

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.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Senator JIM RISCH, to recognize the 125th anniversary of Idaho State University, an institution that embodies the best of the American promise: that through hard work, discipline, and opportunity, individuals can improve their lives and strengthen their communities. For 125 years, Idaho State University (ISU), has educated generations of Idahoans, meeting the needs of a growing state and preparing students for lives of purpose, responsibility and contribution.

From its home in Pocatello, Idaho State University operates as a statewide institution, with a meaningful presence in Idaho Falls, Meridian, Twin Falls, Lewiston, and Coeur d'Alene. ISU meets students where they are and opens doors for those willing to work for something better. It serves first-generation students, working adults, and those balancing family, school, and career. It delivers an education that is practical, rigorous and tied directly to opportunity. It reflects a clear mission, steady leadership and a culture on delivering results.

Idaho State University is a partnership institution. It works closely with community colleges, with its sister universities, and with employers across Idaho to build pathways that lead to real outcomes. In health care, ISU helped bring Idaho's first medical school to its campus, and it continues to grow medical education through a strong public-private partnership with the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. At the same time, the university expands medical residency programs and clinical training opportunities that help ensure physicians train in Idaho and choose to stay in Idaho. ISU educates nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants and other essential providers who serve communities across our state, especially in rural and underserved areas.

That same focus on service and outcomes drives the rest of the university. Idaho State University advances energy research and workforce development that supports Idaho's role in the Nation's secure energy future. It prepares teachers who educate Idaho's upcoming generation. It invests in the arts and humanities because strong communities require civic and cultural depth as well as economic strength. Across disciplines, ISU aligns its programs with the needs of Idaho and adapts with purpose to meet them.

Please join us in recognizing Idaho State University for 125 years of impact and in celebrating the work it continues to do on behalf of the people of Idaho and the United States of America.

HONORING DIANA COLON 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 Diana Colon as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Diana Colon is a service-oriented law enforcement ally who humbly serves her hometown of Orlando, Florida, as a board member of the Gay Officers Action League of Central Florida.

Colon knew in her heart that she wanted to serve her country and enrolled in the Air Force JROTC program to prepare for a military career. As a junior cadet, she was a member of the Drill and Sabre Teams and contributed countless volunteer hours at nursing homes and community events. In 1989, Colon enlisted in the U.S. Army and entered with the rank of PFC, a rank credited to her for three years of service in JROTC. While serving, she worked as a track vehicle repairer during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. With tank repairs required around the clock, Colon managed a demanding workload.

After the conflict, she retired from the Army to focus on family and a civilian career. As a civilian, Colon applied her skills as an auto mechanic, office manager, and small business owner. Colon sustained her internal desire to serve while the owner of Dos Lokas Mexican Foods, providing for the homeless in the Parramore area of Orlando.

She maintains her connection with the armed services through a variety of VA community groups as a poet, painter, photographer, and lyricist. She is a member of the American Legion and the VA Choir.

Since 2024, Colon has been a member of GOALcf as an ally to the LGBTQI+ community. As a volunteer and recording secretary, Colon continues to serve by representing the organization at community partner events, hosting food drives as an honorary chef, recruiting volunteers, organizing social events, and overall promoting positive relationships with the LGBTQI+ community in Central Florida.

She is beloved by her community for her tireless advocacy and selfless contributions, traits that are synonymous with her genuine identity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HARRY KNIGHT.

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Harry Knight.

Harry is approaching his 100th birthday, and I would like to commend him for his long-standing commitment and dedication to the United States. Harry served in the Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War, leaving a distinguished legacy of courage and patriotism. During his service in the Korean War, Harry fought in one of the deadliest

and most decisive engagements of the conflict, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. The battle marked an important turning point for the U.S. in the war, with the U.S. 1st Marine Division surviving an encirclement by 120,000 Chinese soldiers. The efforts of the UN troops, including Harry, ultimately weakened Chinese forces and prevented a swift Communist takeover, securing a stalemate between the U.S. and opposition forces. Harry's personal sacrifice and courage during that battle resulted in him receiving two Purple Hearts for the injuries he sustained. Consequently, Harry's enduring dedication to his country is characterized by unwavering loyalty and selfless devotion.

It is my pleasure to honor Harry, allowing him to experience the gratitude of those he has protected throughout his service. Harry's heroic career in the U.S. Marine Corps deserves to be recognized, and his ability to maintain his sharp mind and humble character at the age of 99 is a testament to his resilience, integrity, and lifelong commitment to serving others.

HONORING JOSÉ RAMÓN AGUILAR COLINA 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 José Ramón Aguilar Colina as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. José Ramón Aguilar Colina is a Venezuelan immigrant, LGBTQ+ advocate, public health leader, and founder and executive director of AGUILAR SALUD, a Central Florida-based nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to HIV prevention, treatment, education, care navigation, and healthcare resources for underserved communities.

After receiving an HIV diagnosis more than a decade ago, José transformed a personal challenge into a lifelong commitment to service. Following his immigration to the United States, he dedicated his career to helping individuals overcome barriers related to language, stigma, healthcare access, and economic hardship, particularly among Hispanic, immigrant, LGBTQ+, senior, women, and other historically underserved populations.

Recognizing significant gaps in culturally responsive healthcare services, José founded AGUILAR SALUD to help ensure that individuals and families could access lifesaving education, prevention, treatment, and support. Under his leadership, the organization has grown into a trusted community resource serving residents throughout Central Florida and Florida's 9th Congressional District through primary care, community outreach, STI and HIV prevention and treatment programs, health education initiatives, care navigation, and strategic partnerships.

José has contributed to local, state, national, and international efforts focused on HIV awareness, prevention, treatment, and health equity. Through public speaking, advocacy, and collaboration with healthcare organizations, government agencies, universities, community partners, and communities of faith, he