

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
OF MARSHALL BRACHMAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a dear friend, Marshall Brachman, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on July 6, 2025.

Marshall has long exemplified the best of civic engagement and public service. His remarkable career spans more than four decades, beginning in 1978, and is defined not only by professional success but by a deeply rooted commitment to his community, his faith, and the betterment of this country.

Outside of his accomplished professional life, Marshall has devoted himself to civic and philanthropic causes. At just 23 years old, he became the youngest treasurer of a Jewish Community Center in the United States when he assumed that role at the Fort Worth Jewish Community Center. His leadership and vision led him to soon become president of the Center as well as Treasurer of the Fort Worth Art Museum, now The Modern, setting a high bar for service at a young age.

Marshall's dedication to community did not stop there. He has been a tireless advocate and supporter of Jewish causes both locally and nationally, particularly through his involvement with the United Jewish Appeal, the Young Leadership Cabinet, the Texas-Israel Exchange, and AIPAC. His impact in these organizations is a testament to his belief in the power of service, charity, and enduring commitment to one's values.

Marshall is also a trusted voice in public policy and government affairs. He has helped countless Members of Congress understand complex issues, including providing historical context, and make informed decisions. His insight and integrity have made him a valuable advisor to many on both sides of the aisle. And to me personally, Marshall has been a friend, a sounding board, and an unwavering supporter—qualities for which I am sincerely grateful.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marshall Brachman for his enduring contributions to civic life, his generous spirit, and his invaluable friendship. I extend my warmest wishes to him and his family on this milestone birthday and thank him for the positive impact he continues to make in so many lives.

Happy 75th to Marshall.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN
SERVICE VOLUNTARY EARLY
RETIREMENT AUTHORITY ACT
OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Foreign Service Voluntary Early Retirement Authority Act of 2025. This bill would allow members of the Foreign Service to use Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) when an agency is undergoing a reduction in

force (RIF) or other restructuring. While most other federal employees are eligible for VERA if their agencies are undergoing a RIF or other restructuring, the members of the Foreign Service are not.

I strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to fire federal employees and to dismantle the federal government, and I will continue to fight those efforts using every tool at my disposal. However, it is important to mitigate the harm where we can, which this bill would do.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING ALLY CASTAÑEDA

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant, Ally Castañeda, who is departing my office and Washington, D.C. for a new role.

Ally has been an outstanding member of my team since 2022. She began her work as a Legislative Correspondent before becoming a Legislative Assistant, and then a Senior Legislative Assistant.

In every role, Ally was the ultimate professional and went above and beyond. This job gives us all an incredible opportunity to better people's lives, and Ally embraced this ideal. She worked hard every day to serve the people of California's 52nd Congressional District.

Ally led critical pieces of legislation, including the Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act, and helped secure essential funding for our district. In part because of her tireless advocacy, our San Diego Congressional delegation has been able to secure millions of dollars in funding to address cross-border pollution. For instance, last year Ally worked with staff for the San Diego delegation to successfully advocate for funding to support environmental infrastructure in the Tijuana River Valley Watershed to be included in the Water Resources Development Act.

It is impossible to interact with Ally and not be impressed with her encyclopedic policy knowledge, attention to detail, and thoroughness. She was always a trusted voice.

On a personal level, Ally is kind, principled, funny, and generous. She cares about the people she works with and the constituents she served in California's 52nd Congressional District. She will be greatly missed in our office.

I thank Ally for her work, both past and future. We're always rooting for her.

CELEBRATING THE MARINE CORPS
ATTACK DRONE TEAM KINETIC
STRIKE DEMONSTRATION

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the exceptional work of the Marine Corps Attack Drone Team based in Quantico, Virginia, for their groundbreaking achievement in conducting the first-ever

armed First-Person View (FPV) kinetic strike demonstration by the Marines in the continental United States. This milestone event took place during a live-fire exercise on April 25, 2025.

