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The impact of WREC's work goes far beyond electricity; it represents a bridge to connection, opportunity, and the return of future generations to their ancestral homes. The emotional moment when power was turned on for the impacted families—bringing tears of joy and renewed hope—is a testament to the profound difference this project made. WREC's participation in the "Light Up Navajo" initiative reflects not only their technical expertise but also their heart and respect for the people they serve. Their dedication has energized ten homesteads and countless lives, creating a legacy of service that embodies the true spirit of cooperative values. The WREC team's journey inspires us all, proving that with compassion and teamwork, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome to light up lives and communities. I commend the entire team for their efforts on this worthwhile endeavor and for their ongoing service to our local community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI PHILIP LAZOWSKI AND RUTH LAZOWSKI

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Philip Lazowski and his wife of 70 years, Ruth Lazowski—both Holocaust survivors and pillars of the Greater Hartford community.

On June 14, 2025, a kiddush will be held in their honor, along with their granddaughter, Jesse, as they all celebrate birthdays in the month of June. This joyous occasion will take place at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, Connecticut, where Rabbi Lazowski serves as Rabbi Emeritus. Rabbi Lazowski will turn 95 on June 13, 2025; Ruth Lazowski celebrated her 90th birthday on June 9, 2025; and Jesse will turn 35, also on June 13, 2025.

The Lazowski name is synonymous with service in Connecticut and beyond. For the past 70 years, Rabbi Lazowski has been widely regarded as the spiritual leader of Greater Hartford's Jewish community, having served at Congregation Beth Shalom Synagogue in Hartford and later as spiritual leader at Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield, until his retirement in 2000.

In addition to his leadership in these synagogues, Rabbi Lazowski served as Chaplain for Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, where he spearheaded a mental health initiative, and as Chaplain for the Hartford Police. He also recently retired, after 25 years, as Chaplain of the State Senate. Upon his retirement, Rabbi Lazowski declared, "As a Holocaust survivor, I am grateful to be alive, to live

in this free and noble state of Connecticut, in our blessed United States of America."

Rabbi Lazowski and his family's story is one of courage, triumph, and perseverance in the face of adversity. He and Ruth narrowly escaped Nazi-occupied Poland, only to be reunited in Hartford after World War II. Philip was separated from his family in a round-up in the Zhetel ghetto in Bielica. In an extraordinary act of selflessness and bravery, a nurse named Miriam Rabinowitz helped save Philip's life by pretending to be his mother while also protecting her two young daughters (one of whom was Ruth). Philip evaded capture by hiding in the "White Russian Woods" with his father and brother for years before eventually making his way to the United States in 1947.

It is a true honor to recognize Rabbi Lazowski, Ruth Lazowski, and Jesse Lazowski on this special occasion. I am deeply grateful for the friendship of the Lazowski family and for all they have done for the Greater Hartford community, the State of Connecticut, and the United States of America. I look forward to the Torah service and kiddush and wish them very happy birthdays and continued health and prosperity.

HONORING OFFICER GABRIEL FACIO

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic loss of Officer Gabriel Facio of the Apache Junction Police Department.

This past Sunday, six days after being fatally shot while responding to a road-rage incident, Officer Facio passed away from his injuries. He was just 47 years old.

Officer Facio lived the American Dream. Born in Mexico, Officer Facio earned his U.S. citizenship and dedicated his life to serving the community that welcomed him with open arms. He began his law enforcement career with the Phoenix Police Department . . . and nearly four years ago, he joined the Apache Junction Police Department.

A devoted father and grandfather, a respected colleague and upstanding American . . . he served Apache Junction with honor, bravery, and compassion. He kept our neighborhoods and streets safe day after day. Tragically, he's the fourth Arizona officer to fall in the line of duty in the past 12 months.

My thoughts are with his wife, his family, and his many friends and colleagues. I hope his memory brings comfort and strength in difficult days ahead.

