

at the venerable age of 94. Carol was a woman of deep faith and a cherished pillar of her community, leaving behind a profound legacy of devotion and love.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to my dear friend and colleague, Representative TOM SUOZZI, his remarkable wife, Helene, and their family on the passing of her beloved mother. Carol's life was defined by her unwavering commitment to her family and her heritage. As a devoted Catholic and a proud member of Glen Cove's Polish community, she brought warmth, kindness, and generosity to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Above all, Carol was a cornerstone for her family. Her enduring love will live on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who were the pride and joy of her life.

Carol's spirit continues to shine brightly through the lives of the many people she impacted. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable individual and celebrating the inspiring life she lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF KAREN HENRY BEN

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Karen Henry Ben. Karen Henry Ben grew up in the Bogue Chitto and Conehatta community and attended Choctaw Central High School where she served as Drum Major, was Salutatorian, and was a talented athlete representing the Warriors on the athletic field.

Her first job was at the Baptist Indian Center. Later, she was employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Choctaw Agency. Karen also held various positions within the Choctaw Tribal Government Operations including jobs with the Choctaw Tribal Schools, Choctaw Social Services, Choctaw Housing Authority, Choctaw Attorney General's Office, and the Realty Program where she handled converting the Tribe's land acquisitions into trust with the Department of the Interior.

During her tenure of service to the tribe, she served on the Grievance Committee, as a Choctaw translator in judiciary settings for tribal members, and on the Choctaw Boxing Commission. Karen was a devout advocate for tribal members and was instrumental in helping to protect the Tribe's sovereignty in her various capacities.

She was known for her belief in service to her community, service to her fellow man and family, and she will always be remembered for her love of the Pearl River Community and her church, Pearl River Baptist Church.

Her legacy of service and love for others lives on through the lives of those she cared for, including her daughter Cherienna Ben and her two sons, Ira Ben and Chief Cyrus Ben. I am thankful for the opportunity to remember the life and legacy of Karen Henry Ben.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLIFF BERRY II

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cliff Berry II, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI), a major environmental services and maritime response company headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more than 60 years, Cliff Berry, Inc. has served both the private and public sectors, providing critical environmental services and 24-hour emergency response to oil and chemical spills throughout the United States and the Bahamas. The company operates seven facilities across Florida and employs more than 200 full-time professionals with specialized equipment and expertise.

Under Cliffs leadership, the company extends its sincere appreciation to the veterans and service members who serve our Nation and recognizes the leadership, discipline, and commitment they bring to the civilian workforce. CBI proudly supports and employs veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserve, and military families throughout Florida.

Cliff is committed to compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and supports employees who are called to military service. The company remains dedicated to protecting their employment rights, benefits, and reemployment opportunities while also recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of military families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Cliff Berry II for his outstanding commitment to hiring and supporting our Nation's veterans and Reserve Components in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. His leadership and dedication serve as an example of patriotism, service, and support for those who defend our Nation.

HONORING DR. MELANIE
MELENDEZ GARCIA 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 Dr. Melanie Melendez Garcia as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Dr. Melanie Melendez Garcia is a Puerto Rican-born emergency physician, entrepreneur, and community leader whose dedication to healthcare and service has made a lasting impact throughout Central Florida and Florida's 9th Congressional District.

After earning her medical degree and completing her emergency medicine training in Puerto Rico, Dr. Melendez Garcia moved to Florida and answered a calling that extended beyond hospital walls. Recognizing the healthcare challenges faced by uninsured and immigrant communities, she founded MG Medical Center, where she provides excellent

care to Latino and immigrant families. She partnered with the Office of Refugee Resettlement and became the first clinic to successfully integrate all medical services required for unaccompanied minors' immigration medical evaluations into a single visit. In 2025, her practice was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel Media Group, in Central Florida Favorites as Best Medical Facility.

While continuing to serve as an emergency physician—a vocation she remains deeply committed to—Dr. Melendez Garcia has also provided care to underserved populations through the federal Indian Health Service.

