

impact he has made along the way. I congratulate Pastor James E. Giles on this significant milestone. His service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSE SANTIAGO

#### 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. Jose Santiago 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.

#### APPRECIATING DAVE OLSON

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Dave Olson, President and Program Manager at Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), upon retirement after more than 40 years of dedicated work and service.

Before being named President and Program Manager, Dr. Olson served as the president of the former Savannah River Site (SRS) liquid waste contractor. He has years of experience in safety, security, project and risk management, maintenance and engineering in nuclear materials processing, and much more.

SRMC is responsible for the safe reduction of curies in aging waste tanks at SRS. As one of the Department of Energy's largest production sites, SRS performs activities ranging from environmental cleanup and protection to nuclear materials storage and disposition.

Under the leadership of Dr. Olson, SRMC has worked more than 21 million hours without an injury that has caused a missed work day, ensured that all facilities are operating safely and efficiently, and met five key regulatory milestones to remove waste from and clean tanks to prepare them for operational closure.

Dr. Olson has many accomplishments to be proud of and has aided greatly in the success of SRMC.

Best wishes for a wonderful retirement. I am appreciative for all he has done for South Carolina.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WESTFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Westfield Fire Department as they celebrate 150 years of service to our community. Since its founding as a volunteer fire department in 1875, the WFD has grown into a career department, providing essential fire protection services to the residents of Westfield and the surrounding area. Over the past 150 years, they have answered the call in times of need—often under dangerous and demanding conditions—a true testament to the courage, duty, and selflessness that embody the very best of New Jersey's first responders. I extend my deepest congratulations to the Westfield Fire Department on this milestone anniversary and look forward to their continued growth and commitment to public safety for many years to come.

#### HONORING MARC ESPESO 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, Marc Espeso is a dedicated public servant, skilled communicator, and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. Since his appointment in August 2019, he has served as special assistant to Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings. In addition, he holds the role of digital communications manager for the county. This dual position provides him with a unique perspective that combines executive insight with hands-on communication strategy.

Mr. Espeso values efficient and effective communication to Orange County's 1.5 million residents and 75 million annual visitors. In his first year as special assistant, he played a key role in disseminating critical health and safety information during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By leveraging partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies, he ensured accurate and accessible updates reached LGBTQ+ residents, visitors, and the broader public across the county.

His experience in crisis communication has been an asset to the county's Emergency Operations Center. He has contributed to the development of award-winning communication plans that delivered life-saving information to residents before, during, and after major storms that impacted Central Florida, including Hurricanes Ian and Nicole in 2022 and Hurricane Milton in 2024.

In addition to promoting county programs and services that can benefit LGBTQ+ residents, Mr. Espeso has helped highlight the region's tourism and hospitality industry. When organizations consider where to host events that will ultimately benefit the local economy, he effectively highlights Orange County's ongoing commitment to fostering an environment where all individuals and businesses are treated with dignity and respect.

Beyond his government service, Mr. Espeso serves as vice president of the Board of Directors at the LGBTQ+ Center Orlando. Since 2021, he has helped fundraise to advance the Center's mission of empowering the LGBTQ+ community and its allies through advocacy, education, information, and support.

#### OPPOSITION TO H.R. 884, H.R. 2056, AND H.R. 2096

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last week the Republican Majority in the House of Representatives decided that they know better than the residents of the District of Columbia what their local government needs.

All Members of Congress are sent here by our constituents to represent their interests, and to vote on matters of federal importance. We aren't sent here to rule on specific local ordinances or funding decisions made by the cities and counties in any of our districts. Yet Republicans have brought three bills to the floor—H.R. 884, H.R. 2056, and H.R. 2096—to do exactly that. They want to tell the District of Columbia's 700,000 residents that the laws and policies they have voted for, and that were crafted by their local elected officials, are null and void.

Mr. Speaker, none of us ran for or were elected to serve as D.C. Council members. I've been a city council member. It's a very different job, with a direct line of responsibility to the residents who elect you to deal with everything from potholes to public safety. That local representation and local responsiveness is a key part of our democracy, and Republicans are proposing to strip that local self-governance away from the residents of the District of Columbia.

