

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MCKINLEY "ISA" RACHED

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Isa Rached, a truly extraordinary individual who left an incredible mark on the Long Beach community. Isa passed away on January 2, 2025, and while his presence will be deeply missed, his legacy of compassion, creativity, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Isa was an artist at heart, a talented sketch artist whose creativity extended beyond the canvas. He crafted magnificent dresses for his performances at It's a Drag to Give, where his artistry and passion for self-expression flourished. Isa was known for his unwavering kindness and his ability to lift others up with his infectious smile, reminding everyone he met of the kindness that still exists in the world. His life was characterized by his kindness and compassion. He always had a constant drive to explore new ideas of service and support for his community.

Whether it was through his leadership in local causes like the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, the Downtown Business Association, or his advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community, Isa never had a negative word to say about anyone. His life was dedicated to bringing people together, creating a space where diversity was celebrated, and every voice was heard. Isa was a champion of service, always finding new ways to support others with an open heart.

A Buddhist, his faith was a guiding force in his life. It inspired him to live with compassion and courage, always striving to create peace and harmony in the world around him. His spiritual practice was a core part of his identity, infusing his actions with a deep sense of purpose and mindfulness.

He had a love of adventure and travel, and his zest for life led him to explore new experiences—like learning to scuba dive. Isa's passion for fashion and his eye for design made him a visionary fashion designer.

Isa's legacy is one of boundless generosity, artistry, and unwavering positivity. He has touched countless lives, and his impact will continue to be felt in the ongoing work of the organizations and causes he championed.

I extend my deepest condolences to Isa's family, friends, and the entire Long Beach community. Isa is survived by his mother, Rocio, father, Hector, sisters, Vanna and Josie, three nephews, Abraham, Jayden, Naithan, and niece, Evelyn.

Isa's spirit of adventure, creativity, and kindness will continue to inspire us all. His smile, his heart, and his dedication to peace will forever be with us, reminding us of the beauty in service and the power of compassion.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the Battle of the Bulge and the courage of the American troops who fought there.

This Saturday, January 25, marks the 80th Anniversary of this historic Allied victory. 41 days, Mr. Speaker.

For 41 days, our soldiers stood guard in much colder weather than we have experienced this week in Washington or back in my home State of Missouri.

For 41 days, these men, many still teenagers, fought from snow-covered foxholes when death and defeat looked imminent.

For 41 days, they saw their brothers, thousands of miles from home, succumb to hypothermia, bullets, bombs, and artillery.

For 41 days, over seven hundred thousand Allied troops, short on equipment, ammunition, and warm clothes, experienced warfare that they would never forget.

For 41 days, these heroes fought and won a battle that would fundamentally change the course of human history.

As we've all shivered through the freezing temperatures this month, it's impossible to imagine what must have gone through the minds of our soldiers hunkered down in the Ardennes.

The anguish and sacrifices these brave men endured will never be truly understood, but will never, ever, be forgotten.

It will not be forgotten by the liberated people of Western Europe, and certainly not by the American people these soldiers gave their lives defending.

Earlier today, the Embassies of Belgium and Luxembourg hosted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

I want to thank these Nations for organizing this moving tribute to those who held the line for freedom over tyranny.

But most importantly, it is my distinct honor to pay respects to the victors of the greatest land battle in the history of the United States Army.

We are, and forever will be, grateful for your heroism.

HONORING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Holocaust Learning Experience, hosted by MorseLife Health System, an organization that serves many Jewish older adults and their families.

This year, International Holocaust Remembrance Day marks 80 years since the liberation of the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, by Allied troops. On January 27, 2025, we remember and honor the 6 million

Jewish men, women, and children murdered by the brutal Nazi regime.

We should never forget the atrocities of the Holocaust. At liberation, allies witnessed the devastation of human remains and the destruction of the human spirit. This is the day we also acknowledge the multigenerational impact of the horror and terror perpetrated against the Jewish people.

Globally, we are witnessing an alarming rise in antisemitism, and it is more important than ever to recognize and remember the critical lessons we all learned from the Holocaust. If we do not learn from our history, we are bound to repeat it. The Holocaust is a darkness and evil no one should ever want to see again. I am proud to recognize the Holocaust Learning Experience, which continues to deliver a fully developed curriculum for teachers to teach a hard but necessary lesson on this difficult period in history.

The purpose of the MorseLife Holocaust Learning Experience is to educate and transform generations to end antisemitism, prejudice, bias, and bigotry. This innovative Signature Educational Model is unique, action-oriented, and impactful. The Holocaust Learning Experience deploys and delivers grade-specific, cross curricula lessons from the Holocaust directly into 5th through 12th grade classrooms.

Students demonstrate a greater capacity to see themselves in the shoes of others and feel more comfortable explaining to their peers how hate led to the Holocaust. The most telling finding is that students report they will intervene amongst their peers when they witness hateful behavior toward others.

I wish to congratulate and encourage the Holocaust Learning Experience to continue changing lives of our Nation's young people. Each day, this initiative teaches students to stand up, not stand by. Thousands of students have been transformed by this learning experience, carrying forward the message that silence in the face of hate is unacceptable.

The Holocaust will never leave the conscience of humanity. It is on us to ensure the mantra, "Never Again" remains true.

HONORING IVAR C. SATERO UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative MULLIN and Representative PELOSI, rise today to honor the remarkable career of Ivar C. Satero, who retired as Airport Director of San Francisco International Airport (SFO) after decades of dedicated service to the City and County of San Francisco.

Ivar Satero began his extraordinary career in public service in 1984 as a Summer Engineering Intern while attending college. Following his graduation, he contributed his engineering expertise to the Department of Public Works and the Public Utilities Commission before joining the team at San Francisco International Airport in 1994.