These Devil Dogs used a leading-edge FPV drone integrated with an anti-personnel fragmentation payload, which can support other modular payloads, which exhibited the flexible and scalable solution in contemporary warfare our military urgently requires.

The results were impressive. The drone engaged and neutralized every target in the strike zone, illustrating not only the technical effectiveness of the platform, but its immense strategic value in high-risk, operational environments.

This capability comes at a time when global conflict is redefining how wars are fought. Today, over 70 percent of the casualties in Ukraine are from these types of drones. The recent coordinated drone strikes carried out by Ukraine against Russian military infrastructure are a clear signal: low-cost, highly adaptable drones are reshaping the modern battlefield. America must be prepared. This demonstration by our Marines shows we are not just responding, but leading. As we scale up our investment in unmanned systems, we must prioritize solutions that are fast, flexible, and affordable.

By equipping our Armed forces with reliable, mission-ready tools that can be rapidly deployed and continuously improved, we will maintain both deterrence and dominance. The Marines at Quantico are proving that innovation doesn't require complexity or high cost; rather, it requires bold thinking and dedicated execution.

After 25 years in the Army, I recognize the uniquely critical importance of innovation, readiness, and a steadfast commitment to success. These Marines modeled all of that and more.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending these Marines for their bravery, professionalism, and pioneering accomplishments with respect to operational drone warfare.

Their service is indicative of an evolving, strong, and adaptable U.S. military and I hope they serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA
GENOCIDE

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide.

I thank the Congress of Bosniaks for bringing together dignitaries, faith leaders, human rights advocates, policymakers, scholars, and community leaders from around the country to mourn loved ones lost, and commit ourselves anew to a future of peace, mutual tolerance, and truth.

I want to give a special welcome to the delegation from my home state of Missouri.

I represent the largest Bosnian community outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the years, I've had the honor to get to know and

share meals with Bosnian families in my district, so many of whom came to Saint Louis in the wake of the tragic wars of the nineties.

This community has shaped what the city looks and feels like; it has added great cultural diversity to the city, immense intellectual capital, thriving small businesses, and a strong religious presence.

Three decades ago, members of our Bosnian community were refugees. In 1995, Orthodox Serbs under the command of General Ratko Mladić initiated a horrific ethnic cleansing campaign against majority-Muslim Bosniaks.

The escalating bloodshed forced 130,000 Bosnian refugees to seek new lives in the United States. Thousands more were murdered in Srebrenica.

We remember those unthinkable events as the Srebrenica Genocide.

On the 30th Commemoration of the genocide, I wish to honor the memory of innocent lives lost and celebrate the courage and indomitable spirit of the survivors—especially my Bosnian neighbors, whose wit, warmth, and generosity inspires me to seek change.

With conflict and turmoil roiling every corner of the world, including the Western Balkans, it is so important to look back at the experiences of the Bosnian people during the wars and genocide of the 1990's.

When we say “never again,” we must mean it.

That is why I am leading bipartisan legislation, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act, that would codify and mandate key sanctions authorities to send an unmistakable message to any actor that threatens the peace, security, stability, or territorial integrity of Bosnia.

Sanctions work.

The State Department told me that Republika Srpska officials begged the U.S., “Please, no more sanctions.” However, much more leverage needs to be brought to bear against Dodik and his inner circle, their Russian backers, and the corrupt politicians who recklessly use ethnic tension to grow their power and wealth.

This bill has overwhelmingly passed the House multiple times, and I am pleased to announce that I reintroduced it earlier this week, alongside my fellow co-chairs of the Bosnia Caucus, Representatives TURNER, AUCHINCLOSS, and BELL. With Dodik's separatists emboldened to a shocking degree and the institutions of Dayton under overt attack, it could not be clearer: the time to enact this legislation is now.

