behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Rachel Shoemake for her positive contributions to our community.

## RECOGNIZING OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ostomy Awareness Day, which will be observed on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

An ostomy can be a difficult, frightening, and deeply personal journey—not just for the individual, but for their entire family. Yet for so many, this procedure is nothing short of a second chance at life. It provides a path forward for men and women facing serious, often devastating medical challenges—including colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, traumatic injuries, and severe illnesses. These surgeries are truly lifesaving and life-restoring. They give people their lives back, allowing them to return to their jobs, care for their children, stay involved in their communities, and get back to doing what they love.

But too often, people living with an ostomy suffer in silence due to misunderstanding, stigma, and unnecessary barriers to care. Ostomy Awareness Day gives us a critical opportunity to educate the public, break down those taboos, and remind everyone that an ostomy does not define a person's worth or limit what they can achieve. Back home in Michigan, approximately 25,000 of our neighbors, friends, family members, coworkers, veterans, and community leaders are living with an ostomy. They represent the very best of Michigan—showing incredible resilience, strength, and determination in overcoming daunting health battles to live full, active lives.

We also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the dedicated support systems around them—the families, caregivers, physicians, nurses, certified ostomy nurse specialists, and healthcare professionals who walk alongside these patients every single day. Their compassion, expertise, and tireless work make a world of difference in helping patients adjust, heal, and thrive.

This year's theme, ''One Community—Stronger Together,'' hits home. It reminds us that no one should ever have to navigate a major health challenge alone. Access to quality care, peer support, and public education are essential to ensuring every individual living with an ostomy has the resources and dignity they deserve.

An ostomy is not the end of someone's story—it is the start of a healthier, more hopeful chapter. I am proud to stand with the ostomy community in Michigan and across our entire Nation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in raising awareness, ending the stigma, and celebrating these remarkable survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing October 3, 2026, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF HOSPITALMAN WILLIAM JAMES BARR

### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and a member of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Hospitalman William James Barr, United States Navy, and to recognize his service, sacrifice, and enduring memory in the hearts of his family, his community, and our Nation.

William James Barr was a young man from Warminster, Pennsylvania, who answered the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. After graduating from William Tennent High School in 1966, William went on to serve his fellow Americans as a Navy Corpsman.

In 1968, at just 19 years old, Hospitalman Barr made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Vietnam. Though his life was tragically cut short, his service and sacrifice ensured that his name would never be forgotten.

Today, decades after his passing, the people of Bucks County are honoring William in a lasting and meaningful way. Bucks County Bridge No. 140 on Valley Road, also known as Kemper Park Bridge, will be dedicated in his honor.

This dedication is more than the name of a bridge. It is a reminder to everyone who crosses it of a young Pennsylvanian who stepped forward to serve his country and gave his life in defense of others. It is a reminder that freedom comes at a cost, and that we have a responsibility to remember those who paid that price.

William's story also reminds us of the importance of a community coming together to preserve the memory of its heroes. Through this bridge dedication, future generations will have the opportunity to know his name and to understand the sacrifice of his service.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Hospitalman William James Barr for his service and sacrifice to our Nation. I also extend my appreciation to his family, friends, veterans, and the members of the Bucks County community who have worked to ensure that his memory continues to live on. May we always remember William James Barr, a son of Bucks County and a hero of the United States Navy.

## HONORING ROBERT KERMETT WALKER

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Kermett Walker, who retired after 44 years of distinguished service at several federal agencies, including the United States Post Office, United States Coast Guard, Department of the Navy and most recently NOAA under the United States Department of Commerce. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mr. Walker has been an active member and leader in the local Chapter of Blacks In Government and has also represented his agency in the Combined Federal Campaign, one of the largest workplaces giving programs in the country; and

Whereas Mr. Walker used his knowledge as Computer Analyst to help improve the efficiency of governmental agencies and their effectiveness to serve the public; and whereas, Mr. Walker takes great pride in sharing his wisdom with young people to positively contribute to their growth and development; and

Whereas Mr. Walker takes great pride in sharing his wisdom with young people to positively contribute to their growth and development; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mr. Robert Kermett Walker for his dedication to his profession, and his commitment to passing on his expertise to younger generations. A message, for his devotion to his family and his congregation and for his dedication to our community.

## HONORING LISA LACY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lisa Lacy as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Lisa is a dedicated member of the Antioch community who works tirelessly to protect and care for the local feral cat population of Antioch. Starting her days in the early hours of the morning, Lisa works to trap, transport, house, and medicate feral cats across Antioch. She has worked to prepare formerly feral cats for their new lives in loving homes through trap, neuter, and return efforts. Lisa has helped to create a more humane environment for our feline friends and those who enjoy their company.

To educate and empower her fellow Antioch community members, Lisa created the Scruffy to Fluffy information page. Community members can find adoptable cats, as well as information on how best to deal with those that are feral. Many community members have turned to her after receiving litters that are too large for them to manage, with Lisa helping to arrange adoptions and other methods of care. Her work has benefited both 4-legged and human members of Antioch's community, and her dedication does not go unnoticed. Her willingness to give her time and energy to a cause that affects both animals and residents reflects the very best qualities of community service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Lisa Lacy for her positive contributions to our community.

## NATIONAL OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

### HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Ostomy Awareness Day, which will be observed on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

An ostomy can be a difficult and deeply personal journey, but for many individuals, it is also a second chance at life. Ostomy surgery can provide a path forward for people facing serious illnesses and conditions, including colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, traumatic injuries because of domestic abuse or military engagement, and any other number of medical challenges. These procedures can be lifesaving and life-restoring, allowing individuals to return to their families, their workplaces, their communities, and the activities they love.

