

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
UNITED WAY OF LANCASTER  
COUNTY

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize United Way of Lancaster County on their 100th anniversary.

United Way of Lancaster County, then called the Welfare Federation of Lancaster, was formed in the fall of 1925 with the goal of coordinating and maintaining social service agencies throughout the county. Over the decades, the organization has evolved to meet the changing needs of Lancaster County's residents.

United Way's original goal of coordinating social service agencies has grown and flourished over the past century. Beginning in 1959, United Way of Lancaster County has regularly conducted million-dollar fundraising campaigns to help the community. In 2007, they launched their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax services to low to moderate-income working families. In 2011, they became a part of the Pennsylvania 211 collaborative, the statewide hotline for essential community services.

Today, United Way of Lancaster County assists the community—through funding nonprofits with millions of dollars in grants, partnering with over 100 social service organizations in the county, and mobilizing volunteers to meet critical needs. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 11th District embodies a spirit of generosity, and the United Way of Lancaster County stands as a shining example of that commitment.

Congratulations to the United Way of Lancaster County on 100 years of making a difference.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BUD  
STARKER

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor William "Bud" Starker for his years of public service and dedication to the City of Wheat Ridge.

As a more than fifty year resident of Wheat Ridge, Mayor Starker has long been a pillar of the community. As both a city councilor and a mayor, Mayor Starker has guided the City with steady leadership, including navigating the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and championing efforts to expand housing affordability in Jefferson County and across the State of Colorado.

Beyond City Hall, Mayor Starker has promoted economic development throughout the Denver Metro Area through his work in the private sector. Through Starker Construction, he helped build more than 100 restaurants, including transforming an older property in his neighborhood into West 29th Restaurant and Bar—a beloved local gathering place that stands as a quintessential example of his commitment to revitalizing our community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Mayor Bud Starker for his years of service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER OF TRUMARK CREDIT  
UNION, MS. KELLY BOTTI

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ms. Kelly Botti, a respected leader, advocate, and CEO of Trumark Credit Union, whose birthday on November 3rd provides a fitting occasion to honor her outstanding service and dedication to our communities.

Based in the Greater Philadelphia region, Ms. Kelly Botti has built a distinguished career marked by integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to financial empowerment. As CEO of Trumark Credit Union, she has championed innovative approaches to serve the underserved and underbanked, expanding access to fair, transparent, and affordable financial services for families and small businesses alike. Her leadership reflects the very best of what community driven institutions can achieve when guided by a mission of service over profit.

Kelly has also been a steadfast advocate for the credit union movement on both state and national levels. Her thoughtful engagement with policymakers like myself rooted in collaboration, expertise, and genuine care for people, has advanced the cause of financial inclusion in the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania and across the entire Commonwealth and beyond. Through her advocacy, countless individuals have gained new opportunities to achieve financial stability, education, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, to help me extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Kelly Botti for her achievements, her leadership, and her continuing efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING NOLA JANE  
SALDANA WITH A CONGRES-  
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-  
TION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Nola Jane Saldana of Waco, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Nola Saldana is a proud United States Navy veteran, who served nearly 10 years and continues to dedicate her life to supporting veterans and her community. A full-blooded Maidu Indian raised in poverty on a reservation in Susanville, California, she grew up with strong values of respect and kindness, taught by her mother.

Not long after graduating from Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school in River-

side, California, Nola joined the Navy in January 1988. She trained as a welder and served aboard the USS Acadia, and later the USS Dixon as a radiation worker, often as the only woman in her division. Her service took her across the world, including to the Persian Gulf and multiple international ports. She departed the Navy in 1997. During her service she earned the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Medal Deployment Ribbon three times, and the Good Conduct Medal two times.

Following her military career, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work with honors from Texas Tech University. She went on to serve in several public service roles in Waco, Texas, including at the Texas Youth Commission, Texas Behavioral Health Network, and Child Protective Services. Since 2007, she has worked at the Waco VA Medical Center as a Mental Health Caseworker for seriously mentally ill women Veterans.

