

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

chairperson of the Medical Committee. Through these positions, she has helped organize health fairs, wellness programs, and community outreach initiatives that have benefited families across Central Florida.

Mrs. King also serves on the Board of Directors of Solid Rock Community Church in Kissimmee, Florida, where she supports outreach ministries and programs that strengthen and uplift local communities.

A devoted wife, mother of two, and grandmother of three, Mrs. King is known for her compassion, leadership, and dedication to service. Through her professional achievements and longstanding commitment to community outreach, she continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout Florida.

HONORING DIRK SLOOTEN

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 Dirk Slooten 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 Lake County honoree, Mr. Slooten is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Slooten was born on August 3, 1951, in Purmerend, the Netherlands. In 1972, Mr. Slooten received his degree in Construction Engineering from MTS Hendrick de Keizer College in Amsterdam. Mr. Slooten received his second degree, this time with an emphasis on International Relations, from Diablo Valley College in 1974.

As the Mayor of the City of Clearlake, Mr. Slooten has distinguished himself as a visionary leader whose practical approach to complex challenges has produced meaningful and lasting benefits for our community. Prior to serving as Mayor, Mr. Slooten owned Slooten Consulting, a Civil Engineering and Land Surveying business, from 1994 to 2018. Drawing upon a strong business background, he brings thoughtful judgment, fiscal responsibility, and a forward-looking perspective to his service as an elected official.

Mr. Slooten has also served as the Chair of the Planning Commission of Clearlake, where he demonstrated a keen understanding of economic opportunity and community needs. Mr. Slooten was also the President of the Rotary Club of Clear Lake, Chair of Rotary District 5130 Disaster Relief, Chair of Lake Area Rotary Clubs Association, and a Member of the Yolo County Airport Commission. In these positions, Mr. Slooten remained a steadfast advocate for economic development, playing an instrumental role in creating opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Beyond his public service, Mr. Slooten has consistently demonstrated his personal investment in the future of our community. Mr. Slooten has generously contributed to numerous non-profit organizations including Adventist Health, Lake County Wine Alliance, Yuba

Community College Foundation, and Veterans of Lake County. Mr. Slooten also coached soccer for Davis American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and AYSO Select for 10 years. Through his generous contributions to charitable and civic causes, he has exemplified the spirit of service, entrepreneurship, and community stewardship.

Mr. Slooten married Karen Slooten and has three children. His daughter Greta married Andrew Wyeth and had two children: Rowan and Callum. Mr. Slooten's sons, Peter and Paul, were adopted from Guatemala in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Dirk Slooten 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.

RECOGNIZING THE ALPENA HIGH SCHOOL ENGINEERING TEAM ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AT THE GREAT LAKES ROV COMPETITION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievement of the Alpena High School Engineering Team, who recently represented Michigan's 1st Congressional District with distinction at the Great Lakes ROV Competition.

Under the leadership of their coach, Mr. Robert Thompson, and in partnership with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Alpena Community College Marine Tech Program, these talented students work collaboratively to develop vital marine research equipment and educational content. Their efforts highlight the ingenuity, discipline, and determination of Northern Michigan students and demonstrate what can be accomplished when education, technical training, and community support come together.

This year, the team delivered a record-setting performance at the regional competition against teams from Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, earning the distinct honor of advancing to the World Championship in St. John's, Newfoundland this coming summer. During the competition, the students were judged by local professionals who evaluated the design and functional operation of the robots, poster displays, and engineering presentations.

At the world championship, the team will compete against students from around the world, deploying custom-built Remotely Operated Vehicles designed to solve real world marine challenges. These students not only represent the future of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, but they also highlight the critical role skilled innovators play in strengthening our Nation's infrastructure, maritime capabilities, and national security.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing the Alpena High School Engineering Team on this tremendous achievement and wish them the very best as they represent Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula at the international competition in Newfoundland. I cannot think of a better group of young adults to represent Michigan's 1st Congressional District on the world stage.

RECOGNIZING THE DAMASCUS COORDINATION CENTER IN THE ENDURING MISSION OF OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, the people of Syria have endured conflict, terrorism, displacement, and immense humanitarian suffering. Today, the United States, together with its Coalition partners, remains committed to the enduring defeat of ISIS and to advancing conditions that promote regional security, protect civilian populations, and prevent the re-emergence of terrorist organizations that threaten the American people, our allies, and our interests abroad.

The collapse of the brutal Assad dictatorship presents new opportunities for advancing counterterrorism objectives working with the new administration in Syria and partner forces committed to stability and security in the region. While significant progress has been achieved, lasting peace and prosperity requires continued coordination among military, diplomatic, humanitarian, and reconstruction partners.

The Damascus Coordination Center represents a new chapter in a cooperative effort, implementing President Trump's vision for Syria and the region. The Center serves as a forum for cooperation among United States Government agencies, Coalition members, Syrian authorities, private-sector, and international organizations to advance security, stabilization, humanitarian assistance, explosive ordnance mitigation, economic recovery, infrastructure restoration, and the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons consistent with United States law and policy.

The United States recognizes that enduring stability in Syria cannot be achieved through military means alone. It requires effective governance, accountable institutions, economic opportunity, protection of religious and ethnic minorities, respect for human dignity, and sustained national, and international partnership.

It is critical that departments and agencies of the Executive Branch within their respective authorities actively engage with the Damascus Coordination Center to further these shared objectives.

United States allies, international organizations, humanitarian institutions, private-sector partners, and nations committed to the enduring defeat of terrorism must support coordinated efforts to foster peace, stability, reconstruction, and prosperity for the Syrian people.

The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that ISIS and other terrorist organizations can never again use Syrian territory to threaten the American homeland, our allies, or the international community. Through unity of purpose, responsible leadership, and sustained partnership, we reaffirm our commitment to a secure, stable, and prosperous Syria.