Believing that service extends beyond medicine, Dr. Melendez Garcia has become an advocate for entrepreneurship and community development. She currently serves as vice president of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, having previously served as director of the Osceola Chapter and Director of Trustees. Through her leadership, she mentors and empowers aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly healthcare professionals, helping them transform their dreams into successful businesses.

Dr. Melendez Garcia was featured in *Nosotras Latina Magazine* in 2023 and actively participates in faith-based and community leadership initiatives dedicated to empowering others.

A devoted wife, mother, physician, and servant leader, Dr. Melendez Garcia believes that the greatest measure of success is not found in titles or accomplishments, but in the lives touched and the communities strengthened through service.

HONORING LINDA JACOBS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Jacobs for her more than four decades of extraordinary public service as a nonprofit leader.

From an early age in Coral Gables, Florida, Linda's parents demonstrated the importance of community service, serving as volunteers for their Jewish congregation and youth sports. As a young adult, Linda herself was an outspoken advocate for the green party, the women's movement, and civil rights. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida and soon after moving to San Francisco in 1978, joined the Breakthrough Foundation, a nonprofit that won national acclaim for helping change the trajectory of at-risk youth. During her seven-year tenure at the organization, Linda established funding for scholarships to cover all participating youth. This was the start of a long career building and strengthening nonprofits in the Bay Area.

Linda's work in Marin County began in the early 1990s and includes a breadth and depth of professional roles, including as the development director for Marin Child Care Council; the development and public affairs director for Planned Parenthood of Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino; and executive director of the Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, she joined the Volunteer Center of Marin as their chief executive officer. She went on to transform the organization first into the Center for

Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL) and later extended its reach into Sonoma County, Napa County, and Solano County.

For decades, Linda led CVNL with an unwavering belief in the power of the nonprofit system, expanding key programs such as the Heart of Marin Awards, strengthening volunteer engagement, and developing partnerships that elevated local nonprofits across the region. She supported communities during turbulent and uncertain times, from the pandemic and wildfires to funding cuts, and developed critical scholarships to allow nonprofits of all sizes and budgets to take advantage of the opportunities offered by CVNL.

A mentor to hundreds of nonprofit leaders, Linda is known as a fierce advocate, steady in the face of uncertainty and strategic in her long-term vision. She has served on the Board of Directors for the School to Career Partnership, Marin Economic Forum, and the Points of Light Assembly. She is also the former Board Chair of the California Association of Nonprofits, a former appointee to the Marin County Women's Commission, and past President of the Marin National Organization for Women. In recognition of her tireless work supporting nonprofits, Linda was inducted into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame in 2010, among other honors and awards acquired over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege and honor to work with Linda over the course of her notable career. She is a smart, generous and impactful person and leaves an indelible positive impact on Northern California and all those nonprofits and volunteers she supported and inspired throughout her career. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude to Linda for her generosity of spirit, innumerable good deeds, and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF KERMAN'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Kerman as it celebrates 80 years as an incorporated city on July 3, 2026.

The site of Kerman was first established by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company as a train station in 1891. It was at this site in 1892 that the famous Sontag and Evans gang held up the San Francisco-Los Angeles passenger train, one of the last train robberies in the country.

Settlement and cultivation of the Kerman area began and continued through the turn of the century as irrigation projects brought water to the area, primarily from the Kings River to the south. In 1900, William G. Kerckhoff and Jacob Mansar purchased around 3,027 acres of land and formed the Fresno Irrigated Farms Company.

In 1906, the town was renamed Kerman by combining the names Kerckhoff and Mansar. By 1914, Kerman had an estimated population of 400 people surrounded by 29,000 acres of producing cropland. The Kerman Creamery

was a significant business and produced about 1,600 pounds of butter daily. In 1921, Madera Avenue was paved from the Southern Pacific railroad tracks north to the San Joaquin River, and streetlights were installed from the tracks to Whitesbridge Road.

