

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Coldwater High School Girls Track and Field Team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUE PACIFIC ACT

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Boosting Long-Term U.S. Engagement in the Pacific (BLUE Pacific) Act, co-sponsored by 14 of my colleagues.

Scattered across the three traditional Pacific subregions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are over two dozen jurisdictions collectively known as the Pacific Islands, including twelve independent states, countries in free association and territories. Though small in land area and population, the land plus maritime exclusive economic zones of all these jurisdictions combined exceed the land areas of China and Russia combined, comprising a significant part of the vast Pacific Ocean and our Earth's surface.

In 2019, a number of us came together to create the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, the first such group of Members of Congress dedicated to this dynamic and diverse part of the world. We believe that the Pacific Islands region remains critical to our national security interests in the Indo-Pacific which advises greater U.S. engagement with this region to advance our shared interests and values, particularly in the context of growing geopolitical competition and threats by our shared adversaries to endanger the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Over the last three Congresses, we have introduced versions of the BLUE Pacific Act, which would advance a comprehensive, long-term U.S. strategy in the Pacific Islands region. Much of the previous versions of the BLUE Pacific Act has been enacted or implemented as a result of our efforts in previous Congresses, but key provisions remain and are included in this version, in addition to provisions from other bipartisan U.S.-Pacific Islands bills introduced in the 118th Congress, including the Pacific Partnership Act and the Engage the Pacific Act. It also adds provisions that incorporate various developments in the Pacific Islands over the last few years, including goals and needs articulated by the Pacific Islands themselves that are in line with U.S. interests.

The current version of the BLUE Pacific Act expands U.S. diplomatic and development presence in the Pacific Islands by recommending that the administration increase the number of staff working on Pacific Islands issues and in the region, authorizing the Secretaries of State and Commerce to hire locally employed staff in the region, establishing a workforce development program, codifying a media program and more.

It increases U.S. security assistance to address regional maritime security, transnational crime and law enforcement issues by authorizing the Secretary of State to provide assistance to build the capacity of civilian and national security institutions in the region and ex-

panding existing reports on transnational crime on the Pacific Islands.

The bill deepens bilateral and multilateral trade between the U.S. and the Pacific Islands by authorizing a trade capacity building initiative, authorizing the U.S. Trade Representative to work to expand and diversify trade and directing the Secretary of Commerce to allocate additionally Foreign Commercial Service Officers to the region.

Further, the BLUE Pacific Act supports regional economic and social development by providing assistance in multiple sectors such as public health, education, infrastructure, environmental resilience, digital connectivity, disaster mitigation and more.

Finally, the bill promotes shared values like freedom of the press, gender equality and freedom of religion, including by establishing an interagency committee on engagement with civil society organizations in the Pacific Islands and authorizing the President to provide assistance to promote freedom of the press.

These initiatives support the significant strides we have made in recent years towards fully reengaging the Pacific Islands region across a range of common values and interests and in response to specific Pacific Islands' needs. The United States must make clear to the region that we are a partner they can trust and rely upon in the long term.

For these reasons, I ask that you support our bill. Mahalo.

# RECOGNIZING DANIEL RUBIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Daniel Rubin for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives, to the House Judiciary Committee, and to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District.

Daniel Rubin is an exceptional talent, with years of experience working at the highest levels of Congress on the most crucial legal issues of the day. He has a razorsharp mind, an inquisitive nature, and a unique ability to accurately identify the key question that must be addressed in any given situation.

Daniel Rubin has worked directly on the Judiciary Committee and the Ways and Means Committee and has worked with Members who served on the Budget, Oversight, and Education and the Workforce committees. It is truly rare to find someone with his breadth and depth of experience working in the House for as long as Daniel has. That is a testament to his commitment to public service and his ability to gain the trust of multiple Members of Congress from diverse backgrounds.

