

her mission to make those around her feel seen, uplifted, and inspired.

Jovana's memory will live with us all. We thank her for a life filled with compassion, a willingness to learn, and dedication for helping those around her.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VICTOR BACH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Victor Bach, a pioneering housing advocate, researcher, educator, and tireless champion for New Yorkers who spent his life fighting for affordable housing, stronger public housing, and economic justice.

Victor Bach passed away on June 4, 2026, at the age of 93. Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Bach dedicated his professional life to public service and housing advocacy. He earned a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and served on the faculties of the University of Texas and The New School for Social Research before beginning his extraordinary tenure at the Community Service Society of New York.

Beginning in 1983, Mr. Bach spent approximately four decades directing housing research and advocacy at the Community Service Society, where he became one of New York City's most respected and influential voices on affordable housing. For 35 years, he served as a senior housing analyst and Director of Housing Policy at CSS, the Community Service Society of New York.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bach produced groundbreaking research on homelessness, housing affordability, rent burdens, and the challenges facing low-income New Yorkers. His work also documented the devastating consequences of government disinvestment in the New York City Housing Authority and helped bring greater attention to the urgent needs of public housing residents.

But Victor Bach's legacy cannot be measured solely by the reports he authored or the policies he influenced. He understood that housing policy must ultimately serve the people who call our communities home. He provided technical assistance to resident and community organizations and helped empower public housing residents to organize, advocate, and demand the resources necessary to preserve their homes and communities.

Mr. Bach was also a mentor to generations of housing researchers and advocates. His colleagues at the Community Service Society have recognized the profound influence he had on those who followed him, helping develop some of New York's leading housing policy experts. His commitment to mentoring others ensured that his work would continue long after his retirement.

For decades, Victor Bach reminded policymakers that affordable housing is not simply a matter of bricks and mortar. It is about dignity. It is about stability. It is about giving families the opportunity to remain in the communities they call home. And it is about recognizing that every New Yorker deserves a safe and affordable place to live.

This message carries particular significance in the Bronx and throughout New York City, where working families, seniors, and low-income residents continue to confront extraordinary housing costs and persistent threats of displacement. The fight for affordable housing that Victor Bach championed remains as urgent today as ever.

Victor Bach leaves behind a remarkable legacy of scholarship, advocacy, mentorship, and public service. His work strengthened the movement for affordable housing and gave a stronger voice to those too often left out of policy discussions.

On behalf of the people of the 15th Congressional District of New York, I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Bach's children, grandchildren, family, friends, colleagues, and the many New Yorkers whose lives and communities were touched by his extraordinary work.

Victor Bach dedicated his life to the belief that housing is a fundamental pillar of a just society. We honor his memory by continuing the work to which he devoted his life: building a New York where every person, regardless of income, has access to a safe, stable, and affordable home.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his life's work continue to inspire the fight for housing justice for generations to come.

HONORING AMANDA PERNA

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Amanda Perna—an accomplished fashion designer, author, and community leader—and to recognize her as a finalist in the Verizon Small Business Super Pitch Competition. Amanda was one of only four finalists to compete in the Super Pitch and win tickets to the World Cup Final.

In 2012, Amanda founded House of Perna, a sustainable fashion brand based in Delray Beach. Over the past fourteen years, she has built one of South Florida's most recognizable independent fashion labels through creativity, entrepreneurship, and an unwavering commitment to giving back. Under her leadership, House of Perna has supported more than 250 nonprofit organizations through charitable donations, mentorship, educational workshops, fundraising initiatives, and community partnerships. From advancing literacy and youth development to empowering women, supporting healthcare initiatives, and promoting the arts, Amanda has used her business as a powerful force for positive change throughout Palm Beach County.

Amanda's dedication to serving others extends far beyond her business. She serves on the boards of the YMCA of South Palm Beach County, Achievement Centers for Children & Families, and the Delray Beach Chamber Advisory Board, reflecting her belief that opportunity, education, and creativity should be accessible to everyone. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Amanda partnered with Hearst Publications to create free sewing tutorials and patterns that helped people make protective face coverings. She also serves as co-chair of

Laugh with the Library, raising critical funds to expand literacy programs, and chairs Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, inspiring community support for women and families affected by breast cancer.

