

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZOROASTRIAN LEGACY TO AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the lasting legacy of Zoroastrianism and acknowledge its significant contributions to human thought, which encompass early concepts of moral responsibility, justice, and the ongoing conflict between good and evil.

July 4, 2026, signifies the 250th anniversary of the Zoroastrian legacy that has shaped the perspectives of the American Founding Fathers, the creators of the Declaration of Independence, and the architects of the United States Constitution in establishing principles for governing a society that is multi-religious, multiracial, multi-ethnic, and multilingual, fostering peace and prosperity.

We recognize the rich cultural and philosophical heritage of Zoroastrian communities globally and their ongoing contributions to diverse societies. The broader human pursuit of freedom, ethical governance, respect for human dignity, and women's equality—as well as legacies in trade, international commerce, and innovations such as early postal and passport systems—embody timeless Zoroastrian values that resonate throughout civilizations.

These principles are reflected in America's role as a symbol of freedom, democracy, commerce, equality, and justice to the world.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Zoroastrians around the globe and honor their vibrant traditions, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the progress of humanity, history, and civilization on this significant occasion, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Zoroastrian legacy in connection with American independence.

HONORING JOSÉ LUIS ORTIZ, AND IRAD ORTIZ JR., PUERTO RICO'S CHAMPION BROTHERS WHO CONQUERED THE 152ND KENTUCKY DERBY

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 two extraordinary sons of Puerto Rico whose achievements on May 2, 2026, at Churchill Downs resonated far beyond the finish line of the 152nd Kentucky Derby. Puerto Rican jockey José Luis Ortiz, riding the longshot Golden Tempo, crossed the wire first, surpassing by a matter of strides his own older brother, Irad Ortiz, Jr., who piloted Renegade to second place. In doing so, these two brothers from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, gave the world of thoroughbred racing one of its rarest family tableaux, and gave the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico one of its proudest moments in sports history.

Born and raised in Trujillo Alto, in the metropolitan area of San Juan, Irad, Jr. on August

11, 1992, and José on October 2, 1993, both brothers grew up in a family where racing was not a career but a calling: their grandfather add an uncle were jockeys before them, and a legendary Puerto Rican Hall of Fame rider served as an early inspiration and later a mentor to them both. Both brothers are proud graduates of the Escuela Vocacional Hípica Agustín Mercado Reverón, the government-funded, tuition-free jockey academy on the grounds of Hipódromo Camarero in Canóvanas. Puerto Rico, widely regarded as the premier jockey school in North America. Its alumni have earned nine Eclipse Awards for Outstanding Jockey and have produced some of the sport's most celebrated riders, with approximately 80 percent of graduates going directly to United States racetracks and the school's reach extending to draw students from the mainland as well.

José Luis Ortiz has built a career for the ages. In 2017, he won the Belmont Stakes and earned the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey. In 2022, he captured the Preakness Stakes. On May 2, 2026, he completed a rare sweep of all three American Triple Crown races, guiding 23-1 longshot Golden Tempo to victory in the Kentucky Derby, one of thoroughbred racing's most celebrated career milestones.

Irad Ortiz, Jr. has been equally relentless in his pursuit of greatness. He has led all North American riders in wins for nine consecutive years, from 2017 through 2025, a span of dominance without parallel in the modern era. His Triple Crown victories include the Belmont Stakes in both 2016 and 2022. A five-time Eclipse Award winner for Outstanding Jockey, he became in 2025 the first jockey in history to surpass \$40 million in single-season earnings, a record that speaks to the unshakable trust that the sport's top trainers and owners place in him.

Mr. Speaker, the name Ortiz finishing first and second at the 152nd Kentucky Derby was no accident. It is the culmination of a multigenerational family's sacrifice and the transformative, tuition-free education of the Escuela Vocacional Hípica Agustín Mercado Reverón. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating José Luis Ortiz and Irad Ortiz, Jr. on their extraordinary careers, and in recognizing that institution and its dedicated faculty and leadership for the work they do every day for young people from Puerto Rico and beyond who dare to dream of crossing the finish line first.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WELLSPAN HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO ROXANNA GAPSTUR

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor retiring WellSpan Health President and CEO Roxanna Gapstur for her distinguished legacy of career achievement in the healthcare industry.

Roxanna was appointed to her executive leadership role at WellSpan in 2019. During her tenure, WellSpan has grown from a \$2.5 billion to a \$4.7 billion system, expanded from eight to 12 hospitals, and extended its reach from five to 12 counties.

WellSpan's Medical Group has grown from 1,500 to more than 2,700 providers, and the system's patient base has expanded from approximately 630,000 to more than one million, reflecting increased access and community trust.

Also under Roxanna's direction, the health system has emerged as a leader in clinical artificial intelligence, supporting more than three million patient conversations to enhance access, experience, and care delivery. Roxanna's leadership philosophy is service-oriented. Notably, she said, "The work we do at WellSpan has always been about people—our patients, our team members and the communities who trust us with their care."

I congratulate Roxanna Gapstur on successfully instituting her vision of a human-centered approach to leadership in an increasingly complex healthcare environment and extend best wishes for limitless joy and contentment in all future endeavors.

HONORING TONIA SIMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mrs. Tonia Sims, a visionary event producer, creative director, and entrepreneur whose work has elevated the standard of excellence in the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

As the founder and driving force behind TLS Weddings & Special Events, Mrs. Sims has distinguished herself as a leader in the event production industry, known for curating sophisticated, experience-driven celebrations that blend modern elegance with cultural authenticity. Through her keen eye for luxury aesthetics and her unwavering commitment to client experience, she has transformed countless weddings, milestone celebrations and large-scale social events into unforgettable moments marked by precision, creativity, and intentional design.