Over the course of three decades, Ivar played an instrumental role in shaping the future of SFO, beginning with his work on the \$3 billion Master Plan Expansion Program. He

served as Project Manager for transformative transit initiatives, including the AirTrain System and the Airport BART Station, helping enhance connectivity and streamline passenger travel.

In 2003, Ivar was appointed Deputy Airport Director for the Design & Construction Division, where he oversaw the implementation of an ambitious 10-year, \$5 billion Capital Improvement Program. Under his leadership, SFO completed numerous groundbreaking projects, including the Replacement Air Traffic Control Tower, Terminal 1 Redevelopment, Terminal 3 Renovation, the Baggage Handling System Modernization, the AirTrain Extension, and the creation of the on-site Airport Hotel.

In 2014, Ivar advanced to Chief Operating Officer, supervising vital airport divisions including Design & Construction, Operations & Security, Information Technology, Planning & Environmental Affairs, and more. Two years later, in 2016, he was appointed Airport Director. His tenure as Airport Director was marked by his unwavering commitment to operational excellence, sustainability, and passenger experience.

In addition to being a graduate of San Jose State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA in Finance from San Francisco State University, Ivar also holds a private pilot's license and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of California. His commitment to innovation and public service has been an inspiration to all who have had the privilege to work with him.

His technical expertise and visionary leadership have left an indelible mark on SFO, elevating it as a world-class gateway for travelers from around the globe. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th, 15th, and 11th Congressional Districts, we wish Mr. Satero best wishes in his well-earned retirement and extend our sincerest gratitude for his many years of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING JUDY McDONALD

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy McDonald for her extraordinary service to the people of Tarrant County. For nearly 28 years, Judy has dedicated herself to improving the lives of countless individuals by helping them find meaningful careers, ensuring businesses thrive, and offering unwavering support to our community. Her leadership has left an indelible mark on Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, transforming it into a nationally recognized leader in workforce development.

Her passion, commitment, and tireless work have touched the lives of so many. No job was too small, no business too insignificant, and no individual ever beyond help. She has been a beacon of hope for those looking to build better futures, and your impact can be seen in the thriving businesses and empowered individuals across our region.

As Tyrone Taylor, Chair of the Workforce Development Board, so aptly said, "Judy's commitment to our cause and her ability to in-

spire and mobilize our team has been instrumental in achieving our goals." Her leadership has inspired and empowered all those around her, and the legacy she has built will continue to benefit our community for generations to come.

I thank Judy for her incredible service. Her dedication has shaped the future of Tarrant County, and it is with great pride that I acknowledge and celebrate her contributions here today.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JANUARY AS "MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH" AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud, as the longest serving Muslim in Congress, to introduce legislation to recognize January as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States. I thank the endorsing organizations that joined this important resolution: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Islamic Relief USA, Muslim Americans in Public Service (MAPS), Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), and Project Islamic Hope.

I am honored to partner with my Senate colleague, Senator BOOKER, to introduce this important resolution to recognize the many contributions of Muslims in the U.S. and worldwide. I am also honored to have Reps. OMAR, TLAIB, and SIMON join me as coleads. The value of this bill to Muslim Americans is great because their contributions to the establishment of the United States is an inspiration that others can look to as an example of what a diverse community of people can accomplish. Unfortunately, these contributions have historically been overlooked. Diversity is a corner stone of American democracy and success; our American Muslim community is a vital contributor to our nation's strength, as well as to the talents, perspectives, and achievements this diversity brings. This bill illuminates the economic and cultural contributions of Muslims to America, and it helps combat harmful stereotypes.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing January as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States by supporting this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING SARA CULLINANE ON HER EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sara Cullinane on her ex-

ceptional accomplishments as Director and Founder of Make the Road New Jersey. As she embarks on her new chapter of her life and passes the reign to new leadership, I want to recognize the extraordinary and powerful work that she has accomplished for the immigrant, working-class, and Latinx communities in the State of New Jersey. It has been an honor to partner with her.

Sara's leadership has been instrumental to the growth of such a powerful organization that truly serves those who need it the most. In acknowledging her time with Make the Road NJ, I want to applaud her unquestionable commitment to bettering New Jersey. Sara's work in providing immigrant and working-class communities with vital resources and education on the importance of knowing their rights in unprecedented times is admirable.

Make the Road New Jersey's success in assisting the immigrant community with legal services, health outreach, and educational programming have reached thousands of low-income individuals from underresourced and marginalized communities with critical, life-sustaining services, and transformational education. Sara has provided extraordinary leadership and guidance, and I add my voice to the sea of many who commend her remarkable vision.

I want to thank Sara for her hard work and dedication, which has inspired countless others to pursue their lives helping those who need it the most. I hope she takes immense pride in all the exceptional work that she has accomplished throughout this past decade. I wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.

RECOGNIZING TOMMIE "T-BONE" PRUITT, BLUES GUITARIST & VOCALIST

HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tommie "T-Bone" Pruitt for his incredible achievements as a Blues guitarist and vocalist. His talent and dedication to preserving and sharing the rich heritage of Mississippi Blues is something to be celebrated. As a proud resident of Ellisville, Pruitt's contributions to the music world continue to inspire generations, and his artistry serves as a testament to the power of music in connecting people across cultures.

Pruitt's success reflects the spirit of Mississippi—resilient, soulful, and deeply rooted in tradition. His musical legacy will undoubtedly continue to shine brightly for many years to come, and I have no doubt that his influence will continue to be felt far and wide.

I thank him for his dedication to his craft and for making Ellisville proud. I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.