

someone who has served far from my own family, I know the quiet weight a soldier carries when duty calls him thousands of miles from home. Jeff carried it without complaint, and even half a world away, he never stopped finding ways to care for the people he loved.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Roxane; his children, Samira, Nicolette, and Conor; his parents, Dan and Helen; his brothers, David and Greg; and the many relatives, friends, and fellow soldiers who will carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Jeffrey O'Brien—a devoted husband, father, soldier, and proud Iowan who gave his life in service to our Nation—and in keeping the O'Brien family and the families of every soldier lost in that attack in our prayers. Iowa will never forget his sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH BUFFALO DANCE ACADEMY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the South Buffalo Dance Academy, which is proudly celebrating its golden anniversary in its fiftieth year. Founded in 1976 by Mrs. Eleanor Donovan Gilson with just one small dance studio and a handful of students, Mrs. Gilson offered a welcoming space for community members of all ages to discover a passion for movement, find their own beat, and express themselves.

For half a century, South Buffalo Dance Academy has demonstrated unwavering dedication to its students, the arts, and the Western New York community, highlighting the talents of performers throughout the region by offering a mixture of modern and contemporary dance training. Thousands of students have come through its doors, each contributing to the vibrant legacy of the academy. Many alumni have gone on to successful careers as professional dancers and choreographers and often return to the studio to visit and teach. South Buffalo Dance Academy has also earned numerous awards at competitions locally and nationally, recognizing the talent, technical ability, flexibility, and creativity showcased in its routines.

Through consistent instruction, performances, and mentorship, the academy has supported generations of young artists in developing discipline, confidence, and creative expression, while offering a welcoming space for community members of all ages to discover a passion for movement, find their own beat, and express themselves in a true “home away from home.”

Today, we honor 50 years of commitment to the arts and look ahead to the many years of entertainment still to come. The South Buffalo Dance Academy's work has touched countless lives. Their commitment to excellence in dance has not only elevated the arts within our community but has created meaningful opportunities for students to grow both on and off the stage.

HONORING QUEEN MOTHER DR. KATHLEEN HARMON

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, humanitarian, and champion for justice, Queen Mother Dr. Kathleen Harmon, in celebration of her 95th birthday.

A true San Diego icon, Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has devoted her life to service and uplifting our neighbors. Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has worn many hats—nurse, social worker, and advocate, but community is always at the heart of everything she does.

Queen Mother Dr. Harmon is the founder and guiding force behind the San Diego Peace Coalition. Through this work, Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has brought together community leaders, faith organizations, educators, elected officials, young people, and advocates to collaborate on addressing our most pressing challenges. She has worked tirelessly to advance initiatives to promote peace, combat gun violence, increase educational opportunity, and foster dialogue across diverse communities.

Queen Mother Dr. Harmon is also a respected spiritual leader who has touched many lives. Her guidance has helped shape community initiatives, inspired civic engagement, and encouraged others to dedicate themselves to lives of purpose and compassion.

On this milestone occasion, we celebrate Queen Mother Dr. Kathleen Harmon and her unwavering commitment to bettering our communities. Her remarkable journey stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith, perseverance, and selfless service.

I am honored to recognize her for her incredible work and the indelible mark she's left on San Diego, California, and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Berlin Township Fire Department on its 50th anniversary. For five decades, the department has proudly answered the call whenever its neighbors need them most.

This milestone is a well-deserved opportunity to recognize the excellence and dedication that have defined the department throughout its history. From responding to emergencies to supporting families in times of need, Berlin Township firefighters have worked tirelessly to keep their community safe. I thank the firefighters, officers, and staff for their bravery in the face of danger and their unwavering commitment to those they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Township Fire Department and recognizing its outstanding record of service. I congratulate

late them on this important milestone, and wish them the best in many more years of protecting and serving Berlin Township.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT DECLAN COADY

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Declan Coady of West Des Moines, Iowa, who was killed on March 1, 2026, in an Iranian drone strike while deployed to Kuwait with the 103rd Sustainment Command. Declan was just 20 years old. In a life cut far too short, he showed a rare devotion to service, to his country, and to the family he loved.

