

partners with middle and high schools to guide students through academic preparation, college admission requirements, and financial aid processes. EAOP focuses on increasing college preparatory course completion, college application submissions, and enrollment rates among underrepresented students.

The Early Academic Outreach Program is celebrated for its decades of dedication to serving our community by expanding access to education. This program ensures college readiness for underrepresented students by serving over 40,000 students at over 250 K–12 public schools throughout the state each year. Seventy-nine percent of EAOP 12th-grade participants are completing college preparatory coursework compared to forty-nine percent of all California public high school seniors. Sixty-seven percent of EAOP 12th-grade participants complete the SAT or ACT, compared to sixty percent of non-participants at the same California public high schools. The Early Academic Outreach Program has supported more than 450,000 students throughout its existence and, as a result, has diversified and strengthened enrollment in both California's higher education institutions, and in the workforce. Today we recognize the EAOP for being one of the University of California's largest and most successful Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnership programs.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Early Academic Outreach program for their dedicated service to our underrepresented student community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

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HONORING MARGI STERN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margi Stern. I have named Mrs. Stern as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Solano County. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mrs. Stern was born in Brooklyn, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Science in speech and language pathology from Whittier College, as well as a master's degree in communication disorders from St. Louis University. She is the grandniece of Arthur Garfield Hayes, a lawyer, civil rights champion, and the co-founder of the ACLU. She is also the niece of Robert L. Stern, a well-known authority in California Campaign finance, the President of Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles, and a recipient of the Democracy Hero award by Common Cause.

Mrs. Stern has devoted her career to the betterment of her community. She worked as a Speech Language Pathologist for 37 years, 25 of which were in the Early Intervention Program, for the Solano County Office of Education. After retirement, she volunteered to lead support groups for the parents of children with special needs and worked to teach Parent Communication Skills at the Adult School. Throughout her life, Mrs. Stern has advocated

tirelessly for our special needs community. At Vacaville High School, she created the Anya Elizabeth Janoski Special Education Scholarship, to provide funds to seniors interested in pursuing a career in Special Education. She also participated in the creation, fundraising, and promotion of the Play 4 All Park in Vacaville, and volunteers for Together Everyone Always Matters (TEAM) Vacaville, an organization that provides monthly activities for children with special needs.

In addition to being an incredible advocate for our special needs community, Mrs. Stern is also passionate about eradicating injustice and promoting political participation. She is honored for her work uplifting the women in her community. As a member of the Women's Action Network, she promotes women's participation in city council meetings, campaigns, and local political events. She also serves on the Committee to Establish the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

Through her participation in local government, Mrs. Stern established the Backyard Hens of Vacaville Group, rewrote the Vacaville city policy to allow hens in the city limits, hosted "meet and greets" for local candidates in Solano County government, and strengthened the Northern Solano Democratic Club. Mrs. Stern consistently shows up for her neighborhood, serving as the Chair of Neighborhood Watch and organizing Neighborhood Night Out among other neighborhood functions. She also speaks every year at the Ernest Kimme Charter School Graduation Ceremony and participates in their Ernest Kimme Service Day.

Mrs. Stern was married to her late husband, Ernest Kimme, a teacher, city council member, and community philanthropist who passed away in 2015. Her son, Stefan Janoski, is bronze sculptor, short film director, and a world-famous skateboarder with a signature Nike shoe that has "Vacaville, California," inscribed on the tongue. Her late daughter, Anya Janoski, was a powerful mentor who contributed to Mrs. Stern's understanding of how to make a difference in the world. Anaya passed in 2017 at age 32; she was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome which affected her physical size and her developmental growth.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Margi Stern's passion, leadership, and determination have profoundly impacted our Solano County community. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we recognize her invaluable contributions here today.

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CONGRATULATING CHIEF HUGO SEARLE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Chief Hugo Searle, on his retirement after 34 years with the fire service. Chief Searle is a dedicated public servant and an outstanding leader who has served Minnesotans with courage and commitment.

Originally from Wales, Chief Searle made Minnesota his home and devoted his career to protecting our communities. He served 19 years with the St. Louis Park Fire Department

and 10 years with the Brooklyn Park Fire Department before being appointed Chief of the Eagan Fire Department in 2021.

