

CEO, and later Chairman of the Board turned a small-town company into an all-American brand.

Frank was at once a marketer, a mentor, and a modern-day pioneer. He welcomed generations of shooters and builders into the Brownells family, always guided by a steadfast commitment to excellence in every part machined and every cartridge sold.

But Frank's greatest title wasn't CEO or Chairman—it was Dad, Grandpa, and neighbor. For more than 50 years, he served on the Montezuma City Council, serving with quiet dedication and the same unwavering sense of duty he brought to Brownells.

Frank is survived by his sons Bob, Pete, and Matt, and six grandchildren. I offer them my sincerest condolences and wish them peace as they carry forward his remarkable legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Iowa may have lost a legend, but his example endures. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Frank Royce Brownell, III.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 27, 2025, as I was detained due to unforeseen circumstances following the highly sensitive bipartisan national security briefing. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 185, H. Res. 516.

RECOGNIZING EMIKO MUKAI

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emiko Mukai of Golden, Colorado. Emiko was selected as one of 250 high school students across the country to participate in the Department of State's prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program.

Launched in 1983, CBYX selects high achieving youth from both Germany and the United States to live in each other's country for one academic year. During their year abroad, students will foster meaningful relationships between America and Germany, while giving participants new perspectives on peoples and cultures beyond their own. Many CBYX alumni go on to distinguished careers in foreign affairs and public service using the language skills gained through this scholarship program.

This year, Emiko will travel to Germany to attend school, live with a host family, and collaborate with the Department of State to promote cultural exchange between Americans and the German people.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Emiko Mukai for this impressive accomplishment and wish Emiko all the best in this upcoming year in Germany.

HONORING DR. SORAYA M. COLEY

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Dr. Soraya M. Coley, on her upcoming retirement, and to honor her four decades of service to higher education in the Inland Empire and beyond.

Dr. Soraya Coley began her journey in higher education by completing a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. She then earned a master's in social planning and a doctorate in social research from Bryn Mawr College, where she was recognized as a distinguished alumna.

For many years, Dr. Coley has been dedicated to creating opportunities in higher education for Californians. As an accomplished educator and administrator, she served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Bakersfield from 2005 to 2014. From 2011 to 2012, she served as the university's interim vice president for university advancement. Demonstrating her dedication to uplifting children and students, she also immersed herself in various roles at California State University, Fullerton, the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, and Alliant International University.

In 2015, Dr. Coley became the sixth president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) in my district, making history as the university's first woman and African American president. Under her leadership, Cal Poly Pomona grew into the most diverse polytechnic university in the country. She established Cal Poly Pomona as an inclusive polytechnic university that motivates all its students, staff, and faculty to excel.

As president, Dr. Coley managed almost 30,000 students and nearly 2,700 faculty and staff. Under her tenure, enrollment and graduation rates at Cal Poly Pomona reached historic levels.

Dr. Coley has also been deeply involved in serving the wider California community. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Dr. Coley to the California Future of Work Commission where she advised the Governor and Legislature about the types of jobs that would be available to Californians in the decades to come, the impact of technological advancements, different ways to promote job quality and labor protections, and how to prepare the state's workforce through lifelong education.

Additionally, Dr. Coley is a fierce advocate of furthering higher education interests for women. In 2000, Orange County Metro Magazine named her as "One of Ten Women Making a Difference." In 2023, she earned the American Council on Education Donna Shavlik Award, demonstrating her dedication to supporting women in higher education through leadership, career development, and mentoring.

She has been an incredible leader in our region and has created opportunities for the success of thousands of students. For her outstanding accomplishments and remarkable career, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Soraya M. Coley. Her service and commitment to advancing higher education are worthy of the highest commendation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL ESTEP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise, today to pay tribute to Kentucky journalist Bill Estep, who is retiring from the Lexington Herald Leader after 40 years of dedicated news and investigative reporting in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As a resident of Somerset, Kentucky, Bill is one of my constituents, giving him personal insight into the generational challenges that we have faced in Kentucky's Appalachian region. He has written about our coal mines, our education system, historic flooding and tornado disasters, while also holding elected leaders accountable in the courtroom of public opinion, and never failing to keep facts at the core of his journalistic integrity. With the uprising of "yellow journalism" in the form of social media's sensational opinions and unchecked rumors, 24-hours a day, Bill has remained consistent in his news coverage, keeping his pen steady, balanced, fair and accurate.