Not all positions on the Hill are equal, and Daniel has had perhaps the toughest assignment. He routinely handles the most challenges questions put to lawmakers by the Capitol Hill press corps. They are trained to find vulnerabilities in any argument and expose them to the public. They are tenacious and intelligent, and Daniel does an excellent job working with them every day to get them the information they seek and to do so in a way that is most beneficial to the Members

and Committees he is working for. It is not an easy task, but Daniel does it with exceptional skill.

While working with us he has maintained excellent relationships across a broad spectrum of writers, editors, and producers. He reads voraciously and is always well informed and well prepared for the challenges presented by his work. He is an excellent writer and a master communicator.

I enjoyed working closely with Daniel on the House Judiciary Committee and in my personal office for the past several years. Together we worked with dozens of Members of Congress to help shape our strategy, messaging, and legal approach in countless hearings and markups. We identified the most powerful messages and amplified them in the press and on social media.

Daniel built the greatest social media operation of any Committee on Capitol Hill—training and supervising staff that were nimble, provocative, and engaging. Under his supervision the number of subscribers and their level of engagement with our content far outpaced the traditional House committee.

Daniel has been at the epicenter of all of our crisis communications, tackling difficult questions with a level head, and providing excellent advice. My senior management team and I have always trusted Daniel's judgment and strategic thinking. While working separately on my campaign, Daniel helped propel me to a 30-point victory over a fellow Democratic Committee Chair in a tough New York primary. He was essential in debate preparation and worked with me to anticipate questions and ensure that I was ready to respond in the most powerful way possible. He led the communications team during the primary and helped me secure the New York Times endorsement.

I wish Daniel the best of luck as he continues to fight for the rights and liberties of all people and I thank him for his service.

# HONORING THE LIVERMORE STOCKMEN'S RODEO ASSOCIATION

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association (hereinafter the "Association") on the occasion of its well-earned induction into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this Saturday, July 12, 2025.

The Livermore Rodeo has been a valued part of California's Tri-Valley community for over a century. Founded in response to a national call for help during World War I, the Livermore Rodeo began as a local fundraiser and effort to support the American Red Cross and wounded soldiers overseas. The first event, held at James Anderson Ranch, raised over \$1,200.00, an extraordinary sum for the time. Its success caught national attention after being filmed by Universal Studios and displayed in theatres across the country, turning a community fundraiser into a cherished annual tradition.

The event earned the nickname, "The World's Fastest Rodeo," and since moving to Robertson Park in 1967, it has continued to

grow and attract thousands of spectators each year for top-level competition. Its years of operation, led by the Association, have brought a great deal of pride and belonging to the Tri-Valley. The Association stays true to its local roots, supporting not only the rodeo itself, but also the broader community. Today, the event includes charities such as "Tough Enough to Wear Pink," in support of breast cancer awareness, and "Patriot Day", in honor of military service. Accompanying events like the "Lil' Partners Rodeo" and the Rotary Club parade make rodeo weekend an annual regional highlight.

This year, the Association celebrates its 107th year with its most distinguished honor yet, joining a select group of inductees to the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, recognizing its long-standing contributions to the sport. The ProRodeo Hall of Fame is the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to professional rodeo and its legacy. This honor reflects the work of many volunteers, fans, directors, and community members who have kept the tradition alive for over 100 years.

Congratulations to the Association, the rodeo competitors and participants, and all the fans that have enjoyed the shows and made the Livermore Rodeo the success that it has become.

#### CELEBRATING GENE AND MARLENE EPSTEIN'S 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Gene and Marlene Epstein as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. This remarkable milestone honors 65 years of steadfast love and enduring partnership. It is my privilege to commemorate their everlasting bond on this special day.

Gene and Marlene are high school sweethearts who once lived just three blocks apart in Philadelphia. In celebration of Gene's success in car sales, the couple often ate at The Hot Shot Diner, and soon thereafter, they got engaged on the Atlantic City boardwalk. They married in 1960 and went on to raise two children, Ellen and Robert.

What truly sets their story apart is that their relationship extends beyond their deep love for one another. As philanthropists and co-directors of the Gene & Marlene Epstein Humanitarian Fund, the couple has devoted themselves to serving others and caring for the people in our community.