Beyond her professional work, Nola leads numerous Veteran-focused programs as Commander of VFW Post 2148 and volunteers in the community. She supports troop care packages, family assistance, welcome-home events, Veteran services, youth scholarships, and JROTC programs. She is also a member of the Honor Guard and an adult volunteer with the Waco Young Marines.

Recently, she made history as the first Native American female Commander of VFW District 29, overseeing seven posts in Texas. Nola is also a proud mother of four successful children, all of whom have pursued higher education or military service. Nola Saldana exemplifies lifelong service, leadership, and dedication to others. It is with great honor and respect that I present Nola Jane Saldana with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AU-  
THOR, DIRECTOR, AND BALTI-  
MOREAN: JOHN WATERS

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic brilliance of legendary filmmaker and beloved Baltimorean, John Waters, for his outstanding contributions to the film industry. Affectionately dubbed the "Pope of Trash" by William S. Burroughs, Mr. Waters is a renowned author, producer, and director who was honored in 2023 with a star on the iconic Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His unconventional interpretations of the world color his comical and flamboyant films, and he has dedicated his career to what he playfully refers to as "filth" for the big screen.

An all-time great Baltimorean, Mr. Waters has left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry. His love for storytelling was developed as a child, putting on puppet shows at children's birthday parties. Through his teen years, he mastered the skills needed to write side-splitting scripts, skills that he would put to the test for the rest of his lengthy career.

Waters' hometown in the greater Baltimore area would become a central character in many of his films. Baltimore served as both the backdrop and the inspiration for much of

Waters' early work. His iconic films, such as *Pink Flamingos*, *Desperate Living*, *Female Trouble* and *Polyester* reveal the unique personalities and plights he encountered during his formative years in and around Baltimore.

Waters achieved mainstream success in 1988, after directing *Hairspray*, a critically acclaimed musical set in racially segregated Baltimore in the 1960s, which explores themes of identity, activism, and biases of all kinds. Mr. Waters' films are renowned for their dedicated fan communities, rooted in his dedication to fostering diversity on the big screen and his history of encouraging individuality amongst fans and peers in the industry.

Beyond his filmmaking prowess, John Waters' influence extends to literature, art, and social commentary. A veritable gay ambassador himself, his artistic adaptations have provided a safe haven for his fans to embrace their creativity and self-expression while showing the world the brilliance contained within the LGBTQ community.

The ethos of Mr. Waters' career is a celebration of the counterculture, and a passionate rejection of the norms within the entertainment industry that restrain artistic peculiarity and originality.

John Waters' star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is a testament to his commitment to pushing the boundaries of creativity—not only through his cinematic achievements, but also in life. He encapsulates what it means to be a Baltimorean, and our city couldn't ask for a better champion.

His career demonstrates how the unlikely of places can give birth to the most extraordinary stories.

Mr. Waters has forever changed the landscape of American cinema with his style, ingenuity, and wit. His films will continue to inspire the next generations of filmmakers while providing an example that shows that what some may describe as outrageous might just lead to a new artistic frontier.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and salute Mr. John Samuel Waters, Jr., for his unyielding pursuit of humor and originality on the silver screen and for his undying love for the one-of-a-kind city that we both share, Baltimore.

#### CELEBRATING SPAIN'S NATIONAL DAY 2025

### HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Spain and millions around the world in celebrating Spain's National Day, known as *Fiesta Nacional de España* (National Day of Spain).

As Co-Chair of the Friends of Spain Caucus, I am proud to honor the deep and enduring bonds between our two nations, bonds rooted in shared history, faith, and friendship.

From the earliest days of our Republic, Spain played a pivotal role in supporting American independence, providing vital aid and recognition to our Founding Fathers in their struggle for liberty. The names of St. Augustine, Pensacola, and San Marcos remind us that Florida's story is inseparable from the Spanish legacy that helped shape our Nation's earliest frontiers.

Spanish influence can be seen in our architecture, our language, our traditions, and the vibrant communities that call South Florida home. Every day, centuries-old ties continue to inspire cultural exchange, economic partnership, and mutual respect between our peoples.

On this National Day of Spain, we celebrate not only the remarkable history of the Spanish nation, but also the shared values of democracy, freedom, and friendship that unite Spain and the United States.

