

In addition to his music, Benito, Bad Bunny, has used his platform to demand better from world leaders, condemn the xenophobia and anti-immigrant violence of this administration on the island and in this country, and inspire us all to resist and fight back against oppressive governments.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District and the home of Paseo Boricua or Boricua Town, it is my honor to commend Bad Bunny for using his artistry to unite diverse communities and give voice to our shared experience. Gracias to Bad Bunny.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

En este Mes de la Herencia Puertorriqueña, Yo me levanto a reconocer a Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, mejor conocido como Bad Bunny, por su contribución a las artes, la música y la cultura.

Nacido y criado en Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, Bad Bunny es un fenómeno global. Sus canciones trascienden fronteras, compartiendo la vibrante cultura puertorriqueña con millones de personas en todo el mundo, a la vez que despierta un profundo sentimiento de orgullo y conexión entre los latinos de todo el mundo. Él sabe que la música y la cultura también trasciende en el corazón.

Su álbum de 2022, *Un Verano Sin Ti*, hizo historia como el primer disco en español nominado al Premio Grammy como Álbum del Año.

Su reciente álbum, *Debí Tirar Más Fotos*, ha inspirado a millones como un poderoso tributo a Puerto Rico y su esperanza por la libertad, a la vez que nos recuerda nuestra lucha compartida contra el imperialismo, el colonialismo y el desplazamiento.

Además de su música, Benito ha usado su plataforma para exigirle mejores resultados a los líderes mundiales, condenar la xenofobia y la violencia antiinmigrante en la isla y en este país e inspirarnos a todos a resistir y luchar contra los gobiernos opresores.

En nombre del Tercer Distrito Congresional de Illinois, casa de Paseo Boricua, yo felicito a Bad Bunny por usar su talento para unir a comunidades diversas y dar voz a nuestras experiencias compartidas.

Gracias, Bad Bunny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois will provide a translation to the Chair.

COMMENDING DENISE RUIZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a creative designer, community cultivator, and artist—my constituent, Denise Ruiz.

Denise is a queer Boricua from the Humboldt Park community of Chicago and is the founder and director of The Honeycomb Network, a community empowerment space proudly calling Barrio Boriken home.

With over two decades of direct social service and educator experience, Denise has grown The Honeycomb Network to become a beloved community hub.

In partnership with therapists, educators, artists, and community care providers of diverse backgrounds, The Honeycomb Network provides a hive for community to cowork, create, and sustain one another.

Through healing workshops, a community library, cultural events, and beyond, the network has become a conduit for building community with our neighbors.

I commend Denise and the entire network of artists, healers, and creators who have shared their talents with the community, and I wish them the best as they transition to new physical space in Denise's home, Puerto Rico. Gracias and congratulations to Denise.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINA MACHADO

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, in this Puerto Rican and Immigrant Heritage Month, I rise to recognize one of Chicago's own, Justina Machado, a celebrated actress and proud "daughter," "hija" of Chicago's northwest side.

Raised in a working-class Puerto Rican family, Ms. Machado's journey from Lane Tech High School, which is also in my district, to the Broadway stage and Hollywood screens is a testament to her talent, her perseverance, and her deep cultural roots.

From her roles in HBO's "Six Feet Under" to Netflix' "One Day at a Time," and now the Tony-nominated Broadway adaptation of "Real Women Have Curves," Justina has beautifully played characters with immigrant backgrounds.

Through her talent, she has brought visibility, dignity, and complexity to the lives of Latinos and immigrant families who are too often overlooked. Her performances speak not only to where she has been but to who we are. We are resilient, we are proud, and full of possibility.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Justina Machado for using her voice and artistry to uplift our stories and communities with grace, humor, and truth. Gracias and congratulations to Justina.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF REED BAER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. HARRIGAN of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARRIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hickory Police Chief Reed Baer of North Carolina's 10th District, who is retiring this summer after more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Chief Baer spent his entire career serving the entire community that he grew up in. He started with the department in 1997 as a patrol officer and worked his way all the way up, from sergeant, to captain, to deputy chief, and eventually to chief in 2023.

