

CONGRATULATING THE MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moreno Valley Unified School District for the opening of its new Health and Wellness Center, and to commend the district's leadership for their unwavering commitment to supporting students and families in need.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for this Center, which will serve as a vital resource for students and their families who are experiencing homelessness, financial hardship, or foster care. Through the Department of Wellness, Mental Health, and Community Outreach, the Health and Wellness Center provides wraparound support to ensure that students can succeed both in and out of the classroom.

The Center offers a wide range of services, including washer and dryer access, showers, preventive dental care, eyeglasses, a food pantry, a clothing closet, tutoring, and more. It also provides emergency short-term housing and works with partners to connect students with youth specialists. These resources restore dignity and stability, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I want to especially recognize Superintendent Dr. Alejandro Ruvalcaba for his outstanding leadership in overseeing this project. His dedication, and the dedication of the entire district, has made this Center a reality and reflects Moreno Valley Unified's belief that education is not just about academics—it is about providing students with the foundation they need to build a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the Health and Wellness Center is a potent example of how schools can serve as hubs of hope and opportunity. I commend Moreno Valley Unified School District for their vision and commitment, and I am confident that this Center will have a lasting impact on the lives of many students and families in our community.

CELEBRATING EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S CENTENNIAL

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the El Dorado Irrigation District's Centennial.

The El Dorado Irrigation District ("EID") was formed by a vote of El Dorado County residents on October 5, 1925 to secure and protect local water supplies, keep water rates reasonable, and increase the prosperity of El Dorado County; and from its nascent days of local governance and public service, EID has grown into a multi-service utility providing treated water delivery, wastewater treatment, recycled water services, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation to over 130,000 customers across 220 square miles.

Visionary leadership and several pivotal moments marked EID's evolution as the primary water supplier for El Dorado County residents:

In 1927, EID purchased the El Dorado Water Corporation's storage and distribution system, including key facilities and infrastructure dating back to the 1850s, such as Weber Reservoir and 70 miles of canals and laterals enabling EID to stabilize water deliveries; and In 1955, the first water deliveries from the newly completed Sly Park Reservoir (owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and operated through agreement by EID) reflected a significant achievement in augmenting water supply for EID customers; and

From 1960 through the 1970s, EID acquired wastewater systems throughout Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills, establishing its wastewater and recycled water services;

In 1999, EID purchased Project 184 from Pacific Gas & Electric, adding to its portfolio and four water supply reservoirs, 21 megawatts of clean hydroelectric power generation, and associated water rights originally developed by pioneer John Kirk in 1856; and

In 2001, EID obtained Water Right Permit 21112, securing significant storage rights in Caples, Silver, and Aloha lakes as direct diversion rights from the Upper South Fork American River, which provide additional water supplies exercised at Folsom Reservoir; and

In 2003, through an act of the United States Congress, EID acquired ownership of Sly Park Reservoir, its associated water rights, Sly Park Water Treatment Plant, and all Reclamation-owned water delivery infrastructure, thereby conveying local control to EID of its largest supply reservoir, expanding recreational opportunities that drive economic growth for the region, and strengthening local water supply security.

Throughout its history, EID has navigated the challenges of severe winter storms, drought, wildfire, aging infrastructure, and changing laws and regulations with resilience and a deep sense of responsibility to the land and people it serves.

Over the past 100 years, EID has continuously modernized its infrastructure demonstrating a continual pursuit of innovation, reliability, and environmental stewardship; and the success of the El Dorado Irrigation District for a century is a testament to the vision of its founders, the leadership of its locally-elected Board of Directors, the dedication of its employees, and the enduring tenacity and trust of its customers.

We do hereby commemorate the centennial anniversary of the El Dorado Irrigation District and honor the legacy, achievements, and future promise of this extraordinary public agency, and recognize not only 100 years of infrastructure and service, but 100 years of partnership, stewardship, and unwavering commitment to the health and prosperity of El Dorado County and surrounding Sierra Nevada communities.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER RICHARD "RJ" HUDSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable career

and life of Officer Richard "RJ" Hudson, who devoted thirty years to serving and protecting his community through his work in law enforcement.

