

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 We reiterate our commitment to advancing the repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which will allow us to fully realize the potential of this relationship.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

an activity room with a cafe, social gathering areas, and an on-site beauty salon.

VRS expanded again in 2018, adding a new wing with 14 double-occupancy apartments and a fitness center for active residents. This growth reflects not only success, but the community's trust in the care, compassion, and excellence that define both VHS and VRS.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Valley Health Services and Valley Residential Services for fifty years of service, care, and commitment to our seniors. Their legacy of compassion will continue to shape the community for generations to come.

HONORING RINBAN GERALD  
SAKAMOTO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of Rinban Gerald Sakamoto of San Jose, California, who has served the Buddhist church and community in San Jose for four decades.

Mr. Sakamoto began his ministry journey in Hawaii, where he received his degree with an emphasis on Buddhism while working alongside ministers at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. Mr. Sakamoto then later moved to Kyoto where he completed his Tokudo ordination and training to become a minister for the Buddhist church.

Since Mr. Sakamoto's appointment to the San Jose Buddhist Church, he has been an active member of his community through youth outreach, Scouting programs, and community involvement. For many years, Mr. Sakamoto has led the opening and closing prayer at the Bon Odori dances that happen annually at the San Jose Odori Festival.

His teachings have emphasized compassion, interdependence, and the relevance of Buddhist values in daily life, using accessible metaphors such as the difference between square and round tables to illustrate spiritual concepts. Sakamoto's Dharma messages explore themes like birth and death, and the importance of relationships with others, with our ancestors, and with the world around us. His inclusive and thoughtful style bridges tradition and modern life, making Buddhist teachings approachable for people of all ages.

Rinban Gerald Sakamoto has helped bridge generations and make Buddhist teachings accessible to all. His thoughtful messages and inclusive leadership continue to leave a lasting impact on his temple and his community. As he approaches retirement, his legacy of service, compassion, and connection will be remembered with deep gratitude.

HONORING UNITED NATIONS DAY

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my ongoing support of the United Nations on this United Nations Day.

October 24, 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the effective date of the United Nations Charter, the UN's founding document. Since the UN's inception in 1945, its 51 original member states have now grown to 193, and the UN remains the one place on Earth where all nations gather together, discuss common problems, resolve disputes and forge shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

Every year, the UN and its organizations assist and protect 139 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; provide food and assistance to 123 million people in over 120 countries and territories through the World Food Programme; and keep the peace with 61,000 UN peacekeepers in eleven operations across the world. UN-led international agreements address international needs ranging from intellectual property to the high seas and beyond.

In a recent trip to Mongolia to review the UN's wide-ranging efforts, my Congressional colleagues and I witnessed firsthand how U.S. participation in the UN both delivers lasting positive impacts to populations around the world and supports our national interests. For Mongolia, a country sandwiched between two of our geopolitical competitors, Russia and the People's Republic of China (PRC), support from the UN together with other multilateral and bilateral relationships is critical to addressing its economic, educational, health, environmental, social, cultural and security needs. This in turn enables Mongolia to pursue a mutually beneficial "third neighbor" relationship with other nations including our own.

It is alarming that, just as the world faces almost overwhelming challenges, from geopolitical to economic, humanitarian, developmental, health, weather and beyond, the current administration has made numerous decisions that have led to massive UN budget cuts, crippling the UN's overall efforts. While critics of the UN may claim that this is saving the U.S. money, this will only end up costing more in the long run as instability festers around the world in the absence of UN programming that feeds children and monitors intense conflicts, such as between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti's gang violence. It also leaves a vacuum of influence that bad actors are all too eager to fill with their goal of supplanting the international rules-based order under which both the U.S. and world have enjoyed three generations of relative peace and advancement.

On this 80th UN Day, let us remember that U.S. engagement in the UN is both a moral obligation to our world and a critical component of our country's long-term economic and national security strategy. Working together with UN member states, we can reduce international instability and create the conditions for transformational change that will expand the benefits of the last three generations into future generations.

To our UN 'ohana (family) around the world, wherever they are, past, present and future, I hope they know that, especially in these difficult times for an indispensable organization in which we all believe deeply, their steadfast commitment to their mission and a broader purpose is deeply appreciated and valued.

HONORING ANNIE FRIAS-RAMOS  
AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH  
CONGRESSIONAL 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 honor Annie Frias-Ramos, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Annie was born in the Philippines, yet despite many challenges, she persevered and earned her degree in nursing from Southwestern University. In 1975, she became one of the first from her village to immigrate to the United States and began her nursing career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She later moved to California, where she continued her dedicated service in healthcare at Vallejo General Hospital, Doctors' Hospital, and ultimately at Kaiser Permanente. At Kaiser Permanente, Annie advanced to the role of Nurse Manager, leading her team with distinction. Annie is currently serving as President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Inc., and previously served as President of the Visayan Circle of Northern California for over 27 years. Annie has led numerous initiatives that demonstrate both vision and compassionate leadership, including serving as Chairperson for Vallejo's Pista sa Nasyon festival and leading one of the first COVID-19 vaccine clinics in Solano County. In addition, Annie has organized a fundraiser to renovate deteriorating church seating for a local community church and has connected unhoused community members to local housing resources. Annie also continues to support Filipino communities, such as by leading food drives and relief efforts for typhoon victims in the Philippines and advocating for immigration assistance. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Annie Frias-Ramos for her invaluable contributions to our community.

PROCLAMATION HONORING REV-  
EREND ANTHONY "FATHER  
TONY" GALLAGHER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Reverend Anthony "Father Tony" Gallagher:

Whereas, the Reverend Anthony "Father Tony" Gallagher, a beloved son of Toledo and a priest of the Diocese of Toledo since his ordination in Rome in 1961, has devoted more than six decades of his life to faith, service, and the pursuit of justice for all people; and

Whereas, as the eldest of six children, Father Gallagher has exemplified a lifetime of humility and leadership, serving parishes from Port Clinton to Grand Rapids, and providing spiritual guidance rooted in compassion, inclusivity, and a steadfast belief in the dignity of every human being; and

Whereas, Father Gallagher has embodied the principles of social justice throughout