Under his leadership, the department focused on officer wellness, training, and building stronger ties with his community. He also helped create new

pathways into the profession for young people in the area.

He has been a steady presence in Hickory for a long time, and his impact will be felt well beyond his time in uniform. I thank him for his service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING JAKE BRIDGES

Mr. HARRIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man from North Carolina's 10th District, firefighter Jake Bridges of Hickory, who died while serving his community.

Jake was just 20 years old. He was born in Cleveland County, raised in Shelby, and graduated from Burns High School in 2023. Not long after that, he joined the Hickory Fire Department as a certified firefighter and EMT.

He hadn't been on the job long, but you wouldn't have known it. He showed up ready to work, ready to serve, and ready to make a difference.

Jake was a man of faith. He loved the Atlanta Braves, loved playing golf, and more than anything, he loved being a firefighter.

His loss is a tough one for Hickory, for the department, and for everyone who knew him. My heart goes out to his mom, his family, and his brothers and sisters in uniform.

He was proud to serve, and we will be proud to remember him.

RECOGNIZING COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

(Mr. FRY of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible season of the Coastal Carolina University baseball team. With grit, heart, and determination, these young men made the Chanticleer Nation, the Grand Strand, and all of South Carolina incredibly proud.

They battled their way into the College World Series final and left it all on the field. From the first pitch to the final out, they represented South Carolina with strength and skill.

I congratulate Coach Schnall and all of the players on a season to remember. Their run inspired fans across the Nation and reminded us why we love this game. We look forward to their continued success in the years to come. Chants Up.

HONORING ROBERT FRANKLIN CHILDS III

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend of mine and a fixture in the Surfside Beach community, Mr. Robert Franklin Childs III, known to most as Bob.

Originally born in Washington, D.C., he spent 37 years working on Capitol Hill, starting in the electrical engineering department under the Architect of the Capitol.

After retiring from the Hill, Bob and his wife, Nancy, moved to Surfside Beach. There he continued his career in public service as the mayor of Surfside Beach from 2016 to 2020. He also served

on the Surfside Beach Town Council, the board of directors for the Horry County Council on Aging and the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. He brought honesty and common sense to local government and was loved by all.

When you look at the iconic Surfside Beach pier, know that it was Bob's tireless efforts, advocacy, and grit that rebuilt it after devastating hurricanes impacted our region.

Bob was an incredibly hard worker, and his passion for improving the lives of those around him always remained constant. Bob was an incredible person, too. He believed in passing the baton, in helping people, people who wanted to serve their community. Bob was a constant voice in their ear for good public service.

He was the kind of man who lived his values, not just in words, but in the way he treated others. May his memory leave a lasting legacy for all those who knew him.

□ 1045

HONORING FDNY CAPTAIN FREDERICK SIMMS, JR.

(Mr. LAWLER of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of FDNY Captain Frederick Simms, Jr., a proud son of Rockland County, a devoted husband, and a true public servant.

Born in Nyack, raised in Tappan, and a graduate of Tappan Zee High School, Freddie dedicated his life to serving others. He spent 22 years with the FDNY, rising through the ranks from Ladder 58 in the Bronx to lieutenant in Harlem and ultimately returning as captain of 58 Truck.

Freddie also served for over 27 years with the Tappan Volunteer Fire Department, including time as chief, and helped train the next generation of firefighters as a New York State fire instructor and Rockland County deputy fire coordinator.

Freddie passed away at 49 after a long battle with 9/11-related cancer. He will be remembered for his leadership, heart, and willingness to always put others first.

My thoughts are with his wife, Jill; his family; his brothers and sisters in the fire service; and his parents. May his legacy of service live on.

HONORING MOUNT KISCO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of the village of Mount Kisco, an extraordinary community in New York's Hudson Valley with a proud past and a bright future.

From its roots as Lenape homeland to its days as a colonial settlement and a bustling railroad hub, Mount Kisco's story is one of resilience, reinvention, and unity.

