

St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, the Grand Calumet River restoration effort, and the Northwest Indiana Forum's "Ignore the Region" initiative.

While Kay Nelson's accomplishments and accolades are extraordinary, those who have had the privilege of working alongside her know that her greatest legacy is the respect, mentorship, and friendship she has provided to others. She has been a tireless advocate for Northwest Indiana, a trusted advisor to public officials, a champion for environmental responsibility, and a steadfast supporter of economic opportunity for working families.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 1st Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate Kay Nelson on her distinguished career and extend my deepest gratitude for her decades of service. I wish her continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in retirement, and I thank her for the lasting contributions she has made to our region, our state, and our Nation.

HONORING KATHY EILER ON HER  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SYSTEM

**HON. MARK TAKANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Eiler's nearly 30 years of service to the University of California system as she retires as Senior Director of Federal Relations at the University of California, Riverside.

Kathy's connection to the University of California has been a career-defining commitment. Over nearly three decades, she has served as a tireless advocate, a skilled navigator of the complex landscape of federal policy, and a trusted voice for the University of California's students, faculty, researchers, and staff.

Since joining UC Riverside in November 2018 as Senior Director of Federal Relations, she has brought her wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to advocate on behalf of one of the most diverse research universities in the Nation.

Her work has helped UC Riverside remain the number one school for social mobility in the country and placed the Inland Empire at the center of innovation in medicine, sustainability, and agriculture.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Kathy Eiler for her exceptional service and in wishing her all the very best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN OF UNITY JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION IN AURORA, ILLINOIS

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the

African American Men of Unity (AAMOU) at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Aurora, Illinois.

For twenty-five years, this annual celebration has served as a powerful reminder of our Nation's ongoing journey toward freedom, equality, and justice. What began as a local effort to commemorate Juneteenth has grown into one of the Fox Valley region's most enduring and meaningful celebrations of African American history, culture, and achievement.

Founded in 1999, the African American Men of Unity has long been dedicated to uplifting the community through mentorship, education, leadership development, and service. Under the leadership of Founder and Executive Director Ricky Rodgers, AAMOU has worked to create opportunities for young people, strengthen families, and promote unity throughout Aurora and the surrounding region.

Through their annual Juneteenth celebration, AAMOU has created a space where residents of all backgrounds can come together to reflect on the significance of June 19, 1865, the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas finally learned of their freedom more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The event honors the resilience, perseverance, and contributions of African Americans while educating future generations about our Nation's history.

Over the past twenty-five years, the celebration has featured educational exhibits, historical tributes, storytelling, music, cultural performances, youth activities, athletic competitions, local vendors, and opportunities for community engagement. It has become a cherished tradition that brings together families, neighbors, civic leaders, and organizations in a spirit of remembrance, learning, and unity.

As we mark this milestone 25th anniversary, we also recognize the dedicated volunteers, organizers, community partners, and supporters whose commitment has sustained this celebration for a quarter century. Their work embodies the spirit of service and unity that strengthens our communities and enriches our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize this milestone anniversary, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the African American Men of Unity and all those who have contributed to the success of this celebration.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING  
PRINCIPAL MARC PASCENTE

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Principal Marc Pascente for his extraordinary commitment to public education and his unwavering dedication to the students, families, and communities of New York's 7th Congressional District and across New York City.

For more than two decades, Principal Pascente has devoted his career to ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality education and the support necessary to succeed. He began his service with New York City Public Schools in 2001 as a New Lan-

guage teacher through the Teaching Fellows program at Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx. From the very beginning, he distinguished himself as an educator committed to equity, inclusion, and empowering students from diverse backgrounds.

In 2006, he assumed the role of Assistant Principal at Belmont Preparatory High School, where he continued to foster a student-centered environment grounded in growth, opportunity, and academic excellence. His leadership and vision would later reach new heights when he became Principal of Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, Queens at the start of the 2018–2019 school year.

Throughout his tenure at Grover Cleveland High School, Principal Pascente placed the needs of students at the forefront of every decision. His transformative leadership revitalized key school facilities, including the auditorium, library, and cafeteria, creating welcoming spaces where students could learn, grow, and thrive. His advocacy on behalf of young people, particularly those from underserved and vulnerable communities, has opened doors and expanded opportunities for countless students.

As the facilitator of the My Brother's Keeper program, Principal Pascente inspired young men to pursue academic excellence, leadership, and personal integrity. He also broadened students' horizons by championing educational field trips to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Boston, providing opportunities to engage with history, culture, and higher education firsthand.

Under Principal Pascente's leadership, Grover Cleveland High School became a model of innovation and inclusion. The school piloted the Civic Seal program, expanded participation in the New York State Seal of Biliteracy to include speakers of Spanish, Italian, Mandarin, and Polish, and welcomed both a bilingual GED program and a District 75 program. These initiatives strengthened the school's reputation as a place where all learners are valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Beyond the programs and accomplishments, Principal Pascente's greatest legacy is the culture of belonging he cultivated. He has consistently amplified student voices, nurtured talent, and demonstrated compassion, integrity, and an unwavering belief in the potential of every young person who walked through the school's doors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Principal Marc Pascente for his distinguished public service career. His legacy will continue to shape the lives of students and strengthen our communities for years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
ROBERT TESTA

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the commendable career of Mr. Robert Testa as he retires this month after 11 years of dedicated service as Assistant Superintendent of Vernon Public Schools. Vernon Public Schools is an outstanding public education system benefiting from the tireless work

of teachers, staff, and leadership. Thanks to Mr. Testa's contributions, Vernon Public Schools have been able to provide students with the support and opportunities needed to flourish academically.