Over the last four decades, Bill and I have sat down together to talk about every issue that impacts the people of southern and eastern Kentucky. We built a trusted relationship with the understanding that we both had an important job to do, requiring tough questions and, at times, tough answers. In 2003, Bill embarked on an investigative series called "Prescription for Pain" that would prove to have a monumental impact on my public service. The series exposed a rapidly growing opioid epidemic more than 20 years ago that was spreading like wildfire throughout our small communities, taking the lives of high school beauty queens and local leaders alike, while revealing local corruption and criminal drug trafficking in the depths of our mountain communities. His collective work inspired me to not only respond, but to take action. In the following weeks, I called together a group of leaders from across our region to launch a non-profit organization called Operation UNITE—Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education—the Nation's first multi-pronged approach to help save lives and curb the drug crisis. In 2012, Operation UNITE took its mission to the national stage by establishing the National Rx and Illicit Drug Summit, which has grown into the largest convention of its kind with more than 3,000 annual attendees and highlighted by keynote speakers from federal agencies across the country, including four U.S. Presidents. Bill's reporting inspired a life-saving movement in Eastern Kentucky that is now impacting collaborative efforts nationwide—a feat worthy of a Pulitzer Prize and more.

In 2013, when the downturn of the coal industry was exacerbated by the Obama Administration's war on coal, we lost more than 12,000 coal mining jobs in Eastern Kentucky alone. Once again, turning to action rather than words, former Governor Steve Beshear and I co-founded a bipartisan initiative called SOAR—Shaping Our Appalachian Region—to reimagine the future of southern and eastern Kentucky. Since inception, SOAR has focused on expanding access to high performance broadband, more diversified industrial development, workforce training, innovative tourism

projects, expanded health care opportunities and much more. With the formation of SOAR, Bill Estep showed up once again with his iconic yellow notepad and a recorder to get the story right. From day one, he made sure there was an entire section in the Herald Leader featuring the work of SOAR, and he has remained committed to following our progress, our goals and our challenges.

Throughout his career, it has been clear when Bill used his opinion in an effective way, advocating for a larger spread in the urban Lexington-based statewide newspaper to help feature stories in Eastern Kentucky that the rest of the state should care about. I imagine that he didn't win every battle with his editors over the years, but I know that Bill believed in the value of southern and eastern Kentucky for the rest of the Commonwealth. He was bold to ask tough questions, patient enough to listen to the response, and determined to conduct necessary research before writing a story. Upcoming and current reporters should take notes from Bill, and proceed with unbiased questions, an open mind, and a relentless dedication to facts over opinions and click-bait.

Our rural Appalachian region has largely remained in the shadows of Kentucky's bigger cities, playing the national media's role of the impoverished, forgotten people who need a savior. Thanks to courageous journalists like Bill, we have had the opportunity to fight the stereotypes and tell the real story taking place in Eastern Kentucky, where resilient and innovative people are stepping up to shape a brighter future for the next generation through aerospace, medical science, engineering and much more. As Bill begins a new chapter of retirement to focus on his family's story and new traveling adventures, I hope it is filled with great pride in the work he has accomplished and the light of hope that he has helped shine on Eastern Kentucky.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM AND IMPROVING VIS- ITOR EXPERIENCE NATIVE ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mr. ED CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act Amendments.

This bill is the House companion to S. 612, introduced by Senators LISA MURKOWSKI, Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, and BRIAN SCHATZ, Vice Chairman of the Committee. The bill makes important technical corrections to the NATIVE Act to authorize grants to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiian organizations for recreational travel and tourism activities.

In 2016, Congress enacted the NATIVE Act to provide grants, loans and technical assistance to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiian organizations to assist in developing tourism in indigenous peoples' communities and enhancing opportunities for visitors to learn about indigenous peoples' history, cultures, traditional

foods, languages and arts. Unfortunately, the act did not clearly authorize the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) to issue the grants, which led to implementation challenges.

