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.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF FAIRFAX-BURKE

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on its anniversary, marking more than 20 years of dedicated service to the older adult community of Fairfax, Burke, and South County, Virginia.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke is a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 with the mission of helping older adults in the Fairfax-Burke area live their lives independently, with purpose and dignity. Under the leadership of Executive Director Ms. Beth Kilgore-Robinson, the organization has provided invaluable free services, including transportation, social, educational, and enrichment programs for older adults throughout our community.

In the past year alone, Shepherd's Center recorded 10.385 client contacts, hosted 132 fitness classes with more than 5,000 attendees, and provided nearly 3,000 no-cost rides to older adults across the Fairfax, Burke, and South County communities. These numbers reflect the immense impact of the organization's work and the difference these services have made in the lives of older adults. For more than two decades, through their volunteering and programs Shepherd's Center has worked tirelessly to improve quality of life for older adults in our community by creating opportunities for them to stay active, independent, and most importantly connected to the community around them. The continued impact of Shepherd's Center is a testament to the dedication of its staff, volunteers, and supporters.

I am proud to have supported and stood alongside this remarkable organization over the years, and I am grateful for the countless hours of service that Shepherd's Center and its volunteers have given to the people of Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Executive Director Ms. Beth Kilgore-Robinson and all of the members of the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on its 20th anniversary of service to the people of Northern Virginia.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE MARSHALL ELKS LODGE NO. 683

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marshall Elks Lodge No. 683 as it celebrates 125 years of service to the people of Marshall, Harrison County, and communities across East Texas.

Chartered on April 19, 1901, the Lodge built its first home in 1903 on North Washington Street, now a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Over the years, Elk's members have given more than $12 million back to the community through charitable giving, service projects, and volunteer effort. Behind that number are the things East Texans remember: a holiday meal on the table, help arriving after a disaster, a scholarship for a student headed to college, and a blood drive that helped a stranger.

The Lodge has long stood with our veterans and first responders. It invests in young people through the Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest and drug awareness programs, and it supports Texas Elks Children's Services and Special Grant Programs for children with special needs. In 2016, the Marshall Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce honored the Lodge as Non-Profit Organization of the Year.

For 125 years, generations of members have given their time, their talents, and their treasure, guided by the four principles of Elkdom: charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. That is the East Texas way of caring for a neighbor.

I thank every member, past and present, and their families. May God bless the members of Marshall Elks Lodge No. 683, and may He continue to bless East Texas and the United States of America.

HONORING REVEREND NIGEL LEON LOVELL-MARTIN

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 the Reverend Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin, dedicated servant of God, respected spiritual leader, educator, and community activist, who is celebrating 25 years as the Pastor of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church in Miami, Florida. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas Reverend Lovell-Martin is credited with bringing stability to struggling Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, when he became pastor in 1997, and building, over the past 25 years, a sound foundation for the church that is supported by loyal and dedicated members;

Whereas, Reverend Lovell-Martin has initiated numerous successful ministries at the church that tackle issues facing youth and adults, the poor and the homeless;

Whereas, Reverend Lovell-Martin is an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University, holds a Ph.D., a master's and several other degrees in Education and raises money yearly for scholarships to help students further their education;

Whereas Reverend Lovell-Martin served the Presbyterian Church in various capacities including as commissioner to the 214th and the 219th General Assemblies, commissioner to the 11th stated meeting of the Synod of South Atlantic, presbytery staff and moderator, and Committee/Commissioner on Ministry moderator; 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, am honored to recognize Reverend Doctor Nigel Leon Lovell-Martin on his 25th anniversary as pastor of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, for his commitment to God, his congregation and our community.

HONORING CHAMPAGNE BROWN 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 Champagne Brown as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Shaped by her upbringing in South Central Los Angeles and her Louisiana roots, she has dedicated her career to equity, civil rights, and uplifting marginalized and underserved communities in Solano County. In her professional work, she manages a demanding caseload, providing direct services to individuals facing extreme poverty and deep systemic barriers. Beyond her career, Champagne is a devoted labor leader within SEIU 1021, where she advocates for workers and supports the union's mission to build safe, healthy, and equitable communities across Northern California. She is also a respected leader in California politics, serving as the District Director for Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) in Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Regional Director for the CADEM Black Caucus, and co-chair of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) Club Development Committee. As the founder of Black Girls Politickin, Champagne has helped build political power for historically underrepresented communities and has played a key strategic role in historic campaigns. Her extraordinary contributions have earned her top honors, including the California Black Women's Collective "Trailblazer Hall of Fame Award for Labor," the BWOPA "Ella Hill Hutch Award," and the DPCCC "Volunteer of the Year." On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Champagne Brown for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING SALVADOR "SAL" LICCARDO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today, as Chair of and on behalf of the California Democratic delegation, to give our condolences to our colleague Representative SAM T. LICCARDO on the passing of his father, Salvador "Sal" Liccardo.

Mr. Liccardo was born in 1935 and grew up on San Jose's North Fifth Street. After attending Santa Clara University, he served in the United States Army for two years, where he handled top-secret military communications in the Signal Corps. Following his military service, Mr. Liccardo returned home and earned his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1960. After graduating law school, he opened his own law practice, and within 30 days after passing the California Bar exam, Salvador was working on his first felony criminal case. As a lawyer, Mr. Liccardo took