

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LYMARÍ D.
MALDONADO AS A DISTIN-
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERIT-
AGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lymari D. Maldonado holds a bachelor of business administration in management information systems from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus, graduating with honors. With over 25 years of experience in software development, she currently serves as the director of enterprise applications at Valencia College. In this leadership role, she oversees major enterprise-wide technology initiatives, mentors both junior and senior developers, and ensures the reliability and performance of critical systems that support the college's mission.

Since joining Valencia College, Lymari has made significant contributions to institutional advancement through her technical expertise and collaborative leadership. She is an active member of the Florida Department of Education's Management Information Systems Advisory Task Force (MISATFOR), where she helps shape statewide data reporting standards. Beyond her technical work, she plays a vital role in fostering campus community. By hosting international students at Valencia, Lymari supports global education initiatives and promotes cross-cultural understanding and inclusion.

Prior to her tenure at Valencia, Lymari served as the lead applications systems analyst at the Orange County Supervisor of Elections, where she designed, developed, and maintained key election systems to ensure secure and accurate electoral processes. As a core member of the Elections Management Team, she reviewed and approved election materials in both English and Spanish and served as a bilingual ballot reader for voters requiring assistance.

Often the only Hispanic woman in her field, Lymari has broken barriers while leading with integrity and professionalism. Her work has even taken her as far as Australia through international project contributions. Despite her many career accomplishments, she considers her most important role to be that of a mother to three wonderful children and a wife to a husband who shares her deep passion for community service. Her story is a vivid testament to the invaluable contributions Hispanic women bring to Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILMA J.
HUGHEY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Wilma J. Hughey, a woman whose spiritual influence can be seen throughout Western New York through children of all ages and parishioners beyond the walls of church on Sunday.

Dr. Hughey studied at Elmira College, obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees in Education. She later obtained a second master's degree in Educational Leadership from SUNY Cortland, as well as earning her Ph.D in Biblical Studies from Newburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Hughey has been selected as Supervisor of Women for the New York Western Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church in God in Christ, Administrative Facilitator for Licensing and Credentials for the International Department of Women, and appointed as the First Assistant General Supervisor by Presiding Bishop John Drew Sheard.

For nearly three decades, Dr. Hughey served as Principal, completing her distinguished tenure in education and administration. While working with educators and families to ensure students' success, Dr. Hughey held numerous positions in New York State and positions on numerous community boards and committees, providing leadership and guidance, and fostering connections between community members and city officials.

In partnership for more than half a century, Dr. Hughey, alongside her husband, the late Mr. Leo Hughey, faithfully shared her ministry. Bound by love and strengthened by prayer, they organized and established Faith Temple Community Church of God in Christ in Elmira, New York. Dr. and Mr. Hughey's unwavering commitment to "build and expand the Lord's kingdom" is centered on promoting social, cultural, and educational programming for community members throughout Upstate New York.

Today, as we recognize the incredible service of Dr. Wilma J. Hughey, let us not only acknowledge her dedicated career as an educational leader and her steadfast commitment to children in need, but also her dedication to ministry at Faith Temple Community Church of God in Christ, providing a safe space for all to be heard. Dr. Hughey's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of her inspired leadership.

RECOGNIZING IHEARTRADIO
ASHEVILLE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the extraordinary

service of the iHeartRadio Asheville team to the people of Western North Carolina during and after Hurricane Helene.

Under the steady leadership of Brian Hall, and through the tireless efforts of broadcasters such as Mark Starling, Tank Spencer, Eddie and Amanda Foxx, and many others, iHeartRadio Asheville became a lifeline for our mountain communities. Their around-the-clock coverage reunited families, connected neighbors with life-saving resources, and delivered accurate, timely updates when our region faced one of its darkest hours.

Western North Carolina is stronger today because of the courage and dedication of these broadcasters. Their work is a powerful reminder of the vital role that local journalism and community-centered broadcasting play in times of crisis.

On behalf of the people of North Carolina's 11th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to iHeartRadio Asheville for being a steady voice of truth, comfort, and resilience when our communities needed it most.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
OSCAR MARTINEZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Judge Oscar O. Martinez, Sr., a distinguished public servant, businessman, and lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas.

Born in 1941 to Arnulfo and Adela Martinez, Judge Martinez graduated from Martin High School, attended Laredo Junior College and Texas A&I University in Kingsville, and proudly served his country in the United States Air Force.

After his honorable discharge in 1969, he returned home, working first in radio sales before venturing into business with Martinez Brothers' Gulf Service Station. He later founded Border Realty, building a career in real estate that reflected his entrepreneurial spirit.

In 1991, Judge Martinez was appointed Justice of the Peace for Webb County Precinct Four, and the voters returned him to office six more times. Over 24 years on the bench, he was a tireless advocate for the youth of our community.

He co-founded the Texas Court Judges Association, directed the South Texas Justice of the Peace and Constable Association, and launched truancy prevention and disciplinary programs such as Parents' Against Crime, graffiti clean-up initiatives, and youth groups with city and county partners.

His partnership with Border Patrol and IBC created the R.E.A.L. Mission Program, which served at-risk students in Laredo and was later expanded across the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Martinez lived a life of faith and service. An active parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church, he was a

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

longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Patrick's Men's Club.

He devoted over four decades to LULAC serving as District 14 director and president of Council No. 12, co-founding the Señor Internacional program, and creating the "Lo Mejor de lo Nuestro" award.

