

Activity, cementing its role as a driver of discovery, talent and economic mobility. As the first American research university founding in the 21st century, UC Merced continues to be a top-100 research university and the fastest-growing public university in the Nation, supporting high achieving and dedicated students from the underserved Central Valley and throughout California.

Please join me in honoring UC Merced as it continues its journey toward many more firsts.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF DAVID RAMOS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fire Chief David Ramos of Broomfield, Colorado, on his retirement after 41 years of service with the North Metro Fire Rescue District.

Chief Ramos joined the North Metro Fire Rescue District in 1984, and his many years of exemplary service earned him the position of Fire Chief. While in this position of leadership, he did a commendable job modernizing and expanding North Metro Fire, and he improved collaboration for emergency services in surrounding communities.

Chief Ramos honorably served this community for decades through numerous challenges, and he has been widely regarded as a mentor and a friend to many. Throughout his career, he was a visionary leader who always put people first, and his lifesaving leadership across Colorado will not be forgotten.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Fire Chief David Ramos for his more than four decades of service with the North Metro Fire Rescue District and sincerely thank him for his contributions to the Colorado community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LUIS EDUARDO RUMBAUT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Luis Eduardo Rumbaut. Luis was a longtime resident of the District of Columbia and a pillar of D.C.'s Latino community. He died on June 28, 2025.

Born in Cuba, Luis moved to D.C. in 1972 to study at Antioch Law School. As a law student, Luis was a founding member of Ayuda, where he provided legal assistance to low-income immigrants. After leaving Ayuda, Luis began a career in the D.C. government, working for the Office of Corporation Counsel. After two decades of service in the D.C. government, Luis worked as the Director of the Latin American Folk Institute and published a bilingual online newsletter, "La Alborada," five times a week.

Luis was very active in the D.C. music scene. A talented musician who played the tres and the cuatro, Luis and his bands regu-

larly performed in the Adams Morgan and Columbia Heights neighborhoods, as well as in regional events.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Luis Eduardo Rumbaut.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to Washington, D.C. A true beacon of peace, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew leads 250 million Orthodox Christians.

Elected in October 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has continuously shown his desire for peace, even in the face of attacks and persecution. He has championed international peace conferences, bringing together Christians, Muslims, and Jews for the purpose of alliance and understanding.

His efforts across multiple realms have been recognized by the United States Congress, the United Nations, and the European Union. His influence extends beyond the Orthodox Christian community and has been instrumental in promoting global unity and harmony.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew continues to stand as a symbol of hope. I am very pleased to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington, D.C. as he meets with President Trump.

Invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in welcoming Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING ORLANDO ORTIZ

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic American Heritage Month to recognize an outstanding business and community leader from Rochester, New York, Orlando Ortiz.

Serving as President, Orlando Ortiz has played a pivotal role in shaping and leading the Puerto Rican Festival for over 15 years. He has worked tirelessly to honor Puerto Rican heritage and create a welcoming space where thousands of residents and visitors gather each year. Under his leadership, the festival has become more than an event, it is a unifying force that strengthens community bonds and promotes cultural pride.

A native of Cayey, Puerto Rico, Orlando moved to Rochester in 1991 and has carried his heritage with him throughout his life and work. Alongside his leadership of the festival, he has built a distinguished career as Real Estate Investor and Property Manager for RocOn Property Management. In 2019, his impact was recognized when the Rochester His-

panic Business Association named him Hispanic Business Person of the Year.

Orlando's commitment to service extends well beyond his professional accomplishments. In 2020, he was honored with the Minett Professorship at the Rochester Institute of Technology, recognizing his leadership and dedication to education and community engagement. The year before, he and his wife, Denishea, were named the NextGen Rochester Young Philanthropists of the Year, a testament to their shared commitment to giving back. Across these roles and recognitions, Orlando has exemplified a steadfast devotion to advancing our community and preserving cultural heritage.

It is with great pride and admiration that I recognize Orlando Ortiz during Hispanic American Heritage Month. His professional achievements and civic service have left a lasting mark on both the Hispanic community and the Greater Rochester region.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. NELLIE POU

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States. On behalf of the many Eastern Orthodox Christians who call New Jersey home, including my constituents at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and express deep admiration to His All-Holiness for his ongoing efforts to foster peace, understanding, and stewardship of our shared planet.

Leading the church since 1991, His All-Holiness serves as a spiritual guide for more than 300 million faithful Orthodox Christians around the world. His commitment to engaging with communities and governments around the globe, regardless of faith, has made him one of the most recognizable and respected religious figures of our time.

While in the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of science and spirituality. He will join the company of other spiritual leaders like Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama. I am honored to add my voice to the chorus of others who welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to the United States and honor him for his lifetime of incredible service and work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable, and I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 272; YEA on Roll Call No. 273; YEA on Roll Call No. 274; YEA on Roll Call No. 275; and NO on Roll Call No. 276.

RECOGNIZING CAÑON CITY HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cañon City High School in Cañon City, Colorado, for their well-deserved recognition by the Carnegie Foundation as an innovative school and member of the Future of High School Network.

