Out Bingo. These events celebrate art, fashion and culture, while also uplifting our community and shining light on local talents.

In addition to her talents in event planning, Ms. Durham is a gifted author and playwright. Her compelling book, *There's Nothing Like A Woman Scorned*, illustrates a powerful display of resilience and emotion—purchased by readers across the Nation. Ms. Durham explores complex and challenging aspects of life in her literary works, including *Love Hurts*, *Forgive Me Beloved*, *The Nursing Home*, *A Struggle of a Man*, and *Hurt People, Hurt People*. Her writing is characterized by its candidness and distinct stylistic approach. Ms. Durham's play *Love Hurts* was so impactful that it earned her a formal proclamation from the Mayor of Niagara Falls in 2011, a testament to the profound effects her storytelling has had on the community.

Ms. Durham's impact reaches far beyond the world of arts. As a dedicated philanthropist and community leader, she freely shares her time and talents to organize events that empower and uplift those in need. Her humility and selflessness shine through every project she undertakes, touching lives and inspiring others along the way.

Her entrepreneurial spirit is exemplified through her diverse ventures, including the founding of influential organizations such as the 716 Ebony Essence Awards, Yo716, The Homage Awards LLC, Destiny Production and Management, Better With Time LLC, alongside impactful media initiatives like *Destiny Talk Show*, *Let's Talk Fashion* with *Destiny*, and her own reality series, *Taste of Life*.

In recognition of her many contributions, Ms. Durham has received several well-deserved accolades, including the Buffalo Babes Award in 2022 and the Black Excellence Award in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Durham's many accomplishments and dedication to uplifting others. Her creativity, passion, and commitment to her community makes her a role model for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on missed votes from May 14, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 129.

HONORING SHERIFF LEE FOSTER FOR HIS STEADFAST LEADERSHIP TO NEWBERRY COUNTY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. SHERI BIGGS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Lee Foster of Newberry County, South Carolina, for his remarkable service and historic leadership in law enforcement.

Sheriff Foster holds the distinction of being the longest-serving, currently active sheriff in the State of South Carolina—a title he has earned through decades of unwavering dedication to his community and to public safety.

First elected in 1988 and beginning his first term in January 1989, Sheriff Foster has faithfully served the people of Newberry County for more than 35 years. Throughout that time, he has been a constant and steady presence—trusted by his community, respected by his peers, and recognized at every level of government for his service.

His law enforcement career began in 1973 as a junior officer in the Town of Prosperity. From there, he served as Chief of Police in Little Mountain, rose through the ranks of the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, and served as a Senior Criminology Instructor at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. His is a career built on experience, earned trust, and deep knowledge of the communities he has served.

Over the years, Sheriff Foster has received numerous accolades, including the Order of the Palmetto—the highest civilian honor in South Carolina—the Strom Thurmond Award

for Excellence in Law Enforcement, Sheriff of the Year by both the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association and the South Carolina Victims' Advocates Association, and Humanitarian of the Year by the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement.

He has served on a wide range of advisory boards and task forces at the state and federal levels, lending his expertise to efforts focused on violent crime, homeland security, victim notification, and training standards. But perhaps what sets Sheriff Foster apart most is his leadership style. He is hands-on, approachable, and deeply involved in every part of the Sheriff's Office—from administrative strategy to accident scenes. His example reminds us that real leadership is about showing up and serving others.

Sheriff Foster and his wife, Carol, live in Newberry, where they raised their two children, Joseph and Amelia. They are beloved members of their community and have given so much of themselves in service to others.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sheriff Lee Foster today—not only for his longevity in office but for the way he has served: with humility, courage, and a genuine love for the people of Newberry County. South Carolina is a safer, stronger place because of his service.

HONORING DR. OLGA HUGELMEYER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer as she is honored by Elizabeth's Promise Awards. Dr. Hugelmeyer is a distinguished educator and the Superintendent of Elizabeth Public Schools. Her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and her visionary leadership have profoundly impacted the students, educators, and the broader community of Elizabeth.

Dr. Hugelmeyer has dedicated her career to public education and to serving her community. She has worked in education for over 27 years and has served as a classroom teacher, Supervisor of Grants, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Superintendent of Elizabeth Public Schools. Her distinguished career demonstrates her unparalleled devotion to the students of Elizabeth's public schools.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Hugelmeyer has championed initiatives aimed at enhancing educational outcomes and fostering an environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed. She has led the Elizabeth Public School District with distinction through many challenging times, including the tumultuous COVID-19 pandemic. Her renowned leadership has not only elevated the standards of education within Elizabeth Public Schools, but has also served as an inspiration to countless students, educators, and administrators.

The House extends our deepest gratitude to Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer for her exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the field of education. Her contributions have left an indelible mark on the Elizabeth community and beyond.

HONORING THE RIO VISTA
BRACERO FARM

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, as we observe National Historic Preservation Month this May, I rise to honor the legacy of the Rio Vista Bracero Farm in Socorro, Texas. A site that serves as a testament to the resilience and contributions of migrant laborers and their profound impact on our Nation's agricultural history.

The Rio Vista Farm was established in 1915 as El Paso County's "Poor Farm" and has served various purposes over the years. From 1951 to 1964, it functioned as a key hub for the Bracero Program, facilitating over 4.6 million border crossings for Mexican agricultural workers under challenging conditions. In recognition of its national significance, the Rio Vista Farm was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in December 2023. This designation highlights the contributions of Latino excellence and presence in our Nation's history and our community.

