

Representative Freedman's bill to eliminate the "pink tax" on diapers and menstrual products and other goods, which unfairly disadvantages women and children. This legislation was signed into law in 2021 and is an example of Alison's longstanding commitment to helping support women and families through policy.

After working as a policy analyst for the Louisiana Budget Project, Alison returned to the D.C. area and began working as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA). In 2023, I was lucky to have her join my Washington, D.C. Office as a Legislative Assistant.

Over her two and a half year career in my office, Alison covered many issues, including Healthcare, Reproductive Rights, Education, and Social Security. During her time in my office, Alison held hundreds of meetings with stakeholder groups from across the district, serving as a representative for my office in many photos with groups. She always brought her knowledge and compassion to these meetings and often showed her unique talent of being able to quickly learn the names of everyone in her meetings.

Supported by her afternoon Diet Cokes, Alison assisted with many of my key legislative priorities over the past few years. She worked diligently to support the implementation of my Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, working to ensure it was protected in the appropriations process, and helping to organize an amicus brief supporting the bill.

She has also been a champion of my bill, the Living Donor Protection Act, which received 225 cosponsors in the 118th Congress due to Alison's hard work. Her steadfast and compassionate work with members of the organ transplant community has been inspiring to see.

Alison has also worked on many other health issues, including supporting my longstanding work to secure funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). She has also worked closely with stakeholders in the district to support my longstanding work on the World Trade Center Health Program.

Alison serves as a key bridge between my office and the many hospitals, health centers, and stakeholders in our district.

While working in my office, Alison completed her master's in Health Law and Strategy from New York University, helping to expand her understanding of the healthcare system, especially in the legal context. Her ability to navigate both school and work demonstrates her flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges.

Alison has also been an active part of our office culture, helping to mentor many staff and interns; she was always available to offer support and feedback. I will miss her positive presence in the office, especially around birthdays and other celebrations.

As Alison moves to her new position in Federal Affairs at Callen-Lorde Health system in New York, I am glad to know she will continue to serve the people of the 12th District. I look forward to seeing where her career will take her and thank her for her excellent service.

## CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a vibrant and family-friendly event that has become one of our state's most treasured cultural traditions. This year's festival commemorated the Year of the Wood Snake, bringing together people of all backgrounds to highlight Colorado's rich Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival began in 2001 at Sloan's Lake Park in Denver, the dream of leaders in our AANHPI community who sought to create a space to showcase the culture, diversity, and contributions of Asian American communities. That vision has grown into something extraordinary. From 16 teams and 16,000 attendees in its first year, the festival now welcomes nearly 200,000 visitors annually and has become the largest dragon boat festival in the United States.

The event embodies its mission of building bridges of awareness, knowledge, and understanding between diverse AANHPI communities and the broader public. With nearly 50 racing teams, over 30 food vendors, a bustling Asian Marketplace, Dragonland for children, and more than 60 performances ranging from traditional dances and martial arts to contemporary Asian American music, the festival reflects both the depth and vitality of Colorado's cultural landscape.

Dragon boat racing itself is a tradition rooted in over 2,000 years of history, commemorating the poet and warrior Chu Yuan, whose followers honored his legacy with paddles, drums, and unity on the water. Today, that same spirit of remembrance, resilience, and cultural pride lives on in Sloan's Lake every summer.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is a testament to the lasting power of cultural celebration and community building. For 25 years, it has been a place where families gather, traditions are shared, and the stories of AANHPI communities are uplifted for all to see. I commend the organizers, volunteers, and community members who have made this milestone possible, and I look forward to many more years of dragon boat racing, cultural exchange, and unity in Colorado.

## RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISPANIC AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

### HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month and to commend the extraordinary work of the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board.

Each year, our Nation honors the history, culture, and countless contributions of His-

panic Americans. Today, Hispanics and Latinos represent the largest minority in the United States, accounting for more than 19 percent of our population and nearly 70 percent of the residents of Miami-Dade County.

The Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board has long served as a strong advocate for our Hispanic community. It leads countywide efforts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to promote cultural unity across our diverse community.

This year, Miami-Dade County's 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Celebration will bring together elected officials, more than 30 Consuls General and international diplomats, as well as community leaders from across South Florida. This celebration reflects the multicultural richness that defines both our county and Nation.

I am proud to recognize the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board for its leadership, dedication, and tireless service. Their work not only highlights the invaluable contributions of Hispanic Americans but also reminds us that cultural unity strengthens the very fabric of our communities.

## HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of New Haven, on the corner of Chapel and College Streets, there is an eclectic, gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among the most popular and beloved in the city. Today, Claire's Corner Copia marks its 50th Anniversary—an outstanding milestone for this one-of-a-kind culinary treasure. I am proud to rise today to join the many family, friends, patrons, and community leaders who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to its owner, Claire Criscuolo, and her exceptional team on this very special occasion.

