

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING U.S. ARMY VETERAN
DAVE LOERA

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of my dear friend and U.S. Army Veteran, Mr. Dave Loera, who passed away on August 16, 2025. Dave was a remarkable man whose entire life was defined by service. He bravely answered the call of duty during the Vietnam War, and when he returned home, he never stopped serving as a leader, a mentor, and an unwavering advocate for his fellow Veterans. As Commander of VFW Post 3208 and later VFW District 11, he fought to ensure that every Veteran received the recognition, respect, and resources they had earned.

In 2016, Dave was instrumental in renaming the Sierra Madre Post Office after World War I hero Louis Van Iersel—a Sierra Madre resident who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for saving 1,000 American soldiers during the Great War. Before this effort, few people knew of Sergeant Van Iersel's story. Knowing that heroes should never be forgotten, Dave brought his persistence and passion to this fight, helping us pass my bill to rename the Post Office, which was signed into law by President Obama. Today, Sergeant Van Iersel's name is forever etched into the heart of Sierra Madre, inspiring future generations with his courage and sacrifice, something that would not have been possible without Dave.

Dave was also instrumental in the fight to establish a Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Arcadia. For far too long, local Veterans were forced to travel far from home just to receive basic care from the VA. Dave refused to accept the status quo and we worked together to bring a VA clinic to the San Gabriel Valley. He attended every meeting, spoke at every town hall, rallied our community, and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with advocates as we pushed the VA to act. Because of his leadership, Veterans in the San Gabriel Valley can finally get the health care they need and deserve close to home.

Dave's record of service touched every corner of his hometown of Sierra Madre, which is why he was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. For ten years, he protected his neighbors as a Reserve Police Officer. He coached youth sports, poured his heart into civic projects like the Fourth of July Parade and improving Dapper Field, and inspired others to give back to their hometown. Dave's dedication to our community reminds us that service is not about recognition, but about lifting every one of our fellow citizens up.

Just last year, I was proud to honor Dave at my Veterans Forum for his decades of service and unwavering leadership. My office could always count on him to help others. Every year we worked with Dave to provide turkeys and

toys to underserved families during the holiday season. His life truly embodied service, compassion, and community. Dave's legacy will live on in every Veteran who receives care, every young person inspired by his example, and every life touched by his kindness. I will remember him not only as a leader and a Veteran, but as a trusted friend who made our community and our county better.

Dave is survived by his wife, Teri Loera, their children, and a community that mourns his loss and celebrates his legacy of selflessness and kindness. May his memory inspire others to follow in his footsteps and lead a life of generosity and service.

HONORING THE FOOD BANK OF
CONTRA COSTA AND SOLANO

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and their unwavering commitment to fighting hunger in our community.

The Food Bank was created 50 years ago when a group of dedicated community members saw a dire need in our community and sought to address it. What began as a small endeavor has since expanded into 10 Food Bank programs, 245 agency partners, and 7,000 volunteers who we are told have served over 110,000 hours last year. The Food Bank has built powerful partnerships with Feeding America, local businesses, local farmers, and government agencies to produce tangible results in our community. As we celebrate the Food Bank's 50th anniversary, I am proud to acknowledge the work of the volunteers, founders, Board Members, staff, and donors who represent the heart of the Food Bank's mission.

As we understand, the Food Bank serves 98,000 households throughout Contra Costa and Solano County and provides enough food to generate 2.7 million meals per month, 68% of which is fresh produce, protein, and dairy. As the needs of the community grow, the Food Bank continues to work toward innovative, community-oriented solutions to best serve our neighbors. This includes a focus on new initiatives, partnerships, and strategies to combat the root causes of hunger. The organization truly has a legacy of service and has worked tirelessly to strengthen our community and fight food insecurity.

Please join us in honoring the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano for their invaluable work and in congratulating them for 50 years of incredible service.

