

woman Secretary of the U.S. Senate from 2021 to 2025. I know I speak for all of us in expressing our gratitude to the Berry Family for decades of service to their country and to their Congress. We will continue to keep Ann, Elizabeth, and their family in our prayers.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life of Reginald Berry.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$1 million to complete the Navy Sea Systems Command's final review of centrifuge purifiers for surface combatant vessels.

Centrifuge purifiers are machines that separate liquids into their component parts and are critical to the proper functioning of our naval ships.

The Navy currently relies on a single, non-U.S.-based manufacturer for these centrifuge purifiers, which creates supply chain vulnerabilities and stifles domestic innovation.

My amendment No. 273, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 2, gives the Navy the resources it needs to finish a review process it began several years ago. Completing its review will help future delays and ensure the Navy has access to the most advanced and reliable technology available.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING EDGAR ONTIVEROS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar Ontiveros, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Lake County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

For many years, Mr. Ontiveros came to Hidden Valley to visit his uncle during the weekends. In 2003, he had the chance to visit Clearlake for the first time, sparking his love for the Lake County community. By 2004, he had the opportunity to purchase a house in Clearlake and has lived in the area ever since.

In 2009, Mr. Ontiveros joined the staff of Lake County Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS) as a Cultural Specialist and Ethnic Services Peer Support Specialist. In 2014, LCBHS created the La Voz De la Esperanza community center, appointing Mr. Ontiveros as the center's supervisor. The La Voz, or the Latino Wellness Center, located in Clearlake,

works to connect the Latino Community to culturally relevant service and ensure that Spanish speakers are equipped with tools to navigate health and wellness services. With volunteer translators and various educational opportunities, they help to break the language barrier that often prevents people from seeking help and offer referrals for mental health services when requested.

Mr. Ontiveros' leadership and work as the supervisor of La Voz integral in ensuring countless community members have access to mental health support, help to navigate the health care system, and a sense of community and support. As a Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist, he works to assess critical needs of Latino community members regarding mental health services and support clients, both individual and family.

Mr. Ontiveros also works tirelessly to develop, implement, and maintain activities and programs related to the Latino Wellness Center. He recruits and trains volunteers and develops relationships with partner agencies and community entities. Additionally, Mr. Ontiveros connects Latino community members to services through the Behavioral Health Department, providing key mental health services for those who may not otherwise have access.

Mr. Ontiveros' commitment to service extends well beyond his professional duties. Mr. Ontiveros has taken to the front lines of community support following the countless fires that devastated Lake County, communicating important information and ensuring that Lake County residents have equitable access to emergency services and necessities during major disasters. Mr. Ontiveros is an ordained minister and faith leader. He works as a preacher in Middletown for the South Lake County community.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor La Voz director Edgar Ontiveros for his service, leadership, and dedication to the Lake County community.

RECOGNIZING LEE VENT

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Mr. Lee Vent, a lifelong administrator and educator, who was recently recognized as a Legacy Leader by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. The organization is dedicated to supporting and enhancing educational leadership in Arkansas through various initiatives and legislative advocacy. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the field of education in Arkansas.

Mr. Vent has shown unwavering dedication with an incredible 56-year career in education, including 43 continuous years as a Superintendent, making him the longest continuously serving Superintendent in Arkansas. He currently serves as the President of the Great Rivers ESC Board of Directors and Superintendent of the Clarendon-Holly Grove School District. Mr. Vent is a strong testament to the vision, compassion, and resilience demonstrated by thousands of Arkansas educators.

Mr. Vent's love for learning began in a three-room schoolhouse, which had no indoor plumbing. He has spent most of his educational career in schools along the Mississippi Delta, or what he calls "the pure Delta." He has dedicated his life to selflessly serving the community, and ensuring students are prepared for a promising and successful future. Mr. Vent embodies the very best of American educators, fostering a knowledgeable, collaborative, curious, and innovative learning environment for all.

Mr. Vent's continued efforts are well-recognized through his strength in personal and organizational communication and constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills. His deep commitment to transforming our community through educational resources brings great pride to our district.

It is my honor to congratulate Lee Vent on his recognition as a Legacy Leader and for his decades of service. I thank him for preserving the legacy of learning. I wish him continued success, and may his actions continue to encourage others.

CELEBRATING A CHAMPION,
CASSANDRA WILSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion from Northwest Ohio, Cassandra Wilson.

Cassandra is not only the first woman in Lucas County to bring home gold medals four years in a row for Special Olympics Powerlifting, she is also a fearless advocate who has served as the first Self Advocate from her county on the State Developmental Disabilities Council.

Since the age of five, Cassandra has been a voice for those too often left unheard. Her advocacy, determination, and unbreakable spirit have shattered barriers and inspired communities.

Even when faced with coaches who doubted her, she stood strong.

She proved—and continues to prove—that strength isn't just about lifting weights; it's about lifting others up with you.

She reminds us all that true leadership begins with courage, and true change comes from those who never give up. She is not just breaking records, she's breaking ground.

Cassandra is a living example that hard work and confidence, not gender or circumstance, defines our potential.

May her story continue to lift hearts, open minds, and pave the way for many more to follow.

HONORING LARRY HOOPER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mr. Larry Hooper.

Born and raised in Natchez, Mississippi, Larry Hooper is a third-generation educator

who is deeply committed to ensuring that students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Mr. Hooper has served as a teacher, basketball coach, reading program facilitator, Job Training Partnership/General Education Diploma Supervisor, high school graduation coach, assistant principal, and principal, accumulating 21 years of administrative experience.