Cañon City High School has established a model of education that prioritizes meaningful learning over seat time in the classroom. During the 2024–2025 school year, 698 students participated in concurrent enrollment, earning over 10,218 college credit hours, and 243 students earned industry-recognized credentials in construction management, welding, engineering, automotive technology, healthcare, food service, and business software. As an additional requirement of the graduation process, students must complete an internship with local community partners to gain practical experience in a career pathway of their choice. It is these types of programs that set the school apart and help prepare students to thrive, no matter what they choose to do after graduation.

As one of only twenty-four schools across the Nation to receive this recognition, Cañon City High School has become a national model of public education through its commitment to offer concurrent enrollment, industry-recognized credentials, and work-based learning.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate this school, staff, administration, and board members for this accomplishment and thank them for their commitment to our kids and our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, upon casting my vote, I departed the House floor without realizing the voting system did not register my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 282.

HONORING THE VISIT OF THE ECU-
MENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINO-
POLE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Eastern Orthodox Church to Washington, D.C.

Since 1991, Patriarch Bartholomew has served as the spiritual leader for the approximately 300 million Orthodox Christians world-

wide. In the face of tremendous obstacles, Patriarch Bartholomew has remained a steadfast leader, promoting religious freedom and tolerance in Constantinople and around the world.

Dedicated to the pursuit of interreligious understanding and cooperation, His All-Holiness is often referred to as the "Patriarch of Peace." Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to the United States coincides with his reception of the Templeton Prize, the foremost award in religion and science, in honor of his curiosity and lifelong commitment to exploration.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, including the congregants of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Manchester and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Portsmouth, I warmly welcome Patriarch Bartholomew and congratulate him on his award. We wish him all the best and look forward to his next visit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
SCOTT SCHUERLEIN

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Scott Schuerlein, who passed away on June 12, 2025, at the age of 81.

Michael was born in Berea, Ohio, and was the only child of Frederick and Adah Schuerlein. He graduated from Baldwin Wallace College, where he was a proud member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. After moving west in 1967, Michael and his first wife built a home on Lake Sammamish and raised their children in Washington state.

Over the course of more than 50 years as a homebuilder, Michael's creativity and commitment to craftsmanship shaped communities across the region. His work was showcased in the "Street of Dreams" homes of the 1990's, and his passion was evident in his Whidbey Island home, which he filled with antiques and personal treasures.

Michael's life was also defined by service to others. He relentlessly dedicated his time and talents to advancing affordable housing on Whidbey Island, including his work with the Tiny Houses in the Name of Christ (THINC) project and as a member of the Island Roots Housing board. His belief that affordable housing is critical to the well-being of the Langley community continues to guide local efforts today.

Beyond his professional work, Michael was an avid sailor and a generous friend. He was known for his weekly reflections and encouragement to those around him, often sharing the motto he lived by: "Thoughts become things . . . Choose the good ones."

Michael is survived by his daughters, step-daughters, granddaughter, companion and a wide circle of friends and colleagues. He will be deeply missed by his family, his fraternity brothers, his sailing community, his fellow Langley Coffee Curmudgeons and all who benefited from his generosity and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Michael Scott Schuerlein, whose creativity, generosity and service strengthened communities across Northwest Washington and beyond.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY CAPTAIN MIKE RETZLAFF

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Captain Mike Retzlaff, a proud veteran of the United States Army whose dedication, leadership, and commitment to duty reflect the highest traditions of military service.

Born and raised in Holly, Michigan, Captain Retzlaff pursued higher education at Cedarville University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and completed the Army ROTC program. In 2017, he was commissioned as an Armor Officer in the United States Army, marking the beginning of a career of honorable service to our Nation.

Captain Retzlaff's first assignment was as a Tank Platoon Leader with 3rd Platoon, Battle Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 2019, he deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where his leadership made a significant contribution to the mission's success. Upon returning, he served as the Headquarters Company Executive Officer, managing company operations, resources, and readiness. His performance and dedication during this period earned him induction into the prestigious Order of St. George.

Following his time at Fort Carson, Captain Retzlaff attended the Maneuver Captain's Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, graduating in 2022. He was then assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment, where he served as an Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC) Tactics Instructor, training the next generation of Army leaders.

In August 2022, Captain Retzlaff assumed command of Lightning Troop, 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment. As Troop Commander, he led more than 100 soldiers and was responsible for executing live-fire gunnery training for all new Armor Officers in the United States Army—an essential mission he carried out with distinction.

Upon completion of command, Captain Retzlaff returned home to Michigan, where he served at the Detroit Military Entrance Processing Station. During his tenure, he enlisted more than 1,000 applicants into their respective branches of service, shaping the future of America's Armed Forces.

Over the course of his military career, Captain Retzlaff completed numerous schools, including the Armor Basic Officer Leader Course, the Army Reconnaissance Course, Air Assault School, the Advanced Situational Awareness Course, the Maneuver Leaders Maintenance Course, and the Maneuver Captain's Career Course. His service has been recognized with the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and several other awards and decorations. He is also a proud Silver Spur holder and recipient of the Order of St. George.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Retzlaff's career reflects a legacy of leadership, professionalism, and patriotism. His service to our Nation has strengthened our armed forces and inspired those who served alongside him. It is my