

span of 35 years. Some of his assignments included being a special representative with the California State Legislature and United States Congress. He had received an educational assignment to achieve a master's degree in public administration for professional advancement and had initiated the "El Protector Program" which impacted traffic safety by assisting non-English speaking drivers, which went from statewide to national implementation. His achievements had awarded him many recognitions for his dedication and leadership which led to an appointment as Commander of the CHP Academy, Division Commander of the Northern Divisions and additionally the Central Divisions.

Elected as Madera County Sheriff in 1998, John held this position for 16 years until his retirement in 2014. Sheriff Anderson played a critical role in modernizing the Madera County Sheriffs Office by rewriting the department's policies and procedures, ensuring they met the highest contemporary law enforcement standards. His vision led to numerous technological upgrades, enhancing the department's ability to efficiently serve and protect Madera County residents.

Following his retirement as Sheriff, John was appointed by California State Senator Anthony Cannella to serve as the 12th District Law Enforcement Liaison and as a representative of the Madera and Fresno communities, a role he proudly fulfilled until 2018.

His legacy of service, innovation, and dedication will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of working with him. As we mourn his loss, let us celebrate his life and the indelible mark he left on our community after dedicating more than five decades to law enforcement and the protection of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the legacy of Madera County Sheriff John Anderson. John is survived by his wife Kathleen Anderson, his two sons John and Charles Anderson, stepson Dylan Stone and stepdaughter Tricia Stone, along with eight grandchildren.

HONORING KATHLEEN GAGNE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of a lifelong leader in the Worcester community, Kathleen "Kathy" M. Gagne, as she ends her tenure as the Executive Director of Mechanics Hall.

Kathleen first arrived at Mechanics Hall in 1994 as the marketing communications and fundraising manager, eventually becoming Executive Director of the Hall in 2018. She has led Mechanics Hall's creative programming with recent initiatives including Many Voices: Mechanics Hall Youth Singers as well as a free choral program for 4th through 7th graders in Worcester, Massachusetts. She brought world-class performances to a wide range of audiences, fostering a love of the arts, and serving the rich diversity of cultures and communities in the region. During her tenure, the Hall commissioned three portraits of influential 19th century Black Americans and oversaw the installation of state-of-the-art lighting and sound upgrades in both performance halls.

Not only has Kathleen been a fabulous Executive Director at Mechanics Hall, but she has also been an important part of our vibrant Worcester community. Kathleen is a board member of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, the WCIN radio community advisory board, and the American Antiquarian society. She is also a part of the Worcester Regional Research Bureau's Public Service Awards Committee and served as the board president for the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester.

Beyond Worcester, Kathleen has been involved with so many initiatives to make not just her community, but the world a better place. She has been a freelance editor for clients that included the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Science Foundation. Kathleen has also served as the Director of the Vermont Institute for Teaching the Arts, doing writing workshops for middle schoolers and substitute teaching for secondary school students.

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen is an extraordinary leader and member of our community. And on behalf of both the United States Congress and the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am proud to honor her incredible achievements and extend to her our best wishes for her continued success.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" HANNA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William "Bill" Hanna, who has been selected as the recipient of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor celebrates his decades of service as a steward of the land, a leader in sustainable agriculture, and a deeply respected member of our Napa Valley community.

Mr. Hanna is the great-grandson of legendary naturalist John Muir, whose legacy of environmental conservation shaped the Hanna family's enduring commitment to land stewardship and sustainability. He was born in Oakland, California, in 1945, and in 1950, his family moved to Napa, where they purchased a 100-acre ranch northwest of town. The property was originally planted with prunes and used for raising cattle, but in 1969, Mr. Hanna's father, John Hanna, began replanting the orchards with grapevines. After retiring in 1972, Mr. Hanna's father began farming full-time and laid the foundation for the family's future in viticulture.

Mr. Hanna graduated from the University of the Pacific in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a minor in Geology. That same year, he began a 26-year career in the United States Air Force, where he served in roles including Nuclear Research Officer, Environmental Chemist, and Deputy of the Industrial Products Division. During his service, he completed advanced coursework in nuclear physics, electronics, and statistics, and graduated from the Air Command, Staff College, and the Air War College. He later pursued graduate studies at California State University, Sacramento.