Under her leaderships the TLS brand has expanded beyond traditional event services to include signature event series, high profile day parties, and immersive social experiences that attract diverse audiences and set a new benchmark for elevated entertainment in the region. Her productions ranging from upscale cocktail festivals to themed experiential gatherings are widely recognized for their vibrant energy, premium quality, and attention to detail.

Mrs. Sims' contributions extend well beyond her professional achievements. She has demonstrated a deep and ongoing commitment to community engagement and youth empowerment. Through the TLS Delta Entrepreneurial Scholarship, her organization awarded \$10,000 in scholarships in 2025 to aspiring young entrepreneurs and is poised to continue this impactful initiative. Additionally, TLS provides scholarships to local high school seniors, reinforcing her dedication to education, economic growth, and the development of future leaders.

Her excellence and influence have earned recognition from respected organizations and institutions, including the Delta Business Journal, Higher Purpose Co., Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, Inc., and the City of Greenville. These honors reflect not only her business success but also her meaningful contributions to the broader community.

At the heart of Mrs. Sims' journey is her strong foundation of faith and family. She credits her success to her faith in God, the support of her dedicated team, and the unwavering encouragement of her husband, Larnelle Bush, and their children, Kylon, Kaci, and Kelby. Together, they embody the values of perseverance, service, and excellence that continue to guide her work. Mrs. Sims has established TLS as more than an event brand—it is a platform connection, celebration, and opportunity.

Through innovation, professionalism, and a commitment to purpose, she continues to raise the bar for what is possible in her field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Tonia Sims for her outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship, her community, and the advancement of creative excellence. Her work serves as an inspiration, and her impact will undoubtedly continue to be felt for years to come.

HONORING LEELANAU COUNTY
CLERK MICHELLE CROCKER FOR
30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and to recognize Michelle Crocker, the longest serving county clerk currently in office in the state of Michigan, as she marks the 30th anniversary of her swearing in as Leelanau County Clerk.

Since assuming office in 1996, Michelle Crocker has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to public service and the people of Leelanau County. Her time as county clerk reflects not just longevity, but an unwavering dedication to the responsibilities entrusted to her office. Her career in public service is not limited to her time as county clerk: in fact, she has spent 45 years serving in local govern-

ment starting with Clerk Dorothy Wunderlich in 1981, making her the longest serving employee in county government. Throughout her distinguished career, she has helped guide Leelanau County through significant changes, including the conversion of county financial systems from paper spreadsheets to computerized financial programs. Her leadership has ensured that local government continues to operate efficiently and transparently.

Michelle Crocker's service has not gone unnoticed. In 2021, she was presented with a special tribute by the Michigan State Legislature for her steadfast leadership through unprecedented challenges and evolving expectations in local government. Her ability to meet the demands of public service with professionalism and a genuine commitment to others sets a strong example for public officials across our state.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Michelle Crocker for her lasting contributions to Leelanau County and the State of Michigan. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I extend my sincere appreciation for her extraordinary service as she celebrates this remarkable milestone.

HONORING JAMES "JIM" REGUSCI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James "Jim" Regusci. Mr. Regusci is being celebrated as our 2026 Napa Valley Grower of the Year for his contributions to our community.

Jim Regusci grew up in the Napa Valley. He is a third-generation farmer with deep roots in the Stags Leap District. His grandfather, Gaetano Regusci, established the family ranch in 1932, laying the foundation for a multi-generational farming legacy. Married to Laura Regusci, Jim is the proud father of Alicia Regusci Hardin and James Regusci Jar., and a loving stepfather to Jake and Andre Mendes.

Jim is the founder and owner of Regusci Vineyard Management (RVM), an enterprise

he launched in 1986 at just 19 years of age. What began with a single truck and a relentless work ethic has grown into one of Napa Valley's most respected and premier vineyard management companies. In 1996, he and his father Angelo founded Regusci Winery, which produces ten thousand cases annually, direct to consumers. Today, RVM farms over 2,000 acres and employs a dedicated team of more than 175 full-time professionals.

Throughout his career, Jim has overseen a vast spectrum of operations, including a grape vine nursery large-scale development, and advanced organic and regenerative practices. His work has supported more than 40 premier wineries in the Napa Valley, consistently delivering world-class fruit and cementing our region's global reputation for excellence.

Jim is widely respected for his absolute integrity, tireless work ethic, and a deep sense of responsibility to both his people and the land. His philanthropic reach extends to a wide array of local institutions, including the Boy's and Girls Club of Calistoga and St. Helena, Queen of the Valley Hospital, St. Helena Hospital, the V Foundation, Festival Napa Valley, and Tug McGraw Foundation at the California Veterans home. Jim also frequently directs his support to local fire and police departments, area sports teams, and local schools.

Jim's deep care for his community and staff was displayed during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he and his wife, Laura, launched a food program to provide fresh ranch-grown produce and protein to employee families. This initiative has since become a cherished year-round tradition. Furthermore, the Regusci family donates a community pumpkin patch led by Jim's children, hosting countless civic groups every fall. Beyond his structured giving, Jim is a true protector of his community. His hands-on efforts and deployment of resources during the Atlas Peak Fire and the 2020 wildfires played a critical role in mitigating fire spread and assisting neighbors in need. He is, quite simply, the neighbor everyone wishes they had.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Regusci has done incredible work for our community. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we recognize his invaluable contributions here today.