

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GILES-LUCE AMERICAN LEGION POST 364 IN WINNECONNE, WISCONSIN

**HON. GLENN GROTHMAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Giles-Luce American Legion Post 364 in Winneconne on its upcoming 100th Anniversary, which will be celebrated on June 14th. This milestone reflects a century of unwavering commitment to the community, and is a testament to the enduring spirit of service demonstrated by its members.

As we reflect on the past 100 years, it is clear that the Giles-Luce American Legion Post 364 has been a cornerstone of the Winneconne community. Through countless local charitable events, outreach programs, and ongoing dedication, the members have enriched the lives of veterans and their families, fostering a sense of unity and belonging. Their efforts have preserved important traditions and instilled a spirit of service that continues to inspire new generations.

The legacy of Giles-Luce American Legion is not measured solely by its accomplishments, but also by the deep respect and gratitude it has earned from those it has helped. Their dedication sets a high standard for what it means to serve with honor, compassion, and integrity. I am proud to recognize their outstanding contributions and wish them continued success in the years to come. May their commitment to service and community continue to inspire future generations, and may their impact be felt for many years to come.

Once again, I congratulate the Giles-Luce American Legion Post 364 on its 100th Anniversary.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES WOOD**

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of James Wood, of Oceanside, California, who passed away on May 16, 2026, at the age of 78. In honor of his passing, I pay tribute to and reflect on the life he led and the impact he had on our community in the 49th District.

James Wood, or Jim, as he was known by all his friends, served the Oceanside community for more than four decades as a police officer, city councilmember, and mayor.

Jim came to Oceanside as a young boy in 1955 and never left. He attended North Terrace Elementary School and Jefferson Junior High School and went on to graduate from Oceanside High School and MiraCosta College.

Jim joined the Oceanside Police Department in 1971, serving more than 31 years as an investigator in some of the department's most demanding assignments, including homicide, narcotics, and crimes against children and seniors. He collaborated with the FBI, U.S.

Secret Service, and Naval Criminal Investigative Services.

Jim was elected to the Oceanside City Council in 2002 and became Mayor in 2004, a position he held for more than 13 years, and served one of the longest mayoral tenures in the city's history. Under his leadership, Oceanside's crime rates fell to their lowest levels in 30 years, and the city earned recognition as one of the safest and most livable beach communities in San Diego County.

Jim was recognized for his lifetime of service when the City of Oceanside renamed Rancho Del Oro Park, as Jim Wood Community Park in 2022 in a wonderful ceremony attended by Jim, his wife Pam of 48 years, and his entire loving family.

Jim is remembered as a dedicated public servant and a wonderful friend who has left behind a lasting legacy of prioritizing public safety, fighting crime, and protecting seniors.

Jim Wood exhibited a deep love for the City of Oceanside and forged a legacy of service, commitment, and lasting bonds with the greater Oceanside community. He was a light to all who knew him and I share in the celebration of his life.

**CELEBRATING THE ESTEEMED CAREERS OF RABBI STEWART VOGEL AND RABBI RICHARD CAMRAS**

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the esteemed careers of Rabbi Stewart Vogel and Rabbi Richard Camras, cornerstones of Los Angeles' Jewish community for more than 30 years. Rabbis Vogel and Camras have exemplified the values of faith, scholarship, and service to community. And as they now become Rabbis Emeriti, our community will continue to benefit from their spiritual guidance and their decades of published and recorded teachings.

Rabbi Vogel previously served as Senior Rabbi at Temple Aliyah, while Rabbi Camras served as Senior Rabbi at Shomrei Torah Synagogue, ably leading their respective congregations before ultimately bringing them together under the banner of Hamakom.

