

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF SUMMER MCCRAY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Deputy Sheriff Summer McCray is an innovative law enforcement professional who has proudly served her hometown of Orlando, Florida, as a member of the Florida Department of Corrections, Orange County Corrections, and the Orange County Sheriffs Office (OCSO).

Deputy McCray knew she ultimately wanted to be a Deputy Sheriff, so she pursued a degree in criminal justice at the University of Central Florida. In 2022, Ms. McCray was sworn in as an Orange County Deputy, and since joining the agency, she has served the residents and visitors of Orange County in various roles. She has worked as a Patrol Deputy, an LGBTQ+ Liaison, a Public Information Officer (PIO) in Strategic Communications, and a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team member.

As a PIO, Deputy McCray has used her talents in content creation to spotlight the good work of the Orange County Sheriff's Office on its social media platforms. As an active member of the LGBTQ+ Liaison Group, Deputy McCray has strengthened the relationship between local law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community by educating agency members on LGBTQ+ topics and policy. She is also a member of the Gay Officers Action League of Central Florida (GOALcfl), where, as vice president, she continues to advocate for change. In addition, she serves as an ambassador of the OCSO Safe Place Initiative, which invites businesses to display a decal identifying them as safe environments for LGBTQ+ community members to report crimes or harassment.

In 2025, Deputy McCray was featured in a Watermark Out News article that highlighted her role with GOALcfl, as well as the positive relationships she and the organization have fostered throughout the LGBTQ+ community in Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING PATRICK SULLIVAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick Sullivan 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.

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.

REGOGNIZING JAEHYUNG KIM

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize President Jaehyung Kim of the Dallas Taekwondo Association, a dedicated leader whose work has advanced both sport and community across North Texas and beyond.

Through his leadership at White Tiger Taekwondo and the Dallas Taekwondo Association, Mr. Kim has elevated the practice of Taekwondo while instilling discipline, pride, and cultural identity in generations of students. His efforts have created a community rooted in respect and unity.

Mr. Kim's passion for youth development and multicultural outreach has helped foster deeper understanding across communities, and his role in bringing the 23rd Annual Korean American National Sports Festival to North Texas underscores his commitment to cultural celebration and civic engagement.

We honor Mr. Kim for his service, his vision, and the inclusive spirit he brings to our region.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF JANET HARPER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Janet Harper, a beacon of light in the Buffalo community. Mrs. Harper's life story is a beautiful tapestry woven with love and resilience.

Born on June 28, 1935, in Buffalo, New York to Mr. Edward Zamojski and Mrs. Carmella Amigone, Mrs. Harper was raised to inspire everyone she met with her selflessness

and compassion. Over the years, she has witnessed many changes in her life and community, yet her love for those around her has remained a constant source of strength.

Mrs. Harper has conducted herself in Christian principles through her many roles of service; whether that be as a community leader or spiritual counselor, but her most rewarding role has been being a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. In 1953, Mrs. Harper married the late Mr. Norman Harper. Their loving union blessed them with three community-minded children—Leona, Robert, and Kevin Harper, providing them with a home filled with love, respect and responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Janet Harper, a woman of poise and resilience, whose influence extends beyond her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her enduring legacy, and the profound impact she has made on all who know her. Mrs. Harper is truly a remarkable woman, and her legacy of care and kindness will surely live on for generations to come.

RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4, the Rescissions Act of 2025, because this bill undermines and outright destroys long-held, bipartisan American values at home and abroad.

It'll start right here at home. This bill makes an unprecedented attack on public media that Americans rely on for unfettered access to information, educational programming for kids, cultural programming, as well as nationwide emergency alerting. Spanning many different Administrations, public media has received bipartisan support for the past 50 years because Congress has continuously recognized that access to public media is in the public's best interest. That's why Congress has always forward-funded public media—to ensure the consistent access to nonpartisan, unbiased information for Americans in every state, regardless of which party controls the White House. These airwaves belong to every American—and they're a bargain: public media receives less than 0.01 percent of federal spending, and yet it provides essential services to every citizen in every part of this country. That's roughly \$1.60 per taxpayer. Public media is the country's only local, no-cost, commercial-free, nonprofit news and information service, and passing this bill puts this service at great risk. For stations like Minnesota Public Radio, valued services will be eroded. For many smaller stations in rural communities across the country, these cuts will prove utterly devastating. They will not survive, resulting in news deserts for these communities.

This bill also rescinds billions of dollars in lifesaving and life-affirming international assistance—another in a long line of cruel decisions from this administration to abdicate U.S. leadership abroad and put millions of lives at risk. If enacted, H.R. 4 will rescind over \$8.3 billion in foreign assistance funding already appropriated by Congress on a bipartisan basis.

