

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 ISLANDER 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 REUNIFICATION 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.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting these veterans and helping fulfill our promises to them and their families.

RECOGNIZING PAM YOUNKER ON  
HER RETIREMENT

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible individual who is a true pillar of the community, Mrs. Pam Younker, and congratulate her on her retirement from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

The daughter of a United States Marine, Pam is a longtime advocate for our military, as well as our local community, and our children. Pam has spent more than a decade with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, caring for families in their time of greatest need.

A rock of her community, Pam was recognized in 2018 with the Marietta Citizen of the Year Award, and again in 2024 with the Len Gilbert Award for her advocacy for Dobbins Air Reserve Base and Clay National Guard Center.

Pam served as Chair of the Honorary Commanders Association, a Cobb County Chamber of Commerce program connecting community leaders with military commanders. She remains committed to our nation's military, serving on the Military Appreciation Luncheon Committee, chairing Armed Forces Day for Leadership Cobb, co-chairing the Team Dobbins Committee, and is a Civic Leader for Air Force Reserve Command.

Pam regularly organizes deployment send-offs, welcome-home events, and Veterans Day parades, among other events, and has been crucial in preventing the historic Dobbins Chapel's demolition, securing its relocation to the Clay National Guard Center.

It is my honor to have worked closely with Pam Younker through the years, and an even greater privilege to call her a friend. I congratulate Pam on her well-deserved retirement and know she will continue serving her Cobb County community in the years to come.

HONORING MIMI CHAN 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, Mimi Chan is best known as the model and martial arts reference for Disney's "Mulan," but her greatest impact lies in her lifelong dedication to empowering communities through education, culture, and service in Florida. A respected martial artist and advocate, she is a Master at the Wah Lum Kung Fu Temple in Orlando—the first kung fu temple in America, built by her father, Grandmaster Pui Chan, in 1980.

In 2023, Mimi spearheaded the passage of groundbreaking legislation mandating the inclusion of Asian American and Pacific Islander

history in Florida K–12 schools. As the director of Make Us Visible Florida, she built coalitions, collaborated with legislators, and mobilized community voices to ensure a more inclusive and accurate curriculum—helping shape a future where education reflects the richness of our shared history and strengthens our communities.

Mimi served on the Orange County Citizens Safety Task Force, contributing to strategies that address gun violence through cultural understanding, prevention, and youth engagement.

Through her leadership at Wah Lum, Mimi has preserved and celebrated Chinese culture across Florida. She produces some of the most dynamic Lunar New Year celebrations, featuring traditional lion dances, kung fu performances, and educational workshops. As an Asian American female role model, she has inspired generations to take pride in their heritage—ensuring that culture is not only honored, but also experienced, understood, and appreciated by people of all ages and backgrounds.

Mimi is an award-winning filmmaker whose documentary, "Pui Chan: Kung Fu Pioneer", has earned critical acclaim. She continues to amplify diverse voices through her podcast, "The Sifu Mimi Chan Show".

From martial arts to advocacy, education to community empowerment, Mimi Chan's legacy is one of action and impact. While most know her as the inspiration for a Disney heroine, her true power lies in her unwavering commitment to uplifting, educating, and inspiring her community.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE  
OF DR. SYLVIA GUERRA RIOS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Sylvia Guerra Rios, a dedicated educator and a pillar of the South Texas community.

For 48 years, Dr. Rios has been a steadfast advocate for students and teachers—as a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum leader, and ultimately, Superintendent of the Laredo Independent School District. She has spent her life improving the lives of others through education.

Since 2017, she has led LISD—serving over 21,000 students and nearly 4,000 employees—with distinction. Under her leadership, LISD has earned 11 National Blue Ribbon School honors, with three more schools recently nominated. These achievements reflect her unwavering focus on academic excellence and student opportunity.

A Hebronville native and proud public school graduate, Dr. Rios was valedictorian of her high school class. She went on to earn degrees from Texas A&I University and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Her professional rise mirrors the values she brought into every school—discipline, compassion, and vision.

Dr. Rios has also represented our region with distinction on the state stage and was inducted into the Laredo Commission for Women Hall of Fame in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Rios is not just an accomplished administrator—she is a role model and a servant leader. Her impact will be felt for generations.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank Dr. Rios and her family for their service and dedication. We wish her the very best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING NIFF-TONE

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Niff-Tone, a family-owned business in Mentone, Indiana, celebrating 50 years in the building materials industry. Since its founding in 1975, Niff-Tone has exemplified American craftsmanship, customer dedication, and community spirit.

Established by the father and uncles of current owner Joe Secrist, Niff-Tone began as a modest garage operation and has grown into a leading supplier for commercial, agricultural, and residential construction. Its extensive product line includes steel, siding, roofing, windows, doors, insulation, and full steel building packages—most of which are American-made, with Indiana-produced steel backed by lifetime warranties.

At the heart of Niff-Tone's success is its unwavering commitment to service. Mr. Secrist, who began working with his father at age 12, upholds the founding principle: treat every customer like family. This philosophy drives the company's personalized approach, including direct consultations, site visits, and prompt issue resolution. Today, Niff-Tone serves over 5,000 customers and collaborates with about 10 manufacturers.

Beyond business, Niff-Tone actively supports its community—donating materials to schools and projects, and sponsoring local events like Miss Mentone, represented by Kinley Rowe.

As Niff-Tone marks this milestone, it remains committed to delivering dependable, American-made products and building strong, lasting relationships.

Congratulations to Niff-Tone on 50 years of outstanding service and I wish them 50 more years of continued success.

HONORING DON H. NGUYEN FOR  
HIS 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, Don H. Nguyen is the founder of DHN Attorneys, a law firm based in Orlando, Florida. With nearly 20 years of experience, Don has built a reputation as a trusted legal advisor to community associations, real estate developers, entrepreneurs, and small business owners across Central Florida. His practice includes representing downtown high-rise condominiums