

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GERTRUDE EVELYN
BUKANAGA

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dearly beloved community member, Gertrude Evelyn Buckanaga, also known as “Baswewe-Binewiik,” which means Echoing Thunderbird Woman.

Ms. Buckanaga was born in Pine Point on the White Earth Reservation. As a child, Ms. Buckanaga and her siblings were sent to Pipestone Boarding School by a Becker County social worker. She later graduated from the Flandreau Indian School before going on to receive an Elementary Degree in Education from Concordia University in St. Paul, and finally earning a Master's Degree in Counseling at the University of St. Thomas. The culmination of her life experiences and formal education prepared her for a life dedicated to improving the lives of Indigenous Minnesotans.

Ms. Buckanaga was a fierce advocate for Indigenous rights and a guiding light for countless youth. Among her myriad accolades, she worked for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, helping with the development of their GED program and the incorporation of Ojibwe culture in the Head Start program on the Leech Lake Reservation. Ms. Buckanaga was also one of the founding forces behind the creation of both the Upper Midwest American Indian Center in North Minneapolis and the Four Directions Charter School, later starting the Foster Care Program for the Upper Midwest American Indian Center. She also aided in the creation of the American Indian Movement in the early 1960s.

Although Ms. Buckanaga served the state of Minnesota in numerous ways, including serving on the American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council, she fought tirelessly against state-backed injustices and worked relentlessly to uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act. She fought to preserve Indigenous cultures and ensure that future generations of children could grow up with the pride and security that had been deprived of Indigenous peoples for generations through government policy.

Ms. Buckanaga is survived not only by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, but also through the legacies she left behind and the impacts she made in Minnesota and across the country. She was a resilient champion for educational equity, a compassionate guardian for youth, and a fierce advocate for Indigenous rights. Please join me in honoring Gertrude Evelyn Buckanaga for her remarkable service.

HONORING EUGENIO AUGUSTO
SOTO BISCHOFF AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HER-
ITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eugenio Augusto Soto Bischoff as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Eugenio Augusto Soto Bischoff is a respected community leader, aviation professional, educator, and volunteer who has proudly called Orlando, Florida, home since 1996. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, he has dedicated his career and personal life to serving others through leadership, education, community engagement and work force development.

After a successful 20-year career in banking and financial services, where he held leadership positions including senior branch manager, Eugenio transitioned into the aviation industry to pursue his passion for training, logistics, and operational excellence. Throughout his aviation career, he has served in customer service, materials logistics, quality assurance, auditing, and training, helping improve operational processes while strengthening safety and regulatory compliance programs. He currently serves as an instructor with JetBlue in Orlando, where he helps develop and inspire the next generation of aviation professionals.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Eugenio has made a lasting impact throughout Central Florida through extensive volunteerism and community service. He has supported organizations including The Orlando Repertory Theatre (The REP), the Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Goodwill Industries, and numerous other community-focused initiatives. His volunteer efforts have advanced education, the arts, financial literacy, hunger relief, and community development.

Eugenio is also a dedicated volunteer with Gateway Orlando Main Street, where he has helped bring cultural events, local businesses, and nationally recognized artists to the community, contributing to the growth, vitality, and economic development of the Gateway District.

He shares his commitment to service with his wife of 30 years, Mayra Andujar, a cancer survivor who has devoted herself to supporting health and cancer-related causes throughout her 11-year journey. Together, they have raised their daughter, Anna Teressa Soto, whose achievements in the performing arts reflect the family's dedication to education, creativity, and service.

Known for his compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to helping others, Eugenio continues to make a positive impact through education, mentorship, volunteerism, and community engagement throughout Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE JOHN D. RIDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
POST 11999 AND THEIR MOUN-
TAIN ASSAULT RETREAT

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the John D. Rider Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 11999 for their work supporting our veterans and servicemembers through their annual Mountain Assault retreat.

Originally called the Warrior in Transition event, the program was established in 2011 with the retreat goal of providing ill and injured servicemembers a chance to step away from the rigorous demands of recovery. It has since evolved into the Mountain Assault and allows soldiers to decompress and rehabilitate with the help of the great outdoors.

This year commemorates the twelfth anniversary of the Mountain Assault retreat hosted by members of the VFW Post 11999. Every year, this retreat allows around forty servicemembers and their families from the Fort Bliss Soldier Recovery Unit to take a healing and peaceful trip to Sacramento Camp near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Through extensive fundraising and community support, the VFW provides meals, lodging, outdoor activities, and a supportive environment so that servicemembers can focus on healing, reconnection, fellowship, and strengthening family bonds.

The retreat takes place in the Sacramento Mountains at about 7,500 feet of elevation, providing a secluded and tranquil setting for soldiers and families to focus on their wellbeing and rehabilitation. The goal is to help reduce isolation amongst injured servicemembers and remind them that they are supported, valued by the community, and appreciated for their sacrifices.

VFW Post 11999 also supports their community through its Buddy Poppy program, scholarship competitions, community service projects, and veteran initiatives. In 2017, the Mountain Assault received the national Fred C. Hall Award, recognizing the dedication of its volunteers and community partners. With broad community support, fundraising, and donations, they have successfully continued their mission through the Warrior in Transition and Mountain Assault events for fifteen years.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to congratulate VFW Post 11999 for fifteen years of fulfilling their mission to support our brave men and women on their road to recovery. We are thankful for their work supporting our servicemembers, and we wish them continued success.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM D. TATE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SERVICE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable William D. Tate as he celebrates his Golden Jubilee of service to the City of Grapevine, Texas.

A native of Grapevine, Mayor Tate grew up along the city's historic Main Street and developed a deep appreciation for its heritage, character, and people. For more than fifty years, he has served his community with steadfast leadership, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to preserving the qualities that make Grapevine unique.