HONORING GLORIA GLOVER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Gloria Glover for her remarkable dedication and service as Youth Director at New Green Grove Church of Faith in Greenwood, Mississippi. For over 20 years, Ms. Glover has been a steadfast leader, guiding and inspiring young people in her community through spiritual growth, education, and outreach.

Under her leadership, the youth ministry has flourished, encompassing a praise team, praise dancers, and numerous community service initiatives. Ms. Glover, alongside her daughter, LaFonda Knox, and youth minister Robert Keyon Beamon, has played an essential role in creating a vibrant and supportive environment where young members can grow in faith and contribute meaningfully to their community.

Bishop Milton Glass, pastor of New Green Grove for 30 years, affirms that the youth ministry's success has been vital to the church's growth and vitality. Thanks to Ms. Glover's tireless efforts, the ministry has grown to welcome new young members every month, many of whom have been baptized and actively participate in church life.

The young people under Ms. Glover's guidance have dedicated themselves to serving others. They have organized and delivered meals to seniors, collected and distributed socks and blankets to nursing home residents, gathered food for the Community Kitchen and disaster victims, and supplied hygiene products to the Delta Correctional Facility. Their outreach also includes toy drives supporting children during family visits to the prison, reflecting a deep commitment to compassion and community service.

Despite challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and concerns over gun violence, Ms. Glover and the youth ministry have persevered, fostering a spirit of resilience and faith. Her leadership ensures that the church continues to be a beacon of hope and growth, especially for the young people who represent its future.

Today, I commend Gloria Glover for her outstanding commitment to empowering youth, strengthening her church, and serving her community. Her work exemplifies the profound impact that dedicated individuals can have on shaping lives and nurturing the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Ms. Gloria Glover's exceptional service and lasting legacy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE, THE WORLD'S GREATEST AMUSEMENT PARK

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Land of Make Believe in Hope Township, Warren County the "World's Greatest Amusement Park," the "Most Iconic Amusement Park in New Jersey" and the "Number One Amusement Park in New Jersey."

The Land of Make Believe has provided lasting entertainment and fun in the Northern New Jersey area for over seven decades. Since its founding in 1954 by Herman Maier, the park has remained family-owned and operated, with the Maier family upholding the same high standards of excellence and service that have defined it from the beginning. These high standards also earned the Land of Make Believe the award of "Best Theme Park in New Jersey" by MSN.com earlier this summer. Christopher Maier, Herman's son and the park's current owner, credited its most recent achievement to the park's enduring commitment to affordability, safety, and family-centered fun.

As we celebrate this accomplishment, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this beloved institution and its legacy. I look forward to seeing it continue to bring joy to generations of families for years to come in Warren County and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEAD JOHNSON NUTRITION

HON. MARK B. MESSMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mead Johnson, a global leader in science-backed pediatric nutrition, as they celebrate 120 years of leadership and innovation in the field. Mead Johnson's flagship manufacturing and R&D center was created in Evansville over 100 years ago and still stands as one of the largest manufacturing facilities for infant formulas.

The Mead Johnson story began with the founder, Edward Mead Johnson and his son, who was born with a condition that made it difficult for him to digest his feedings. He worked with Dr. Abraham Jacobi, known as the father of American pediatrics, to create the first scientifically-based infant formula that saved his son's life. Since then, Mead Johnson has become a world leader with a mission to nourish the world's children for the best start in life. Mead's dextro-maltose was the first clinically supported infant feed product in the U.S. Today, the Enfamil family of formulas developed in Evansville support infant nutrition across the globe, and Enfamil is the top infant formula brand recommended by pediatricians in the U.S.

Mead Johnson has hired thousands of people in and around Evansville throughout their history and currently employs nearly 800 em-

ployees working across 25 departments. Nearly 20 percent of their employees have been with the company for 15 or more years, showing how much people value being a part of the Mead Johnson mission. Mead's R&D strength comes from a deep bench of diverse experts working across disciplines to advance infant nutrition.