In 1977, after transitioning from active-duty military service to the reserves, Mr. Hanna returned to Napa to join his father in managing the family vineyard. Together, Mr. Hanna and his father established Hanna Vineyards, Inc., which they operated together for two decades. In 2000, the family founded Muir-Hanna Vineyards and launched their first commercial wine. While the family has since retired the wine label, Muir-Hanna Vineyards continues to operate today, with Mr. Hanna serving as co-owner, growing and selling grapes to other producers.

Mr. Hanna's vineyard practices have long reflected a deep commitment to environmental responsibility. In the 1970's, his family eliminated insecticide use at their ranch, and by the 1980's, began adopting broader sustainable farming methods. In 2007, Mr. Hanna introduced organic practices across the vineyard's operations. These efforts, combined with cover cropping, composting vine prunings, and fostering wildlife habitat near irrigation channels, demonstrate his long-standing dedication to land stewardship as a grapegrower.

Mr. Hanna's commitment to the land is part of a broader family legacy in Napa Valley agriculture. Mr. Hanna's father, John Hanna, helped organize the Napa Valley Grapegrowers Association and played a key role in drafting language that shaped the Agricultural Preserve. That legacy continued through Mr. Hanna's son, Michael Hanna, who served as the winemaker for the family wine label and currently is the Vineyard Manager at Muir-Hanna Vineyards. Like his father and grandfather before him, Michael Hanna served as a board member of the Napa County Farm Bureau, cementing the Hanna family's agriculture legacy in our Napa Valley agriculture community.

In addition to his contributions to viticulture, Mr. Hanna has served our Napa Valley community through civic leadership. He is a past president and director of the Napa County Farm Bureau, where he helped shape local policy on land use, water, and natural resources. He also contributed to the development of ordinances protecting the Agricultural Preserve, refining winery definitions, and safeguarding environmental quality. Mr. Hanna also served as an advisor to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and spent 12 years on the ROP Agricultural Advisory Council. His local service also includes board positions with Napa County Farm Supply, the Napa Housing Foundation, and Jefferson Street Senior Housing. He currently chairs the Finance Committee at Napa First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Hanna is married to Claudia Hanna, and together they are the proud parents of Michael and Kristin. The Hanna family has long exemplified a life rooted in conservation, balance, and service to their community. From their passive-solar home to their shared love of hiking near Mono Lake, they continue to live out the environmental values passed down by their ancestor, John Muir.

Mr. Speaker, William Hanna's leadership in agriculture, conservation, and civic life reflects a lifetime of service grounded in science, tradition, and deep care for the land. It is fitting and proper that we recognize him today for receiving the Napa Valley Grapegrowers Lifetime Achievement Award.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA
SCHNEIDER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Patricia Schneider has made to our community through her volunteerism with the Pregnancy & Family Life Center. Ms. Schneider is part of a team of selfless and dedicated women who have worked at the Center in Inverness for several years. Their roles include working each week in the food pantry and clothing room. Last year, 472 clients were served, and more than 65,000 pounds of food was distributed. These critical volunteers also ensure families receive essential items for their infants and young children to include: formula, diapers, pull ups, baby wipes and wash, as well as age specific clothing. In 2024, more than 44,000 diapers and 9,500 items of clothing were distributed. These volunteers have a 'can do' attitude no matter how large the challenge.

They also have tremendous teamwork. They sort through all donations, retain those appropriate for a pregnancy center and then share other serviceable items with community partners. Ms. Schneider also makes personal birthday cards for each client to help them feel connected. When volunteers are united in an important mission, it naturally fosters camaraderie which is great for anyone who works or volunteers at the Center. All of these women maintain a loving demeanor and greet each client with a warm smile and conversation (and sometimes a hug). The Center's clients feel welcomed and cared for because of the lived values of love, respect, compassion, and family centeredness that is regularly displayed by these dedicated volunteers. The benefit to the community is great and the impact far reaching.