Mr. Testa has led an impressive career reflecting a deep commitment to Vernon. He began his time with Vernon Public Schools serving as Assistant Principal at Center Road School. Later, he worked as Principal of Lake Street School for eight years. He also acted as the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Coordinator for the entire district. Mr. Testa's final role as a dedicated public servant to Vernon Public Schools was as Assistant Superintendent. With an impressive history of leadership already under his belt, Mr. Testa sought further education in executive leadership at the University of Connecticut to foster innovation in Vernon public Schools.

As a leader in education nationwide, Connecticut public schools rely on committed staff and leadership who deeply value and prioritize student success. As an integral part of the administrative team, Mr. Testa has undertaken a pivotal role to ensure teachers have the training and resources necessary to ensure student success. The hard work of Vernon Public Schools administrators has earned them national recognition, including being honored as a DALI (District Administration Leadership Institute) District of Distinction in December 2025.

Vernon Public Schools is no stranger to being acknowledged for its achievements—such as the Northeast and Skinner Road Schools being named a Blue-Ribbon honoree in 2020 and 2023, respectively. Moreover, Vernon is home to several "Schools of Distinction": Maple Street School, Northeast School, Lake Street School and Skinner Road School.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member serving the 2nd District of Connecticut, I laud Mr. Testa's deep dedication to the Vernon community, especially to educators and students. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Mr. Testa's service to bolstering public education and advocating for students. I join Mr. Testa's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE VERY REVEREND FATHER SAMUEL THABET FOR 50 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Very Reverend Father Samuel Thabet, priest of St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago in Burr Ridge, as he marks his Golden Jubilee—50 years of faithful and devoted priestly service.

Born in Tanta Gharbia, Egypt, and raised in a devout Christian family, Father Samuel's life has been marked by unwavering faith and dedication. Ordained a deacon at just five years old, he continued serving the Church throughout his youth, guided by the late Father Bishop Kamel and his uncle, Father Matthias El-Baramousy. After earning a de-

gree in civil engineering and serving in the Egyptian army, he answered his lifelong calling to the priesthood and was ordained by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III in 1976.

His ministry has endured both trial and resilience. In 1981, he was imprisoned with fellow clergy under President Anwar Sadat, yet his faith never faltered. After his release, he was appointed to serve congregations in Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Atlantic City before being called in 1990 to lead Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago.

Under his leadership, Saint Mark has grown to nearly 3,000 parishioners and serves a broader Coptic community of more than 15,000 across Illinois. His decades of spiritual leadership, community service, and steadfast dedication have had a profound and lasting impact on countless individuals and families. He shares this journey with his beloved wife, Tassony Ebtessam El-Neil, a devoted servant of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize such a faithful servant and respected community leader in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this extraordinary milestone and celebrating his profound impact on the Coptic Orthodox community and the people of Illinois.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIN EQUIPMENT

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Martin Equipment. For a century, Martin Equipment has served as a trusted family business in Central Illinois, supporting contractors, businesses, farmers, forestry professionals, and communities across the Midwest.

Founded in 1926 as Sam F. Martin Implement in Roanoke, Illinois, Martin Equipment began with a commitment to hard work, customer service, and meeting the needs of local communities. While the company has grown over the past 100 years, its dedication to integrity, service, and family leadership has remained constant.

Today, Martin Equipment is headquartered in Goodfield, Illinois, and operates as a fourth-generation, family- and woman-owned John Deere Construction and Forestry dealer under the leadership of President and CEO DeLene Martin Bane, the great-granddaughter of the company's founder. With nine locations across Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, and approximately 250 employees, Martin Equipment continues to play an important role in the region's construction, forestry, agriculture, and infrastructure industries.

As we celebrate 100 years of Martin Equipment, we honor its proud history and the generations of the Martin family, employees, customers, and community partners who have contributed to its success. I am proud to recognize this outstanding Illinois business and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Martin Equipment on 100 years of leadership, integrity, and service.

HONORING DR. ROMEO F. MONTALVO, JR.

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable career of Dr. Romeo F. Montalvo, Jr., as he celebrates an extraordinary career spanning 48 years of practicing pediatrics in Brownsville, Texas.

For nearly five decades, Dr. Montalvo has shown immense dedication, kindness, and compassion to the many families he has cared for in South Texas. Through his unwavering commitment to patient care, he has brought both children and parents closer together, building trust and helping families navigate some of life's most important milestones.

Beyond his work as a physician, he has cultivated a dedicated team of healthcare professionals who share his commitment to excellence and compassionate service. Dr. Montalvo has served as an example of what genuine service to others looks like. Medicine was never simply a profession for him, but his life's calling. He always recognized the needs of others and exceeded expectations to provide comfort and exceptional care.

Every life he touched has set off a chain of moments, milestones, and memories that extend far beyond the walls of his practice. Dr. Montalvo served multiple generations of families, watching children grow and develop into parents, professionals, and community leaders. His contributions have strengthened the health of our community and improved the lives of countless South Texans.

Alongside his professional accomplishments, he has built a loving family, sharing nearly 30 years with his wife, Linda.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas' 34th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Dr. Romeo F. Montalvo, Jr., for his extraordinary life of service, kindness, and attentive care. His legacy serves as a powerful example of the difference one person can make through a career devoted to service. I wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HERBERT L. SALBERG, JR.

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Herbert L. Salberg, Jr., an educator, coach, athletic administrator, and public servant whose dedication to students and athletics strengthened the College of DuPage community and inspired generations across northern Illinois and beyond.

Herbert L. Salberg Jr., was born on August 7, 1936, in Cook County, Illinois. An avid athlete and sports enthusiast from an early age, he devoted his life to teaching, coaching, and mentoring young people. After earning his bachelor's degree in physical education from Northern Illinois University, he returned to his