

Vallejo's Surveillance Advisory Board and remained active in various other civic roles, including the Glen Cove Community Association and the United Democrats of Southern Solano County, where she served as vice-chair. Although the work that she has done has been crucial to the wellbeing of Vallejo and its community members, her hard work did not stop there, as she then launched a successful campaign for Mayor of the City of Vallejo. In spite of the fact that she has yet to complete a full term as Vallejo Mayor, she has already achieved impressive accomplishments during her time in this position. Constituents describe Andrea as a courageous leader, who stands for reform and lives her values, which is exemplified in her many efforts to connect with the community. Since becoming Mayor, Andrea has held over 30 public meetings to increase transparency, discuss pressing issues, and take action towards solutions. Apart from her politically-engaged work, Andrea serves her community in several other capacities as well, such as serving on: the board of Solano Transportation Authority, the Solano County Water Agency, and as the President of the Vallejo Wastewater and Flood District. When she's not actively engaging with civic issues, she also teaches at Diablo Valley College, as an economics professor. It is clear that Andrea's commitment to service, passion for advocacy, and multi-faceted approach to tackling local issues makes her a vital asset to the Vallejo and overall Solano County community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Andrea Sorce for her positive contributions to our community.

COMMEMORATING KAZAKHSTAN'S  
REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and recognize its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

From its earliest days, Kazakhstan pursued a forward-looking vision rooted in partnership, openness, and modernization. Its early alignment with the West, especially in developing a free-market economy, has shaped its remarkable transformation. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has emerged as a thriving nation with a dynamic economy, an active international presence, and a strong and growing partnership with the United States.

The U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is grounded in shared values and mutual respect. As we mark Kazakhstan's national holiday, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening cooperation between our two nations to meet global challenges and advance peace, security, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan's commitment to transparency, the rule of law, and an open investment climate has made it a magnet for American business. U.S. companies remain the largest

source of foreign direct investment, helping drive Kazakhstan's diversification and sustainable development. This alignment supports the country's broader goal of becoming a resilient, innovative economy and a hub for regional growth.

Kazakhstan continues to stand as a pillar of stability in Central Asia and a leader on the world stage in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Despite external challenges, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia—a reliable partner and a model of pragmatic, balanced diplomacy.

Kazakhstan is the economic footprint of the United States in Central Asia—a partnership that is long-term, resilient, and mutually beneficial.

Recently, Kazakhstan took another decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation—the largest locomotive order in recent history.

This transformative deal is more than an investment in Kazakhstan's infrastructure; it is a powerful endorsement of American innovation and manufacturing leadership. It will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Kazakhstan is taking bold steps to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (the Middle Corridor), which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets, is strengthening supply chain resilience for the U.S. and its partners.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Rare-earth minerals from Kazakhstan can help power the next generation of U.S. innovation, driving the transformation of the American economy built around AI, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear energy.

Energy collaboration also remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Earlier this year, Chevron's \$48 billion Future Growth Project at Kazakhstan's Tengiz field began production, underscoring the scale and depth of U.S. investment in the country's energy future. The Tengizchevroil venture—operated by Chevron represents Central Asia's largest oil development, ensuring reliable supply and creating thousands of high-skilled jobs. These projects embody the long-term, mutually beneficial nature of U.S. Kazakhstan energy cooperation.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is undertaking an ambitious program of national renewal. Over the past three years, the country has implemented far-reaching political and economic reforms unprecedented in the region. Among the key changes is the introduction of a single seven-year presidential term, a step designed to enhance democratic accountability and political stability.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue. Kazakhstan—ethnically rich and religiously diverse—has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of

World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

This same spirit of openness and engagement also guides Kazakhstan's approach to the global economy. Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets. As such, it is time for the United States to grant Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) by repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Doing so would cost nothing, yet send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6, 2025, represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

We urge the Administration to seize this moment, build on the foundation of trust and shared interests, and work with Congress to achieve outcomes that advance stability, prosperity, and lasting friendship across our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, we honor the enduring friendship between our two countries and look forward to the continued growth of a partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared progress, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, I rise today alongside my colleague and Ranking Member, Ms. Kamlager-Dove of California, to honor and congratulate the people of Kazakhstan as they mark the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, which commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty independent of the Soviet Union on October 25, 1990. The United States has remained committed to Kazakhstan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Now, as a valued strategic partner of the United States, our nations work together to advance security, peace, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan inherited a massive nuclear stockpile and legacy sites for chemical and biological weapons research following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The voluntary commitment to rapidly remove these weapons from its territory and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other key arms control measures was a model for the region and the world. Kazakhstan has also made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including independent deployments of peacekeepers from 2024. Efforts such as these to

counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent radicalization to violence, in addition to cooperation to combat the persistent threat of terrorism, support stability and security in both Central Asia and the wider world.