During his tenure as Chief, he strengthened community relationships, invested deeply in personnel and guided the department through a period of growth and change. His leadership enhanced emergency response capabilities and fostered a culture grounded in professionalism, compassion, and service. Chief Searle has earned the respect of his colleagues from across the state and is widely regarded as a leader within Minnesota's fire service community.

Chief Searle's commitment to excellence extends far beyond the state. In his free time, Chief Searle serves as a high-altitude mountain guide and has summited Mount Everest.

I am deeply inspired by Chief Searle's commitment to public service and exceptional leadership. His career in the fire service will have a lasting impact in Eagan and across the state of Minnesota and I am grateful for all he has done to support our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Searle and in wishing him all the best on his well-earned retirement.

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RECOGNIZING MS. LISA WRIGHT

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Lisa Wright for her tireless service to our community. Lisa has been an invaluable volunteer at the Pregnancy & Family Life Center (PFLC) of Citrus County since 2022, contributing over 1,300 hours of service across multiple roles. Every Monday morning, Lisa uses her own truck to drive to the Food Bank in Homosassa, where she picks up and delivers a pallet of food to stock the Center's pantry. She checks donations for freshness, organizes them, and ensures they are stored properly. In 2025, the Center distributed 83,000 pounds of food to clients. Affectionately known as the "workhorse", Lisa's strength, resilience, and work ethic are unmatched. No task is too large—she tackles mountains of donations, food boxes, and diapers with remarkable efficiency. Even after a significant surgery, Lisa quickly returned to volunteer work, demonstrating her deep love and dedication to the Center.

Lisa also plays a key role in client interactions, ensuring that every woman who visits the Center feels seen, valued, and cared for, and that each family receives the food and personal items they need. Together, Judy, Lisa, and Wanda embody the heart of the PFLC mission—compassion, service, and unwavering support for women and families. Their dedication ensures that every client who walks through the door receives not only essential resources, but also dignity, hope, and encouragement for the future.

Together, with two other exceptional volunteers, Judy and Wanda, Lisa embodies the heart of the PFLC mission—compassion, service, and unwavering support for women and families. Their dedication ensures that every client who walks through the door receives not only essential resources but also dignity, hope, and encouragement for the future. For

their enduring dedication, compassionate hearts, and profound impact on their community, I am honored to recognize Ms. Lisa Wright as a 2026 Hero Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her unwavering commitment, selfless leadership, and the profound, lasting impact she has made on our community.

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HONORING THE PENCE GALLERY

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pence Gallery for their 50 years of dedicated service to the arts and commitment to fostering creativity in our Davis community.

The Pence Gallery's story began in 1968 when Joe and Hazel Pence gifted their former dental office and the surrounding property to the City of Davis. A consortium of arts patrons successfully secured the building from the city to use as a gallery, leading to the establishment of a nonprofit arts organization named in the Pences' honor. The Pence Gallery Association was formed in 1975 and incorporated in 1976 by a small group of community leaders, UC Davis professors, and artists. The Pence Gallery has occupied the D Street location in downtown Davis since its inception, and is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors, a Director-Curator, and an Assistant Director. While the Pence Gallery remains on city-owned property, it operates as an independent nonprofit and receives no city funding for building or operational expenses.

The Pence Gallery's commitment to our community is clear from their facility and programming. In 2005, the gallery unveiled its current facility through a capital campaign. The modern building, designed by San Francisco architects Wayne Barcelon and Darlene Jang, features over 4,500 square feet and stands on the original site. The facility includes three distinct gallery spaces including the Andresen Learning Center Gallery, the Dowling Community Gallery, and the Coldwell Banker Main Gallery. Each area is designed to showcase diverse contemporary artworks throughout the year. Approximately 20,000 people visit annually, enjoying exhibits, programs, artist talks and lectures, and events, including the monthly 2nd Friday ArtAbout. Since 2011, the Pence Gallery has been voted the best art gallery in Yolo County.

The Pence Gallery has rightfully been recognized for supporting the development of local and regional artists. The gallery offers several calls for artists each year, including the Emerging Artist Award, Slice: A Juried Exhibit of Regional Art, Exhibit It!, and the Night Market for young people ages 16 to 25. Throughout its history, many regional artists now recognized nationally exhibited at the Pence Gallery early in their careers.

