

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HAROLD CLAYTON WRIGHT AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harold Clayton Wright as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Harold Clayton Wright serves as the artistic director and conductor of the Orlando Gay Chorus (OGC).

Originally joining as a singer, he assumed the role of interim co-director in 2014, was named associate artistic director in 2015, and served in that capacity until 2018. During this period, he led the chorus at over 100 events in the aftermath of the Pulse Nightclub tragedy, providing a vital voice of healing and resilience for the community. In 2022, he was appointed artistic director, a role in which he continues to lead the chorus with distinction. Under Dr. Wright's leadership, OGC has doubled in membership, becoming one of the largest mixed-voice LGBTQIA+ choruses in the world. The chorus has expanded its presence throughout Florida, including regularly scheduled performances at the prestigious Steinmetz Hall in Orlando, and represented its community on the international stage at the 2024 GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) International Festival at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. This was a meaningful milestone, as the preceding GALA appearance was in July 2016 in Denver, just one month after the Pulse tragedy.

Dr. Wright holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education and Choral Conducting from Florida State University, a Master of Music Education from Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music. He served 12 years as a public school educator in Central Florida, teaching grades K–12 across three schools, and was honored with the Teacher of the Year award at Davenport School of the Arts.

Dr. Wright's professional organizations include the Florida Vocal Association, Florida Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, American Choral Directors Association, and GALA Choruses.

"As the world teaches one to be an individual, music teaches a world of individuals to be one!"—Dr. Harold C. Wright.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIA SHAFT FOR WINNING THE PANAMERICAN WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Sophia Shaft of Canton, Michigan,

for her extraordinary achievement in winning the Panamerican Weightlifting Championship in Panama City, Panama. At just 21 years old, Sophia represented the United States with distinction, discipline, and poise.

Competing in the Senior Women's 63-kilogram weight class, Sophia was the youngest athlete in the field and rose to the occasion in remarkable fashion. She earned second place in both the Snatch and the Clean and Jerk events, while securing the highest combined total to claim the overall Panamerican Championship title. Her accomplishment is a testament not only to her athletic talent, but also to the countless hours of preparation, sacrifice, and perseverance required to compete at the international level.

Sophia's success reflects the strong support of her family, including her parents, Dr. Jeremy and Shay Shaft, her younger sister, Eadie, and her coaches at Optimus Barbell Club. In only three short years in the sport of weightlifting, Sophia has already established herself as one of the Nation's premier young competitors and is now on the path toward representing the United States at the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Sophia Shaft on this outstanding achievement and wishing her continued success in the years ahead. Her accomplishments bring great pride to the State of Michigan and serve as an inspiration to young athletes across our Nation.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH AND AMERICA'S DIVERSITY

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Pride Month. What makes America truly great is our diversity. It is the coalescence of our backgrounds, our values, and our ideas that makes this Nation stronger. So, when we celebrate Pride Month, we are celebrating America. However, as we approach America's 250th anniversary, the historic progress we have made together to make our country a better place for all is under threat.

The Trump administration and Republicans in Congress are focused more on weaponizing the federal government against America's diversity and the LGBTQ+ community than on addressing the pressing issues facing Americans. LGBTQ+ Americans who serve our country proudly in uniform and are a critical part of our military are being told they are not welcome and are being denied access to medical care. There have been more than 15 anti-LGBTQ+ votes on the floor of the House this Congress, but not one that would actually lower costs for American families.

I am proud to stand up for the New Jersey LGBTQ+ community in Congress as a mem-

ber of the Congressional Equality Caucus and fight back against the rising tide of homophobia, transphobia, and hatred in all its forms. While Republicans in Congress have attacked our neighbors, I reintroduced the Customer Non-Discrimination Act to ensure fair treatment for Americans in public spaces and commercial services open to the public. Too many LGBTQ+ Americans still risk being fired, refused housing, or even denied healthcare just because of who they are, and this bill would stamp out this legalized discrimination by adding sexual orientation, sex, and gender identity to the prohibitions on discrimination covered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Celebrating Pride Month cannot be just about attending parades; it must also mean taking action and standing up for the rights to the freedoms we all deserve. America's promise of liberty and justice for all includes the LGBTQ+ community. As we approach our country's 250th anniversary, we must fight to ensure that freedom and equality are expanded, not rolled back, so that America can be a more inclusive and just Nation.

HONORING DAVID MINK AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor David Mink as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. David Mink has called Central Florida home since 1993, when he entered the University of Central Florida as a college freshman pursuing a degree in theater performance. While he ultimately received a BA in liberal studies with a minor in hospitality management, it was there that David began to learn more about the non-profit world and how civic groups work together to make the community a better place for everyone.

While at UCF, David joined the Gay & Lesbian Student Union and became immersed in the theater program, which included the Alpha Psi Omega honor fraternity for college thespians. Through these groups and his work at the Walt Disney World Resort, he became an avid volunteer in the Central Florida community. From volunteering with Junior Achievement in Orange County Public Schools to cleaning up public areas and parks around Central Florida, David also volunteered at various theater events, food kitchens, animal shelters, and more to simply give back to the community he had fallen in love with while at UCF.

In 2008, David worked with local artists and arts leaders to create one of the first, albeit short-lived, LGBTQ+ theater festivals in Central Florida that featured short plays written

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and directed by members of the local LGBTQ+ community.