Our bill corrects this issue by clearly authorizing the BIA and ONHR, along with several other federal agencies, to issue these grants and authorize appropriations for the program. The bill will enable improved access to federal resources, helping these communities build sustainable tourism infrastructure and expand cultural tourism. In turn, it will create jobs and boost economic development in rural and underserved areas.

This bill is especially important for my home state of Hawaii, where the link between tourism and our indigenous people, Native Hawaiians, is essential. Native Hawaiian culture is at the heart of our islands' uniqueness and one of the major draws for those who visit our state.

The past generations have witnessed a great renaissance of the Hawaiian language and culture, and in turn over the ensuing years Native Hawaiian practitioners and culture have become an increasingly visible and central part of our visitor industry. We in Hawaii are committed to fostering this sector of our economy in a way that encourages long-term cultural preservation efforts.

Through improving the implementation of the NATIVE Act, which has helped both Native Hawaiian Organizations and local Native Hawaiian businesses, our federal government will do a better job preserving and promoting Native Hawaiian culture. We can help connect tourists with the rich indigenous heritage of Hawaii through community-based visitor experiences that protect cultural sites, promote education and create jobs.

By enacting the NATIVE Act Amendments, what we have achieved in Hawaii can grow and be replicated nationwide. I urge my colleagues to join with us to support this critical initiative to empower native communities, enhance the tourism sector and create lasting economic opportunities.

Mahalo.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLAD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD). The strengthening historic alliance between Portugal and the United States led to the creation of FLAD in 1985. Its purpose at the time was to strengthen the relationship between our two countries through cultural exchanges and societal transatlantic relationships.

In 1983, the United States and Portugal formed a Cooperation and Defense Agreement. This agreement piloted the establishment of FLAD.

This year FLAD also celebrates its ninth edition of the FLAD Legislators Dialogue, which brings together United States lawmakers of Portuguese ancestry with Portuguese leaders in Lisbon to foster powerful discussions on the strongest path forward to build relations and strengthen our collective security.

FLAD supports the work of Portuguese and Portuguese American students, researchers, scientists, and teachers at the forefront of science, while also facilitating contacts and collaborations with renowned U.S. institutions to build bridges between our two countries and establish new partnerships and possibilities for all generations.

FLAD's work also supports visiting professors at prestigious U.S. universities, such as Fresno State University, Brown University, Georgetown University, and University of Massachusetts Lowell to teach Portuguese Studies with the hopes of increasing Portuguese speakers in the United States. FLAD has been highly successful in promoting internships for American students and facilitating their participation in programs in Portugal.

FLAD has been a principal supporter of Portuguese art and culture by collaborating on numerous initiatives that preserve the presence of Portuguese culture in the United States, allowing exchanges between artists, intellectuals and researchers of the two countries. FLAD's contemporary art collection includes about 1000 works of art from Portuguese artists.

FLAD has continuously partnered with the California Portuguese American Coalition (CPAC) in supporting Portuguese advocacy within California communities. These local communities helped shape the American culture and the economic growth throughout California's Central Valley and nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, as proud descendants of Portuguese immigrants, with the traditions and values from the Azores Islands never far from our hearts, I ask that our colleagues join us in celebrating the 40th anniversary of FLAD and recognizing the contributions of FLAD to U.S.-Portugal relations.

RECOGNIZING THE SHERIFF'S OF- FICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF CLAY COUNTY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Medical Services of Clay County.

On September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene slammed into Western North Carolina, leaving a trail of devastation and destruction. While Clay County was largely spared from the storm's most severe effects, its first responders did not return to business as usual the following day. Instead, the Clay County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Medical Services immediately sprang into action to assist counties in desperate need.

This spirit of service is what makes Western North Carolina truly special. It is exemplified by neighbors showing up in times of crisis, ready to lend a helping hand and stand together during the darkest of days. The Clay County Sheriff's Office deployed officers and resources to Haywood, Buncombe, Avery, and Mitchell counties, providing critical manpower and support to these Helene-affected areas. At the same time, Clay County Emergency Medical Services coordinated efforts to deliver much-needed medical personnel and essential supplies to communities in need.