

For 46 years, Kathy has been a pillar of the Lakewood Community, beginning her career as a teenage lifeguard at her local pool, where she safeguarded residents and discovered her passion for public service. Over several decades, Kathy worked her way to the City Manager position, which she has held for the past 18 years. During her tenure, she secured 192 acres for city parks and open spaces, including nearly 60 acres in the heart of Lakewood. She oversaw the largest infrastructure investment in the city's history along the West Colfax Corridor. As a regional leader in Jefferson County, Kathy helped create the Volunteers of America Colorado Navigation Center to address homelessness.

Kathy's dedication to service does not end with the City of Lakewood. She formerly served on the Red Rocks Community College Advisory Council, as president of the Colorado Women's Forum, the Colorado Municipal League executive board, and the Colorado City and County Management Association.

Kathy led the City of Lakewood to become a national sustainability beacon by increasing the number of electric vehicles in the city's fleet, installing solar power at Whitlock Recreation Center, adding EV charging stations at city facilities, and creating a residential composting program. Kathy has gone above and beyond in her service to the community and has been an inspiration to those around her.

The City of Lakewood and the State of Colorado have benefited from Kathy's hard work and commitment to creating a better future for all Coloradans, and her absence will be felt by the community she served so well.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Kathy Hodgson on her well-earned retirement and to thank her for her service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote because of a health emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228, and YEA on Roll Call No. 229.

HONORING SYLVINA FRAUSTO

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 Sylvina Frausto, 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 Yolo County honoree, Ms. Frausto is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Ms. Frausto was born in Tamazula, Jalisco, Mexico. Since moving to Woodland, California, over fifty years ago. Ms. Frausto has distinguished herself as a visionary leader whose practical approach to complex challenges has produced meaningful and lasting benefits for our community.

After earning her high school diploma, Ms. Frausto attended Woodland Community College. Ms. Frausto served as a Parish Administrative Assistant at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church for twenty-five years. Ms. Frausto also worked at the Woodland Joint Unified School District as the School Secretary where she mobilized parents to improve the Woodland School District Music Program and educated families on how to protect themselves from fraudsters preying on our immigrant community.

Beyond her professional roles, Ms. Frausto has consistently demonstrated her personal investment in the future of our community. Ms. Frausto served as the bilingual secretary for the Yolo County Public Defender's Office while also accompanying individuals who are seeking justice for domestic violence to their court appointments. For the past 16 years, Ms. Frausto has also generously contributed her time to teaching origami at the Woodland Senior and Community Center twice a month.

Ms. Frausto has remained a steadfast advocate for a diverse range of communities, serving on the Elementary School Site Council, Diocese of Sacramento Stewardship Committee, Sacramento Valley Organizing Community, Chief Advisory Board, Empower Yolo Advisory Committee, and the Yolo County Office of Education-Participant in Roadmap to the Future. Ms. Frausto is also the chair of the following committees: Woodland Ecumenical and Multi-Faith Ministries, Yolo County Monroe Detention Facility, and the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility. Through her generous contributions to charitable and civic causes, she has exemplified the spirit of service, advocacy, and community stewardship.

Ms. Frausto is a proud single parent of two children. Her daughter earned her master's degree at Stanford University and her son serves in the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize Sylvina Frausto for her achievements and for enriching our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today with the American Dream Award.

HONORING MASTER DEPUTY MARA EVERSON 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 Master Deputy Mara Everson as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Master Deputy Mara Everson is an Air Force veteran and dedicated public safety professional whose career reflects an unwavering commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement. She holds a Master of Science in Homeland Security and is both a certified Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Practitioner and Crime Prevention Practitioner.

Throughout her law enforcement career, Master Deputy Everson has served in a variety of roles dedicated to protecting and supporting her community. As a detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit, she specialized in domestic violence, child abuse, and missing persons cases, demonstrating exceptional compassion, professionalism, and dedication while assisting victims and their families during some of their most difficult times.