Yet too often, people living with an ostomy face misunderstanding, stigma, and unnecessary barriers. Ostomy Awareness Day provides an important opportunity to educate the public, dispel misconceptions, and remind us that an ostomy does not define a person or diminish the quality of a life.

In Maine, approximately 3,400 people are living with an ostomy. They are our neighbors, friends, family members, coworkers, veterans, caregivers, students, and community leaders. Their experiences demonstrate the strength and resilience of people who have overcome significant medical challenges and continue to live full and meaningful lives. Additionally, the United Ostomy Associations of America (UOAA) is based in my home state. Established in 2005, UOAA's mission is to promote quality of life for people with ostomies and continent diversions through information, support, advocacy, and collaboration. UOAA also has 260+ Affiliated Support Groups across the United States. Between 725,000 and 1 million Americans are living with an ostomy.

I also want to recognize the families, caregivers, physicians, nurses, certified ostomy nurse specialists, and other health care professionals who provide essential care and support to those living with an ostomy. Their compassion and expertise make an enormous difference in helping patients adjust to life after surgery and thrive.

This year's Ostomy Awareness Day theme, ''One Community—Stronger Together,'' is a fitting reminder that no one should have to navigate life with an ostomy alone. Awareness, education, peer support, and access to quality care can help ensure that every person who needs an ostomy has the resources and support necessary to live with confidence and dignity.

On Ostomy Awareness Day, we celebrate the resilience of the ostomy community and recognize the medical advances and dedicated professionals that have made these lifesaving surgeries possible. Most importantly, we affirm that an ostomy is not the end of a person's story—it can be the beginning of a healthier and more hopeful chapter.

I am proud to stand with the Maine ostomy community and with ostomy communities across our Nation. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to join me in raising awareness, breaking down stigma, and celebrating those whose lives have been saved and restored through ostomy surgery.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing October 3, 2026, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

## RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK (IPAW)

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW) from October 5 to October 9, 2026, an annual campaign designed to raise awareness about plasma donation and plasma-derived therapies (PDTs), recognize plasma donors, and educate the public and policymakers about patients who depend on these therapies.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus, I have had the privilege of meeting countless individuals and families whose lives have been affected by rare and chronic diseases. I have heard about their challenges, but I have also seen the incredible difference in their lives when life-saving treatments are available.

For many members of the rare disease community, PDTs are an essential part of that story. Human plasma, the liquid portion of our blood, contains important proteins that perform critical functions in our bodies. PDTs made from these proteins are used to treat patients with primary immunodeficiencies, bleeding disorders, rare neurological diseases, Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, hereditary angioedema and other serious conditions. They are also used in emergency medicine to treat patients suffering from shock, trauma, or burns.

But there is something particularly remarkable about PDTs: they begin with another person. Plasma cannot be manufactured in a laboratory. It cannot be distilled from a plant or synthesized using chemicals. Producing these therapies requires eligible donors to take the time to donate. And it takes many donors to meet the needs of patients. Depending on the condition and therapy, it can take hundreds—and in some cases as many as 1,200 plasma donations to provide one patient with treatment for one year. That is why increasing awareness about plasma donation is so important.

A new global survey conducted for the Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association illustrates both the importance of plasma donation and the gratitude patients feel toward the people who donate. Before receiving plasma-derived medicine or caring for someone who did, only 12 percent of respondents said they were very well informed about plasma donation. And only 44 percent knew that providing therapy for one patient for a year can require as many as 1,200 donations.

But when patients were asked how they feel about plasma donors, their response was overwhelming: 77 percent said they were grateful, 47 percent respectful, and 34 percent supportive. More than 400 people took the time to write personal messages thanking donors. Those numbers tell an important story.

For someone living with a rare disease, a plasma donor may be a person they will never meet. But that donor can nevertheless have a profound impact on their life—helping make it possible for them to go to school, pursue a career, raise a family, travel, and participate more fully in their communities.

During International Plasma Awareness Week, I encourage Americans to learn more about plasma donation and the patients who rely on plasma-derived medicines. And most importantly, I want to thank our plasma donors. I thank them for their time. I thank them for their commitment. And I thank them for giving patients with rare and serious diseases something extraordinarily valuable: the possibility of living healthier, fuller lives.

## HONORING SECRETARY WADE CROWFOOT

### HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Secretary Wade Crowfoot, a true partner to our communities and a friend to my office, on receiving the Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award from the Joshua Tree National Park Association.

Since 2019, Secretary Crowfoot has served as California's Natural Resources Secretary and as a member of Governor Newsom's cabinet. He leads an agency of more than 25,000 employees dedicated to protecting our forests, rivers, coast, and wildlife, and to advancing a clean energy future. He is driving California's commitment to conserve 30 percent of its land and coastal waters by 2030, and he has opened a new era of partnership with California Native American Tribes.

His commitment to the environment spans a career. He served in Governor Jerry Brown's administration, led the Water Foundation to build water resilience across the West, and helped shape California's landmark climate policies at the Environmental Defense Fund.

Secretary Crowfoot was a key partner in establishing the Chuckwalla National Monument. His leadership, alongside Tribal leaders and community organizations, helped protect lands of deep cultural and environmental value for generations to come.

He also worked with me as a state and federal partner on Salton Sea restoration. From the Species Conservation Habitat Project to its expansion, we joined together at the October 2024 groundbreaking to highlight new investment in restoration.

Secretary Crowfoot has supported a balanced approach to our desert: protecting culturally and environmentally significant lands while preserving room for renewable energy and transmission. That vision shaped the Chuckwalla effort and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

He visited our communities many times, listened, and showed up. Our Tribal leaders and community partners consider him a friend, and so do I.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Secretary Crowfoot on this well-deserved honor. I thank him for his partnership and for his commitment to our desert.