

science and patient care through research, advocacy, and clinical practice.

On behalf of constituents throughout Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I wish to thank Geeta Sikand and medical professionals like her who strive to reshape how we approach and view personal health care in America through our food consumption. I also applaud Geeta for her inspiring and enthusiastic approach to this very important issue.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSÉ RAFAEL "PICULÍN" ORTIZ RIJOS

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**HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of José Rafael "Piculín" Ortiz Rijos, affectionately known throughout Puerto Rico as "Piculín" and "El Concord," one of the most beloved and accomplished athletes in our history.

Born in Aibonito and raised in Cayey, José Rafael "Piculín" Ortiz Rijos became one of the greatest centers Puerto Rico has ever produced. His journey took him from the Baloncesto Superior Nacional, where he became a champion and icon, to Oregon State University, the National Basketball Association, Europe's elite leagues, and the international stage.

As a member of Puerto Rico's National Team, Piculín helped carry our flag with dignity across four Olympic Games and multiple international competitions. His performances helped cement Puerto Rico's place in international basketball and inspired countless young Puerto Ricans to believe that greatness could emerge from our small Island.

Among his greatest moments was Puerto Rico's historic 92-73 victory over the United States at the 2004 Summer Olympics, a game forever etched in the memory of our people. That day, Puerto Rico did not simply win a basketball game. Puerto Rico reminded the world of its talent, courage, and competitive spirit.

For generations of Puerto Ricans, Piculín was more than a basketball player. He was the sound of a packed coliseum, the voice of a radio announcer on a summer night, and the pride of families crowded around a television to watch Puerto Rico compete against the world. He was the backdrop to evenings on neighborhood courts where children attempted to imitate his signature moves, and the reason communities gathered, transcended their differences, and found in basketball a language all their own. In him, Puerto Rico saw height, talent, discipline, and heart, but above all, we saw ourselves.

May the legacy of José Rafael "Piculín" Ortiz Rijos, our "Piculín," our "El Concord," live forever in the hearts of a grateful Puerto Rico.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CHRISTOPHER BLASNEK

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Christopher Blasnek with over 40 years of law enforcement experience. He will be retiring as a Senior Safety Officer with the Rancho Santiago Community College District. He began with RSCCD around March 2022, and has overseen the safety of employees, students and my Congressional District Office.

Prior to the Rancho Santiago Community College District, Christopher served as Commander to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department South Patrol Division, comprising the Carson, Cerritos, Lakewood, Lomita, Norwalk, and Pico Rivera patrol stations beginning in 2019.

Christopher Blasnek was the Unit Commander of East Patrol Division, Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station. Prior to Crescenta Valley Station, Captain Blasnek was assigned to the Reserve Deputy Program as the operations lieutenant/unit commander. This assignment placed him at the helm for the Department's Reserve Deputy Program, Explorer Program, and Posse Program located in Monterey Park. Also, he worked in the East Patrol Division, working as the operations lieutenant of Walnut/Diamond Bar Station. This position placed him as the second in command of a large area, which included Diamond Bar, Walnut, Rowland Heights, and Covina Hills.

In 1991, Captain Blasnek was instrumental in the formation of the Department's first full-time Motor Program. He participated in the pilot program under the training of the California Highway Patrol. Today, the Department has motor vehicles in many contract cities and contract transportation bureaus.

Christopher Blasnek earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University-Long Beach, where he also went on to obtain his Master of Science in Emergency Services Administration in 2008.

Christopher was the 2015 President of the San Gabriel Valley Peace Officers Association, a charity organization designed to network with other agencies throughout the San Gabriel Valley to share crime and intelligence information.

Christopher was promoted by Sheriff Jim McDonnell on March 16, 2017, and took over the position of unit commander at the Crescenta Valley Station on April 2, 2017.

Christopher Blasnek resides in Dana Point with his wife of 40 years. He enjoys golf, traveling, and spending time with his family.