Master Deputy Everson also serves as an LGBTQ liaison and safe place coordinator, fostering trust and collaboration between law enforcement and the LGBTQ community. Through outreach, advocacy, and education, she has worked to create safe, inclusive environments and strengthen relationships between community members and public safety professionals.

Master Deputy Everson's distinguished military service, professional achievements, and commitment to crime prevention have made a lasting impact on the communities she serves. Her leadership, integrity, and dedication to public service exemplify the highest ideals of citizenship and reflect great credit upon herself, her profession, and the state of Florida.

HONORING BERNARDO "BERNIE" NARVAEZ

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 Bernardo "Bernie" Narvaez, 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 Napa County honoree, Mr. Narvaez is very deserving of this award and recognition.

Mr. Narvaez was born in Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1990 and grew up in poverty. After the September 11 attacks, Mr. Narvaez enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, served honorably for six years, and is a Veteran of the Iraq War.

After his honorable service from the Marine Corps, Mr. Narvaez began working in insurance and risk management, founding Narvaez Insurance Services with his father. They have served more than 4,000 families and small businesses. He built on this experience as the Co-Chair of the Rotary Fire Relief, offering funds to small business owners affected by the Napa fires. Mr. Narvaez currently serves as the City Councilmember for Napa's District 4 and Vice-Chair of the Napa County Climate Action Committee.

Mr. Narvaez is widely respected for his tireless work ethic and a deep sense of responsibility to our Napa community. His career has been defined by dedication and integrity, evident by his many leadership roles with organizations including Napa Sunrise Rotarian, Government Affairs Director with Napa County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Commandant of Napa Marine Corps League, NVT Board of Directors, and Member of Napa County Veteran Commission.

Mr. Narvaez's advocacy for the Latino community is deeply rooted in his heritage. Mr. Narvaez served an active role in launching the Napa County Hispanic Foundation to support young Latino leaders through training and mentorship. Mr. Narvaez continues to be a determined leader to our Napa community with strong support from his wife, Gaby, and their three children.

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

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
MICHAEL WITHERELL, DIRECTOR
OF THE LAWRENCE BERKELEY
NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Dr. Michael Stewart Witherell, the Director of the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).

Dr. Witherell was born on September 22, 1949, in Toledo, Ohio. In 1968, Dr. Witherell received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and went on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1973.

Dr. Witherell began his academic career as a faculty member at Princeton University. In 1981, he moved to the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he would eventually become the UC Presidential Chair in Physics. As a working experimental particle physicist, Dr. Witherell pursued groundbreaking research focused on the fundamental building blocks of matter. This pioneering work earned Dr. Witherell the prestigious W.K.H. Panofsky Prize in Experimental Particle Physics in 1990. In his later career, Dr. Witherell researched dark matter, contributing to the design of the LUX-Zeplin (LZ) dark matter experiment. Dr. Witherell's research and experimental work is highly respected in his field and continues to be widely cited to this day.

In 1999, Dr. Witherell accepted the role as Director of Fermilab, the country's leading laboratory for high-energy physics. During his tenure, from 1999 to 2005, Fermilab upgraded its Tevatron accelerator complex and completed a \$150 million project to build a long-baseline neutrino facility capable of beaming neutrinos 450 miles underground from Illinois to a detector in Minnesota. Dr. Witherell's visionary leadership at Fermilab earned him the U.S. Secretary of Energy's Gold Award in 2004, the Department of Energy's highest honor.

From 2005 to 2016, Dr. Witherell served as the Vice Chancellor of Research at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In that role, Dr. Witherell helped increase extramural research expenditures from \$165 million to \$227 million.