Officially incorporated in 1875 and later establishing itself as one of New

York's few towns and villages, Mount Kisco has long been a beacon of community spirit and progress. This sesquicentennial is a moment to celebrate the people who have shaped Mount Kisco across generations, our farmers, families, businessowners, and public servants alike.

Happy 150th, Mount Kisco, and here is to the next 150 years.

HONORING DENIS TROY

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my good friend and longtime Orangetown leader, Denis Troy.

A proud Bronx native, Denis built his life in Pearl River alongside his wife, Bea, raising a wonderful family and giving back every step of the way.

Whether it was his long tenure on the town board, his work in the Rockland County legislature, or his service with organizations like Camp Venture, the Hibernians, CYO basketball, and Pearl River Little League, Denis always puts his community first.

As I said when we celebrated his retirement from the Orangetown board, his accomplishments are too many to list, but his impact is undeniable. Denis has always put our community first and stood up for our families. He has never shied away from a fight and always does right by the town.

I am proud to call him a friend, and I thank Denis for his many contributions to the town of Orangetown.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KEVIN MCCONVILLE

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Kevin McConville, a lifelong resident of Putnam County and a true public servant.

For over 30 years, Kevin served with distinction in the MTA Police Department, rising from patrol to become the department's first internal appointee as chief. He led with vision, creating a counterterrorism task force in the aftermath of 9/11, partnering with the FBI, and launching a 50-member canine unit to protect our transit system.

Kevin was on the ground on 9/11, helping coordinate the MTA's response and later guiding long-term security efforts during critical moments in our history.

A Marist graduate, Kevin has mentored others in criminal justice.

Above all, he is a devoted husband to his wife, Janice, and a father, grandfather, and respected community leader.

Recently, Kevin announced he would not run for reelection as sheriff. On behalf of New York's 17th District and the residents of Putnam County, I thank Sheriff McConville for a lifetime of service and leadership.

Most importantly, I thank my friend, a good man. I love you, bud.

HONORING ROBERTA DOREMUS

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Roberta Doremus of Rockland County, who passed away on June 5.

Roberta was the definition of service. For over six decades, she dedicated her-

self to the volunteer fire service, serving 65 years with the Tallman Ladies Auxiliary, 59 years with the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters' Association, and over 25 years as a leader with the Association of Fire Districts of Rockland County.

Roberta was a charter member and treasurer of the Rockland County Volunteer Fire Services Museum, tireless advocate for our first responders, and beloved friend to so many.

Professionally, Roberta worked for 40 years at Orange and Rockland Utilities, earning the prestigious Edison Living Our Values award. Above all, she was a devoted mother, grandmother, and sister.

Her impact on our community is immeasurable, and her loss is deeply felt. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved her, especially all those serving in our fire departments across Rockland County.

ELECTIONS MATTER

(Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, elections matter.

Isn't it refreshing to see a President who actually keeps his campaign promises? He promises not only safety but also economic opportunity.

On the safety front, it is clear that our border is once again secured with a 99 percent reduction of people coming through the border. We finally have a secure border, thanks to the work of our President leading by example and making sure now, with the big, beautiful bill, they will actually have the funding to make sure that is a long-term solution.

In that same vein, as we face increasing threats from around the world, he is making the Golden Dome happen. We are seeing the success of the Iron Dome right now in the Middle East. We will now have this Golden Dome so that, God forbid, if something radical happens, we have the protective measures in place to make sure that all American citizens are safe.

That is the kind of leadership that people were asking for last November, commonsense security not only economically but, of course, for national security.

When we talk about the big, beautiful bill, what I am most happy about is that the folks who were left behind the last 4 years are finally being taken care of. We are in a situation where America is truly moving in the right direction. Those folks who earned tips or overtime, people who earned Social Security, and families who worked hard after being hard-hit by higher gas prices, rent prices, and food prices are being helped in this bill.

This is what the American Dream is all about, looking to Washington, D.C., and finally seeing a Washington, D.C., that cares about the everyday Americans who make America work every single day.