Officer Facio's ultimate sacrifice, his courage, and his selflessness, will never be forgotten. Godspeed, Officer Facio.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF COREY ROSE

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Corey Rose for her fif-

teen years of unwavering dedication and service through her Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert. This event has not only been a beacon of hope but a critical fundraiser for two outstanding organizations: the Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

For the past fifteen years, Corey has poured her heart and soul into organizing this annual concert, driven by a deep desire to give back to her community and support those in need. Her tireless efforts have brought together artists, volunteers, and supporters from across Colorado, all united in a common cause.

The Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation provides vital support to firefighters and their families, offering assistance in times of crisis and honoring the sacrifices of these brave men and women. The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses, bringing joy and hope to families facing immense challenges. Through the Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert, Corey has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals served by these two organizations.

The fifteenth and final Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert marks the culmination of an incredible journey. Corey's dedication, passion, and commitment have left an indelible mark on our community. She has inspired others to give back and has demonstrated the power of music to heal, uplift, and unite.

On behalf of the Sixth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my gratitude to Corey Rose for her fifteen years of service and her extraordinary contributions to the Colorado Professional Firefighter Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Her work has made a profound and lasting impact, and she exemplifies the true spirit of community and compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Corey Rose and her Wishes & Heroes Benefit Concert for their outstanding contributions and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING STAFF MEMBER MARIA MARTIROSYAN ISSAKHANIAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Martirosyan Issakhanian, a dedicated member of my team for the last five years. Since November 2019, Maria has loyally served the constituents of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District.

Maria arrived in the United States at the age of six, growing up in the Little Armenia neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. After graduating from Bravo Medical Magnet High School, Maria went on to the University of California, Berkeley where she was a double major in Political Science and Slavic, East European, and Eurasian studies. Maria's background in politics and passion for public service inspired her to come to Capitol Hill, where she flourished as a U.S. House of Representatives intern on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee, a staffer at the office of JIMMY GOMEZ (D-Los Angeles), and later, a staffer at my office.

During her time in my office, Maria proved to be a committed, thoughtful, and sharp member of the legislative team. With an extensive legislative background, strategic acumen, and a deep understanding of congressional politics, Maria introduced over 20 bills, successfully shepherding four of them into law, including the MEALS Act and two through the Education and Labor Committee. Her impact extends beyond legislative wins as she has effectively coordinated efforts to drive the national conversation on issues like universal school meals, student debt cancellation, and climate justice.

But Maria's skills and fervor go beyond her legislative work. In the past five years, Maria dedicated her free time to volunteering with community organizations to help young adults as they navigated their careers in Washington. Proud of her Armenian heritage, she serves as the President of the Congressional Armenian Staff Association, sharing her knowledge of Capitol Hill and professional development with the next generation of the Hill and uplifting her community every step of the way.

She always goes above and beyond to help people grow in our office as well. She would set aside one day every semester to train our interns on professional development, networking, and the importance of finding their vocation as they continue their journey beyond our internship program. Maria greatly cares for everyone in our office and has no problem going the extra mile in times of need.

Overall, Maria proved to be a reliable member of the team as she extended her hand to help others, warmly greeted new colleagues to help them feel welcome, and played an integral role in brightening our office with her generous puns and laughter.

On behalf of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Maria for her service. Her contributions to my office and the constituents of the 5th District will forever be remembered and cherished. It was an honor to get to work alongside her to advance a more just world. Maria was an invaluable member of my team and will be missed in the office each day. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors as she takes her talents and skills to the Senate.

RECOGNIZING CODY THOMAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Cody Thomas for his service at Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) and his remarkable role in the Light Up Navajo Project. In May, a courageous team of 16 WREC employees traveled over 1,800 miles to the remote, rugged terrains of Arizona and New Mexico, where they spent two weeks installing vital electrical infrastructure for Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Their efforts brought light, safety, and hope to communities long overlooked, allowing children to study after dark, families to preserve food, and elders to live with greater comfort. Despite daunting challenges and limited equipment, the WREC team completed a demanding

project in just eight days—far ahead of expectations—demonstrating professionalism, humility, and unwavering commitment to this life-changing mission.

