

several protectees in Secret Service history. More, Ms. Burrell's efforts to improve recruitment of Secret Service agents and her service as a mentor to newer agents demonstrate her commitment to keeping America safe from threats to our national security and to our Nation's leaders.

Since joining the committee over 18 months ago, Ms. Burrell has made valuable contributions to our work by sharing her considerable expertise. She has been a reliable resource to committee staff and significantly advanced our legislative and oversight efforts. During her tenure on the committee, Ms. Burrell played a pivotal role in the preparation for hearings on organized retail crime and transnational repression. Additionally, Ms. Burrell assisted in the development of a package of three bipartisan bills that responded to the testimony received during a Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence hearing.

Throughout her time on the committee, Ms. Burrell has displayed a high degree of professionalism and personal commitment to providing Members of Congress and staff valuable insight and information. Ms. Burrell has demonstrated commendable dedication, enthusiasm, and good humor, which has helped all of us enormously.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Ms. Burrell for her service to the committee and our country, and I wish her the very best as she returns to the Secret Service.

HONORING THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF DAVIS (UUCD)

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD) on its 70th anniversary and to commend its unwavering dedication to fostering an inclusive, compassionate, and justice-oriented community. Since its inception in 1954, UUCD has been a beacon of progressive values and community engagement in our Davis community.

Founded by a group of liberal-minded parents seeking meaningful religious education for their children, UUCD was chartered as a Unitarian Fellowship in 1958 and became a Unitarian Church in 1962. Over the years, the congregation has grown to over 300 members, reflecting its welcoming and inclusive ethos. The church's governance reflects its democratic principles, with a seven-member Board of Trustees overseeing operations and legal responsibilities. This structure ensures that UUCD remains responsive to the needs and aspirations of its congregation. The church embraces individuals from diverse faith backgrounds, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Judaism, Islam, Paganism, atheism, and agnosticism, exemplifying the church's belief that "we need not think alike to love alike."

UUCD's commitment to social justice is deeply embedded in its identity. The church has a legacy of "deeds not creeds," actively engaging in service, projects, educational initiatives, and efforts to foster sustainable living and international understanding. This dedica-

tion is evident through various church teams and groups, such as the Climate Crisis Action Team and the Uniting for Racial Justice Team, which work tirelessly to address pressing societal issues in our community.

In 2003, UUCD was certified as a "Welcoming Congregation" by the Unitarian Universalist Association, recognizing its proactive efforts to include LGBTQ+ individuals. The church's commitment to environmental stewardship led to its designation as a Green Sanctuary in 2006, following a comprehensive initiative to integrate sustainable practices and environmental justice into the church community. In 2017, UUCD declared itself a sanctuary congregation standing in solidarity with immigrant and undocumented individuals.

For seven decades the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis has exemplified the values of inclusivity, social justice, and environmental responsibility. Its unwavering dedication to creating a diverse and compassionate community serves as an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, it is both fitting and proper that we recognize and celebrate the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis for its 70 years of invaluable contributions to the community and its steadfast commitment to fostering a more just and inclusive society.

RECOGNIZING MIKE PHILLIPS

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 Mr. Mike Phillips has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Phillips was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

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

RECOGNIZING KAI WEISS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kai Weiss for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kai has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Kai, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kai's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

RECOGNIZING CHIEF BRIAN THOLEN ON HIS CAREER AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND SERVICE TO MINNESOTA

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Chief Brian Tholen for his distinguished career in law enforcement and his lifelong commitment to serving the people of Minnesota through education, volunteerism, and public safety advocacy.

For over 25 years, Chief Tholen served with dedication and integrity as a police officer for the City of Edina. He then continued his service as Chief of Police for the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department for three and a half years, leading with courage and professionalism.

A graduate of the University of St. Thomas and the 275th class of the FBI National Academy, Chief Tholen exemplified Minnesotan excellence throughout his law enforcement career. His tenure included a decade in the patrol division, where he served as a field training officer, a defensive tactics instructor, and a member of the Southwest Metro SWAT Team Consortium.

In the past 12 years, Chief Tholen has worked to train officers, paramedics, firefighters, and civilians across the metro area in active shooter response protocol. Through this work, he has emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention, and survival, equipping individuals and businesses with life-saving tools and strategies.

Chief Tholen's service-oriented mindset was shaped early in life. Raised in a family-owned plumbing business, he learned the values of hard work and responsibility by going on service calls with his father as a teenager. He carried that ethic into every aspect of his public service career.

Chief Tholen has retired to Shorewood with his wife of 23 years, Lauren. He is an active member of the Excelsior Morning Rotary and enjoys boating, hunting, traveling, and spending time outdoors with Lauren and their Border Collie, Ike.

On behalf of myself and the Minnesotans who have benefited from his decades of leadership and service, I offer my sincere gratitude to Chief Brian Tholen—and I wish him many more good hikes with Lauren and Ike.

CELEBRATING ARIANA LEON: A CHAMPION FOR LEADERSHIP

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Ms. Ariana Leon, a compassionate leader, dedicated coach, and tireless advocate for authentic leadership. As a Congressional

Excellence Partner, Ariana has played a vital role in developing the leadership capacity of Members and teams here in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her guidance has helped create cultures grounded in authenticity, resilience, and service.

With over 25 years of experience in management, cross-cultural education, and international development, Ariana has helped countless individuals and organizations communicate more effectively, lead more intentionally, and bring clarity and inclusivity to their missions. Her passion for empowering others is matched only by her skill in creating environments where diverse perspectives are not only welcomed but celebrated.

