

HONORING CAROLYN WYSINGER
AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Carolyn Wysinger, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year, in recognition for her extraordinary leadership, service, and dedication to her community and to the people of California. Mayor Wysinger has built an impressive record of civic engagement and public service. She has served as Board President of San Francisco Pride, one of the world's most prominent celebrations of LGBTQ+ visibility and equality, ensuring that the event remains both a powerful expression of community pride and a platform for justice. As Executive Vice President of the City's Democratic Club and an elected member of the County's Democratic Club, she has championed civic participation, expanded representation, and strengthened democratic processes. In addition, Mayor Wysinger has been a delegate for the California Democratic Party, where she has elevated the voices of her community at the state level. Her professional accomplishments include serving as Communications and Political Director for California's State Comptroller, where she advanced key public policy initiatives and represented the office with distinction. Beyond her professional and political work, Mayor Wysinger is a dedicated mentor to youth, investing in the next generation of leaders and ensuring that young people, particularly in underrepresented communities, have the tools and encouragement to succeed. Mayor Wysinger exemplifies what it means to serve with vision, compassion, and integrity. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Carolyn Wysinger for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL"
FOREST HARRIS WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Forest Harris of Cameron, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and retirement.

Bill was drafted into the United States Army in 1969 and served a combat tour in Vietnam with the 809th Engineer Battalion. The battalion's mission was diverse, including construction, aviation support, and multi-role bridging capabilities, all while maintaining a combat-ready posture to fight at a moment's notice. Bill's heroic efforts earned him the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service

Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. After being honorably discharged in 1970, Bill served in the Army Reserves until 1975.

Although his military service had ended, Bill stayed committed to the honorable life of a public servant, becoming a firefighter with the Temple Fire Department before turning to serve in their Police department from 1974 to 1981. During his time in the police department Bill rose to the position of investigator and served as part of the Central Texas Narcotics and Organized Crime Task Force. Bill joined the Milam County Sheriff's office in 1982, where he served the remainder of his distinguished law enforcement career. Upon his retirement from that position, he continued to serve as a reserve deputy and as the Sheriff's office Chaplain until 2023.

Bill's commitment to Milam County is evident in every aspect of his life. His business, Cameron Tire Store, has been a staple of the community since he purchased the property in 1992. Bill has served on committees and boards repeatedly since moving to Milam County, as his leadership cannot go unnoticed. In the early 2000's, he was selected to serve on the committee tasked with developing the new jail for Milam County. His work with this committee led to the conversion of an old hospital into the new offices for the Sheriff's Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Precinct One and Two Justices of the Peace, and attached to all of this was a new modern jail.

Bill has served on the Cameron Housing Board, as member and director, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the North Milam Water Supply District and served as a city councilman for years. From 2000 to 2024, he served as the Mayor of Cameron, stepping in to serve as Interim City Manager while the city was held without one. Bill does not simply lend a helping hand, but he truly commits himself to enforcing change and improvement where it is needed.

At nearly 77 years old, while raising three children and being a grandfather to two, many would have retired, but not Bill. He continues to work hard every day as the owner of multiple businesses, which he runs with his wife Gwyn. His service has been recognized by the Cameron Chamber of Commerce, which named him Citizen of the Year in 2007 and presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. As a man of great faith, Bill continues to serve as pastor of Davilla Baptist Church.

Through community, both broadly as an American and much more personally in any number of ways, through family, and of course through a strong commitment to faith, Bill has made himself more than worthy of this achievement.

It is with great honor and respect that I present William "Bill" Forest Harris with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contribution to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING CHIEF RICK
BASHOR'S STORIED CAREER AND
SERVICE TO COLORADO

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor and thank Chief Rick Bashor for his storied career and dedication to serving his community in Lafayette, Colorado, and wish him the best on his well-earned retirement.

Born and raised in Boulder County, Chief Bashor has dedicated the last 43 years in service to the Lafayette Police Department, earning the distinct honor of being the longest-serving chief in the history of the City of Lafayette.

Throughout his career with the Lafayette Police Department, Chief Bashor oversaw significant changes to the community and the department. He has served as a Police Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, Master Firearms Instructor and Armorer, Sergeant, Field Training Sergeant, SWAT Negotiator, Lieutenant, Administrative Commander, Operations Commander, and finally, for the last 15 years, as Chief of Police.

When Chief Bashor first joined the service in 1983, the population of Lafayette was around 10,000. The population has tripled since then, and the police department has grown from 18 sworn officers to 51.

Chief Bashor has overseen sweeping changes to the department as they adapted to the needs of a growing community. Chief Bashor led his department through tumultuous times, including adjusting to the needs of a modern police force and navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. When he took on the role of Chief of Police, Chief Bashor committed to leaving the department better than when he found it, and I believe he's done just that. It has been an honor to work with Chief Bashor and to have him represent and serve the people of Colorado.

On behalf of Colorado's 2nd Congressional District, I thank and honor Chief Rick Bashor for his invaluable contributions and service to the community of Lafayette.

We thank Chief Bashor and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE GENERAL WAYNE
A. DOWNING PEORIA INTER-
NATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport, a cornerstone of transportation and economic growth in the heart of Central Illinois. Since its establishment in 1950, Peoria's International Airport has connected our region to destinations across the country while embodying the innovation and community spirit that defines Peoria.

Peoria's ties to aviation stretch back more than a century. From the Wright Brothers' exhibition flight in 1910, to Charles Lindbergh's

mail route between St. Louis and Chicago, our region has long been part of America's aviation story. In 1932, 261 local businessmen came together to purchase land for Peoria's first airfield, laying the foundation for what would become one of Illinois's most important regional airports. Over the decades, the airport has evolved from four shale runways to a modern international facility. In 2008, it was renamed in honor of Four-Star General Wayne A. Downing, a Peoria native and distinguished U.S. Army leader whose legacy continues to inspire our community. The airport expanded further in 2016 with the dedication of the Ray LaHood Terminal, recognizing the former Congressman and Transportation Secretary's lifelong commitment to infrastructure and service.

