

family. She is joined in celebrating this milestone by her husband, Arnoll M. Vicente; her children, Nicollette V. Velasco and Neal Keanu P. Vicente; and her father, Rosalino Paez. She also honors the memory of her late mother, Lilia Paez, whose guidance and values helped shape her life of dedication and service.

After more than three decades of hard work and commitment, Ms. Vicente retired March 6, 2026. In retirement, she looks forward to traveling and spending more time with her family—an opportunity that is well deserved after so many years devoted to public service.

Her career reminds us that the strength of our institutions rests on the dedication of individuals who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure that essential services continue to operate smoothly and reliably for the people they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Marietta P. Vicente for her outstanding contributions to the people of Guam and to extend my sincere appreciation for her many years of service. I wish her and her family a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE HERNANDO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT AND DOWNTOWN DETAIL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit and Downtown Detail. In many communities across our Nation, the relationship between law enforcement and the public is defined primarily by sirens and badges. But in Brooksville, Florida, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit and Downtown Detail have redefined that relationship. They have transformed it into a genuine partnership rooted in friendship, service, and shared pride in the community they serve. This remarkable team has moved far beyond traditional expectations of law enforcement. They are not simply a security presence at our events—they are a foundational part of Brooksville Main Street's success. Whether supporting a large-scale festival or a small neighborhood gathering, these deputies are consistently among the first to volunteer and the last to leave. From the physically demanding work of event setup and breakdown to ensuring the safety and comfort of thousands of attendees, their professionalism provides a sense of confidence and calm that allows our downtown events to flourish. Their presence reassures families, supports volunteers, and strengthens the spirit of community that defines Brooksville.

What truly distinguishes this team is their heart for service. Each holiday season, they go well beyond the call of duty to help transform our downtown into a winter wonderland. The assembly of our towering 40-foot Christmas tree and the installation of large-scale rooftop decorations would not be possible without their strength, teamwork, and dedication. They work shoulder-to-shoulder with volunteers—climbing heights, lifting heavy displays, and giving their time—simply because

they care about the joy these traditions bring to our citizens. Their commitment also extends to our local businesses. They are accessible, approachable, and always willing to listen to concerns, offer guidance, or provide assistance when needed. Because of their proactive engagement, our merchants feel heard, supported, and protected. By prioritizing relationships, they have elevated the reputation of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to one defined by excellence, approachability, and genuine compassion. Today, I am proud to recognize the dedicated professionals who embody this spirit of service: Deputy Jason Deso, Deputy Chris Morito, Deputy Juan Perez, Deputy Ashley May, Deputy Lauren Janezic, Deputy Vic Latty, Deputy Brian Timothy, Deputy Ben Witherell, Deputy Jack Evans, and Sergeant Dustin Adkins. These men and women do more than patrol our streets, they invest in them. Through active, joyful service, they have bridged the gap between law enforcement and the public, strengthening trust and unity in our community. Their tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on Brooksville, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment.

It is my distinct privilege to honor the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit and Downtown Detail for their exemplary service and steadfast dedication to the people of Brooksville. Their commitment to building trust, strengthening community partnerships, and going above and beyond the call of duty truly embodies the spirit of service. I am proud to recognize them as 2026 Heroes Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE CENSUS ACT OF 2026

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Full Participation in the Census Act of 2026, which would prohibit the U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau) from including questions on the decennial census about citizenship, nationality or immigration status.

Prior to the 2020 census, the Department of Justice wrote to the Bureau requesting that it "reinstate on the 2020 census questionnaire a question regarding citizenship." From 1970 to 2000, this question was sent to approximately 16 percent of the population in the decennial census through the so-called "longform." However, the longform was dropped from the census and replaced with the current American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is sent to approximately three million people annually, which allows the Bureau to get the necessary information on citizenship. Asking questions about citizenship status to every person in the decennial census has not been done in almost 70 years because it would discourage people, largely minorities, who are already undercounted in the census, from participating in the census. The ACS was created to make the decennial census simpler for people to complete, which facilitates higher participation rates and preserves privacy.