To exemplify this, when asked by a local Newtown newspaper about a personal goal, Gene answered, "I want to do the best I can to make things better for everyone I can."

His statement perfectly summarizes their 65 years of partnership: one filled with commitment not only to each other but also to the betterment of the entire community. Gene and Marlene's selfless dedication has marked countless lives, making their 65 years together a powerful expression of love in action.

United in their mission to care for others, the Epsteins have funded scholarships at Bucks County Community College for Lower

Bucks students; handed out \$100 bills during the COVID-19 pandemic to those in need; and established Wheelz2Work, a program that donates vehicles to low-income families.

Their philanthropic reach extends beyond Bucks County. The Epsteins have supported a Los Angeles food bank, an organ transplant program in Pittsburgh, and emergency services for drug overdoses in Philadelphia.

Ultimately, Gene and Marlene's relationship is one defined by love and service. Their 65 years together have made our community stronger, healthier, and happier. I am in awe of Gene and Marlene's endless love and giving spirits. It is an absolute honor to celebrate their 65th anniversary today. I thank them for all they have done, and continue to do, for our community.

#### RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY TEMPLETON FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Templeton, who dedicated his time to contribute to the safety and security of our nation through his service in the United States Marine Corps. It is an honor to have an individual that embodies strength, courage and commitment in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Born and raised in Missouri, Corporal Templeton enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating from North Platte High School in Dearborn, Missouri, in 1982. Upon joining, he became a Small Missile Systems Electronics Repair Technician (MOS 2875) and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, with the 2nd Force Service Support Group, Electronics Maintenance Company, Calibrations Platoon to provide maintenance for TOW2 and Dragon anti-tank missile systems.

During his time at Camp Lejeune, he was temporarily assigned to the 26th Marine Amphibious Unit Service Support Group which deployed with Amphibious Squadron 6 as part of Marine Amphibious Readiness Group 1-86 to the Mediterranean Sea. During this deployment, he was the TOW Subject Matter Expert and was also selected to ship's platoon for the USS *El Paso* (LKA-117) to coordinate embarkation/debarkation of Marines and equipment. His unit was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation for this deployment.

During his service, Corporal Templeton's unit participated in Operation Eldorado Canyon off the coast of Libya in the spring of 1986. His unit was awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for their contribution to the operation. It is evident that Templeton's leadership allowed his team to move with direction, motivation, and the ability to go far and beyond the standard, receiving recognition as a testament.

Corporal Templeton was released from the Marine Corps active duty in 1987, serving in the ready reserves and earning an Honorable Discharge in 1989. His willingness to put his life on the line and endure the hardships that come with military service has not gone unno-

ticed. As a thank you for his sacrifice, bravery and example set, it is my honor to present Corporal Templeton with the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal as well as the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon he earned while serving our country. Corporal Templeton served the Marine Corps with a source of immense pride, leading an often-distinguished team and his service deserves to be honored. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Timothy Templeton and thank him for his service.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NATHAN BRIGHT FOR WINNING THE DIVISION I STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE FOR HIGH JUMP

#### HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school athlete from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Nathan Bright, a senior at North Ridgeville High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division I State Title for High Jump at the State Track and Field Meet. Nathan overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Nathan defeated his opponents with an impressive jump of 6 feet 9 inches. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. He has achieved an impressive season, bringing pride to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Nathan Bright of North Ridgeville High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF MRS. FREIDA B. DORITY

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a friend and a great American: Mrs. Freida B. Dority of Alabama. She passed away on June 28 at age 73. I came to know her over the years on the Faith and Politics Institute's Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimages to Alabama. Mrs. Freida served as Director of Culinary Experiences for the Faith and Politics Tour Luncheon, playing a leading role hosting Members of Congress and other distinguished guests as we came to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and pay tribute to the civil rights heroes who helped build a more perfect Union.

The bible tells us: Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms, 1 Peter 4:9-10. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Freida offered her hospitality cheerfully, eagerly, and enthusiastically. She had many gifts, including a lifelong aptitude for