Amanda exemplifies the very best of community leadership through her compassion, generosity, and entrepreneurial spirit. She has demonstrated that business success and civic engagement go hand-in-hand, creating lasting opportunities for others while strengthening the fabric of our community.

Please join me in recognizing Amanda Perna for her outstanding contributions to Palm Beach County. I thank Amanda for her extraordinary service to South Florida and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

REAFFIRMING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my resolution reaffirming the enduring partnership between the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and its eighteen members and the United States toward stability, prosperity and peace in the Pacific, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States will continue to remain a strong, reliable and active partner in advancing a peaceful, resilient and prosperous Blue Pacific.

The PIF is the Pacific Islands region's premier political and economic policy organization, bringing together 18 member countries and four associate members to advance shared priorities across the Blue Pacific. The Forum provides an important platform for Pacific Island countries and territories to work collectively on regional security, disaster resilience, economic development, ocean governance and other issues that directly affect the people of the Pacific.

The United States has longstanding ties with the PIF and the Pacific Island countries it represents. The United States has been a PIF Dialogue Partner since 1989, and our relationship is grounded in shared interests and longstanding connections across the Pacific. The United States is itself a Pacific Nation, home to millions of people with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage, and our Pacific territories of Guam and American Samoa are Associate Members of the PIF. We also share close relationships with the Freely Associated States through the Compacts of Free Association.

Our interests in the Pacific are clear. The United States and the PIF share a commitment to maintaining a peaceful and secure region, strengthening economic opportunity, responding to natural disasters, protecting our oceans and supporting a free and open Pacific. Strong engagement with the PIF is an important part of advancing these shared priorities while respecting Pacific leadership and the sovereignty of Pacific Island nations.

One of the PIF's principal annual gatherings is the PIF Leaders Meeting, where Pacific

leaders and Dialogue Partners come together to discuss regional priorities and set the Forum's agenda for the year ahead. The 55th PIP Leaders Meeting will take place in Palau from August 30 to September 4. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau is also expected to participate, making this an important opportunity to demonstrate continued U.S. engagement with the region.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' commitment to the PIF and encourages continued high-level engagement with Pacific regional institutions. It also supports Pacific-led implementation of the PIF's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and calls for continued cooperation on regional security, disaster resilience, economic development, ocean stewardship, technology and connectivity and other shared priorities.

The United States has a strong interest in a peaceful, resilient and prosperous Pacific, and the PIF is an essential partner in achieving that goal. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution and reaffirm that the United States will remain a strong, reliable and active partner to the Pacific Islands Forum and the people of the Blue Pacific.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF
CHARLES F. KETTERING

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend to the House the extraordinary life and contributions of Ohio's own Charles F. Kettering as we near the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Charles Franklin Kettering was born on his family's farm in Loudonville on August 29, 1876. After high school, he took a teaching position at a nearby school, where his evening lectures and demonstrations on science drew sizable crowds.

A 1904 graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in electrical engineering, he was hired to lead the research laboratory at National Cash Register in Dayton. During his five years there, he secured 23 patents for his work on the electric cash register and other innovations.

While at NCR, Kettering and a small group of colleagues (dubbed the Barn Gang) worked during evenings and weekends to develop new gadgetry and electronic equipment for

automobiles. This group was incorporated in 1909 as the Dayton Engineering Laboratories Company, or Delco. By 1911, Kettering and his fellow engineers had developed the first practical electric self-starter for autos.

Following the acquisition of Delco by General Motors in 1918, Kettering joined the team at General Motors Research Corporation, where he held the position of vice president for more than a quarter century. His work on air-cooled automobile engines, two-stroke diesel engines, fuel additives, and quick-dry automotive paint contributed richly to the development of the modern passenger vehicle.

Charles Kettering's philanthropy was equally effective and noteworthy: Believing that industrial research could have practical applications in the medical field, he helped found what ultimately became the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, one of the top-ranked cancer care facilities in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Loudonville will gather this Saturday to celebrate the accomplishments of its favorite son. On behalf of the people of Ohio's 4th Congressional District, I am proud to join in the accolades to this inventor, engineer, and philanthropist whose work revolutionized nearly every aspect of modern life.