If Republicans want to take steps to address an issue with national importance, they can bring forward a bill that enforces it nationally. I will not vote for these attempts to decide those issues for a single district at the local level, whether in the District of Columbia or in the districts of any Member here.

One of the bills before us last week, H.R. 884, would repeal D.C.'s local law that allows

noncitizens to vote in local elections. I have serious concerns with allowing noncitizens who do not hold a green card to vote in local elections, but this is the wrong way to go about addressing that. I voted present because I can't support repealing a local D.C. law, but I do support having a conversation about how we define voter eligibility nationwide.

I voted No on H.R. 2096, the Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act, because it would repeal part of a local D.C. law to give the police department increased authority to address incidents of serious misconduct and discipline officers. I voted No on H.R. 2056 because we shouldn't be nullifying a local law to tell an individual police department where they must divert their resources and how they can best serve their community, including residents who are immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the will of D.C. residents to shape their local government through their local elections, and that is why I do not support H.R. 2096, H.R. 2056 or H.R. 884.

#### RECOGNIZING ZACHARY LADUKE

### 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. Zachary LaDuke 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.

#### RECOGNIZING MYOUNGSUB CHOI

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. MyoungSub Choi for his exceptional efforts to preserve and share cultural heritage through the practice of Taekwondo.

Mr. Choi understands that Taekwondo is more than a martial art—it is a means of storytelling, cultural connection, and youth empowerment. Through his leadership and mentorship, he has inspired students across North Texas to embrace both the physical and philosophical dimensions of the sport.

By nurturing discipline and pride within a diverse community, Mr. Choi has built a lasting legacy. His work during the 23rd Annual Korean American National Sports Festival is a testament to his enduring commitment to cultural celebration and civic unity.

We commend Mr. Choi for using sport as a bridge across generations and communities.

#### HONORING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER PAMELA OTT

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pamela Ott on the occasion of her retirement after more than two decades of distinguished service to the City of Pleasanton, California.

Pamela has dedicated over 22 years to serving Pleasanton with vision, leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. She began her career in Pleasanton as Executive Director of the Downtown Association and joined the city government in 2003 as the Economic Development Director. In 2021, she was appointed Assistant City Manager, a role in which she has excelled in until her retirement on June 20, 2025.

Pamela holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida and a Master's in Organization Development from the University of San Francisco. In addition to her public service, she has given her time to local causes, including the Valley Humane Society Board and the Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley Advisory Board.

Throughout her career, Pamela has played a vital role in shaping Pleasanton's economic development. She led major business recruitment efforts that brought transformative companies such as Workday, 10x Genomics, and Veeva Systems to the city. Her work on the Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone helped deliver a vibrant new commercial hub, including a Costco and two new hotels.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Pamela took swift action to support local businesses by designing and implementing innovative recovery programs that helped them stay afloat and connected to their customers. Her leadership was essential during a time of great uncertainty and change.

As a Pleasanton resident since 2001, Pamela has been more than a public servant, she has been a dedicated neighbor, a compas-

sionate leader, and a steadfast champion for her community. As she steps into retirement, I offer my deepest gratitude for her service and wish her all the best as she is afforded more time with her husband, Jim, and daughters, Melissa and Kelsey.

#### RECOGNIZING SANGHO KO

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Sangho Ko, Vice President of the Dallas Taekwondo Association, for his steadfast dedication to Taekwondo as a vehicle for cultural diplomacy and community empowerment.

Mr. Ko has long championed Taekwondo not only as an athletic discipline but as a cultural bridge that fosters mutual understanding and global citizenship. His work has nurtured countless students who carry with them the values of humility, cooperation, and perseverance.

His leadership in the 23rd Annual Korean American National Sports Festival helped showcase the richness of Korean culture and the unifying power of sport.

We thank Mr. Ko for his vision, his commitment to excellence, and his role in bringing communities together through shared purpose.

#### RECOGNIZING TRAVIS BROWN

### 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. Travis Brown 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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