Declan was born on May 5, 2005, in Manassas, Virginia, the third child of Andrew and Katherine Coady. He grew up in West Des Moines alongside his siblings, Aidan, Keira, and Rowan. The Coady's spent their time camping in our national parks, hiking, rafting, and exploring the outdoors. Declan and his brothers all earned the rank of Eagle Scout, but ever competitive, he set out to earn the most merit badges—and finished with 56.

After graduating from Valley High School in 2023, Declan enrolled at Drake University to study information systems, cybersecurity, and computer science. He also enlisted in the Army Reserve, completing Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill in March 2024 and Advanced Individual Training that July.

At Drake, Declan joined ROTC and faced a choice that says more about his character than any words could. He could have signed an ROTC contract and stayed home when his unit deployed. Instead, he chose to go with the soldiers he had trained beside. In August 2025, he deployed to Kuwait with the 103rd Sustainment Command.

His family could hear in every call home how much his service meant to him. Even from halfway around the world, he made time to play video games with Aidan and to talk with his parents, Keira, and Rowan about their lives and their plans for the future. He dreamed of becoming an officer, talked about extending his deployment and going on to active duty, and stayed enrolled at Drake the whole time—studying online from Kuwait, an ocean away from campus.

Declan had his whole life ahead of him. Yet at just 20, he had already made a choice generations of Americans before him had made: when his country called, he answered, and when his fellow soldiers deployed, he chose to stand beside them. I have served beside men and women who made that same choice, and it tells you everything about the kind of person Declan was.

Declan is survived by his parents, Andrew and Katherine; his siblings, Aidan, Keira, and Rowan; his grandparents, Larry and Sandra Coady; and the many relatives, friends, classmates, and fellow soldiers who will carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Declan Coady, a devoted son and brother, a soldier, and a proud Iowan who gave his life in service to our Nation. May we keep the Coady family and all

those who loved Declan in our prayers. Iowa will never forget his service or his sacrifice.

COMMEMORATING THE SENECA
NATION OF INDIANS AND THE
SIGNING OF THE 1842 BUFFALO
CREEK TREATY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Seneca Nation of Indians as they commemorate the signing of the 1842 Buffalo Creek Treaty. Signed in a partnership agreement between the United States and the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Buffalo Creek Treaty ensured that the culture and heritage of the Seneca Nation remain on their rightful land in the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations.

Signed nearly 184 years ago in Western New York, the 1842 Buffalo Creek Treaty restored the Seneca Nation's possession of Cattaraugus and Allegany territories and reaffirmed the nation's right to self-govern and protect their land. Through unwavering unity and leadership, Seneca Nation leaders worked to ensure that the Indigenous population of Western New York was not displaced and that their culture and tradition survived and preserved. This treaty marked a defining moment in the preservation of Seneca sovereignty and identity. The dedication of the Seneca people to their heritage, community, and future ensures the well-being, prosperity, and sovereignty of future generations.

Today, as we commemorate 184 years since the signing of the Buffalo Creek Treaty, we look toward the future with hope and acknowledge the struggles and sacrifices of the past. The 1842 Buffalo Creek Treaty remains a lasting symbol of sovereignty, resilience, and cultural respect. As the Seneca people continue to strengthen their communities and protect their heritage, we recognize their enduring legacy of perseverance and leadership and celebrate their many contributions to Western New York and the United States.

HONORING ESTRELLITA "LITA"
REAL BUSTRIA

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Estrellita "Lita" Real Bustria as our Constituent of the Month for her outstanding volunteer work with the City of San Diego Bay Terraces Community & Senior Center.

Lita is an exceptional volunteer at the center, where she supports meal distribution for seniors, helps with information fairs, assists with the crafts booths, and hosts line dancing activities. As the President of the Bay Terraces Fil-Am Senior Association, she leads an organization of more than 400 members and ardently hosts weekly line dancing classes.

Even before the center was built in 2021, Lita was dancing with community members outdoors at the Bay Terraces Community

Park. Now, she leads, teaches, and choreographs line dancing classes, both for recreation and special performance events around the community.