Fortunately, after a protracted legal and political process, the citizenship question was not

included on the 2020 census. However, this bill is necessary to ensure it cannot be asked on a future decennial census. The representative sample provided by the ACS is more than sufficient to determine citizenship statistics in the U.S. All individuals must be counted in the decennial census to ensure an accurate allocation of federal funds and representation in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE STOCKTON SYMPHONY ON THEIR CENTENNIAL YEAR

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Stockton Symphony during its 2026–2027 Centennial concert season. For a century, the Stockton Symphony has enriched the cultural life of Stockton and the Central Valley, bringing artistic excellence, educational opportunity, and community connection to generations of families.

Founded in May 1926, the Symphony gave its inaugural performance during "Music Week" for the Stockton Musical Club. The orchestra was formed by twenty local musicians under the leadership of Manlio Silva—an Italian immigrant, pharmacist by day and conductor by night—whose vision and dedication laid the foundation for one of California's oldest continuously operating professional orchestras. Just months later, in October 1926, the Symphony opened its first full season at the California Theater on Main Street, making high-quality musical performance accessible to the community. Silva continued to lead the orchestra until 1958, guiding it through decades of growth.

In the years that followed, conductors including Horace Brown, Fritz Berens, and Ralph Matesky sustained the Symphony's legacy before Kyung-Soo Won began a transformative 27-year tenure in 1967. Under his leadership, the orchestra evolved from a community ensemble into a fully professional organization of "metropolitan" status as recognized by the League of American Orchestras.

Since 1995, Maestro Peter Jaffe has led the Stockton Symphony in a period of continued artistic achievement and national recognition. Through acclaimed world premieres, composer residencies, and vibrant educational programs such as Harmony Stockton, Steppin' Out, and Magic of Music, the Symphony has strengthened its role as both a cultural anchor and an educational leader. Collaborations with local schools, colleges, arts organizations, and community groups continue to ensure that music remains accessible and inclusive for all.

Today, the Stockton Symphony presents both Classical and Pops concerts, engages renowned guest artists and rising virtuosos, and remains steadfast in its mission to inspire joy and build community through the magic of music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Stockton Symphony on its Centennial Anniversary and in expressing our deep gratitude for 100 years of extraordinary service to the Central Valley. May the

next century continue to uplift and unite our community through the power of music.

CELEBRATING THE B'NAI ISRAEL
CONGREGATION'S CENTENNIAL

RECOGNIZING MR. JOE BESNARD

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a dedicated community leader in my district, Mr. Joe Besnard. Since 2011, Joe has been a steadfast champion for survivors of domestic and sexual violence served by Sunrise. A retired veteran and successful businessman, he embodies a lifelong commitment to service, leadership, and community responsibility. His generosity extends far beyond financial support, as he donates his time, heart, and personal influence to create lasting change.

Over the years, Joe has strengthened Sunrise's mission in meaningful and tangible ways. He has supported the agency's Holiday Giving Program, ensuring survivors and their children experience joy and dignity during the holiday season. He funded the remodeling of the shelter kitchen, transforming it into a welcoming and functional space, and contributed significantly to the construction of an on-site office building, creating a dedicated and safe workspace for hotline advocates and counselors who provide life-saving support to survivors every day. Joe's impact extends beyond direct donations. He founded one of Sunrise's signature fundraising events, the Pull for Survivors Sporting Clays event, which continues to generate critical resources and community awareness. He personally recruits participants, sponsors, and supporters, leveraging his relationships to grow the event each year. In a reflection of his humility and heart, he asks friends and family to purchase birthday and Christmas gifts for him that can be used as auction items to benefit survivors.

Importantly, Joe's compassion includes the staff who carry out this difficult work. Each Christmas, he provides Honey Baked hams for staff and shelter residents, a thoughtful tradition that reminds both survivors and employees that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

Through consistent action, generosity, and leadership, Joe Besnard has helped create safer spaces, stronger services, and brighter futures for countless survivors and families. He exemplifies the spirit of "Heroes Among Us" as someone who quietly and faithfully uses his resources to strengthen his community, bring hope where it is needed most, and advocate for survivors and their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Joe Besnard for his outstanding contributions to our community. For his tireless dedication and extraordinary generosity, I am proud to honor Mr. Besnard as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the B'nai Israel Congregation's Centennial. B'nai Israel is an essential part of Maryland's 8th District's vibrant and diverse Jewish community, and it is a privilege to represent a congregation with one hundred years of storied history and activism.