After 20 years in non-profit theater, he recently changed course to take on a leadership role at The Pride Chamber, formerly the Metropolitan Business Association, where he is focused on supporting businesses, professionals, individuals, and charitable pursuits in the LGBTQ+ and allied communities. He also recently joined the Board of Directors at The Center Orlando, which is about to celebrate 50 years of providing guidance, support, and community to the LGBTQ+ residents of Central Florida.

HONORING ISRAEL "JOE" GUZMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Israel "Joe" Guzman, whom I have selected to receive the American Dream Award for California's 4th Congressional District. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in my district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service. As the Solano County honoree, Mr. Guzman is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Guzman was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. He attended high school in Dixon, California, where he was part of the migrant camp program. Mr. Guzman's family traveled seasonally to the United States during the farming and harvesting seasons, giving him firsthand experience with the dedication and sacrifice required of migrant agricultural workers.

Mr. Guzman is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Tank Lines, a premier fuel-hauling trucking company headquartered in Dixon, California. Since establishing the company in 2002, Mr. Guzman has built Alliance Tank Lines into a respected transportation business known for its commitment to safety, reliability, and service. From humble beginnings to leading a successful trucking company, Joe's journey exemplifies determination, entrepreneurial spirit, and a deep appreciation for family, community, and hard work.

Mr. Guzman has consistently demonstrated his commitment to our community through generous donations and sponsorships supporting local youth sports. He has also contributed to charitable efforts through his involvement with the J.A. Taylor Foundation, which provides education and development opportunities for youth. Mr. Guzman is a leader in our community, known for his kindness, generosity, and strong work ethic. Mr. Guzman is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need and takes pride in mentoring others, sharing his knowledge and experience.

Mr. Guzman is a devoted husband and father whose family remains a central part of his life. While attending high school, Mr. Guzman met his wife, Alicia Guzman, whose family also participated in the migrant camp program. Their shared experiences created a strong foundation for a lifelong partnership. Mr. and Mrs. Guzman have been married for 45 years

and have built a close-knit family together. Mr. Guzman is the proud father of three children: Israel "Izze", Monica, and Ricky.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Israel "Joe" Guzman for his achievements and for enriching our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today with the American Dream Award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRUISE SHIP FAIR SHARE ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Cruise Ship Fair Share Act, which confirms that states, territories, and other non-federal entities may levy taxes on cruise ships, their passengers, and their crew when those vessels are operating as tourist accommodations.

My legislation is prompted in part by recent litigation by cruise ship companies challenging Hawaii's application of its transient accommodations tax (TAT), a tax on all short-term accommodations like hotels, vacation rentals, timeshares and similar locations, to cruise ship operations in Hawaii waters at Hawaii ports. The TAT helps fund public infrastructure and environmental stewardship that is impacted by tourism operations, thus supporting both tourism and community impacts and resilience. Cruise ships, however, have challenged application of the TAT on federal grounds although accommodations on cruise ships are functionally no different from other transient accommodations and have the same impacts on our communities.

For Hawaii, these issues are about more than tax policy alone. Our islands face growing demands to maintain public infrastructure, preserve fragile ecosystems, protect coastal resources and strengthen community resilience in the face of environmental challenges. At the same time, visitors and visitor-serving industries benefit enormously from Hawaii's natural beauty and unique environment.

The Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act, which this bill would amend, was never intended to exempt ships from generally applicable taxes. This bill confirms that states and territories have the ability to ensure that all sectors of the visitor industry, including cruise ships, help support the stewardship and preservation of the places and resources that make those destinations possible, and that sufficient resources remain available to protect them for future generations. As this bill would make clear, federal law does not place cruise ships in a preferred position over hotels, vacation rentals and other visitor accommodations in who does and does not share the responsibility of addressing operations impacts.

I urge my colleagues to support my measure and confirm the right of states and territories to ensure that those who benefit from their communities contribute fairly to their upkeep and future.

RECOGNIZING MEGAN AMEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Megan Amen, for her service to the country and the 2nd District of South Carolina.

Throughout her four-year time in the office, Megan has been an invaluable member of our team, focused on the challenging responsibility of keeping my daily and long-term schedule running smoothly.

She also had the added duties of overseeing a legislative portfolio covering several important issue areas, including her work in supporting Armed Services legislation.

Megan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance and political science from Rutgers University, then followed up, with a Master of Arts degree in international relations from Arizona State University.

Though a native of Arizona, Megan will always be fondly regarded as an honorary South Carolinian for her commitment to SC-02.

Megan will be missed, but we wish her well in her new duties serving with the USO, which is such a valued institution for service members and families worldwide.

HONORING URLA KING AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Urla King as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Mrs. Urla King is a dedicated dental healthcare professional and community leader whose career in dental hygiene spans more than three decades. A licensed dental hygienist since 1990, she currently serves as a registered dental hygienist with Davenport Dental Associates, where she is recognized for her commitment to excellence in patient care and oral health education.

Mrs. King began her professional training by earning a Diploma in Dental Nursing from the Dental Auxiliary School in Kingston, Jamaica. She later completed the Advanced Dental Nurses Program in Wellington, New Zealand, and earned her dental hygiene credentials from New York City Technical College.

Throughout her career, Mrs. King has remained committed to serving underserved populations. She has volunteered her professional skills to provide preventive dental care and oral health education to communities throughout Central Florida, including areas within Florida's 9th Congressional District, as well as in Guyana and Zambia. Her efforts have helped improve access to healthcare and promote community wellness.

Since 1994, Mrs. King has been an active member of the Caribbean and Floridian Association, Inc. (CAFA). She has served in several leadership roles, including treasurer and