In March of 2016, Dr. Witherell was appointed Director of the Lawrence Berkeley Na-

tional Laboratory, overseeing a workforce of 4,000 and five national user facilities serving over 17,000 researchers annually. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Witherell spearheaded a mass modernization of LBNL's facilities initiating the Advanced Light Source upgrade, completing the Perlmutter supercomputer for the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center, commencing the Doudna supercomputer project, and completing the Energy Sciences Network upgrade ahead of schedule. Dr. Witherell also helped drive investment into LBNL, leading to the creation of the Integrative Genomics Building. Under Dr. Witherell's leadership, LBNL has received more Early Career Research awards than any other national laboratory. Since 2016, many of those awards were for early research in the fields of quantum information science and artificial intelligence, positioning LBNL to take a significant role in these national priority areas. Under his leadership, LBNL also became the first of 10 Department of Energy laboratories to earn grades of A- or above in all eight areas of its annual performance evaluations for four consecutive years, demonstrating Dr. Witherell's remarkable operational acumen.

Throughout his storied career, Dr. Witherell has consistently demonstrated deep curiosity, managerial excellence, and a commitment to public service and the advancement of scientific knowledge. Our country has been lucky to have Dr. Witherell at the helm of some of our Nation's premier laboratories and research institutions. I wish Dr. Witherell a happy and healthy retirement, and I sincerely thank him for his contributions to the United States.

HONORING AXEL J SOMEILLAN 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 Axel J Someillan as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Axel J Someillan is a renowned photographer known for his exceptional ability to capture the essence of his subjects through a distinctive and evocative style. With a career spanning over several years, Axel has established himself as a prominent figure in the world of photography, celebrated for his keen eye for detail and his ability to tell compelling visual stories.

Axel's portfolio encompasses a wide range of photographic genres, including portraiture, fashion, commercial, and fine art photography. His work is characterized by its striking composition, innovative use of light and shadow, and a profound understanding of color and texture. Whether working with models, celebrities, or everyday individuals, Axel brings out the unique personality and emotion of his subjects, creating images that resonate deeply with viewers.

Throughout his career, Axel J Someillan has collaborated with prestigious clients and publications, earning acclaim for his creativity and professionalism. His photographs have been featured in leading magazines, advertising

campaigns, and all exhibitions, garnering numerous awards and accolades.

Axel's passion for photography extends beyond his commercial work; he is also dedicated to exploring personal projects that push the boundaries of the medium. Through these endeavors, he continues to evolve as an artist, experimenting with new techniques and concepts to expand his artistic vision.

Committed to sharing his knowledge and inspiring the next generation of photographers, Axel frequently conducts workshops and lectures, where he offers insights into his creative process and the technical aspects of his craft. His contributions to the field of photography have made a lasting impact, solidifying his reputation as a visionary and influential artist.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL
SURFING DAY

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Surfing Day and defend the magnificent beaches of Southern California and our Nation's coastlines. In California's 49th Congressional District, our communities are defined by the Pacific Ocean. From the surf breaks of Dana Point to the sandy shores of Del Mar, our beaches are a source of community pride, ecological richness, and economic vitality that we must protect for future generations.

California's beaches attract tens of millions of visitors every year, supporting local economies and providing access to nature for people of all backgrounds. More than that, they serve as vital habitat for endangered species, support vibrant kelp forest ecosystems, and play a critical role in the health of our ocean environment. Protecting our beaches means protecting the intricate web of life that depends on healthy coastal systems.

Climate change poses an acute and accelerating threat to our shorelines. Rising seas and increasingly powerful storms are eroding beaches, threatening coastal infrastructure, and putting communities at risk. We must meet this challenge head-on with bold investments in coastal resilience, science-based shoreline management, and meaningful action to address the root causes of climate change.

I am proud to have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure federal resources for beach restoration, water quality improvement, and marine conservation. Keeping our beaches clean, safe, and accessible is a moral obligation and an economic imperative.

I also want to recognize the surfers, lifeguards, environmental advocates, and coastal stewards in our communities who dedicate themselves every day to protecting these special places. Their passion and perseverance inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, our beaches are among America's most precious assets. I urge this body to invest in their protection, celebrate their wonder, and safeguard them for every American—today and for generations to come.