

In 2015, Takemasa received the Foreign Minister's Commendation from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of only 94 overseas recipients that year. Additional honors include the Commendation Award of the Consul General, recognition by the Orange County Asian Committee, and acknowledgment from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer for strengthening the Sister-City relationship with Urayasu, Japan. His lifelong dedication continues to inspire cross-cultural understanding throughout Central Florida.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was participating in a Congressional Delegation to the Holy See to attend the inaugural mass of Pope Leo XIV and our military plane experienced mechanical problems. I was delayed in returning to the District of Columbia. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132, and YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

#### HONORING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MIKE ANDERSON

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of volunteer firefighter Mike Anderson of Buffalo, Indiana, whose selfless service exemplifies the highest ideals of public safety and community commitment.

On April 11, 2025, a vehicle fire near a residence in Winamac, Indiana, escalated into a house fire. Deputy Christopher Parish of the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene and discovered that the fire had spread to the house, which was rapidly becoming engulfed in flames. Although initial reports indicated that all occupants had evacuated, Deputy Parish heard a voice from inside the burning home. Without hesitation, he broke a window using his flashlight, but dense smoke prevented the trapped individual from escaping. At this critical moment, volunteer firefighter Mike Anderson arrived on the scene.

Together, Deputy Parish and Firefighter Anderson entered the smoke-filled room through the broken window and successfully rescued the individual, pulling him to safety just before the fire overtook the room.

Firefighter Anderson's actions exemplify the highest standards of public service and courage. His quick thinking and fearless response undoubtedly saved a life that day. His heroism serves as an inspiration to us all and underscores the vital role of first responders in our communities.

I thank Mike for his valor and dedication to public safety.

REMEMBERING PHILLIP LAFAYETTE GIBBS AND JAMES EARL GREEN—55 YEARS LATER

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of two young Black men—Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green—whose lives were violently taken 55 years ago on May 15, 1970, on the campus of Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi.

Phillip Gibbs was a 21-year-old junior at Jackson State College. He was majoring in political science and planned to attend law school. He was a husband and a father to a young son, Phillip Jr. At the time of his death, his wife Dale was home with their child and pregnant with their second son, Demetrius who would never get the chance to meet his father.

In the late-night hours, nearly 500 rounds of ammunition were fired at students gathered near Alexander Hall. Phillip Gibbs was killed outside the dormitory, while James Green was struck and killed across the street near B.F. Roberts Hall. Twelve others were wounded. The walls and windows of Alexander Hall still bear the scars of that night.

Despite multiple investigations, no one was ever held accountable for the shootings. Local and federal probes concluded that the use of force was excessive and unjustified. Yet, legal doctrines shielded those responsible, and justice we never served.

To this day, the names Gibbs and Green are spoken with reverence in Jackson and beyond. Their memory lives on in the Gibbs-Green Plaza, which stands where blood was once spilled—now transformed into a space of reflection, remembrance, and resolve. In 2021, Jackson State University conferred honorary degrees posthumously on both young men—an acknowledgment of the futures they were denied.

Mr. Speaker, on this 55th anniversary, we do more than remember—we reaffirm our responsibility to tell their story with truth and dignity. Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green were sons of Mississippi whose lives mattered. Their futures were stolen, but their memory fuels our pursuit of justice and accountability.

Let us ensure that future generations know their names—not just as victims, but as young men who deserved to grow old, to dream fully, and to live freely.

In honoring them today, we commit ourselves to building a nation where no young person's life is met with such disregard—and where history is neither buried nor forgotten.

May we speak their names, tell their story, and carry their legacy forward.

HONORING JOSHUA KYONG WON JUNG 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, Joshua Kyong won Jung is the president of the Orlando Korea Culture Center (OKCC) and the founding pastor of Sunlight Grace Church in Orlando, Florida. He currently serves as the chairman of the Asian American Heritage Council of Central Florida (AAHC-CF), a regional organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting Asian cultural heritage.

Originally from South Korea, Joshua immigrated to the United States at the age of 29 to pursue a Master of Divinity. In 2014, he planted Sunlight Grace Church and, just two years later, led the founding of the OKCC as a community outreach initiative aimed at sharing Korean culture. Despite initial challenges, the growing popularity of K-pop and Korean media helped OKCC gain traction, offering programs such as Korean language classes, cultural events, and food experiences.

Joshua's vision has always been to build bridges between cultures, fostering greater understanding and appreciation among the diverse communities of Central Florida. His leadership, both in ministry and in cultural outreach, continues to make a significant impact on the region, empowering the next generation and bringing communities together through faith, education, and celebration of heritage.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 18–24, 2025 AND THE CITY OF ANNISTON'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 Anniston 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 Anniston, that work is carried out under the capable leadership of David Arnett and Supervisory staff who oversees a dedicated team of 58 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 Anniston 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 Anniston'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.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE RESETTLEMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES TO AMERICA

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of my constituents from the Cambodian, Hmong, Lao and Vietnamese Diaspora communities in Minnesota and across the country to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. As we commemorate this painful legacy, we also mark the 50th anniversary of the resettlement of more than 1 million Southeast Asian refugees to the United States of America after the war. Minnesota is home to 95,000 Hmong, 33,000 Vietnamese, 16,000 Cambodians and 12,000 Lao Americans. These vibrant communities are flourishing and making tremendous contributions to our social, economic, political, and cultural lives.