New scientific discoveries made in Evansville have allowed Mead Johnson to innovate and evolve their products. One of the heritage innovations is the addition of DHA, an omega-3 fatty acid that is critical for infant brain and eye development. Mead Johnson was the first in the U.S. to introduce DHA into infant formula in 2002 which is now widely recognized as a standard of care in infant nutrition. I commend Mead Johnson and the important work their team accomplishes in advancing pediatric nutrition and nourishing the world's children, starting in Southern Indiana.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM TORLAKSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Tom Torlakson, a dedicated public servant and steadfast advocate for California's students, families and educators.

Tom's career in service began in the classroom. As a high school science teacher and coach in the Mount Diablo Unified School District, he saw firsthand the transformative power of education. His early experience in education shaped a lifelong commitment to ensuring that every child could learn, grow, and succeed, regardless of their background or zip code.

Recognizing the broader systemic challenges facing education, Mr. Torlakson entered public office to expand his impact. He served on the Antioch City Council and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, where he advocated for stronger schools, safer communities, and greater opportunities for all residents. His leadership in local government paved the way for his election to the California State Assembly and later the California State Senate, where he continued to be a leading voice on education and public health policy.

During his tenure in the California Legislature, Mr. Torlakson authored significant legislation that fundamentally improved the lives of millions. Among his many accomplishments, he was instrumental in establishing California's system of after-school programs, the largest after-school program system in the nation, providing students with safe, enriching environments after school hours. He also spearheaded the Quality Education Investment Act (SB 1133), securing billions of dollars in critical funding to support the state's most challenged schools and reduce educational inequities.

In 2011, Tom was elected as California's 27th State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position he held with honor and distinction until 2019. As superintendent, he championed initiatives to close the digital divide, address achievements gaps, reduce dropout

rates, and promote innovative programs such as the State Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing students who achieved proficiency in multiple languages. His leadership was key in preserving vital resources for schools and safeguarding educational opportunities for California's six million students, despite the state's budget challenges.

Beyond policy achievements, Tom's tenure was marked by his compassionate nature, which underscored his belief that the future of our communities, our economy, and our democracy depends on how we nurture and educate our young people. He worked collaboratively with educators, parents, and policymakers to foster a culture of inclusion, innovation, and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we recognize Tom Torlakson today not only for his extraordinary record of public service but also for the profound and positive difference he has made in countless lives. His steadfast commitment to education and public welfare stands as an enduring example to us all. Please join me in honoring Tom Torlakson for his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the people of California.

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELL: THE NATURE OF TRUTH, ODESSA AMERICAN

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion column from the Odessa American titled "Campbell: The Nature of Truth," published May 1, 2025. In it, the author reflects on how society grapples with competing claims of truth and encourages readers to return to foundational and verifiable sources—a theme with deep implications for both our civic culture and the way we approach legislation.

I believe this thoughtful reflection is a meaningful reminder of the importance of clarity, honesty, and shared understanding in democratic discourse.

[From the Odessa American]

CAMPBELL: THE NATURE OF TRUTH

Truth is ephemeral in the temporal world. It seems that everyone has his or her own version and whether or not they actually know the truth is open to interpretation and subject to one's own preference or prejudice. It's a key concept in my business, journalism, where truth is the lynchpin. We are bound to be truthful to the best of our ability and we are prohibited from writing anything that we know to be false. We can be fired for doing it.

That's the difference between the Odessa American and publications like the National Enquirer, which publish nothing but stories that they know to be untrue. That's not to say we never publish falsehoods, but we don't do it deliberately. It's that we have good reasons like credible sources and reliable references to believe that what we write is true.

In the case of political candidates, if we had to believe everything they say we would never write anything about them. We're not saying that what they say is true. We're saying it's true that that is what they said. We attribute accurately and leave it to the readers to ascribe credibility or not.