As we celebrate National Historic Preservation Month, let us reflect on the importance of preserving our Nation's diverse history and the importance of it. The Rio Vista Farm serves as a powerful reminder of the contributions of migrant laborers and their stories.

I commend the City of Socorro, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and all involved in these preservation efforts. By working together, we can preserve the culture and heritage of the Rio Vista Farm and the Braceros across the country.

HONORING BEATRICE PRYOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quitman County Administrator, Beatrice Pryor.

Beatrice Pryor was born in February 1992 to the late Lena Marie Pryor in Crenshaw, Mississippi. She is the youngest of three siblings, including McRickey and Ericka Pryor. In her early years, her mother, Renae Crowder, and her sister, Quanneisha Crowder, adopted and raised her in Darling, Mississippi.

During her formative years in Quitman County, Ms. Pryor participated in the Upward Bound Programs offered by Coahoma Community College, where she developed a keen interest in accounting. This engagement enabled her to undertake college courses while completing her high school education.

Ms. Pryor graduated from Madison Shannon Palmer High School and subsequently attended Northwest Community College, where she completed her degree after only one semester. A proponent of lifelong learning, she graduated from Delta State University in May 2016 with a double major in Finance and Business Administration. She is also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In 2017, Ms. Pryor assumed the role of Assistant Economic Development Director for

Quitman County, where she made significant contributions to the county's financial advancement. Her strategic initiatives and resource-seeking efforts were pivotal in achieving improvements through effective networking and grant writing at the regional, state, and federal levels.

In 2021, Ms. Pryor was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Northwest Community College. She has also served as a board member for Mid-State Opportunities and has been actively involved in the Mules & Blues Festival and the Mule Train Historical Society.

Ms. Pryor is the youngest Black woman to serve as the County Administrator in Quitman County. Her responsibilities encompass overseeing and managing the county's budget, marketing strategies, and operational and property functions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Beatrice Pryor for her dedication to serving Quitman County.

HONORING BILL HIMPLER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Bill Himpler, who resides in Virginia, but is a proud native son of Chicago, IL, a man of deep faith, a loving husband, father and grandfather, an attorney, former congressional tax counsel and legislative director, former legislative director at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Administration of George W. Bush, and most recently as the President and CEO of the American Financial Services Association, the national trade group representing the consumer credit industry.

Bill is known to many of us in Congress, not only for his longstanding support of the American consumer's access to a wide variety of credit products, but his irrepressible passion and good humor in doing so. Where others might seek to use the politics of division to achieve then organization's goals, Bill has never played a zero-sum advocacy strategy.

Bill's advocacy has focused on how access to consumer credit in its many forms provides real economic opportunity for consumers of all financial standings. In his meetings here on Capitol Hill and in testimony over the years before Congressional committees, he has stressed that the economic opportunity access to some form of credit provides is not simply a luxury for a few, but a civil right for all. In a similar way, while advocating responsible rules of the road for his industry, he is also a stalwart advocate for empowering consumers with the financial literacy tools they need to successfully build a strong and stable financial future. As a result of his leadership, he has made the American Financial Services Association a trusted voice for both the consumer credit industry, but the tens of millions of consumers they serve.

After more than 40 years in Washington, Bill is retiring to enjoy well-earned time with his wife, Mary Sue, his children, Bill, Maggie, Jack and Ruth, his seven, with two more on the way, grandchildren, and his golf game.

The American consumer may not know the name Bill Himpler, but they have benefited

from his efforts over the past twenty years at AFSA, as have policy makers and regulators here in Washington and across the country. I thank him for his service and dedication and congratulate him on an outstanding career.

HONORING REVEREND DR. ARLENE
K. NEHRING

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Dr. Arlene K. Nehring on the occasion of her retirement as the pastor of the Eden United Church of Christ, in Hayward, California.

Like me, Reverend Arlene was born in Iowa. She has dedicated her life to ministry and started on the path that led her to pastoral service when she was just 14 years old. Reverend Arlene found her way to California when she joined the Eden United Church of Christ in November 2002, serving as lead pastor and teacher, staff supervisor, pastoral care provider, and community organizer, and retiring as the church's Senior Minister and Executive Director.

Prior to joining the Eden United Church of Christ, she served at the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, the Park Church, and the Old South Church in Boston. She earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the Andover Newton Theological School and a Doctor of Ministry from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Throughout her career, Reverend Arlene has worked tirelessly to help immigrant families throughout the Eden area. Under her leadership, the Eden United Church of Christ has provided sanctuary to immigrants and has coordinated interfaith accompaniment ministry with asylees, including unaccompanied immigrant youth and children from Central America, Mexico, and Colombia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Reverend Arlene worked to coordinate Eden's meal program to continue serving its community, many of those who relied on public schools that were closed for their breakfasts and lunches.

As Reverend Arlene enters retirement, I reflect on her career with immense gratitude for all that she did to serve our community over the last 23 years. I wish Reverend Arlene and her spouse, Stephanie, rest, relaxation, and the best of luck in this new chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING DR. HUU VO

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Ms. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th birthday of Dr. Huu Vo and his 50 years of service to the Inland Empire, our Nation, and beyond.

Dr. Vo has led a life of service to his community. He was born on April 4, 1950, in Hue, Vietnam, and in 1968, he graduated valedictorian from Hue National High School. Following his graduation, he attended medical