In 1946, the 1,050 residents of Kerman voted to incorporate. Sitting at the crossroads of State Route 145 and 180, Kerman has seen waves of residential and business growth that have expanded the city.

Today, Kerman has a population nearing 20,000 and is the largest city in West Fresno County. Still surrounded by agriculture, Kerman has also become a popular bedroom community to Fresno through its continued growth, family atmosphere, and supportive local businesses and employers.

Please join me in honoring the 80th Anniversary of the City of Kerman, where community comes first.

HONORING COMSTOCK & HOLT, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 170TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Comstock & Holt, Inc. on the occasion of its remarkable 170th anniversary. Since its founding in 1856, Comstock & Holt has stood as a cornerstone of American trade and remains the Nation's oldest continuously operating duty drawback specialist. For nearly two centuries, the company has exemplified the entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, and dedication that have helped drive American economic growth.

Comstock & Holt's legacy is deeply tied to the duty drawback program, the oldest trade instrument in the United States. Established through the Tariff Act of 1789, duty drawback is founded on the principle that duties should not be permanently imposed on goods that do not remain in American commerce. By allowing businesses to recover duties paid on imported products that are later exported, the program strengthens American manufacturing, promotes exports, and enhances the competitiveness of U.S. businesses around the world.

Founded in New York City by Charles J. Holt and William H. Holt, the company has provided uninterrupted service for 170 years. Through wars, economic downturns, technological advances, and significant changes in trade policy, Comstock & Holt has remained a trusted partner to American businesses, its expertise has helped countless companies navigate complex customs laws and reclaim funds rightfully available to them under federal law.

The company's history includes the incorporation of C.J. Holt & Co. in 1919 and its eventual combination with Comstock & Theakston, Inc., founded in 1894. In 2025, the firms formally united under the name Comstock & Holt, Inc., bringing together more than 300 years of combined industry expertise. Beyond serving clients, the company has played a leading role in shaping modern drawback regulations, educating the trade community, and advancing improvements to the drawback system.

For 170 years, Comstock & Holt has remained committed to the principles that have guided American trade since our Nation's founding. Its work supports industries ranging from agriculture and manufacturing to pharmaceuticals and technology, helping American companies compete in the global marketplace. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Comstock & Holt, Inc. on this historic milestone and in recognizing its extraordinary contributions to American commerce and trade.

HONORING ROGER COLÓN 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 Roger Colón as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Roger Colón serves as the program director of the Central Florida International Trade Office (CFITO), which serves multiple counties throughout Central Florida, including Orange and Osceola. In this leadership role, he is responsible for advancing international trade opportunities, supporting business competitiveness, and strengthening the region's global economic engagement.

As part of his commitment to our business community, Mr. Colón works closely with businesses to help them export U.S. goods and services. Through educational programs, one-on-one consultations, and industry outreach, he assists companies in developing export strategies, identifying international opportunities, and connecting with key trade resources that facilitate global growth.

In addition to supporting exporters, Mr. Colón is a valuable resource for the region's importing community. During the height of the U.S. tariff changes in 2025, Mr. Colón played a critical role in educating businesses throughout the district on the implications of new import duties and tariff regulations. He provided timely guidance to companies on how to navigate evolving trade policies, maintain compliance, and identify strategies to avoid, mitigate, or recover costs associated with increased import tariffs. His efforts helped many businesses better understand the financial and operational impacts of the changing trade environment and make informed decisions to protect their supply chains and profitability.

As program director, Mr. Colón expanded the scope and impact of the trade office by incorporating a stronger emphasis on trade development. One of his most notable achievements has been bringing the LATAM Trade Expo to the Orlando region. This annual event has grown into a premier platform for bilateral trade engagement between businesses and institutions from the United States, Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Chile. Through initiatives such as LATAM Trade and other international business development programs, Mr. Colón has helped strengthen Central Florida's position as a global gateway for commerce.