Lita first came to the United States in 1970 to join her late grandfather in San Francisco. Her childhood sweetheart John Bustria, Jr., joined the U.S. Navy and immigrated to the United States, where Lita and John married in 1972. They left their hometown of Dasol, Pangasinan, Philippines, to make a life in America. They lived in Virginia, Washington, Florida, and finally settled in San Diego, where they raised their son and daughter.

While John served in the military and Lita worked as a government contractor, they picked up ballroom dancing skills, and learned tango, cha cha, swing, bachata and more. They attended ballroom dance classes at Southwestern College, but also had friends teach them more dance techniques in their own home. Lita has been dancing routinely with community members at Bay Terraces Community Park for more than two decades.

Today, Lita continues to bring seniors together to stay active and healthy. She volunteers with grace and passion, and I am honored to recognize her.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTDOOR LAB
FOUNDATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Outdoor Lab Foundation on the 50th anniversary of their Windy Peaks Campus.

For over 60 years, the Outdoor Lab has touched the lives of young people in Jefferson County by providing a week-long camp experience that helps middle and high school students build leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. Beyond this, the Outdoor Lab has helped generations of Jefferson County students develop a lasting appreciation for Colorado's natural spaces.

At both their Mount Blue Sky campus in Evergreen and Windy Peak campus in Bailey, the Outdoor Lab Foundation welcomes over 5,000 students each year. As a proud Outdoor Lab alumna and former high school student leader myself, I can personally attest to the importance of their work. I thank them for investing in our children and in access to the outdoor spaces that are such an important part of our Colorado way of life.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Outdoor Lab Foundation on 50 years of outdoors education at their Windy Peak campus and wish them continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBRE
INITIATIVE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The LIBRE Initiative on the auspicious occasion of its 15th Anniversary. For a decade and a half, LIBRE has worked tirelessly to advance economic freedom and opportunity for Hispanic communities across Pennsylvania and the Nation.

Founded in 2011, The LIBRE Initiative has grown into one of the most active grassroots organizations serving Hispanic families, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. Through community outreach, civic education, and direct engagement with elected officials, LIBRE has helped countless individuals navigate the path toward greater economic self-sufficiency.

Over the years, LIBRE has expanded its work to include English-language classes, financial literacy workshops, job fairs, and back-to-school drives to support working individuals and families.

This milestone anniversary reflects 15 years of selfless and tireless dedication to empowering individuals to pursue their own version of the American Dream—free from unnecessary government barriers.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize The LIBRE Initiative, commend its 15 years of service to Hispanic communities in Pennsylvania and across our Nation, and look forward to witnessing the positive and meaningful results of its tireless and dedicated work for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
PRINCIPAL NAN M. WOOD

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Principal Mrs. Nan M. Wood, a woman whose influence can be seen and felt throughout our community by students, colleagues, and community members.

Throughout her life, she inspired others with her strength, compassion, and love of education, and cherished every moment shared with her family and students. Her greatest joy was her role as a devoted wife to her husband, the late Mr. John David Wood. Together, the loving couple were proud parents to Reverend J. Darryl Wood, Lauren Ducceschi, the late Dennis Wood, Minister Linda Parker, and the late Laina Kennedy. She later was blessed to become a grandmother, nurturing her grandchildren with the same kindness and care she gave to everyone in her life.

Mrs. Wood was born on August 26, 1929, in Buffalo, New York, to Mr. Belton McCarley and Mrs. Mabel McCarley. She was raised with the strong support of her family from the very beginning, helping to shape her into a natural leader in all aspects of her life. She excelled academically, attending Buffalo Public Schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and going on to earn her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from SUNY Buffalo State. Following her graduation, Mrs. Wood began a nearly three-decade career in education, teaching elementary students throughout Buffalo Public Schools before transitioning to the role of Assistant Principal at Fillmore Middle School, and later to Principal at Buffalo Public Community School No. 53 in 1972.

Community School No. 53 was the first Buffalo Public School to be under the leadership