Peoria International Airport serves 12 non-stop destinations, offers the longest runway in Illinois outside of Chicago, and operates the state's only 24-hour FAA control tower beyond the Chicago area. From welcoming just 50,000 passengers in the 1950's to a record 689,000 passengers in 2019, PIA has become an indispensable hub for business, travel, and commerce in Central Illinois.

As we celebrate 75 years of service, we honor the vision of those who built and sustained this airport—leaders, workers, and community members whose dedication continues to strengthen our regional economy and connect Central Illinois to the world. I am proud to represent this remarkable community and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport and their leadership on 75 years of aviation excellence and progress.

HONORING EGUONOR ONOFEGHARA-OMOKO

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mrs. Eguonor Onofeghara-Omoko, a devoted wife, mother, and community leader whose life of service and faith has uplifted countless individuals across Contra Costa County. Together with her husband, she has raised six children, embodying the values of family, faith, and commitment that strengthen our communities. Guided by her Christian faith, Mrs. Onofeghara-Omoko serves as a Ministry Team Leader at Victory Place International Ministries, where she provides spiritual guidance and leadership to her congregation. As Volunteer Supervisor for the ministry's community outreach, she helps coordinate efforts to feed more than 500 people every week, ensuring that those facing hardship find nourishment, dignity and hope. Her compassion extends far beyond the walls of her church. For the past three years, she has volunteered with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa, continuing her mission to serve the hungry and vulnerable. For more than 15 years, she has also served as a school chaperone, investing time and energy in the well-being and growth of young students. Her dedication stands as an inspiration to all who know her. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mrs. Eguonor Onofeghara-Omoko for her extraordinary contributions to her family,

her church, and her community. Her legacy of faith-driven service reminds us that true leadership begins with a heart to serve. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Eguonor Onofeghara-Omoko for her outstanding devotion to service and her enduring impact on the lives of others.

CONGRATULATING THE EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) as it celebrates a major milestone in the district's history. This year, EMWD will mark its 75th Anniversary and a proven legacy of service to our community.

EMWD was established on October 16, 1950, through a public vote by San Jacinto Valley property owners to help facilitate groundwater rights in the region. In the 75 years since, EMWD has grown from a small agency into California's sixth largest public retail water agency, and seventh largest wastewater agency, serving nearly 1 million customers across 682 square miles.

Throughout its history, EMWD has remained committed to delivering safe, reliable water, wastewater, and recycled water services. It serves one of California's fastest-growing regions and continues to balance the needs of current customers while planning for future growth. Through forward-thinking investments in infrastructure, including groundwater desalination and one of the Nation's most advanced recycled water programs, EMWD has emerged as a leader in water innovation and resiliency.

EMWD's success is driven by strong leadership and proactive engagement. Through active collaboration with state and federal partners and elected officials, the district has advanced policies that strengthen water reliability and promote long-term resource sustainability. EMWD and I have worked closely to advance critical water projects in both EMWD's service area, and the arid west.

On a local level, I have worked with EMWD on a sewer solution in Quail Valley a community that is reliant on antiquated, and failing septic systems. One part of the community's septic to sewer conversion is complete, and we continue to work together on subsequent phases.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, Eastern Municipal Water District has played a vital role in the development and sustainability of Southern California. I am proud to recognize EMWD for its decades of public service, and I join the community in celebrating this remarkable milestone. We look forward to EMWD's continued contributions and service for the next 75 years and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFELONG SERVICE OF MS. ROSE AMADOR

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and lifelong service of Ms. Rose Amador, who is retiring after 55 years of dedication to our community, including 44 years as President and CEO of ConXión to Community, a nonprofit organization providing education, workforce development, youth engagement, behavioral health, and social services across Santa Clara County.

Under Ms. Amador's visionary leadership, ConXión grew tremendously in both reach and impact—securing a permanent home on Story Road and expanding programs to meet the rapidly evolving needs of our diverse community. Her steadfast commitment to public service and San José are unmatched.

Born in San José, Ms. Amador was inspired early by her parents—both community activists—who introduced her to the Chicano movement, the American GI Forum, and César Chávez marches. She was part of De Anza College's inaugural class, earning an Associate of Arts in Chicano Studies before completing her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management at St. Mary's College.

Her leadership extended beyond our region. Within the National Council of La Raza—now UnidosUS—Ms. Amador served in several capacities, including as a steering committee member, where she helped establish the National Affiliate Council, now known as the California National Affiliate Network. As a longtime leader of the La Raza Roundtable in San José, she became known for her ability to be both passionate and pragmatic, collaborative and courageous.

Ms. Amador's trailblazing leadership has earned her some of our community's highest honors—including the La Raza Historical Society Award, recognition as one of Silicon Valley's Top 100 Most Influential Latinos, Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Joe Coto, and KQED's 2013 Local Hero—among countless other accolades that reflect her enduring impact. Being of Yaqui descent, Ms. Amador also proudly carries the name "Cihuapilli", meaning "noble woman."

Ms. Amador's life has been marked by devotion to advocacy, uplifting the most vulnerable among us, and preserving our community's vibrant culture. We are profoundly grateful for her decades of leadership and service and wish her a joyful and well-earned retirement.

HONORING FATIMAH HANIF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fatimah Hanif, an inspiring community leader, educator, and advocate whose work in mindfulness, mental health, and youth empowerment has made a lasting impact on the City of Vallejo and the State of California.