I thank those who traveled for this Commemoration and their commitment to justice and truth. They have many friends in Congress who will always fight for a peaceful, prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BRIDGE
CORROSION PREVENTION AND
REPAIR ACT OF 2025

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the “Bridge Corrosion Prevention and Repair Act of 2025” with Representative

MIKE BOST (R-IL), Representative CHRIS DELUZIO (D-PA), and Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK (R-PA). I thank Representative BROWNLEY (D-CA), Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY (D-IL), Representative GOTTHEIMER (D-NJ), and Representative ELFRETH (D-MD) for cosponsoring this legislation.

Our bipartisan legislation requires all federally funded bridge projects to use certified contractors for any corrosion control work and employ industry-recognized standards for corrosion mitigation and prevention. Specifically, our legislation would prompt State, county, and municipal transportation departments to employ qualified, trained corrosion control professionals who have completed federally registered apprenticeship programs.

This legislation also builds on a recommendation from the National Transportation Safety Board and directs the Department of Transportation to study and generate best practices for inspecting and addressing corrosion on bridges made of weathering steel.

In July 2021, the House passed Section 2 of the “Bridge Corrosion Prevention and Repair Act” as Section 1116 of former Chairman Peter A. DeFazio's (D-OR) “Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act,” of which I was a cosponsor. While it was ultimately not included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), I continue working to build upon Chairman DeFazio's work on corrosion prevention policy and promoting apprenticeships.

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81), I secured Section 813 (Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight Employee Training Requirements) directing the U.S. Department of Defense to make use of federally registered apprenticeship programs for training military personnel, civilian employees, and military construction contractors on anti-corrosion activities. Under my amendment to the FY2022 NDAA, the DOD's Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight Employee Training Requirements is charged with coordinating this work.

Under the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Congress and the Biden Administration are making the largest federal investment to modernize our nation's infrastructure since the Interstate Highway System was established in 1956. America's corrosion professionals and union painters are ready, willing, and able to do the job.

Our legislation is endorsed by the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) and the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (formerly called the National Association of Corrosion Engineers and the Society for Protective Coatings).

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor the “Bridge Corrosion Prevention and Repair Act of 2025.”

CELEBRATING MR. YOSHIO
NAKAMURA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Yoshio “Yosh”

Nakamura, and to honor his service to our country as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Born in California in 1925, Yosh and his family were forced from their El Monte farm into the Gila River internment camp after the outbreak of World War II. Despite the violation of his rights, when Army recruiters arrived at the camp looking for volunteers in 1944, 18-year-old Yosh answered “yes” to serve.

As a member of the highly decorated all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Yosh served in the European Theater, participating in the assault on Mount Folgorito that led to further Allied victories in Italy. The 442nd became one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. As Yosh said, “We couldn't hide our ancestry. We had Japanese faces, but we had American hearts.”

After his discharge in 1946, Yosh used the GI Bill to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in fine art from USC and then dedicated his career to education. He taught art at Whittier High School and became the first professor hired by Rio Hondo College. Yosh and his late wife, Grace, became beloved members of the Whittier community.

I thank Mr. Nakamura for his service, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

CELEBRATING MS. ALANA KARAM,
RECIPIENT OF THE BROWARD
LEAGUE OF CITIES SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a student from my district, Ms. Alana Karam, on receiving this year's Broward County League of Cities' Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship is awarded each year to a high school senior who has demonstrated a deep investment in public service and intends on leading a life focused on it.

Alana is a recent graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where she has distinguished herself in our community through her passion for law, public policy, and civic engagement. Her accomplishments speak volumes, not only about her talents, but also about her character and drive.

For her deep intellect and track record of leadership in and out of the classroom, Alana has received well-deserved local and national recognition. She earned first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Essay Contest and third place in the Federal Bar Association's National High School Essay Contest—both highly competitive national honors—and had her Capstone research project published in the Journal of Student Research, a rare accomplishment at the high school level.

Beyond her academic achievements, Alana has been an active member of DECA and several honor societies, and she has sought real-world experience to deepen her understanding of the justice system. During an internship at the Broward County Public Defender's Office, she encountered firsthand the power of advocacy, and the role reaffirmed her desire to dedicate her life to serving her community.