Officer Hudson began his law enforcement career with the Bedford Police Department in March of 1995. On January 4, 2005, he joined the Grapevine Police Department, where he served with distinction for two decades. In 2007, he became a member of the Grapevine Motor Unit, where his skill and passion quickly made him a beloved figure within the Police Motor Officer Community. As a skilled accident reconstructionist, Officer Hudson led the multi-agency C.R.A.S.H. team, dedicating himself to ensuring the safety and well-being of his community. His leadership, knowledge, and mentorship were deeply valued by colleagues, and his reputation for excellence extended throughout the state of Texas.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Officer Hudson achieved the rank of Master Peace Officer, accumulating nearly 1,500 training hours and earning numerous certifications, awards, and commendations. Among his many recognitions was the prestigious Governor Abbott's Star of Texas Award in 2021 after a serious on-duty crash in 2017.

While we are deeply saddened by his passing, we celebrate the extraordinary service and unwavering commitment of Officer RJ Hudson. His legacy will live on through his family, the countless lives he touched, and the example he set as a public servant.

HONORING DR. C. FREDERICK WILSON

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C. Frederick Wilson, who is a U.S. Navy veteran and former police officer in Dayton, Ohio. In 1960, during his time in law enforcement, he committed his life to Christ. Sensing a call to ministry, he exchanged his badge for a Bible and entered full-time ministry in 1965.

Over the years, Dr. Wilson has served as an evangelist, area director for the Christian Broadcasting Network's 700 Club, and pastor of two churches. In 1977, he and his wife, Katrina, founded Christ Life Ministries in Kettering, Ohio, where he served as senior pastor for over 30 years. Today, he continues to serve as Bishop of the ministry, while Katrina, his longtime copastor, remains an integral part of their shared mission. Together, they have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. from Lee University and a Doctor of Ministry from Oral Roberts University. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology by Christ for India Seminary in recognition of his mission work in India and other nations.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Wilson has ministered across the U.S. and internationally at churches, conferences, and seminars. He has also served as an instructor for Christian Life School of Theology, teaching the course Living by Faith, and is the author of *The Ultimate Money Plan for Followers of Christ*.

Dr. Wilson's deepest desire is to encourage and strengthen others to live a victorious

Christian life in today's world by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

RECOGNIZING FATHER CHARLES TRULLOLS

HON. WARREN DAVIDSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, Father Charles Trullols led our opening prayer. I have known Father Charles since 2020. He is an Opus Dei priest and leads the Catholic Information Center here in our Nation's capital. Originally from Barcelona, Spain he became a priest in 2006 and served in Grenada, Spain before coming to the United States where he ministered to others in Pittsburgh, South Bend, and Chicago before taking on his current role.

In 2020, when it seemed the world had lost its collective mind, Opus Dei was, and remains a source of hope for me. The camaraderie and fellowship of seeking to follow Jesus together with colleagues kept me grounded. There, I met Father Charles whose love for Jesus and people come together in his own ministry.

Father Charles provided patient counsel, consistent prayer, and ongoing friendship—things he does naturally and always for God's glory. I'm thankful for his ministry to me and others.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD MERCED COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Old Merced County Courthouse, the city's premier landmark.

In 1855, the first Merced County "courtroom" was under overhanging oak trees on the banks of Mariposa Creek. Two years later, Merced County's first official courthouse was built in Snelling, which had become the locus of county activity due to its proximity to the Merced River.

In 1872, a special election made Merced the official county seat because the Central Pacific Railroad had laid tracks through Merced. The railroad donated the parcel of land where the Old Courthouse now stands which also made Merced the more desirable choice as a political center. The beautiful park surrounding the courthouse was sold to Merced County for merely a dollar with the provision that the land should be used for "the enjoyment of the people."

In 1875, at a cost of \$55,970 (\$1.6 million in 2025 dollars) Merced's grand courthouse was completed, built by A.W. Burrell and Company of Oakland. The magnificent building was designed by Albert A. Bennett (1825 to 1890) who also designed the California State Capitol and Fresno's courthouse. Bennett later served as California State Architect from 1876 to 1883.

The courthouse was an Italian Renaissance-style structure, designed to resemble an Italian

palazzo, with a cupola and a balcony. In addition to its use as a court of law, the courthouse also once housed the Sheriff's office and jail, Tax Collector, County Superintendent of School, Board of Supervisors' chamber as well as many judges and lawmakers. Its gorgeous surrounding Courthouse Park features a huge variety of mature trees.