The B'nai Israel Congregation began as a small gathering of committed friends who met at a congregant's home on Georgia Avenue in Northwest D.C. It grew so quickly that the congregation had to occupy two buildings in the District before finally finding its permanent home in Rockville in 1976. In 2026, the B'nai Israel Congregation is one of the largest synagogues in the movement of Conservative Judaism. Today, over 1,100 families attend temple services, participate in b'nai mitzvahs and celebrate life milestones together.

The people who call the B'nai Israel Congregation their spiritual community share core values of connection and service that have defined the Congregation throughout these one hundred years. The Congregation supports lifelong Jewish learning opportunities, from the Schilit Early Childhood Center to a busy adult education program. The synagogue maintains a close relationship with several communities in Israel. And every month, congregants enact their commitment to community by delivering nutritious meals to local women experiencing homelessness. The entire congregation gathers for Mitzvah Day in December to bring mitzvot to people across Montgomery County.

This tradition of service flows from the B'nai Israel Congregation's deep well of moral solidarity and civic engagement. During their own migration from D.C. to Rockville, members of B'nai Israel helped lead the urgent project to free Jewish people trapped and persecuted by the Soviet Union. Today, congregants and clergy at the B'nai Israel Congregation are active participants in Montgomery County's interfaith coalition. They invest deeply in educating each generation about our own struggles in America for social justice and lead educational trips to historic sites of the Civil Rights Movement.

Montgomery County and the wider DMV have been fortunate to be the home of the B'nai Israel Congregation over the past one hundred years. Liberal democracies are sustained by vibrant and engaged communities like the B'nai Israel Congregation. May the congregants and clergy of B'nai Israel continue to go from strength to strength for the next century to come—yasher koach.

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS ON
ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary impact the Peace Corps has made on inter-

national communities and American citizens alike. This month, on its 65th anniversary, we honor the Peace Corps and the dedicated volunteers who have served their country and helped better communities around the globe.

On October 14, 1960, then-Senator John F. Kennedy announced in a speech at the University of Michigan an innovative new idea—the establishment of an American organization that would send volunteers abroad to foster mutual understanding, build relationships, and develop educational, economic, and agricultural opportunities in underserved communities. Soon, the Peace Corps was born, and the first group of volunteers left for Ghana on August 28, 1961.

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has continued to send dedicated and talented Americans across the globe to assist in health, education and economic development as well as partake in other progressive projects to help those in need throughout the world. Peace Corps volunteers represent the best of the United States and the undimmed potential of "soft power" initiatives that help make our world a better place. Through emersion in and supportive engagement with host communities, Peace Corps volunteers help to show the world an uplifting side of the United States that values peace, prosperity and progress not just in this country, but throughout the world. I have long been a supporter of this program, including supporting increased funding for it—and I hope, we can provide an increase in FY 2027—as well as cosponsored legislation introduced by my good friend, Congresswoman BETTY MCCOLLUM, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Peace Corps volunteers to recognize the dedication and devotion and spirit of public service that has guided their hard work and sacrifice.

Although President Kennedy first established the Peace Corps by Executive Order and is rightly associated with it, there had been earlier proposals for an international service organization. And I want to point out the role that former Wisconsin Congressman Henry S. Reuss played. In fact, before Kennedy's Michigan speech, Representative Reuss created a proposal for what he referred to as a "Point Four Youth Corps," an idea that later evolved into the Peace Corps, and he spearheaded the House legislation to authorize this program.

Since its inception, Peace Corps volunteers have gone above and beyond in fulfilling their mission through community-based development. More than 240,000 volunteers, 6,577 of them Wisconsinites, have devoted themselves to service in six different sectors, including agriculture, economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development.

In the Peace Corps Act, Congress declared it the policy of the United States to "promote world peace and friendship through a Peace Corps . . . available to interested countries and areas men and women of the United States qualified for service abroad and willing to serve, under conditions of hardship if necessary" to help "promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of the peoples served and a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people". Sixty-five years later, the Peace Corps is as relevant as ever and probably even more needed.

By living alongside the community they serve, volunteers develop lifelong friendships