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COMMEMORATING THE NEW JERSEY TAIWANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce, which has supported Tai-

wanese American entrepreneurs and professionals throughout New Jersey. As a member of the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of North America, the New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce remains steadfast in their commitment to serving Taiwanese professionals across the Garden State by promoting networking, resource sharing, and community engagement opportunities.

I extend my warm congratulations to the New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce as they celebrate their Annual Gala and President Handover Ceremony. This esteemed non-profit organization has made significant strides in promoting trade and commerce throughout New Jersey by strengthening economic ties between the United States and Taiwan. Moreover, the New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce commitment to community service is evident through their active participation in local cultural events and their ongoing support for education.

The New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce is well known for their charitable contributions, annual conventions, and community festivals at Bridgewater Commons in Bridgewater, Somerset County. In addition, the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of North America engages the next generation of business leaders through youth empowerment activities within their Junior Chapter, placing a strong emphasis on mentorship and career development.

This organization provides its members with valuable opportunities to exchange business insights, technology updates, and management experiences. Through a variety of initiatives, including large-scale gatherings for entrepreneurs throughout the Greater New York-New Jersey area, the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of North America fosters connections and celebrates the many accomplishments of the community.

The New Jersey Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to serving Taiwanese Americans here in New Jersey. I am confident that their impact and involvement will continue to strengthen the community for years to come.

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RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF JUNE 7 TO 13, 2026, AS NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association headquartered in Itasca, Illinois, and its efforts to designate the week of June 7 to 13, 2026, as National Roofing Week.

The roof is one of the most important components of any home or business. It is the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow or wind, and yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week honors the thousands of roofing-related businesses and workers across the country, as well as the industry's commitment to public service. National Roofing Week is a valuable reminder of the significance quality roofing has on every home and business in the U.S.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the Nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. NRCA has nearly 4,000 roofing company members who represent the entire roofing supply chain. Using its vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA is responsible for the installation of new construction and replacement roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. Most of its members are small, privately held businesses that provide family-sustaining jobs for thousands of hardworking individuals who are the backbone of our economy.

Professional roofing contractors provide vital services to their communities, on and off the clock. NRCA members will recognize National Roofing Week June 7 to 13, 2026, by supporting numerous charitable projects, employee training programs and other activities across the Nation. I commend NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN MICHAEL "OZZY" OSBOURNE

### HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of John Michael Osbourne, known around the world as Ozzy Osbourne. The legendary front man of Black Sabbath and a towering figure in the history of rock and heavy metal.

Ozzy came from very humble beginnings. Raised by parents who were both factory workers, he rose from modest circumstances to become one of the most influential artists of all time, a true working-class hero whose success never erased his authenticity or connection to ordinary people.

With landmark albums like *Paranoid*, *Master of Reality*, and *Black Sabbath Vol. 4*, Black Sabbath forged a powerful new genre, one that captured the emotions and energy of a changing world. After his time with Black Sabbath, Ozzy embarked on a legendary solo career. His debut album, *Blizzard of Ozz*, introduced the world to a new chapter of his artistry, with hits like "Crazy Train" and "Mr. Crowley" becoming instant classics.

Ozzy Osbourne sold over 120 million albums combined from his solo career and as a member of Black Sabbath. He has been honored with numerous accolades, including inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, both as a member of Black Sabbath and as a solo performer, as well as five Grammy Awards and numerous lifetime achievement recognitions.

One of Ozzy's biggest successes was *Ozzfest*, a festival created by his wife and manager, Sharon, with help from his son Jack, which became an instant hit with metal fans and helped elevate emerging bands. That same family bond was later shared with millions through the groundbreaking MTV reality series *The Osbournes*, which introduced a new generation to Ozzy and offered an

unfiltered look at the warmth, humor, and love that defined their home.

Ozzy's influence was extraordinary, but his life and career were shaped alongside Sharon, whom he met in 1970. What began as a professional relationship became a lifelong partnership through which they built a loving family together.