I look forward to strengthening our transatlantic partnership and ensuring that the friendship between our Nations continues to flourish for generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, formerly known as Miami Children's Hospital until 2015, was founded in 1950 and is South Florida's only free-standing pediatric hospital. Staffed by 850 physicians and more than 500 pediatric subspecialists, Nicklaus is home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States. It is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine, and according to U.S. News & World Report, many of Nicklaus's specialty programs ranking among the best in the Nation since 2008.

The tremendous impact Nicklaus has is not felt in District 27 alone. Nicklaus Children's Health System, the parent organization of Nicklaus Children's Hospital, maintains an extensive network of outpatient and urgent care centers in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties, serving families throughout Florida, the United States, and more than 100 countries.

Not only does Nicklaus maintain an extensive network but it also continues to ensure children and their families have access to the specialized care they need and deserve. Nicklaus offers more than 30 pediatric specialties and operates leading institutes focused on pediatric care, including the Helen and Jacob Shaham Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute, the Brain Institute, the Heart Institute, and the Orthopedic, Sports Medicine, and Spine Institute. And just last year, the Hospital opened the Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, one of the most innovative pediatric surgical facilities in the United States, ensuring that children and adolescents can receive expert surgical care without leaving Florida.

Additionally, Nicklaus has a top-of-the-line emergency transportation fleet. The Hospital's LifeFlight Critical Care Transport Program, which includes six ambulances, two helicopters, and fixed-wing jets equipped for pediatric and neonatal patients, saves nearly 4,000 infants and children annually across Florida, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

From Miami to the Panhandle, from the Panhandle to Central and South America, from Central and South America to the Caribbean, Nicklaus is a world-class institution that

has provided care to so many for decades. On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, I want to congratulate Nicklaus Children's Hospital and commend its continued commitment to advancing pediatric health care for children and families in Miami, throughout the country, and across the world.

#### HONORING PAUL ECKSTEIN

### HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Paul Eckstein, a giant in Arizona law and a stalwart public servant, on the remarkable occasion of his 60th work anniversary at Perkins Coie LLP.

Paul worked on many consequential legal disputes in Arizona history that shaped the state's legal and civic landscape. He brought a rare combination of trial skill, appellate judgment, and moral clarity. Time and again, he shows Arizonans that the law can correct course and restore trust.

As lead counsel for the Arizona House of Representatives in the 1988 impeachment of Governor Evan Mecham, he tried the case with rigor and restraint—cross-examining the governor, arguing the evidence, and reminding Arizona that no one is above the law. The Senate's verdict confirmed the point, and renewed public faith that our Constitution has teeth when it must.

Early in Paul's career, he represented Navajo leader Tom Shirley in *Shirley v. Superior Court*, securing a decision that affirmed Native American citizens living on reservations are fully entitled to hold public office in Arizona. He defended voter-driven reform by helping ensure Clean Elections reached the ballot. He stood up for independent redistricting when it mattered most, supporting the reinstatement of the Independent Redistricting Commission's chair. And he defended Arizona's merit-based judgeship selection, fending off efforts to politicize the bench. Across these battles runs a common thread: Paul used the law to safeguard the people's voice and the independence of our courts.

What sets Paul apart is not only what he has done, but how he has done it. He takes the lawyer's oath seriously—so seriously that he chooses principle over convenience, even when it costs him. He demands candor. He proves, by example, that zealous advocacy and impeccable ethics go hand in hand.

Paul's extraordinary impact extends well beyond the courtroom. He taught constitutional law at Arizona State University, and his students now serve across our state. At his alma mater, Pomona College, he and his wife, Florence "Flo" Eckstein, endowed a scholarship for refugee and forcibly displaced students, opening doors for those whose lives were upended by conflict or catastrophe.

Paul served for decades on the board of Phoenix Children's Hospital, including as Board Chair. At Arizona State University, the Flo Eckstein Endowment supports students focused on children, youth, and families, and the Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence brings leading voices in Jewish studies to our community each year. For more than three decades, the Ecksteins stewarded the Jewish