

Chief Carr's outstanding service will be formally recognized at the 2025 National Association of School Resource Officers' National School Safety Conference this July in Grapevine, Texas.

I thank Chief Carr for her leadership, service, and for exemplifying the highest standards of community and public safety.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 18–24, 2025, AND THE CITY OF OXFORD'S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Public Works Week, which takes place from May 18–24, 2025, and to offer a special greeting to the City of Oxford Public Works Department.

Our public works professionals dedicate their time and talent to maintaining the infrastructure and facilities essential to public health and our quality of life. In Oxford, that work is carried out under the capable leadership of Rusty Gann who oversees a dedicated team of 73 employees.

Without the efforts of the Public Works Department, essential services we all rely on, like safe roads, clean public spaces and functional public buildings—simply could not be provided. The Oxford Public Works team works every day to rebuild, improve and safeguard our transportation systems, structures and facilities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing National Public Works Week and thanking the City of Oxford's hardworking Public Works professionals, engineers, managers and employees for their unwavering commitment to help maintain our city's health, safety and advancing the quality of life.

HONORING HELEN HYDEN ADAMS FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Helen Hyden Adams was born to a Korean mother and a father in the U.S. Army. She always knew she would serve in the Army and followed in her father's footsteps. She is a product of the JROTC program and graduated from Fort Knox High School in 1986 and served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1986 to 1990. Her last station of duty was at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Helen joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1994 and was elected the first woman commander of the DAV Department of Alaska in 2000. She continued to serve in various leadership roles within the organization, including a run for national office in 2008.

Realizing that many veterans and their families were still struggling to navigate the VA

system, she and her husband, John Adams, a U.S. Army veteran, founded Connecting the Dots for Veterans, a veteran-focused nonprofit that educates, engages, and empowers veterans and their families. Helen is affectionately called Dottie by everyone.

As a service-connected disabled veteran since 1994, she shares her journey with others so that they may be successful in navigating the VA process. She educates, engages, and empowers veterans and their families. Ultimately, her program of Connecting the Dots for Veterans is a suicide prevention program. It offers veterans and their families hope, but more importantly, a step-by-step process that is proven to work in successfully navigating the complexities of the VA system.

To continue assisting transitioning military members, she founded Operation Connecting the Dots and serves as its CEO.

Her civic affiliations are as follows: Congressman DARREN SOTO's Veteran Advisory Board, American Legion Post 10, DAV Chapter 148, VFW Auxiliary Unit 3227, Amvets Post 33, Osceola County Veterans Council (OCVC) Vice Commander, OCREC Veterans Advisory Board.

RECOGNIZING THE "GAINESVILLE NINE"

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize and celebrate the legacy of a group of individuals whose passion for the game of baseball helped lay the foundation for college athletics at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida.

In the 1970–71 academic year, at what was then known as Santa Fe Junior College (SFJC), a group of players formed a baseball club—one of the earliest steps, along with other club sports, that would eventually lead to the college becoming a recognized National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) member in 1973. They were known as the "Gainesville Nine."

The baseball club, which predates the Northwest Campus, the largest of Santa Fe's seven locations across Alachua and Bradford counties, played other club and college teams from across the North Florida region. The bonds formed among the players showed that athletic participation and physical activity not only enrich the campus experience, but also foster a sense of perseverance and belonging that support a college-going culture.

Santa Fe College's Athletic programs have since grown in stature both regionally and nationally. The Northwest Campus gymnasium was built in the late 1970s and the baseball and softball fields were added in the early 1980s. Over the college's illustrious history, multiple NJCAA sports were offered including track, cross country, tennis, and slow pitch softball. Currently, the college offers five sanctioned intercollegiate teams in volleyball, men's and women's basketball, softball, and baseball.

