

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 ANNI-
VERSARY 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 NA-
TIONAL 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.

On behalf of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, I extend our deepest thanks to Lieutenant Governor Benavente, his wife Vicky Benavente, their children, and family for a lifetime of service to our Commonwealth.

CELEBRATING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF MS. DALILAH GARCÍA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride to recognize Dalilah García, President of FemCity Brownsville, of a women empowerment organization.

Ms. García was recently honored as one of twelve 2025 Women of Distinction by the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) for her unstopppable resilience, dedication to female empowerment, and rich cultural heritage.

Dalilah García is an example of what it means to build community, leadership, and foster inclusivity. She boasts over five years of experience in public relations, business, organizational development, and project management.

Prior to her role as President of FemCity Brownsville, Ms. García served as a Census Media Specialist at the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

After her work with the EDA, she assumed her role as President of FemCity Brownsville in December of 2017. In her current role, she collaborates and organizes monthly gatherings, workshops, and business support services for women in our community hoping to become entrepreneurs and success stories in their own right.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Ms. García is a recipient of the 2025 Estrella de Tejas Award. This award is presented to outstanding Hispanic women who have made great contributions to their local communities and serve as role models for other women.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of South Texas, I wish to honor Dalilah García for her commitment to women empowerment and our community. Her advocacy has changed the landscape of our region, and her story is only just beginning.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COACHING ICON PHIL ROBBINS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional dedication and service of legendary coach Phil Robbins, a dedicated football coach in Southwest Virginia who helped build legacies across the district.

As a student-athlete, Coach Robbins played both college football and baseball at Emory & Henry College. His time at Emory & Henry made an impression on him to continue in the world of sports as a leader, mentor, and coach.

His coaching career started as an assistant coach at Washington County's Patrick Henry High School for four years. In 1971, Coach Robbins took over the football program at John Battle High School in Washington County.

Later in 1977, Coach Robbins led Christiansburg High School in Montgomery County. He helped lead the Blue Demons to the program's first playoff game in 1981.

Coach Robbins then went to Powell Valley High School in Wise County, where he would build a strong foundation for a storied football program that achieved monumental success. From 1983 until the school's final football season in the fall of 2010, Coach Robbins helped Powell Valley claim seven state titles. During that time frame, his teams accumulated more than 260 wins.

According to Tim Hayes of the Bristol Herald Courier, the 1998 Powell Valley team under Coach Robbins is considered by many as the best prep football squad to play in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia.

His coaching not only produced NFL running backs Thomas Jones and Julius Jones, but countless college standouts over the course of his career and many who followed in his coaching footsteps. Coach Robbins contributed to other programs, including Powell Valley's track and field program. Under his tenure, Powell Valley's track and field team produced two state titles.

After his tenure with Powell Valley, Coach Robbins remained in the coaching community. He spent the past few years helping with the football team at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Southwest Virginia communities appreciated all the hard work and dedication that Coach Robbins put into the development of student-athletes in the region. Last year, the Phil Robbins Field was christened at Wise County's Bullitt Park, where Union High School plays its football games. With this, we honor Coach Robbins in the most memorable way. Players and coaches should be inspired by his legacy, defined by a deep personal calling to coaching and athletics in communities across Southwest Virginia.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF H.E. CHRISTIAN "CHRIS" PEEPLES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of H.E. Christian "Chris" Peeples, a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for public transit whose decades of service improved the lives of countless residents in the East Bay and beyond.

Chris Peeples was first appointed to the AC Transit Board of Directors in November 1997 to fill one of the District's two At-Large Board positions. He went on to earn the trust of voters time and again, being elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. Over the course of his distinguished tenure, he represented Ward 1—including Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond, San Pablo, and the surrounding unincorporated

communities—with energy, vision, and compassion.

A longtime champion for transit riders, Director Peeples was deeply engaged in the AC Bus Riders Union, Alliance for AC Transit, Regional Alliance for Transit, Alliance for Sensible Transit, and the Coalition for a One Stop Terminal, among many other groups. His commitment extended beyond the Bay Area, as he actively participated in the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies and the American Public Transportation Association, where he elevated local priorities to national and international conversations.

Director Peeples was especially devoted to advancing clean transportation and was a strong proponent of AC Transit's groundbreaking zero-emission fuel cell bus program. He spoke at and moderated panels across the country and abroad, promoting hydrogen and zero-emission transit as solutions to climate change and air pollution.

Chris was also a pillar of civic life, serving on the Oakland Ethics Commission and numerous community and political bodies. A graduate of Crown College, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Hastings College of the Law, he combined his intellectual rigor with a passion for equity and sustainability.

Christian Peeples leaves behind a legacy of advocacy, innovation, and public service that will endure for generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary life and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the community he served so faithfully.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF UAW LOCAL 14

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special occasion for UAW Local 14 in my District. Tomorrow, on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, the union will celebrate 90 Years of Solidarity: A Milestone for UAW Local 14 . . . a testament to the enduring strength, unity, and unwavering spirit of our membership.

Throughout the decades, UAW Local 14 has been at the vanguard of manufacturing while at the same time ensuring worker rights, dignity and economic fairness, making history while leaving a legacy of accomplishments that continues to benefit workers across the Nation.

In 1935 a strike was called at Chevrolet Toledo. During the three-week strike, full bargaining rights were established as well as seniority. These key elements laid the foundation for the union's strength yet today.

In 1936 a national agreement, led by founder Bob Travis, allowed for the saving of the Chevrolet plant. This effort to spread unionization began with a 44-day "sit-down strike" and demonstrated the strength of solidarity.

One of the most difficult strikes in Toledo—fifty years after the deadly Auto-Lite Strike—was the 285-day AP Parts strike. The union held firm through this challenge to bring about a resolution beneficial to all.

Turning toward the future, UAW Local 14, General Motors, and Toledo Public Schools