

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

has helped advance conversations surrounding HIV, healthcare disparities, and equitable access to care for underserved communities. His work has reached audiences across the United States and internationally while remaining rooted in service to Central Florida communities.

Through leadership, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to improving lives, José continues to advance health equity, strengthen communities, and expand opportunities for those most in need.

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, the 21st Century Road to Housing Act is historic legislation that will improve housing affordability and access in this country for millions of Americans. This legislation would not have been possible without the contributions of the minority professional staff of the Committee, who worked for months with advocacy groups, Members of Congress, and other stakeholders on drafting and perfecting this legislation. Their staff work was essential to the success of this legislation.

I would like to acknowledge and include in the RECORD the following staff members for their superlative work on this important bill:

Melissa Anoh, Professional Staff Member; Noelle Melton, Director of Housing; Chelsea Crittle, Policy Director; Glen Sears, Director of Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions; Herline Mathieu, Communications Director; Marcos Manosalvas, Deputy Communications Director; David Fernandez, Chief Counsel; Kristofor Erickson, Deputy Staff Director; and Charla Ouertatani, Staff Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228, H.R. 7757, and YEA on Roll Call No. 229, H.R. 7128.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote due to a voting card issue prior to close of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228.

HONORING BRANDON BRACALELLEWELLYN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR LGBTQ+ PRIDE

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brandon Bracale-Llewellyn as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Brandon Bracale-Llewellyn is a respected business owner, community leader, and advocate whose dedication to Central Florida's LGBTQ+ community has made a lasting impact throughout the region. Born in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Brandon is the owner of Savoy Orlando, one of Central Florida's most prominent LGBTQ+ entertainment venues and a longstanding gathering place that has fostered community, inclusion, and support for countless individuals over the years.

Through both his personal philanthropy and leadership as a business owner, Brandon has donated significant time, resources, and financial support to numerous nonprofit organizations serving the LGBTQ+ community and beyond. His commitment to public service extends through his volunteer leadership, including serving as president of the Orange County Rainbow Democrats and currently serving on the Board of Directors for the LGBTQ+ Center Orlando.

In recognition of his dedication to advocacy and community engagement, Brandon was honored with the prestigious Chase Smith Award in 2019, recognizing his outstanding contributions to equality, civic involvement, and public service.

Beyond his professional and community accomplishments, Brandon values spending time with family in Pennsylvania and enjoys traveling to Mexico with his partner, Alan. His commitment to service, leadership, and community building continues to strengthen Central Florida and inspire those around him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUZ M. RIVAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical issue on my voting card, my vote was not recorded. Had the vote been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228, final passage of H.R. 7757 as amended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD KNOTT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen conflict, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 7757, the KIDS Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

HONORING MINNESOTA STATE SENATOR STEVE CWODZINSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Minnesota State Senator Steve Cwodzinski for his decade-long service to the people of Minnesota and his lifelong dedication to education, civic engagement, and public service.

Born in Superior, Wisconsin, Senator Cwodzinski earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Minnesota and spent more than 30 years teaching government and history at Eden Prairie High School. Through his decades in the classroom, he inspired generations of students to become informed and engaged citizens, and his extraordinary dedication to education earned him the Presidential Scholar's Influential Teacher Award.

Senator Cwodzinski brought that same passion for public service to the Minnesota state Senate when he was first elected in 2016, representing the cities of Eden Prairie and Minnetonka with integrity and optimism. Over the course of his tenure, he served as Chair of the Senate Education Policy Committee and on the Education Finance, Elections, and State and Local Government Committees.

Drawing on his background as an educator, Senator Cwodzinski became a leading advocate for students and teachers across Minnesota. He championed civics and financial literacy graduation requirements to better prepare students for engaged citizenship and adult life, and he consistently prioritized student voices in the legislative process by regularly inviting students to testify before legislative committees and participate directly in conversations about policy. In addition to his championing of students and educators, he is a passionate advocate for protecting the Boundary Waters and chief authored legislation for permanent protection of Minnesota's crown jewel.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Senator Cwodzinski is a devoted husband to his wife, Patti, a proud father of two children, and grandfather of two grandchildren. His love of family, community, and country has shaped every aspect of his life and service.

Senator Cwodzinski's legacy will endure through the countless students he mentored, the legislation he championed, and the communities he faithfully served. On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I extend my sincere gratitude for his years of dedicated service and wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 228, and YEA on Roll Call No. 229.