The recissions in this bill will cut lifesaving food assistance for families, emergency services for families fleeing conflict, agriculture development programs, and core nutrition services for children under five—just to name a few. This bill even goes as far as to cut the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, a historically bipartisan and uncontroversial program that has saved an estimated 26 billion lives since its inception. Not only will this bill have devastating impacts on the lives of millions of children and families around the world; the cuts in this bill will actively make our country less safe. Our Nation's ability to prevent conflict, eradicate extremism, and promote democracy will be utterly destroyed—and our adversaries are eager to step in.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and many more, I strongly oppose this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THOMAS FRAZIER

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and contributions of U.S. Army Intelligence Officer and Vietnam veteran Thomas Frazier, a model of service.

Tom dedicated his life to law enforcement, public safety, and community service. His life was defined by his kindness, dedication, and quiet strength that touched all who knew him. His service to the San Jose Police Department, the Bay Area as a whole, and the United States will continue to inspire those he left behind.

As a decorated U.S. Army veteran, Tom's service was recognized with a Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He attended San Jose State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree. Tom dedicated his life to public service, launched his career with the San Jose Police Department while in college, and rose through the ranks to become Deputy Chief of Police.

In 1994, Tom was appointed Police Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, overseeing more than 3,000 officers and 600 civilian personnel. He also served as President of the Board of the Police Executive Research Forum, advancing innovation in law enforcement nationally and globally. A few years later, Tom served as Director of the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he oversaw the hiring of 100,000 new police officers nationwide. He also served as Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association for ten years. He led a consulting company that served a diverse clientele, including the Department of Homeland Security, NASA, Johns Hopkins University, and various cities across the Nation.

Tom also dedicated time to education and community service. He spent years teaching hostage negotiation techniques throughout the United States and Canada. While doing so, he collected police patches given to him by those he taught. He also lectured at Johns Hopkins University, mentoring future leaders in public safety and organizational leadership. Tom

coached youth soccer teams in Los Gatos and Baltimore, in addition to coaching the San Jose Police soccer teams. He generously contributed to local projects through his involvement with Rotary in Petaluma and Novato.

Most importantly, Tom was a devoted father of three children and a grandfather to six. He will be remembered for his warm smile, easy laugh, unwavering integrity, and generous spirit. May his enduring commitment to education, public safety, and love of country serve as a guiding light for future generations.

RECOGNIZING SEAN MCKILLEN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to recognize Mr. Sean McKillen 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.

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.

HONORING JULIE RUIZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA DURING LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Julie Ruiz was born in Arizona and raised in Mexico. As a

young woman, she came to Florida looking out for herself. She lived with friends who supported each other in building their lives in Central Florida, with few resources and no family here.

She began working at Disney Springs as a cashier for a restaurant run by Delaware North, making just \$16 an hour and sleeping on her friends' couch. Because Julie is a fighter, she quickly began to fight for restaurant workers to be treated better—especially as a young bisexual woman who believed that she and all her coworkers should be equals. Even while sometimes working two jobs and rushing from shift to shift, she was paying rent to sleep in a living room and was classified as a part-time employee at Disney Springs with no benefits.

One day, Julie and her coworker reported their supervisor for sexual harassment, but the company left him in his position as their supervisor. She became a union leader with Unite Here Local 737, organizing her coworkers to win a better life, saying: "We should feel safe in our restaurant. I want to be treated as a human being. We ARE their restaurants—they don't run without us."

One week after passing out a union flyer with her story on it, Julie was fired for nothing more than wearing an earbud while walking into work. She continued to fight, telling her story of sexual harassment and worker organizing more and more publicly. She has inspired thousands of people to sign on to support her fight—not just for herself, but for her coworkers, for women and LGBTQ workers, and for workers in the tourism industry everywhere.

HONORING GRAYSON "ROCKY" COCHARO

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable life of Mr. Grayson "Rocky" Cocharo, a centenarian whose strength, humility, and quiet heroism have inspired generations.

Born in 1924 in Pueblo, Colorado, Mr. Cocharo's early life was marked by resilience, having lost both parents and been raised by his grandmother. At the age of 18, he answered the call to serve in World War II, becoming a navigator with the elite "Carpetbaggers" operation. Flying covert missions behind enemy lines, his bravery remained unspoken for decades, yet left a lasting legacy.

Following his service, Mr. Cocharo built a life of purpose and devotion—marrying his beloved Beatrice and working for over 40 years in aeronautical engineering. Known for his craftsmanship and intellect, he brought joy to others through hobbies like restoring antique toys and refinishing furniture.

He is celebrated not only for his remarkable longevity but for a lifetime defined by service, love, and community. His family and all who know him are deeply enriched by his legacy.

Happy 101st Birthday, Mr. Cocharo. I thank him for his service, and thank him for the life he has lived in quiet strength.