Notably, Rabbi Vogel co-founded the West Valley Rabbinic Task Force, which coordinates wide-scale initiatives that bring together the vast and diverse Jewish communities of the San Fernando Valley. Later, Rabbi Camras would himself chair this task force in further pursuit of these goals.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rabbi Vogel also served as the President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California and as International President of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Rabbi Camras founded the Conejo/West Valley Branch of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and also served as President of the Pacific Southwest Regional Rabbinical Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi Stewart Vogel and Rabbi Richard Camras as faith leaders who have exemplified the very best of spiritual and civic leadership. I extend my warmest congratula-

tions on their retirement and my deepest gratitude to them and their families on behalf of a grateful community.

**RECOGNIZING CLAUDIA IBARRA**

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claudia Ibarra for earning one of this year's JeffCo Prosperity Partners Graduate Awards.

The Graduate Awards are granted to recognize individuals of the JeffCo Prosperity Partners (JPP) Program and Head Start families who reach significant milestones in education, employment, and economic opportunity. The recipients must successfully complete the JPP Program and develop skills in career development, academics, and financial literacy.

This year's Graduate Award honorees are recognized for their outstanding determination and hard work during the JPP Program. Receiving this award demonstrates dedication to personal growth, distinguishing their drive for professional development and improving their lives on a multigenerational level.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Claudia Ibarra on their incredible accomplishments and for receiving the 2026 JeffCo Prosperity Partners Graduate Award.

**RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO AREA SEWER DISTRICT**

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, for decades, the Sacramento Area Sewer District has played a vital role in safeguarding the health and well-being of our communities by maintaining and operating one of the Nation's most extensive wastewater collection systems. Serving more than 1.6 million residents across the Sacramento region, the District manages over 5,000 miles of sewer pipelines and 112 pump stations, ensuring reliable wastewater service throughout the region.

The District's Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Projects have become especially important in rural and underserved communities where aging and failing septic systems pose significant risks to groundwater, waterways, and public health. With support from federal funding, alongside critical state and local investments, the Sacramento Area Sewer District successfully connected 57 households in Hood and 28 households in Franklin to reliable public sewer service. These projects reduce the threat of septic leakage and contamination to nearby drinking wells and sensitive waterways, including Franklin Creek, Stone Lake Slough, and the Sacramento River.

Beyond infrastructure improvements, these conversion projects represent an investment in environmental justice and quality of life for Sacramento County residents. By replacing outdated septic systems with modern sewer connections, the District is helping to protect

and ensure safer and cleaner neighborhoods for future generations. This achievement reflects the dedication and expertise of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's leadership, engineers, field crews, and community partners who continue to work tirelessly to deliver essential services to the people of Sacramento County. Their efforts have strengthened regional infrastructure while preserving the natural resources that are vital to California's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sacramento Area Sewer District for its leadership and continued commitment to advancing public health, environmental protection, and infrastructure modernization through its Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Projects.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST CENTRAL KANSAS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATION

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation's founding. For 60 years now, ECKAN has worked tirelessly to support the stability, health, and engagement of individuals and families across East Central Kansas.

Established on May 6, 1966, ECKAN is one of eight community action agencies in Kansas. Since its founding, ECKAN has been driven by a simple vision—showing our neighbors in East Central Kansas that their community cares.

While this philosophy has always manifested itself in addressing poverty, ECKAN has never shied away from evolving. Originally operated under a traditional service-delivery model, ECKAN has shifted to a collaborative, inclusive approach focused on shared purpose and collective impact.

Since 1966, the success of ECKAN and the services it provides has continued to expand. Serving a 16-county region including Kansas' Third District, ECKAN's Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote school readiness, family health, and childcare partnerships. ECKAN also operates nine county community centers and a regional food recovery warehouse, offering emergency assistance, food and supply distributions, housing vouchers, and more. ECKAN also operates programs that reduce energy costs for eligible households, administer Housing Choice Vouchers, and manage affordable rental units.

For 60 years, ECKAN has helped increase access to resources, improve housing stability, and reduce energy burdens for lower-income families. The importance of the organization's work cannot be overstated, and I look forward to seeing the great strides that ECKAN and the people it serves continue to make.