U.S. companies remain the largest source of foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan, helping build resilient supply chains, driving Kazakhstan's economic diversification, supply chain resiliency, and sustainable economic development. Last month, our two nations announced the largest locomotive deal in history between Wabtec Corporation and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy. Valued at \$4.2 billion, this landmark deal is a symbol of American innovation and manufacturing leadership, as well as Kazakhstan's desire to deepen cooperation with American firms. Kazakhstan offers abundant potential for future investment opportunities—including critical minerals, rare earths, civilian nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, and manufacturing. We reiterate our commitment to advancing the repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which will allow us to fully realize the potential of this relationship. We also applaud Kazakhstan's efforts to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. We believe it is in our shared interest to improve Central Asian connectivity with global markets to boost supply chain resilience and seek ways to support the realization of the Trans-Caspian "Middle Corridor," which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets beyond. In addition to continued dialogue to safeguard critical technologies and improve the investment climate, we hope that the ongoing constitutional and political reform process in Kazakhstan, initiated in 2022, will strengthen governance and human rights.

On the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day, we can reflect on our enduring friendship and the bright future of our strategic partnership. We look forward to continued high-level engagement with Kazakhstan, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In particular, we believe the anticipated C5+1 Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. would be a pivotal opportunity to strengthen longstanding United States cooperation with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and Representative Kamlager-Dove in honoring the Kazakhstan Republic Day.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL  
AREA

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) on the occasion of its United Nations 80th Anniversary Gala.

The United Nations was founded in 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, to promote peace, security, development, and human rights around the world. As we mark 80 years of this global institution, it is fitting that we also honor one of its most steadfast and influential community champions: the UNA-NCA.

Founded in 1952, the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area is one of the oldest and largest divisions of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) and a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA).

With the support of more than 1,000 members, volunteers, and supporters in the greater Washington area, UNA-NCA has led efforts to educate, inspire, and mobilize citizens across our region to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

For over seven decades, UNA-NCA has worked to build public knowledge, strengthen US-UN relations, and aid the UN in achieving its goals. It continues to serve as a critical bridge between the United Nations' international ideals and the everyday lives of citizens in our Nation's capital and surrounding regions. Its work reminds us that local engagement can make a global impact.

UNA-NCA's mission is brought to life through a variety of programs that promote education, civic engagement, and leadership development, including the flagship Global Classroom DC Model UN Program, Graduate Fellows Program, Global Goals at Home, Young Professionals Program, the Annual Human Rights Awards, and more.

Over the years, my staff and I have had the opportunity to participate in and support several UNA-NCA events, including on Capitol Hill in 2017 to highlight the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Annual Human Rights Awards, and regular meetings with the chapter as part of its congressional advocacy efforts. I was also honored to receive the UNA-NCA Arthur W. Johnson Leadership Award in 2022. Recognition from the UN holds personal significance as my grandmother, Clara Mortenson Beyer, was the first ever U.S. Representative to the International Labor Organization in Geneva.

Finally, I want to offer special recognition to President Paula Boland, Board Chair Anne Simmons-Benton, and the board, staff, members, volunteers, and students whose steadfast work ensure UNA-NCA's success in its mission.

As we celebrate UN80, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the UNA-NCA for its visionary leadership, its tireless advocacy, and its unwavering commitment to a more peaceful and just world.

HONORING ANNA DURAN AS ONE  
OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Anna Duran as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Anna is a Crime Prevention Specialist for the Richmond Police Department and has served in that role since 2024. But her work and community service precede her time with Richmond PD. Anna brings her experience working for the Office of Neighborhood Safety as a case manager assisting families, many whom

were undocumented. She has spent years volunteering with the Latina Center, where she has helped promote advocacy, outreach, and empowerment among her fellow Latina community members. Anna is known for her generosity and kindness, which extends beyond her professional obligations. She makes hospital visits to victims of crime, provides assistance to families who navigate immigration challenges, and has assisted in building support networks for undocumented residents. Even before officially joining the Richmond Police Department, Anna volunteered her time to and help the department by supporting families with needs assessments and referrals, in her personal time. Anna uses her personal experiences, genuine compassion, and resourcefulness to make a difference in the community, especially by assisting those who may be most in-need. It is these traits, and many more, that make Anna such a crucial asset to the overall community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Anna Duran for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING VALLEY HEALTH SER-  
VICES AND VALLEY RESIDENTIAL  
SERVICES ON THEIR 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Valley Health Services (VHS) and Valley Residential Services (VRS), two cornerstone institutions that have provided exceptional long-term care to seniors and their families in the Mohawk Valley for half a century.

What began as a 32-bed facility in the former Herkimer Memorial Hospital building has grown into a comprehensive center for elder care and rehabilitation. From the start, VHS was guided by a simple but powerful mission: to care for the mind, body, and spirit of every individual who walks through its doors. That mission has endured—and expanded—for fifty years.

In the 1980's, renovation projects increased the facility's capacity to 160 beds, laying the foundation for new services that continue to define VHS today. These include adult day healthcare, outpatient rehabilitation, subacute care, and skilled nursing. Each program reflects a commitment to person-centered care and a deep respect for the dignity and independence of every resident.

The staff, families, and volunteers who fill its halls have created a home-like environment where residents experience comfort, privacy, and connection. Families are not just visitors but partners in care, joining in activities and celebrations that make life at VHS meaningful and full.

In 2015, Valley Residential Services opened its doors as a natural extension of that mission. The modern senior living facility began with 46 apartments across more than 220 acres of scenic land. Designed with comfort and independence in mind, each apartment features a living room, kitchenette, private bedroom, and bath. Common spaces include