The 2025 renovation marks the second time the Courthouse has been renovated in its 150-year history. The first renovation took place in 1975 when it was necessary to maintain its structural integrity. The cost to complete the current required refurbishing was approximately \$3.3 million which will preserve the Courthouse Museum's exterior shell and prevent further decay.

The three-story Courthouse has served as Merced's historical museum since 1983. The official "unshrouding" and reopening of the refurbished courthouse takes place on October 4, 2025, with an elaborate community-wide celebration. The museum will simultaneously unveil a new exhibit, titled "Old Courthouse: 150 Years, 150 Stories."

Museum Director Sarah Lim said, "The Courthouse is a living history that helps to tell the story of who we are, where we came from, and how we got here. For the past 150 years, this historic Courthouse has gone through its share of triumphs and struggles, but continues to be a center of learning, a symbol of justice, and the heart of our community. We rededicate this historic Courthouse to celebrate our county's rich history, recognize our community's resilience, and honor the legacy of our county's pioneers."

Please join me in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the landmark Old Merced County Courthouse.

HONORING HACKING FOR DEFENSE AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Hacking for Defense (H4D) program and its significant and unique contributions to our national security.

Launched in 2015, H4D is a for-credit course that has been taken by over 4,000 students in the U.S., addressed more than 1,000 national security problems, and led to the formation of 71 companies that have raised more than \$365 million in private capital.

The H4D program provides an invaluable experience for students, enabling them to engage directly with real-world problems, interact with key government stakeholders, gain rare exposure to defense and intelligence missions, and develop skills in problem validation, customer discovery, and rapid prototyping.

For that, I would like to commend the students, faculty, university partners, government sponsors, and program organizers for their dedication and contributions to national security. That work has contributed to the program growing from a pilot at Stanford to 67 universities in the U.S., 24 in the U.K., and 2 in Australia.

H4D plays a critical role in preparing the next generation of entrepreneurial talent to ad-

dress some of our Nation's toughest problems, like tracking hypersonic threats, securing U.S. dominance in critical minerals, AI-powered troubleshooting for military mechanics, and improving the quality, security, and resilience of communications for special operators. These are just a few of the ways that the solutions developed by H4D student teams benefit service members and the defense innovation ecosystem as a whole.

I would like to thank all those involved in the H4D program for their continued public service and their efforts to advance U.S. national security.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DIEGO TENORIO BENAVENTE

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Diego Tenorio Benavente, the fisherman, entrepreneur, Speaker, and Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, whose steady leadership helped shape the Commonwealth across more than two decades of public service. A son of Saipan and a graduate of Mount Carmel School, Mr. Benavente pursued higher education in Idaho and returned home to build Diego's Mart, Inc., a well-known small business, before entering public life.

Prior to becoming Lieutenant Governor, he served in the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature for six consecutive House terms (6th–12th), rising to vice speaker and then speaker across three legislatures (9th–12th). In 2002, he answered a broader call as the sixth lieutenant governor of the CNMI, serving through January 2006; he later returned to the people's House for two more terms (16th–17th) and was chosen minority leader in 2011.

Lieutenant Governor Benavente's record of service paired principle with practical results. In the 10th Northern Mariana Islands Legislature, he championed education by cosponsoring the Educational Tax Credit, enacted as CNMI Public Law 10–73, which encouraged private-sector support for our educational institutions, such as the public/private schools, public library, and the humanities council.

As lieutenant governor, he helped advance sound stewardship of our lagoon and reefs and modernize waste management. During policy debates over net fishing in 2004, the House considered HB 14–274, which addressed gillnet use by setting noncommercial mesh-size limits as part of a broader effort to protect nearshore stocks while respecting tradition. And as the Babauta Benavente Administration prioritized closing the long-used Puerto Rico dumpsite and establishing the Marpi landfill, the Legislature created financing tools such as the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account (PL 13–42) to support closure, reclamation, and landfill operations.

After serving as Lt. Governor, and returning to the CNMI House of Representatives, he further pursued fuller Northern Mariana Islands representation in the federal government. Through co-authoring Public Law 16–13 he established the process by which the people of the Marianas could elect their representative in the U.S. House.