Southeast Asian Minnesotans are thriving throughout our state as entrepreneurs, professionals, engineers, and in the skilled tradesmen and women; serving our community as teachers, law enforcement officers, nurses, and medical doctors; and serving our nation and state in the Armed Forces and the Minnesota National Guard. These new Americans' success stories exemplify the spirit of resilience. Many have overcome tremendous difficulties and challenges in pursuing the American dream, especially Hmong and Laotian war veterans who fought alongside American forces during the secret war in Laos, and who continue to cope with the trauma of war, mental health challenges and other legacies of war.

Recently, it was an honor to address the Hmong National Development (HND) Conference in Minnesota and commemorate the historic 50th anniversary celebration of Hmong refugees' resettlement to America. As home of one of the largest Hmong American populations outside of Southeast Asia, I am very proud to have six Hmong American state legislators representing constituents in my district! In total, 9 lawmakers of Hmong descent represent legislative districts at the Minnesota State Capitol.

As we celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month this year, it is a time to pause and reflect on these significant and historic milestones. It is also a time to look to the future. I am grateful for the rich cultural diversity our Southeast Asian Diaspora communities have brought to our nation and to Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District over the last fifty years. I look forward to the continued growth, success, partnership and collaboration with our Southeast Asian neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and the resettlement of Southeast Asian refugees to America.

HONORING LOUIS DEJOY AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS U.S. POSTMASTER GENERAL

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mr. Louis DeJoy, for his dedicated service as the 75th Postmaster General of the United States.

Appointed in June 2020, Mr. DeJoy helped navigate the United States Postal Service through the uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his direction, the U.S. Postal Service maintained its essential mission of delivering mail and packages to the American people, keeping family and friends connected in this challenging time.

In addition to navigating the pandemic, Mr. DeJoy was responsible for implementing important reforms and cost-saving measures with the goal of making the U.S. Postal Service more efficient. In pursuit of these goals, Mr. DeJoy secured \$50 billion dollars from Congress for USPS restructuring, as well as sought assistance from the Department of Government Efficiency to streamline the USPS and successfully improve the inner workings of the agency.

A very successful businessman and expert in logistics, Mr. DeJoy was able to bring all stakeholders to the table. His honest, straightforward approach gained the trust of postal employees, union representatives and lawmakers.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. DeJoy for his service to the American people, and his steadfast leadership of the U.S. Postal Service marked by a return to common sense and increased productivity, and success navigating a global pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Louis DeJoy for his excellent service as the 75th Postmaster General of the United States. We wish him, his wife Aldona, and the family all the best in the future.

HONORING PRIYA PERSAUD 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, Priya Persaud serves as the founder and director of the Devyani School of Cultural Arts. Her journey in dance commenced in 1992, during which she received training in Odissi dance at the Chitrakala Dance Academy and Bharatanatyam at the Sampradaya Dance Academy.

In 2010, Priya committed to educating others about Indian dance and culture, integrating lessons on various Indian festivals, Haldi, and the profound significance of the postures and

gestures in Indian dance. Her foremost passion lies in transmitting the rich Indian cultural heritage through the art of dance, and she takes great pleasure in witnessing her students and the community engage with and learn about Indian traditions.

Over the past 15 years, the dancers from the Devyani School of Cultural Arts have showcased their talents across Orlando and Kissimmee, performing at venues such as Walt Disney World, Silver Spurs Arena, Kissimmee Lakefront Park, Boggy Creek Elementary School, and the Osceola Sheriff's Department.

Priya has also been involved with various organizations that advocate for diversity and cultural acceptance, serving as a Steering Committee member for FusionFest, currently holding a board position with AsiaTrend, and collaborating with numerous local organizations in Central Florida, including the Indian American Business Associations and Chamber, Indian American Chamber of Commerce, TEMA, and the Association of Asian Cultural Festival.

Cultural appreciation and education have consistently been a priority for Priya. She strives to bridge the divide between ignorance and acceptance regarding diversity. With 20 years of experience as a public sector employee, Priya takes pleasure in serving her community in various capacities. She aspires for her impact on the community and future generations to be beneficial, fostering an environment where diversity and cultural acceptance are standard practices.

WELCOMING GEORGE GLEZMANN HOME TO GEORGIA'S 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 23, 2025*

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome my constituent George Glezmman home from more than 2 years of wrongful detention by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

George is home with his family in Atlanta in large part because of the tireless efforts of his wife Aleksandra. A devoted Delta airplane mechanic, George has an infectious zeal for life, travel, and experience, and I know he is eager to return to a life of normalcy and autonomy.

I also want to highlight the challenges that come from extended wrongful detention: George has numerous medical conditions that arose from lack of ongoing care, and his assets have been put in conservatorship. The financial instability that came from George's detention has resulted in him and Aleksandra losing access to stable housing, a challenge exacerbated by George's ongoing conservatorship.

I am so pleased that George is back with his family, and words cannot fully celebrate the work Aleksandra put in to bring her husband home. I look forward to George's swift return to normalcy and autonomy with his loved ones, back in Atlanta where he belongs.