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HONORING JOSHUA COLLINS 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, Joshua Collins is a passionate entrepreneur, community advocate, and devoted father who has been making a lasting impact through creativity and activism since 2010.

As the founder and owner of Collins Creative Custom Costuming, Joshua has transformed his artistic vision into a thriving business that serves theme parks and cruise lines, as well as other performers, drag artists, theatrical productions, and individuals seeking expressive designs. His attention to detail, craftsmanship, and commitment to authenticity have made him a sought-after designer in Florida and beyond.

Joshua's contributions extend far beyond the stage. He is a longtime leader in LGBTQ+ advocacy, with commitments to creating safer, more inclusive spaces for all. For many years, he has played a key role in organizing Pride events throughout the community, helping to celebrate identity and foster connection. His work has empowered others to live boldly and speak out against injustice. He is known as a founding organizer of the Drag March to Tallahassee, a powerful movement in 2023 that brought together drag performers, allies, and advocates to protest discriminatory legislation and demand equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community. The march has become a symbol of resistance, pride, and solidarity under Joshua's visionary leadership.

In addition to his work in the arts and activism, Joshua serves as the nonprofit director of Adopt with Pride, an organization focused on supporting LGBTQ+ individuals and families throughout the adoption process by offering educational and community-building initiatives.

Joshua is the proud father of a beautiful daughter, who inspires his work every day. His passion for justice, creativity, and family fuels everything he does. Through costume design, advocacy, and leadership, Joshua continues to shape a more vibrant, inclusive, and compassionate world.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA

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 six decades of the

Aquarium of Niagara. An interactive water exhibit that celebrates the natural wonders of our aquatic world and provides a deeper educational understanding of our diverse ecosystems, the Aquarium is a gem of Western New York's cultural and educational institutions.

The Aquarium of Niagara was one of the first of its kind. Founded in 1965 by a small group of chemists and scientists, it served as a successful model for inland aquariums around the world. Upon its opening, it became the first inland aquarium to develop and use artificial seawater to maintain exhibits; this sparked a revolutionary practice now used in most inland aquariums.

Located in Niagara Falls, New York, the Aquarium of Niagara welcomes over 200,000 visitors each year and is the only aquatic museum within 250 miles of the United States. They serve as a hub for educating the community on aquatic life, consisting of two buildings and housing 180 species. Visitors come to see an array of mammals, penguins, and more than 1,200 fish and vertebrae, many of those being rescued species. Additionally, they provide guests with visual experiences to explore all of their marine life exhibits. There is a variety of scheduled programming offered daily as well as hands-on experiences that create inspiring opportunities for visitors.

Today, we honor one of Western New York's one-of-a-kind establishments and its commitment to bringing the wonders of the seas to visitors from around the world while providing the highest quality of animal care possible. Please join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Aquarium of Niagara and their achievements and continued success as they remain an enduring source of connection to marine life for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND
LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE OF
LIEUTENANT BRANDON HALL OF
BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional courage and service of Lieutenant Brandon Hall of Buchanan County, Virginia.

On May 1st, Lieutenant Hall responded to an emergency in which a camper had filled with dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. Inside the camper were two adults and a child, all unconscious. When faced with an invisible but deadly threat, Lieutenant Hall entered the camper, removed the victims, and quickly administered critical first aid.

In a moment of crisis, Lieutenant Hall was among the first to arrive, and when faced with danger, he did not pause. Lieutenant Hall's bravery and quick thinking saved these lives and stand as a testament to the selfless courage of the public servants in Virginia's Ninth Congressional District.

Today, we recognize Lieutenant Hall for his swift and courageous response. The strength and skill he demonstrated in a time of emergency, reflect the very best of Southwest Virginia. We thank him for his service and are deeply grateful for his dedication.

HONORING SABRA RAYMER 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, Sabra Raymer is a firefighter paramedic with over six years of experience in emergency response, known for her humility, resilience, and deep commitment to serving others. Like anyone else, she is navigating life's challenges while striving to leave the world better than she found it. She doesn't seek recognition for titles or accolades but takes pride in being someone who will extend a hand when others are down, bring calm to chaos, and offer comfort during life's hardest moments.

Raised with strong values of integrity, respect, and love, Sabra credits her parents for shaping her character and purpose. Her journey hasn't been easy—she put herself through school, experienced personal lows, and worked relentlessly to rebuild and rise. She knows that life will test you, but believes that anything can be overcome with heart and determination.

Her dedication has been recognized with a Community Service Award in March 2021, a Letter of Commendation in August 2021, and her courageous role in Hurricane Ian water rescue operations, for which she received a Campaign Ribbon in February 2024.

With a heart for advocacy and inclusion, Sabra also helped design and launch Pride shirts for her county, raising awareness and fostering a culture of belonging within the department. Through this initiative, she helped raise over \$900 for the Zebra Youth Foundation, supporting LGBTQ+ youth in Central Florida.

Now in the process of becoming a peer support advocate, Sabra is especially passionate about mental health awareness in the fire service—an industry that can sometimes make individuals feel invisible or out of place. With the support of her County and community allies, she proudly stands up for those who need to feel seen, supported, and valued. She continues to serve not only as a first responder but as a voice, a helper, and a source of strength for those in need.

RECOGNIZING THEODORE GOMEZ

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. Theodore Gomez 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.