He was named Teacher of the Year at Hazlehurst Elementary School in 1999. As a basketball coach, he led teams to championships in both Vicksburg and Port Gibson. Mr. Hooper has also played a key role in helping William Winans Middle School and Natchez Freshman Academy exit School Improvement Status.

A God-fearing and family-oriented individual, Mr. Hooper is a proud parent of a son and a daughter and remains very active in the Natchez community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Larry Hooper for his outstanding service and achievements in the Natchez, Claiborne, and Wilkinson County communities of Mississippi.

HONORING CINTHYA CISNEROS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cinthya Cisneros, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Napa County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Ms. Cisneros was born in Michoacan, Mexico, as the oldest of three siblings and has grown up in Napa since the age of four. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Sonoma State University and holds a Single Subject Teaching Credential from Sacramento State University.

Ms. Cisneros began her career in 2018 working as a bartender shortly after finishing her last year of teaching high school chemistry. In 2020, she founded La Cheve Bakery and Brews, a family-owned Mexican bakery, craft beer taproom, and restaurant. She is also the owner of the upcoming restaurant Con Amor Botanas y Tequila, co-founder of La Lucha Wines, and advisory board member of the nonprofit scholarship organization 10,000 degrees.

Ms. Cisneros and La Cheve regularly give back to our community. Since its founding, La Cheve has provided scholarships for undocumented, Latino, and low-income, first-generation college students in the science and business field. La Cheve has also supported our community through fundraising efforts for organizations such as: If Given a Chance, Migrant Farmworkers, LGBTQ Connection, Puertas Abiertas, COPE, NEWS, Napa Valley Education Foundation, Red Cross, Molly's Angels, IIBA, Mariposa, Napa High School, Vintage High School, Valley Oak High School, Napa United, and Girls on the Run.

Ms. Cisneros has always dreamed of helping her parents, who she notes as being her biggest role models. At La Cheve, she works alongside them. For her work, Ms. Cisneros was recognized as this year's American Dream Award Recipient in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Cinthya Cisneros for her service and dedication to California's 4th District.

RECOGNIZING ANUSHA ARORA FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

HON. SUZAN K. DeLBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. DeLBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anusha Arora on being the Gold Medal recipient at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair for her project titled "Smart Strings: A Novel Low-Cost Multimodal System for Intelligent Sensory Feedback through Artificial Intelligence." The Washington State Science and Engineering Fair aims to advance the studies of STEM in grades 1–12 through the State of Washington. They work to provide opportunities for students to display their projects and provide support and guidance for the operation of science and engineering fairs throughout Washington State.

Additionally, Anusha had the opportunity to represent Washington State at the 2025 Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair. For more than 70 years, thousands of students from various science fair networks have explored their passion for scientific research at the world's largest pre-college science competition. Students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories competed across 21 different STEM disciplines. This year, Anusha competed among the top young scientists from around the globe and was selected as a Grand Award Winner in the category of "Technology Enhances the Arts." Anusha Arora attends Interlake High School in Washington's 1st Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Anusha Arora and this victory for science education in Washington. Her work demonstrates not only exceptional scientific excellence, but a deep commitment to addressing real world challenges. We are grateful for her contributions to the scientific community and wish her a successful career.

CELEBRATING MOTHER REGINA ROSE EDWARDS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman whose life of faith, service, and leadership has left a lasting impact on her community and the Church.

Mother Regina Rose Edwards, who is celebrating 90 blessed years, is a native of River Rouge, Michigan. She has dedicated her life in service to her Church and community and has raised a proud family.

Throughout our Nation's history, we have always been inspired by those whose faith and

unwavering commitment uplifts others. Mother Regina Rose Edwards goes beyond these criteria.

For decades, Mother Edwards has embodied compassion, wisdom, and dedication in her role as matriarch within the Church of God in Christ and as a beloved member of the Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Her ministry has brought comfort and community to countless families. Through prayer, mentorship, and love, she has been a guiding light to many.

As she celebrates her 90th birthday, I wanted to take an opportunity to recognize her faith, service, and lifetime of commitment to her community.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Mother Regina Rose Edwards is one of service over self. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating her remarkable achievements and contributions to our Nation, her community, and the Church.

HONORING ST. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the St. Helena High School Agricultural Program, an esteemed organization of our Napa community. This milestone reflects decades of dedication, community support, and profound impact on students' futures. This program is more than just an educational opportunity; it is a cornerstone of the community.

The Agriculture Program at St. Helena High School aims to shape young minds, nurture responsible leaders, and prepare students for successful careers in agriculture and beyond. This program not only fosters practical skills and knowledge but also instills values such as stewardship, leadership, and community service in our students.

The St. Helena Agriculture Program has touched the lives of over 3,500+ students in the St. Helena community through positive experiences in relevant, rigorous, and relationship driven coursework and involvement in the National Future Farmers of America Organization. These opportunities have been made possible by the financial backing of the St. Helena Agriculture Booster Organization.

The Ag Boosters have supported state-of-the-art facilities improvements, curriculum development and equipment, student travel, student leadership conference participation, and making sure that all students can take advantage of what the Future Farmers of America and Agriculture Education have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor the St. Helena High School Agricultural Program on the 25th anniversary of their founding. Through their advocacy, leadership, and commitment to excellence, they have become a cornerstone of our Napa County's agricultural community.