HONORING ENRIQUE ACOSTA GONZALEZ

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Enrique Acosta Gonzalez as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Military Appreciation Month. Enrique Acosta Gonzalez is the CEO of Triad Leadership Solutions, LLC, and has served as an executive, veteran and advocate, board member, non-profit administrator, speaker, mentor, coach, and avid volunteer. Over the past 25 years, Enrique has held numerous executive, advisory, and senior positions while serving in both the United States Navy and the civilian sector. Through education and training, he helped strengthen organizations by providing sound decision support and fostering open communication at all levels. Enrique also helped formulate and implement policies on morale, welfare, job satisfaction, discipline, and personnel training.

He is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He was named the 2013, 2014, and 2017 Federal Mentor of the Year, and is the recipient of the inaugural 2014 Chief John Dungan, Jr., Oceanographer of the Navy Award for exceptional leadership. He was also awarded the Arnold Fletcher Award and inducted into the SALUTE national honors society for his academic achievements.

He is a multi-award-winning podcaster with shows focusing on leadership development and career success. He was named the Active Duty, Veteran & Military Spouse Entrepreneur Awards' Media Professional of the Year by The Rosie Network and No. 3 of the Top 50 Leadership Podcasts. His down-to-earth approach to leadership has gained him notoriety as one of the most sought-after leadership trainers.

Enrique has been an active mentor to transitioning service members for nine years as part of the Camaraderie Foundation's Military Leadership Program (MLP). His impact on our Veteran community has been far-reaching, as he serves as a keynote speaker, trainer, and host for military-centered activities in Florida's 9th Congressional District. He also provides complimentary dress shirts to Veterans in preparation for job interviews through his podcast giveback program and is serving as the inaugural Mr. Military Florida for 2026.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to a vote happening in Committee, I missed the following Roll Call Votes on April 22, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 130.

HONORING THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF HALIFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS

**HON. DONALD G. DAVIS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 29, 2026*

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the enduring legacy of the Johnson Hill School and the Eastman School, and I recognize the continued commitment of Halifax County Schools to educational excellence, community empowerment, and opportunity for future generations.

The story of Eastman began in 1894 with the opening of Johnson Hill School, a modest one-room wooden schoolhouse located along a rural road in Halifax County. Though small in size, the school stood as a powerful symbol of hope and determination for Black children seeking access to education during a time of limited opportunity.

Under the leadership of the school's first principal, Miss Frankie B. Myrick, Johnson Hill School became the foundation of a proud educational tradition. Her words still reflect the spirit of the Halifax County Schools today: "We simply worked it up from the ground and prayed it down from the skies."

In 1920, through the combined efforts of local families, community leaders, public support, and philanthropic contributions, Eastman School was established. Support from George Eastman, Julius Rosenwald, and the Black community helped create one of the region's most significant rural Black schools. As enrollment and community pride grew, Eastman expanded into a center of learning, culture, and leadership.

Under the leadership of Principal W.A. Holmes beginning in 1934, Eastman entered a period of extraordinary growth. New classrooms, vocational facilities, teacher housing, and beautification projects transformed the campus into a model of rural Black education in North Carolina. Enrollment eventually grew to nearly 600 students with a faculty of 14 teachers.

Though the historic school closed in 2009 following consolidation, the spirit and legacy of Eastman endured within the Halifax County community.

That legacy entered a new chapter in 2016 under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Eric Cunningham and the Halifax County Board of Education. Through years of planning, community engagement, and investment, the vision for Eastman Leadership Academy became a reality when Halifax County Schools was awarded the needs based public school grant. In December 2022, Halifax County Schools broke ground on a \$52.9 million state-of-the-art Pre-K through 8 facility dedicated to preparing students for future success while honoring the school's historic roots.

On June 2, 2026, that dream will become a reality and the community will gather once again to celebrate the ribbon-cutting of Eastman Leadership Academy and the school will open for students August 24, 2026.

We honor the generations of educators, students, families, and community members whose faith and perseverance made this moment possible. May Eastman Leadership Academy continue to stand as a symbol of resilience, excellence, and opportunity for Halifax County and for generations yet to come.