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TRIBUTE TO ANNA MAE WILSON ROBERTSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning with a heavy heart to mourn the recent passing of Private First-Class Anna Mae Wilson Robertson of Milwaukee, a World War II veteran, devoted mother, and a truly revered figure in both our city and our Nation. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her loving family, dear friends, and the many individuals whose lives were touched by her remarkable spirit.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the honor of joining the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, the House Minority Leader, and the Senate Minority Leader in a ceremony in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on the Women's Army Corps 6888 Central Postal Battalion, in which Mrs. Robertson served during WWII. This was a woman of service to her country, to her community, and to her family. Her impeccable performance deserves to stand the test of time.

Mrs. Robertson's life was nothing short of historic. Born in 1924 in Mississippi, she came into a world marked by segregation and injustice, yet she chose to rise above it all with courage, purpose, and a steadfast commitment to service. After the death of her mother, both Mrs. Robertson and her brother answered the call to service in the midst of World War II. On March 12, 1943, Mrs. Robertson entered active-duty service in the United States Army and was assigned to the Women's Army Corps 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, known today as the legendary "Six Triple Eight."

This battalion, composed of 855 pioneering women, was the only all-Black and multi-ethnic unit in the U.S. Women's Army Corps deployed overseas during WWII. Upon their arrival in Birmingham, England, the Six Triple Eight were tasked with sorting through a

daunting backlog of undelivered pieces of mail. These letters and packages represented a vital lifeline between American servicemembers and their families. Facing harsh working conditions and a severe lack of recognition, these women developed an innovative system and cleared the backlog in just three months, an achievement that was three months ahead of schedule.

After the Birmingham backlog was cleared, the Six Triple Eight continued their work in Rouen and Paris, France, where they tackled similar backlogs and ensured that communication between soldiers and their loved ones was restored. In doing so, Private First-Class Robertson and her fellow soldiers lifted the spirits of millions, reminding us that even in war, love and connection endure. Their contributions were critical not only to the war effort but to the very fabric of American morale.

After returning to the United States, Mrs. Robertson and her fellow soldiers of the Six Triple Eight received no welcomes, recognition, medals, or acknowledgment of their service. Both while deployed and returning home, they faced the harsh realities of racial and gender discrimination, segregated housing, separate dining facilities, and unequal treatment. Yet in the face of systemic injustice, Mrs. Robertson remained steadfast in her sense of duty, dignity, and quiet resilience. Her legacy is defined by grace under pressure and strength and resilience amid silence.

After the war, Mrs. Robertson went on to continue her service to the community as a nursing assistant at Wood Hospital, renamed the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. She also worked for the Milwaukee County Hospital and St. Camillus Health Care in similar positions, caring for the sick. She was widely respected for her compassion, leadership, and tireless dedication to others. Her marriage to John Robertson, which spanned 38 years until his passing in 1983, and her role as a devoted mother to eight children grounded her in love and purpose. Mrs. Robertson drew strength from the deep love she shared with her family, especially her many cherished grandchildren.

I first became aware of Mrs. Robertson's incredible story and that of the Six Triple Eight in 2013 when her family contacted my office for assistance in obtaining her service medals. My staff and I worked with the National Personnel Records Center to verify what awards she should have received. Nearly seventy years after her service, I was honored to present Mrs. Robertson with the Woman's Army Corps Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the World War II Honorable Service Lapel Button.

In 2021, I was proud to help shepherd the House bill that enshrined her legacy and that of her battalion by supporting the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act, alongside my colleague, Representative Jake LaTurner, finally awarding these heroes the highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States Congress. I had the incredible privilege of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Mrs. Robertson's family, honoring her legacy and the sacrifices of the Six Triple Eight. This long-overdue recognition serves not only as a symbol of their valor but as a rectification of justice, restoring to the public record the full measure of their sacrifice, service, and