HONORING YVETTE TIRADO GONZALEZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Yvette Tirado Gonzalez is a dedicated kindergarten teacher in Osceola County with more than 38 years of experience. Throughout her career, she has remained committed in inspiring young learners and strengthening families and the community.

Proud of her Puerto Rican heritage, Yvette earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico. Her cultural background has played an important role in shaping her philosophy as an educator. She firmly believes that diversity enriches both education and society, and she encourages students and colleagues to celebrate their heritage, language, and traditions proudly.

Inspired by the values her parents instilled, Yvette has built her life and career around two guiding principles: Unity and Respect. These values motivated her to pursue a career in education, where she has dedicated herself to helping others overcome challenges, recognize their potential, and believe in what they can achieve.

Her dedication to education has earned recognition, including the 2009 Distinguished Minority Educator of the Year, the 2010 Superintendent's High Five Award, and the 2025 A+ Teacher honor from Spectrum News 13. She was nominated as a Top Ten Finalist for the 2026 Osceola County Teacher of the Year.

As the community around her became increasingly diverse, Yvette felt called to extend her impact beyond the walls of her classroom. She became actively involved with nonprofit organizations including Relay for Life, March of Dimes, and Give Kids the World Village. Through her involvement, she has worked to bring people together, strengthen connections between cultures, and demonstrate the importance of service, compassion, and community.

Yvette believes that embracing diversity and building meaningful connections across cultures can strengthen not only in Florida, but throughout the world.

Her guiding motto reflects the legacy she continues to build:

''Diversity is the thread that holds us together.''

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR: TERESA TATE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teresa Tate as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. For more than 25 years, Teresa has served the Chinese American Association of Solano County (CAASC), helping provide scholarships to over 400 students totaling more than $300,000. As the organization's treasurer for over a decade, she has helped maintain its financial stability and ensure its continued ability to support students and serve the community. Beyond her work managing the organization's finances, Teresa volunteers on numerous CAASC committees, including those dedicated to scholarships, silent auctions, and raffles. Her commitment to education has helped sustain annual scholarship opportunities for Solano County students, while her service has also supported community outreach efforts, including card-making activities for seniors during the pandemic.

Teresa has also played an important role in celebrating and promoting Chinese and Asian American cultures throughout Solano County. Through her involvement in organizing Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year celebrations, as well as ensuring CAASC's participation in Vacaville's Fiesta Days Parade and Fairfield's Fourth of July Parade, she has helped strengthen cultural visibility and bring the community together.

Through her decades of dedicated service, Teresa has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to education, cultural appreciation, and community engagement. Her contributions have strengthened CAASC and helped create meaningful opportunities for residents throughout Solano County. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Teresa Tate for her longstanding service and contributions to our community.