It is clear that Patricia Schneider has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING JOURNEY BOLEJACK

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Journey Bolejack for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Journey has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Journey, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Journey's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wayne Carle Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Journey Bolejack on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

SUPPORTING THE FALUN GONG
PRACTITIONERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Falun Gong practitioners and supporters in the District of Columbia and around the world who are working to end the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

As a former assistant legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, constitutional lawyer and a lifelong human and civil rights advocate, I take this moment not only to speak out against the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners, but also to remember those who have died for their beliefs.

Falun Gong is a peaceful religion that teaches self-improvement through meditation based on slow movements and regimented breathing. For over two decades, Falun Gong practitioners have suffered from detention, torture and organ harvesting at the hands of the Chinese government.

We must fight to raise awareness of those persecuted in China who cannot raise awareness themselves. On May 5, 2025, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1540, the Falun Gong Protection Act, which I strongly supported. I will continue to work with colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this bill.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in solidarity with the many Falun Gong practitioners who fight for the freedom to speak and to practice the religion of their choice.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM G.
SOTO

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and service of Colonel William G. Soto, United States Air Force as he prepares to retire after an extraordinary twenty-four years of dedication to our Nation. Colonel Soto's legacy of service, most recently as Deputy Commander, 305th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, New Jersey is a testament to his unwavering commitment to the security of the United States.

Colonel Soto received his commission in the Air Force in May 2001 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He went on to complete undergraduate pilot training in 2002 and has served as an aircraft commander, instructor pilot and evaluator pilot in multiple airframes. Colonel Soto has commanded several garrison and deployed squadrons, to include the 75th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the 65th Operations Support Squadron at Lajes Field, Portugal. He also served overseas in support of several combat, contingency, and support missions, and has combat experience in airlift, aerial refueling and operational support airlift.

Colonel Soto's staff appointments have spanned the operational, planning, policy, and diplomatic arenas. He previously served as Deputy Chief of the Iran, Iraq, and Syria Division within the Joint Staff J-5 where he developed policy options to inform U.S. government senior leaders, advance the President's policy priorities, and promote U.S. national security strategy interests. Other staff assignments included service as Deputy Chief of the Commander's Action Group for the Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, and Aide-de-Camp to the Director of the U.S. Embassy Military Liaison to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan.

Colonel Soto retires as a command pilot with more than 3,800 flying hours, including 913 combat hours, and qualifications in the KC-135R/T, C-130J, C-20H, C-37A and KC-46 aircraft. Over Colonel Soto's distinguished career, he has earned numerous Joint and Air Force decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, six Meritorious Service Medals, four Air Medals and an Aerial Achievement Medal.

Currently, as Deputy Commander, 305th Air Mobility Command, Colonel Soto is second in command of a strategic wing, comprised of nearly 2,700 joint personnel responsible for maintaining, supporting and operating a fleet of 24 KC-46 Pegasus and 14 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, providing rapid global mobility for national security objectives, combat operations, contingencies and humanitarian relief efforts worldwide, through aerial refueling and airlift capabilities. The wing is also responsible for controlling two airfields, some of the busiest airspace in the Nation, and two of Air Mobility Command's aerial ports, ensuring uninterrupted flow of forces and material in support of ongoing global operations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Colonel William G. Soto's exemplary service to the United States. His selfless dedication, exceptional leadership, and many contributions have left a lasting impact on our Nation's security. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to his wife, Brittany, and their children, Amelie and Gavin, for their sacrifices and unwavering support throughout Colonel Soto's distinguished career. The Nation owes a debt of gratitude to our veterans, service members, and their families who give so much to defend our freedom and way of life.

HONORING LUIS HERRERA
CAMPINS ON THE CENTENNIAL
OF HIS BIRTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Luis Herrera Campins was born on May 4, 1925, in Acarigua, Venezuela.

Born into a middle-class family, Herrera Campins was educated at a university in Caracas. Along with Rafael Caldera Rodriguez, he founded the Social Christian Party in 1946. This moderate party also known as the Christian Democrats, became the second-largest political party in Venezuela, after Democratic Action, in the decades following World War II.

In 1952, Herrera Campins was arrested and sent into exile due to his activities against the