

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 Chitralekha 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.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MS. ELSA LEWIS

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Ms. Elsa Lewis a very happy 100th birthday.

Elizabeth Marie Kretzschmar better known as "Elsa," is the youngest of three children born to German immigrant, Fritz Kretzschmar and Austrian immigrant, Josie Wittescheck Kretzschmar on June 6, 1925 in San Gabriel, California.

During World War II, she met and married a Navy sailor by the name of Wesley Inman Lewis and moved to Gainesville, Florida while he attended the University of Florida. Upon graduation, they moved to Thomasville, GA and resided on Millpond Plantation where Inman was the forestry supervisor for the many acres of the plantation. During their residency in Thomasville, Elsa was a homemaker and gave birth to three children, a girl and two boys. In the 1960s the family moved back to Inman's hometown, Alachua, Florida, to open a fertilizer plant and farm one of the largest tobacco farms in the area. Elsa had been a bookkeeper before her children arrived and became the bookkeeper for the fertilizer plant they owned and operated in Alachua.

She has spent her remaining years here in Alachua after retiring from bookkeeping when the fertilizer plant was sold. All three of her children and their families live close by as well as seven grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is fondly known to her great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren as "GiGi."

Even though she is approaching 100 years loved, she is still dependent and lives on her own with children and grandchildren keeping her busy.

Congratulations to Ms. Elsa on 100 amazing years.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.
VICTOR TREVIÑO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service of Dr. Victor Treviño—physician, public health advocate, and the 85th Mayor of the City of Laredo.

A native son of Laredo and descendant of its founder, Captain Tomás Sánchez, Dr. Treviño is a proud graduate of Nixon High School and the Laredo public school system. He pursued higher education at Laredo Junior

College and Texas A&M-Kingsville before earning his medical degree in Coahuila, Mexico. After completing his residency in New Orleans, he returned home to serve the people of Laredo.

For nearly four decades, Dr. Treviño has cared for the most vulnerable in our community. As Medical Director of the Laredo Health Department, he expanded access to maternity care, public health clinics, and preventive services. He also held leadership roles at multiple hospitals, nursing facilities, and continues to serve as a trusted physician in the community.

His leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic was especially critical. As Health Authority, Dr. Treviño launched a binational vaccination program with Nuevo Laredo and Colombia, Nuevo León—administering nearly 300,000 vaccines and significantly reducing hospitalizations and deaths on both sides of the border.

Elected Mayor in 2022, Dr. Treviño continues to serve with compassion and a deep belief in the betterment of our city.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Treviño's life is a testament to service rooted in heritage and guided by purpose. On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank him for his enduring commitment to Laredo.

HONORING DEPUTY CHRISTOPHER
PARISH

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the extraordinary bravery and selfless service demonstrated by Deputy Christopher Parish of the Pulaski County Sheriffs Office.

This past April, Deputy Parish responded to a vehicle fire near a residence in Winamac, Indiana. Upon arrival, he 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.

The rescued individual received immediate medical attention and is currently in stable condition. Deputy Parish was treated for smoke inhalation and sustained minor cuts during the rescue.

Deputy Parish'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 Deputy Christopher Parish for his valor and dedication to public safety.

HONORING REVEREND CHAU JOSEPH 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, Reverend Chau Joseph Nguyen and his family came to the United States as refugees after the fall of Saigon, Vietnam, on April 30, 1975, and settled in Arlington, Texas. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Divine Word College Seminary in Epworth, Iowa, and completed his Master of Divinity at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois.

On December 2, 1989, he was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Orlando. Reverend Nguyen was first assigned to the Vietnamese Catholic Community at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Orlando, Florida. In 2003, he became and remains the founding pastor of St. Philip Phan Van Minh Church, a national parish for Vietnamese American Catholics in Orlando. Being its leader, he has been organizing and actively involved with many faith celebrations and cultural activities for the Vietnamese American and Asian communities in Central Florida. Most notable are the parish's annual Lunar New Year festivals, which have been held for the last 32 years. Initially hosted at the church, they were later relocated to the Central Florida Fairgrounds due to their widespread and enthusiastic attendance. This event attracts over 10,000 people annually to celebrate the Lunar New Year and showcase Vietnamese culture and customs. The other notable achievement is the growth of the parish's Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement chapter, whose national organization has been recognized by the USCCB in recent years.

In October 2019, Reverend Nguyen was elected the president of the Federation of Vietnamese Catholics in the United States, which consists of more than 1,000 priests, 700 religious men and women, 175 permanent deacons, and over 700,000 Vietnamese American Catholics. He was elected to a second term in 2024 with overwhelming support and ongoing active endeavors.