The Pence Gallery's dedication also extends to arts education and community engagement. The gallery evolved into an educational resource for elementary, high school, and university students through its internship program and ArtSmart program. The Pence Gallery brings adults of all abilities artistic stimulation and an opportunity to experiment, discover,

and create under the guidance of talented local and regional artists. Since 2006, the Pence Gallery has hosted the Pence Gallery Garden Tour annually on the first Sunday in May, a Davis-wide self-guided tour of gardens celebrating innovation, beauty, and creativity in the outdoors. The gallery has also contributed to the scholarly documentation of Northern California art and culture through research and catalogue publication.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Pence Gallery for their 50 years of dedication to the arts and our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today as they celebrate this milestone anniversary.

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RECOGNIZING FATHERS M.I.A. ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Fathers M.I.A. on its 10th Anniversary. Founded in 2016 by Gernald Hawkins, Sr. and Robert L. Jackson, III, Fathers M.I.A.'s mission is to mentor, support, challenge, assist, and advise fathers as they actively engage in rebuilding relationships with their children.

Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Jackson attended a teen sporting event where they realized it was mothers, and not fathers, who would bring their children to sporting practice and major games. It was there that they identified a need to bridge the gap between father and child.

By working to bridge this gap, they are changing the narrative for fathers who are M.I.A.—Missing In Action—to Motivated, Involved, and Active. Their objective is to give fathers and their children a fighting chance and opportunities to positively change their lives, thinking, and values.

This year, Fathers M.I.A. is holding its 10th Annual 'As We Honor You' Scholarship Gala, a celebration of students who have demonstrated remarkable perseverance in their education despite the absence of paternal love and comfort. During this elegant evening, young ladies are paired with local law enforcement and young men dance with their mothers, creating a unique and supportive atmosphere.

Scholarships are awarded to selected participants upon successful completion of the eight-week program, which significantly contributes to their personal growth and mindset. The program encompasses a variety of activities, including essay writing, etiquette classes, online and social media safety sessions, group therapy, and instruction in positive affirmations.

On behalf of Florida's 25th District, I commend and thank Fathers M.I.A. for their work to strengthen our families and community. I wish them much success as they continue to mentor future generations.

RECOGNIZING MS. JUDY AWE

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Judy Awe, for her tireless service to our community. Judy serves as both the current and past President of the Pregnancy & Family Life Center (PFLC) of Citrus County's Board of Directors. Since joining the Center in 2022, she has dedicated over 760 volunteer hours, serving as both Board President and receptionist one day each week. As Board President, Judy has provided exceptional leadership, guiding the governing body in the operation, management, and strategic growth of the Center. Under her stewardship, the PFLC has flourished, expanding its reach and impact across the community. Her steadfast commitment to supporting women and families facing unplanned pregnancies has earned her deep respect and admiration throughout Citrus County.

Judy works closely with the Executive Director to identify priorities that address the growing material and mental health needs of pregnant women. In her weekly role as receptionist, she is the warm, welcoming face of the PFLC. Her kind smile, encouraging words, and problem-solving skills create a comforting environment for every client. In 2025 alone, the Center conducted 2,139 client visits, and eighteen women chose life for their babies thanks to the compassionate support they received.

Together, with two other exceptional volunteers, Lisa and Wanda, Judy embodies the heart of the PFLC mission—compassion, service, and unwavering support for women and families. Their dedication ensures that every client who walks through the door receives not only essential resources but also dignity, hope, and encouragement for the future. For their enduring dedication, compassionate hearts, and profound impact on their community, I am honored to recognize Ms. Judy Awe as a 2026 Hero Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her unwavering commitment, selfless leadership, and the profound, lasting impact she has made on our community.

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RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURRAY ROOFING COMPANY

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Murray Roofing Company, a proud family-owned business based in Western New York, founded on April 4, 1976. For five decades, the company has stood as a pillar of reliability and excellence in the commercial and industrial roofing industry.

Throughout its history, Murray Roofing Company has built a strong reputation for quality workmanship and dependable service, becoming one of Western New York's leading flat rubber roofing contractors. Their commitment