Though he was born in England, Ozzy lived more than half of his life in America and truly loved this country. He became an icon deeply woven into the fabric of American music culture and a great ambassador around the world for our Nation, embodying the same defiant, freedom-loving spirit that defines America itself. As one of the original architects of heavy metal, he helped forge a sound that would influence generations of musicians and fans alike.

Today we say, "no more tears," for Ozzy Osbourne lived life without restraint. His voice and memory live on as an enduring symbol of the rebellious independence, creative freedom, and unapologetic individuality at the heart of the American spirit.

HONORING STEPHEN RITZ

### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary educator, innovator, and community leader from the Bronx: Stephen Ritz, founder of Green Bronx Machine.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Stephen Ritz has transformed lives through the power of education, sustainability, and hope. What began as a single classroom initiative in the South Bronx has grown into a global movement, one that has reached more than 375,000 students across six continents and trained over 11,000 educators worldwide. Green Bronx Machine was named by Fast Company as Most Innovative Company in 2024.

Known as "America's favorite teacher," Stephen created the first edible classroom in the world, and he and his students have grown more than 375,000 pounds of fresh vegetables right in the South Bronx, proving that classrooms can cultivate not only food, but opportunity, health, and dignity. His students, hailed as "The Miracle in the Bronx," have earned national STEM championships, seven Anthem Awards, and the first Emmy Award in New York City Department of Education history. They have been celebrated at the Obama White House three times and featured on the cover of *TIME* for Kids.

Through Green Bronx Machine, Stephen has woven together academic achievement, food justice, environmental stewardship, and economic empowerment, helping create more than 2,200 living wage jobs in New York City alone. He has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ending Hunger in America and presented at the United Nations and World Business Forum, carrying the spirit of the Bronx onto the global stage with unmatched passion, compassion, and energy.

Stephen has also been recognized as a CNN COVID Food Hero, a 2023 Global Food

Hero, a 2024 Food Waste Warrior by Food Tank, and most recently was awarded the 2025 Global Food Changemaker Prize in Social Impact. For over a decade, he has served as Executive Director of the National Health, Wellness, and Learning Center at Community School 55 as an unpaid, full-time volunteer.

But perhaps what speaks loudest about Stephen Ritz is not the awards or the accolades: it is the life he lives every single day. He still calls the Bronx home, where he tends the most productive school garden per square foot in New York City, located in the heart of public housing. He raises chickens and exotic koi fish, including what is believed to be the largest captive goldfish in the Bronx. He shows up in his signature green shoes, cheese-hat in tow, and has taken over two million photos with children and celebrities alike, because to Stephen, every person he meets is worth celebrating.

Today, we celebrate Stephen Ritz not only for his remarkable achievements, but for his unwavering belief that every child can grow, thrive, and succeed. The Bronx is proud to call him one of our own.

CELEBRATING THE 208TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 208th anniversary of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Stafford County, Virginia.

Mount Olive Baptist Church has a rich history that is marked by resilience and courage. On May 16, 1818, five Black landowners gathered near Roseville in Western Stafford County, Virginia to found the church. Their first service was held beneath a simple slab-wood shelter, where a congregation began to take shape under conditions that required far more than faith alone.

In 1818 Virginia, it was illegal for Black people to assemble without a white person present. As a result, Reverend Crutcher, a white minister, was required to attend as a legal requirement.

Yet it was the five Black landowners who made the true foundation possible, men who owned the land, chose to worship together, and accepted the risks of gathering in an unjust system.

Although they were denied formal recognition, they were the driving force behind the church's formation and worked tirelessly to ensure its growth.

Over the years, Mount Olive Baptist Church has grown and flourished, expanding its ministries and outreach to serve a growing congregation. Today, it offers Sunday school programs, men's and women's fellowship ministries, youth and adult choirs, and a wide range of services that serve the broader Stafford community.

The congregation's unwavering commitment to faith laid the foundation for the community that still thrives today. For 208 years, Mount Olive Baptist Church has stood as a sanctuary for worship and spiritual nourishment.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us honor the legacy of those five individuals who contributed to the church's mission over the