Today, we honor the legacy of the 1970–71 SFJC club baseball team, the "Gainesville Nine" and celebrate their place in the rich history of Santa Fe College and its athletic programs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT" BOND

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, few people in Missouri politics have had more of a positive influence on our state and the Nation than Senator Kit Bond. A true statesman seemingly from a bygone era in today's divisive world, Kit Bond devoted his life to public service, working with others to find the best ways to lift up Missouri and the nation, to make it a better place for those he was so honored to serve. He was a cheerful warrior who always had an encouraging word and a smile on his face, even in challenging times.

After leaving elected office, Kit continued to advocate for our state and the policies he fought for throughout his career. My happiest phone calls in recent memory were from Kit and Linda inviting Ray and me to dinner. Sharing stories about Missouri politics, both past and present, spanning three decades, was always the highlight of the evening, and something I will miss dearly.

At a time when it was hard for women to break into politics, Kit was a forward-thinking visionary who worked to promote and advance the careers of many women entering public service. I was so honored to serve as Missouri Republican Party Chairman alongside Kit's incomparable female Chief of Staff Julie Dammann and Speaker of the House Catherine Hanaway, advancing strong conservative policies that benefitted our state.

Ray and I are heartbroken to hear of his passing and our prayers are with his wife Linda, who took such incredible care of him and supported him always, as well as his son, Sam, and the entire Bond family. Kit was a dear friend, a mentor, and I would not be where I am today were it not for his friendship, advice and support. I will miss him every day.

RECOGNIZING ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS INSTITUTE APPRENTICESHIP COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Associated Builders & Contractors Institute Apprenticeship College (ABCI) on the event of its 50th anniversary. A proud institution in Florida's 23rd Congressional District, ABCI provides apprenticeship training for the construction industry across our region. They collaborate directly with builders, contractors, and educators for a quality, hands-on apprenticeship education and construction trade program that helps drive our economy from South Florida all the way up Florida's Eastern coast.

We're particularly proud that ABCI has become the largest single provider of apprenticeship education and training in the state of Florida. It is a leader in innovative apprenticeship programs for the construction workforce—including in some of the most high-demand

areas of trade and it has set up its students for success with access to employment opportunities even before they complete their education.

The more than 900 pre-apprentices and apprentices currently enrolled in the Institute are a testament to ABCI's reach, as are the many students that have come before and the many that will come after. As Florida continues to grow, ABCI and its students will continue to help meet the ever-growing needs of the construction sector.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Associated Builders & Contractors Institute Apprenticeship College, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating ABCI, its leadership, and its dedication to supporting Florida's workforce. The dedication, skill, and expertise of their many graduates are a testament to the success they've had over these past 50 years and will continue to have many years into the future.

**HONORING DR. GEETHA AKULA
FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO
CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING
ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC IS-
LANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Geetha Akula is a medical oncologist and hematologist with Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute (FCS) in Osceola and Orange Counties.

Dr. Akula treats patients with a broad range of oncologic and hematologic diseases, with a special focus on multiple myeloma, colon, lung, and breast cancers. With a keen interest in clinical research, she has participated in several retrospective and prospective studies and has given numerous presentations at regional and national oncology and hematology conferences.

After earning her medical degree from Gandhi Medical College in Hyderabad, India, she completed her internship and residency at Cabrini Medical Center in New York, New York. Dr. Akula completed a fellowship in hematology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in the Bronx, New York, and a fellowship in neoplastic diseases at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York.

Dr. Akula is board-certified in oncology, hematology, internal medicine, and hospice and palliative care. She is a member of the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent (CAPI).

RECOGNIZING THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF CORRAL FIRE IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Wildfire Awareness Month to rec-

ognize the 1st anniversary of the Corral Fire in San Joaquin County, California, and to honor the brave men and women who risked their lives to contain this dangerous wildfire.