His dedication to youth and education earned him recognition from schools, civic organizations, and his peers, including honors such as "Tejano Achiever," Rotary's "Service Above Self," the Laredo Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, and the title of "Tiger Legend."

He also gave 44 years of service to the Laredo International Fair and Exposition, where he was named "Rancher of the Year," and was appointed by Governors Dolph Briscoe, Ann Richards, and George W. Bush to the South Texas Workforce Commission.

He loved ranching at the family's Santa Teresa Ranch in Ramireño, where he spent his spare time.

Judge Martinez retired in 2014, and in recognition of his lifetime of service, Webb County named the Precinct Four Justice Center in his honor.

His legacy will be remembered in the youth programs he created, the civic institutions he strengthened, and the countless lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Judge Oscar O. Martinez, Sr.—a devoted husband, father, veteran, public servant, and proud Laredoan who leaves behind a legacy of service above self.

HONORING RAFAEL MONTEIRO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Rafael Monteiro is a C-level executive and entrepreneur with extensive experience in business development and management in the media and entertainment industry.

Monteiro also served as an executive at Discovery Networks in Miami and as the general manager of a full-service advertising agency, which serviced the multicultural market. He is also one of the pioneers of pan-regional media advertising and sales consolidation in the U.S.

In 2000, Monteiro joined Terra Networks USA (NASDAQ: TRRA) and helped evangelize digital media and advertising automation in the U.S. Hispanic market. In 2007, Rafael ventured into entrepreneurship and founded Hola Networks and HOD, successfully introducing an automated digital ad network model that enabled Fortune 500 companies to efficiently enhance targeting and diversity in their marketing strategies and streaming content distribution.

Rafael Monteiro also served as the president of the Digital Media Committee at the Advertising Agency Association (AHAA) and as a board member/CDO of Amcor Media.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO (NY) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Buffalo, New York Chapter of The Links, Inc., which is proudly celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. Established in 1945 by Ms. Margaret Russell Hawkins and Ms. Sarah Strickland Scott, The Links, Inc. is a national, not-for-profit civic sorority organization dedicated to serving communities both locally and globally. With nearly 300 chapters across the United States and internationally, The Links, Inc. proudly includes 17,000 members who continuously work together to create a lasting impact on our society.

Organized in Buffalo, New York, on May 26, 1950, as the fourteenth chapter of The Links, Inc., the Buffalo Chapter members have been dedicated to improving the community throughout Western New York. For seven and a half decades, Buffalo Chapter members have focused their support on addressing the critical needs of underserved communities and serving a pivotal role in the fight for racial and social justice.

As they celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary, providing a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and further their mission—"Built on Purpose, Bonded by Friendship, Driven by Service"—they honor the legacies of those who came before them, cultivate long-lasting friendships, and inspire future generations to lead with unwavering dedication to their community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the members of the Buffalo, New York Chapter of The Links, Inc. for their outstanding commitment to friendship, service, legacy, and community enrichment. Their work has touched countless lives, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING MRS. AROOSTINE SHESTON AND MR. NAM NGUYEN

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Aroostine Sheston and her student, Nam Nguyen, of Brooke Point High School in Stafford County, Virginia, for their outstanding participation in the 2025 Young People's Continental Congress.

Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen were among only 56 distinguished teachers and students from across the nation who were selected to participate in this extraordinary program. In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, the Carpenters' Company, which preserves and stewards historic Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, launched this initiative to engage young people and educators around our country to understand the history and meaning of our nation's founding.

In July 2025, delegates from 28 states gathered at Carpenters' Hall, just as the Founders

did to deliberate, debate, and reflect on the ideals of our democracy. Over the course of six days, Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen immersed themselves in historic sites, participated in rigorous discussions, and joined their peers in drafting their own "Declaration of Aspirations." This declaration, written in the spirit of the Continental Congress, speaks powerfully to the hopes and commitments of a new generation of leaders.

The Young People's Continental Congress is a National Partner Program of America250, developed in partnership with National History Day. Delegates, such as Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen, were chosen through a highly competitive process, beginning their work months in advance with virtual seminars and assignments before convening in person. Their dedication to this process reflects the vitality of civic learning and the enduring importance of the democratic experiment they studied.

I am especially proud of Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen for representing Virginia with skill, passion, and integrity. They embody the best of Brooke Point High School, the Stafford County community, and the Commonwealth. With their commitment to scholarship and civic engagement, they remind us that the legacy of 1776 continues to inspire and guide future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Aroostine Sheston and Mr. Nam Nguyen for their remarkable achievement and in celebrating the Young People's Continental Congress, which so fittingly carries forward the spirit of America's founding into our nation's 250th anniversary commemoration.

RECOGNIZING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew, who was recently selected for the revered Templeton Prize by the John Templeton Foundation. The Foundation recognizes pioneers of scientific and spiritual insight for their contributions to human well-being and spiritual prosperity. Previous award recipients include Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela. On behalf of New York's 20th Congressional District, I congratulate His All Holiness Bartholomew on receiving this great honor.

He is the spiritual leader, and the Primus inter Pares—First among Equals—of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people. Named as one of the world's most influential people by Time Magazine, His All Holiness is an exemplary leader who seeks to build bridges across different religions. He works tirelessly to bring together Christians, Jews, and Muslims for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. An advocate for peace, His All Holiness has called for an end to the hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.

He is known worldwide as the "Green Patriarch" as he makes conscious efforts to support clean air legislation. I feel grateful that His