Throughout his distinguished tenure, Mayor Tate has played an instrumental role in protecting Grapevine's historic charm while thoughtfully guiding its growth into the vibrant and thriving community it is today. His leadership has encouraged economic development, strengthened civic pride, and helped establish Grapevine as a destination recognized throughout Texas and beyond.

In addition to his service as Mayor, William D. Tate is a respected attorney, historian, and storyteller whose knowledge and passion have enriched the cultural fabric of Grapevine. As one of the longest-serving mayors in the United States, his remarkable legacy reflects a rare and enduring dedication to public service.

Mayor Tate's Golden Jubilee represents far more than a milestone of years served. It is a celebration of a lifetime devoted to the citizens of Grapevine and of the profound impact his leadership has had on the identity and success of the city.

I congratulate Mayor Tate on his Golden Jubilee and thank him for his extraordinary service and enduring commitment to the Grapevine community.

HONORING LYMA DUNBAR AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lyma Dunbar as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Lyma Dunbar is the host of the talk show "The People's Chat Room," which has been on the Central Florida airwaves for the past 14 years. Also, from August 2022 to May 2023, she hosted "Caribbean Straight Talk," which focused on the Caribbean Diaspora within Florida.

Lyma uses her radio platform to encourage guests to share their challenges and successes while educating listeners on health and wellness and local and national current affairs. She also invites community leaders and politicians to share and discuss their portfolios and disseminate pertinent information. Over the years, she has expanded her platform to host town halls that encourage voters to share their

concerns and give state and local politicians an opportunity to present their campaign portfolios and respond to the concerns of Central Floridians.

Lyma is also the editor-in-chief of iChunes Entertainment Magazine, a digital publication that offers a look into the lives, journeys, and musical success of some of the Caribbean's biggest artists, some of whom reside in Central Florida. She also writes the primary features, and some of the supplemental articles, which feature Caribbean history, immigration concerns, health, wellness, and more.

Along with Tishard Birmingham, the producer of the talk show "The Peoples Chat Room," Lyma hosts and performs in "Comedy Calypso Caribbean Jazz," which is in its fourth year and hosts the free event, "A Caribbean Heritage Affair," in downtown Orlando to encourage the public to interact and enjoy the culture of the Caribbean. This event is in its first year.

In addition, she has been a clinical therapist serving the mental health needs of Central Florida residents for over 17 years.

HONORING TODEC AND CHIRLA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor TODEC and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to commend their patriotism for assisting immigrant communities by promoting U.S. citizenship and teaching English literacy skills for naturalization purposes ahead of our Nation's 250th birthday.

TODEC was founded in the 1980s by Luz Maria and Antonia Ayala. The two were new Americans who were previously involved with the Michoacan, Mexico community and the United Farmworkers and Civil Rights Movement in Los Angeles. Once they were ready to grow their family, they settled in the Inland Empire to build a new home.

In the Inland Empire, the two witnessed their neighbors facing many injustices including being profiled by police and immigration enforcement, mistreated by employers, and ignored by politicians.

They founded TODEC with the mission of empowering underserved communities to become economically, socially, educationally, and civically self-sufficient while boosting individual self-esteem and community well-being throughout the Inland Empire.

TODEC achieves its mission by providing access to information through legal services, community education, advocacy, and civic engagement for individuals with limited English-speaking skills, including immigrants and migrant workers.

In 1986, TODEC successfully fought for the passage of an immigration bill that granted amnesty to nearly 3 million new Americans. While this was only one of their first organizing wins, it helped set the foundation for decades of advocacy, including voter mobilization initiatives and letter-writing campaigns where TODEC youth shared their experiences navigating struggles as undocumented Americans.

Just like TODEC, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, or CHIRLA,

has championed services that support immigrant communities throughout the Inland Empire and beyond. First founded as a nonprofit organization in 1986, CHIRLA's mission was to ensure immigrants and refugees had support and protection, and they advanced immigrant-rights initiatives in the United States.

For more than 40 years, CHIRLA worked with people both inside and outside of immigrant communities to strengthen democracy in a world where democratic values often fail to extend to our most vulnerable.

From the late 1980s to today, CHIRLA has fought for progressive values in the Los Angeles region by helping open labor centers, fighting against California Proposition 187, which would have denied education and other services to undocumented immigrants, and bringing forth the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act in the House of Representatives.

In September 2023, under the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department of Homeland Security awarded a \$450,000 grant to CHIRLA to assist them with providing services that help with citizenship instruction and naturalization services. Despite the Trump administration's decision to cut \$100,000 from the grant in 2025, CHIRLA's motivation did not dwindle; they continue to uplift immigrant communities in Los Angeles, and support policies that promote human, civil, and labor rights for everyone.

For decades, CHIRLA has led immigration leaders in the United States, and particularly the Los Angeles region, to fight for justice and equal opportunity for all Americans, not just a select few. Their efforts in California and beyond have not gone unnoticed.

Both CHIRLA and TODEC have been incredible partners with my office. They have aided many of my constituents, helping them navigate our broken immigration system and much more. For their commitment to helping immigrant communities in California and beyond, it is my privilege to honor both TODEC and CHIRLA. Their patriotism and commitment to championing immigrant rights is worthy of the highest commendation.

CELEBRATING THE CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY AND THE FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate two important efforts that connect current and former foster youth with federal policymakers—Foster Youth Shadow Day hosted by the National Foster Youth Institute in collaboration with the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, and the Foster Youth Internship Program hosted by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in collaboration with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus. These groundbreaking programs provide foster youth the opportunity to bring their lived experiences to Capitol Hill by shadowing Members of Congress and advocating for federal child welfare policy. One of the greatest honors and the greatest challenges of my service in Congress has been listening to