Love and family have always been at the heart of Claire's Corner Copia. Claire and her late husband, Frank, opened the restaurant as a way to spend more time together and focused on bringing the essence of the recipes Claire used for her home-cooked meals to their customers. That sense of family extended not only to those who came to eat but, most importantly, to those who worked for them. Unlike most in the industry, instead of making her employees rely on tips, Claire pays her staff a fair wage, provides health benefits, and paid time off. By investing in her employees, Claire has created a unique work environment, built on mutual respect and trust. It is why so many have stayed with her for more than a decade, weathering even the worst of economic trials with her. They are not just people who work for her, they are family. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

What is it, you may ask, that makes Claire's Corner Copia so popular? Perhaps it is the mismatched furniture placed throughout the dining area. Maybe it is the menu artfully scrawled in multicolored chalk across a series of blackboards. It could be the charm of the immersive dining experience—waiting in line

to place your order, picking up your cutlery and bussing your own table. Personally, I believe it is the quality and care that is put into everything that is served. Claire is meticulous in designing her all-vegetarian menu, always ensuring the freshest of ingredients are used and taking great pride in how it is prepared. While Claire's Corner Copia is known for its incredible selections, its most popular items are the delicious baked goods that are made in-house every day. If you find yourself in downtown New Haven, I highly recommend stopping into Claire's and trying their signature Lithuanian Coffee Cake—it is not to be missed.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy, and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her, and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 50th Anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FORMER ILLINOIS GOVERNOR  
JIM EDGAR

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Born in Oklahoma but raised in Charleston, Illinois, Governor Edgar was shaped by the values of family, hard work, and service. The youngest of three boys, raised by his mother Betty, he found his calling early. Elected to class office in the second grade, he never let go of his passion for public service.

From those humble beginnings, he went on to a career that changed Illinois for the better. He first entered public service in 1968 as a top aide to leaders in the Illinois House and Senate, then was elected to the Illinois House, later becoming Secretary of State, and eventually the 38th Governor of Illinois. In every role, he worked not for headlines but for results. He strengthened DUI laws, required mandatory auto insurance, reformed child-care standards, improved Chicago's schools, and restored Illinois's fiscal health—leaving office with a balanced budget and a surplus.

But what stood out most about Governor Edgar was not only the policies he championed, but the way he led. He always put people before politics. He earned trust across party lines and across the state, carrying 101 of 102 counties in his reelection, including Cook County. That trust came not from partisanship, but from his integrity, humility, and a level head in moments of challenge. Even after leaving office, Governor Edgar continued to give back. He devoted himself to mentoring young leaders from both parties, believing that democracy is strongest when we work together with respect and compassion. He lived

by those values every day, and in doing so, set an example for all of us.

Governor Edgar is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda, who was his full partner in public and political life. As First Lady, she championed issues to improve the lives of women and children across Illinois. Together they raised two children, Elizabeth and Brad, and delighted in their grandchildren. His family, like his public service, is a testament to his devotion and love.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has lost one of its finest statesmen. But his legacy endures, reminding us that honesty, decency, and good government are not old-fashioned ideals; they are timeless ones. I am honored to celebrate his life today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Governor Jim Edgar's remarkable service and the lasting example he leaves behind.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APP  
CHALLENGE DAY

**HON. KIM SCHRIER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate September 17, 2025, as the second annual National App Challenge Day. This day honors the ingenuity, creativity, and technical skill of middle and high school students nationwide who are building tools that improve their communities and strengthen our country's future.

National App Challenge Day highlights the Congressional App Challenge, a bipartisan, House-sponsored initiative that invites students from every congressional district to learn to code, apply their skills to real-world problems, and share their solutions with their Representatives. What began as a simple invitation to experiment with computer science has grown into a movement that now spans all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. Since the first App Challenge was held in 2015, more than 70,000 students have coded over 12,000 unique apps, supported by tens of thousands of educators, mentors, and volunteer judges each year.

The Congressional App Challenge also enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support. In the 118th Congress, 412 Members, representing 95 percent of the House of Representatives, hosted at least one Challenge in their districts. This remarkable level of participation underscores a shared commitment across party lines to empowering America's youth and strengthening the Nation's leadership in STEM education.

Through this Challenge, students gain far more than programming experience. They learn to work in teams, think critically, communicate clearly, and iterate on their ideas. They identify local needs and build apps that address them, from expanding access to educational resources and civic information to supporting public health, safety, and environmental resilience. In classrooms, after-school programs, libraries, youth centers, and homes, the Congressional App Challenge opens doors to opportunity and helps develop the next generation of American innovators.

Today's observance also honors the teachers, mentors, parents, community partners,

and industry volunteers who devote their time and expertise to guiding student creators. Their encouragement ensures that a student's curiosity can become a prototype, that a prototype can become a working product, and that each working product can inspire peers to imagine what is possible with technology.

As we mark National App Challenge Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to hands-on STEM education and to equitable pathways into the innovation economy. Investing in our students' potential strengthens the workforce, supports American competitiveness, and sustains the spirit of problem solving that has long defined our Nation.

I encourage all Members of the House and their constituents to join me in celebrating National App Challenge Day. Let us recognize the remarkable achievements of these young coders and continue supporting initiatives that cultivate creativity, expand opportunity, and empower students to build solutions that serve their neighbors and their Nation.

CONGRATULATING MS. YURI KIM  
ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and deep admiration that I congratulate Ms. Yuri Kim on her retirement, after 29 incredible years of service as a U.S. diplomat.

Today is a day of celebration, but also one of reflection. As we look back, we honor not just the impressive milestones in her career, but the impact she has made on the lives of so many through her leadership and guidance in the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Ms. Kim is a proud daughter of Guam. She began her journey at the Academy of Our Lady, then went on to earn her degree at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a master's from Cambridge University. Her roots in Guam remained a strong part of her identity throughout a career that took her around the world.

Over nearly three decades, she wore many hats that shaped her vision of the future of our country. She was a champion for energy, defense, technology, and infrastructure. Early on, she showed herself to be a force of nature, leading critical work in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, heading the DPRK Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, and serving in key roles across the U.S. embassies in Turkey, Iraq, Japan, and China.

She served as Special Assistant to Secretary Colin Powell and played a central role in the Six-Party Talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Her work continued at the highest levels, becoming Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State and later Director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, where she helped shape U.S. policy toward NATO and the OSCE.

In 2019, she was nominated under President Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Albania, where she continued her service under President Biden. During this time, she deepened our existing partnership by advancing shared interests and encouraging economic growth.