My home district of San Joaquin County is no stranger to wildfires—we are in the midst of a growing megafire crisis, and in 2024 alone we saw 9 wildfire incidents that burned nearly 15,000 acres in total. Thankfully, these fires were contained due to the quick action and selfless heroism of our firefighters, law enforcement, and first responders. Just earlier this year, during the historic Los Angeles fires, San Joaquin County sent nearly a dozen fire agencies south to combat the deadly megafires. Our local agencies never hesitate to answer the call, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that words alone cannot repay.

Few incidents better encompass the bravery of our local agencies than the 2024 Corral Fire, which burned 14,168 acres, forced the evacuation of thousands of homes in the Tracy Hills community, and injured two firefighters. This fire burned just miles from my home, and like so many families in California's Central Valley, we were deeply alarmed and concerned about how this blaze would impact our homes and livelihoods.

But thanks to the work of multiple agencies, this wildfire was fully contained in just six days. Nearly 500 personnel battled the blaze from across agencies including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Alameda County Fire Department, South San Joaquin County Fire Authority, San Joaquin County Sheriffs Office, California Highway Patrol, Tracy Police Department, Manteca Fire Department, Lathrop-Manteca Fire District, Defense Logistics Agency, and more.

Not only did the emergency response effort quickly and effectively facilitate the evacuation of the Tracy Hills community, serving as a model for future evacuation efforts, but their bravery minimized damage in the area.

As a member of the Tracy community, a fifth-generation resident of California's Central Valley, and the federal representative for California's 9th Congressional District, I want to express my deepest gratitude to every member involved directly or indirectly in the emergency response to the 2024 Corral Fire.

At the 1st anniversary of this wildfire, I recommit to doing everything in my power to ensure our firefighters and emergency responders have the federal support they need and deserve to continue keeping our communities safe from these disasters.

APPRECIATING DENNIS CARR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dennis Carr, President and CEO at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), upon retirement after 44 years of dedicated work and service.

Before being named President and CEO, Dennis served as the SRNS Executive Vice President and NNSA Chief Operations Officer. He also has years of experience in various areas, including serving as the Site Project Director and President of Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth.

SRNS is responsible for the safe, effective, and efficient management of the Savannah River Site (SRS). SRS is one of the Department of Energy's largest production sites and performs activities ranging from environmental cleanup and protection to nuclear materials storage and disposition.

Dennis achieved a critical role in providing vision, leadership, mission growth, technological advancement, and a safe, secure working environment. He established the strong partnerships that he helped build with the local community of Aiken, and SRNS.

Best wishes for a wonderful retirement. All he has done for South Carolina is appreciated.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS FAMILY REUNIFICA- TION ACT OF 2025

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to ask for the House's support for the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which I introduced with my colleague Congresswoman JEN KIGGANS of Virginia. It is the companion version of the bill introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator MAZIE HIRONO of Hawaii, along with twelve other Senators.

In 1941, more than 250,000 Filipino soldiers responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-arms in the Philippines and elsewhere and fought bravely for the U.S. and our allies during World War II. These soldiers were promised the opportunity to immigrate to the United States along with their families. However, after sacrificing for our country, many returned home from the War only to be denied the benefits promised for their service. Though many of these veterans became proud U.S. citizens, our immigrant visa backlog, exacerbated by caps on visas from the Philippines, have forced many of their family members to wait decades to come to the United States to join and care for them. This has effectively prevented these aging veterans from reuniting with their families.

In October 2017, Congress finally awarded the Filipino veterans of World War II the Congressional Gold Medal to honor their service to our country, but we must do more as we promised. Additionally, in 2016, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services created the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program, a temporary administrative fix that allows these veterans to request parole for their children or siblings. Under this policy, they can live in the U.S. pending processing of their permanent resident applications, which may still take years if not decades. However, as these veterans near the end of their lives, they deserve the certainty of a non-revocable permanent solution.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would address this by exempting from existing visa caps the visa applications of the children of Filipino World War II veterans. This would allow them to gain green cards once their applications are processed and approved, including careful vetting in line with existing immigration standards. This will not only assist these veterans in their senior years but also provide a fitting recognition of their critical service in the War.