Ms. Leon's background includes a Master's in International Affairs, certification as a Co-Active Professional Coach, and recognition from the International Coaching Federation. But beyond her impressive credentials, it is her human touch, her ability to truly listen, connect, and guide, that sets her apart.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Ariana Leon for her service as a leadership coach. Her work has made a lasting impact on me and the people she has coached and the institutions she has strengthened, including in this very Congress. I thank Ariana, for reminding us that leadership is about presence, coinage, and compassion.

She inspires all who strive to lead with compassion and purpose. From the bottom of my heart, I thank her.

RECOGNIZING THE ZETA RHO OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Zeta Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) on its 70th Anniversary.

Founded on April 16, 1955, the Zeta Rho Omega chapter is the oldest and largest chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Broward County. The chartering of the Fort Lauderdale chapter began with the vision of Willard Lamar and 14 young women. This aspiring group organized for approximately one year, locating members and completing the necessary requirements to become an established chapter.

Charter Members included: Gladys Cohen, Sylvia Epps, Jean Everett, Parthenia Hamm, Virginia Hamm, Hazel Hankerson, Daphne Harrison, Cecelia Hayes, Eula Mosby, Betty Smith, Millicent Sworn, Gloria Talbot, Albertha Latimer, and Willard Lamar, the first chapter president.

Zeta Rho Omega Chapter continues to be an active and integral part of the Ft. Lauderdale community and has received many awards and recognitions for its youth leadership programs, health fairs, and volunteer services, voter registration drives, and scholarships. Zeta Rho Omega Chapter will always strive to exhibit excellence in community service by providing "Service to all Mankind."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is an international service organization founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington,

D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women, and service and sisterhood have been the cornerstone of AKA since its founding.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of more than 360,000 initiated members in graduate and undergraduate chapters located in 12 nations and territories including the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Led by International President & CEO Danette Anthony Reed of Dallas, Texas, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, often is hailed as "America's premier Greek-lettered organization for African American women."

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration, or what we call the Meck Dec, that took place on May 20, 2025.

A pivotal moment in the history of both the United States and North Carolina, when brave North Carolinians—united by their common pursuit of freedom—became the very first Americans to declare independence from the British. The Mecklenburg Declaration is the earliest known document to formally declare independence and paved the way for the establishment of the United States and our great democracy. Signed on May 20, 1775, the Mecklenburg Declaration marked one of North Carolina's most consequential actions during the Revolutionary period.

The history of the Mecklenburg Declaration not only prompted independence for our entire nation but showed the passion of the citizens of our state. This passion led British Commander General Cornwallis to describe Charlotte as "a hornet's nest of rebellion." After American victories at the battles of Lexington and Concord, Mecklenburg delegates gathered to draft the document severing ties with the British Crown. In the same spirit, our community continues to stand for liberty, justice and freedom.

Sadly, all that has survived are copies based on oral recollections from some of the original delegates after an 1800 fire. Despite the physical paper's destruction, our great state commemorates this on our flag and through celebrations every year.

I am proud of our heritage and our forefathers' stand for freedom I will always strive to represent our state with the same passion as those leaders so long ago.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 250th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration that took place on May 20, to honor the Mecklenburg Declaration and its historical anniversary for both the United States and the great state of North Carolina.

I welcome all of my colleagues to join us in celebration of 250 years of freedom, thanks to the great North Carolinians who risked it all.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE VISALIA RAWHIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the Visalia Rawhide in commemoration of their 80th Professional Minor League Season.

The historical heritage of baseball in Visalia begins in the early days of 1873. The newly organized Empire Club represented Visalia and played their first baseball game against Bakersfield's team, The Two Orphans.

This historic game was played on the school playground of Visalia Normal School located at Willis and Acequia Streets, which was enriched with the sounds of Bakerfield's brass band to sweeten the occasion. Although the first game ended in the Empire Club's first loss, the comradery of baseball sparked enthusiasm within the City of Visalia, which led them to continue the sport for more than 100 years after.

The fever of baseball had spread like wildfire by 1899 which led to the San Joaquin Valley Baseball League being formed. It was operated independently and contained city group members such as Visalia, Bakersfield, Hanford, Merced, Selma, Porterville and Tulare. The City of Fresno joined in 1910, but the baseball league was dismembered by 1911 to become individual minor league teams.

The Visalia Empire Club had gone through a time of transition from a Class D Minor League Baseball Team to Class C by 1946. Eventually the change from Class C to Class A was instituted by 1975, Class A to Class A-Advanced by 1990 and eventually entered the Single-A class in 2021.

The minor league baseball team had gone through nine name changes, aligning with their major league affiliations. By 2009, the team had been rebranded as the Visalia Rawhide and would maintain this name until present day. Playing under the Major League affiliate, the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Visalia Rawhide name had quickly become popular throughout the community. It is believed to have secured the professional baseball team's home in Visalia, California where they had played their games at Valley Strong Ballpark since inception in 1946.

Being the only professional sports team in Tulare and King's County, Visalia Rawhide paid tribute to the vast agricultural industry in the area. The decision to elect a cow as the official team mascot created the fan favorite cheer that is symbolized with the glorious ringing of a cowbell.

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Lakeport and congratulate them on their centennial celebrations. For one hundred years, the club has exemplified the Rotary motto of