

of parents they are that even in grief, they are already thinking of how to help others. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Christine and Elmore, and in recognizing their courage in speaking out, their persistence in seeking the truth, and their commitment to ensuring that Nolan Xavier Wells is remembered not only for how he died, but for the life he lived and the people he touched.

HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE JAMES
T. "JIM" WORTHEN

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Justice James T. "Jim" Worthen of the Twelfth Court of Appeals in Tyler, Texas, as he concludes nearly three decades of distinguished judicial service to East Texas and our great state.

Chief Justice Worthen is a seventh-generation Texan who grew up in Big Sandy, and he has spent his entire professional life dedicated to serving the region he calls home. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from The University of Texas at Tyler, his law degree from South Texas College of Law, and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia. Before taking the bench, he practiced law in Tyler for nearly two decades, building a strong and respected reputation within the East Texas legal community.

Chief Justice Worthen was first elected to the Twelfth Court of Appeals in 1998 and has served as Chief Justice since January 2003. Over his 27 years on the bench, he has provided steady, principled leadership and has earned the deep respect of his colleagues and the broader legal community for his integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the title of law. His service has extended well beyond the courtroom, including his tenure as Chairman of the Council of Chief Justices and his longstanding involvement in the Texas legal community.

Chief Justice Worthen's career represents the very best of public service; a profound respect for the law, a deep sense of responsibility to the office he holds, and an unwavering commitment to the people of East Texas.

I am proud to join Chief Justice Worthen's family, friends, colleagues, and fellow East Texans in thanking him for his exceptional service and congratulating him on a well-earned retirement. I thank him for his dedicated service to East Texas and the State of Texas.

HONORING AJAY ANAND

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ajay Anand of Kern County, California for his numerous contributions to Kern County, healthcare in the Central Valley, and the local communities of which he is a part.

Decades spent exploring every corner of both the Central Valley and our healthcare

systems have given Mr. Anand a wealth of experience which he uses to his advantage. His contributions include building healthcare infrastructure across the region, such as bringing 'DaVinci' robots into the operating room for precision surgery, as well as leading philanthropic programs for underprivileged, at-risk youth.

One of his most recognizable contributions to the Central Valley was the work he did for the Bakersfield Heart Hospital; which, in 2016, was incredibly close to closing after their 'corporate parent company' went bankrupt. Mr. Anand put almost the entirety of his savings and resources into salvaging the hospital and even acquired corporate ownership to keep the hospital open and functional, helping save over 400 jobs in the process.

Mr. Anand led both the development and creation of Centric Health, founded in 2013, a clinically integrated delivery platform in Kern County specializing in patient-centered healthcare and delivering care to over 120,000 patients a year; as well as QualCare, a network of independent physicians with over 600 providers, extending care to Medicare beneficiaries in Bakersfield and Kern counties. More recently, he and his family contributed to the Thomas M. Hardt Tower expansion at Mercy Southwest Hospital, in recognition of which the hospital's maternity and obstetrics center was named the Anand Family Birth Center.

Mr. Anand's impact on Kern County and the Central Valley extends much further than the healthcare field, however. He is a co-founder and managing partner of the H2H Asset Group, a real estate and hospitality company contributing to the local economy, and has helped create jobs, services, and housing for his community.

He is also committed to philanthropy and public works, creating the Anand Legacy Foundation to support at-risk youth, and supporting Garden Pathways, an organization committed to providing mentorship and education in the Central Valley. He also helped found the Centric Community Care Foundation, a nonprofit initiative promoting community health and well-being through education, outreach, and disease prevention. The Anand Legacy Foundation also provides support for the 'emPOWERment Dess Perkins Foundation', a local organization dedicated to assisting survivors of human trafficking. His work and support in this field reflects a deep commitment to protecting vulnerable youths in our communities and strengthening our district. His commitment to helping the next generation doesn't extend only to the less fortunate and at-risk, however. Mr. Anand and the Anand Legacy Foundation also consistently support educational initiatives in the district, making annual contributions towards the Kern High School District Educational Foundation's Superintendent's First In Class Award program. Most recently, Mr. Anand has pledged \$500,000 in support of the "Trump Accounts" initiative, to establish investment accounts for newborn children, with the contribution specifically directed toward supporting vulnerable and at-risk newborns in Kern County, including children born to mothers in rehabilitation and recovery programs. As with his charitable works, the focus he places on the protection and well-being of future generations show his great contributions to our community.

Over the last 20 years, Mr. Anand has played a pivotal role in improving the quality of

healthcare in the Central Valley in addition to his numerous charitable works. His dedication and work earned him a 2026 Hometown Hero Honoree selection by the Bakersfield Police Activities League, as well as the 2019 Bakersfield Mayor's Medal and Community Ambassador Award, and a Certificate of Recognition from the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible work that Mr. Anand has done for the Central Valley. Few individuals have made such a broad and lasting impact on our district, from strengthened healthcare access and support for vulnerable populations to investments in a stranger future for our district and Nation. We wish him nothing but continued success in his endeavors and thank him for all that he has done.

HIGHLIGHTING THE UCS TOWN
HALL

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of joining the Union of Concerned Scientists and more than 300 of my constituents for a town hall to discuss the Trump administration's continued, devastating attacks on science.

The event—"What's at Stake, What's Possible: A Massachusetts Science Town Hall"—featured distinguished professors from Boston University, a Ph.D. candidate at MIT, and a local small business owner.

Each spoke movingly about the damage inflicted by this administration's irrational, indefensible decision to cut research funding, politicize federal grantmaking, and destroy the institutions responsible for driving American innovation.

The takeaway was clear: The cost of this war on science is nothing less than our global competitiveness, our environment, our health, and ultimately our lives.

We must act now to restore scientific integrity and protect our scientists from the personal, destructive whims of politicians.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MATER DOLOROSA
PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the distinguished Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center on its 100th anniversary.

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center was first acquired by the Passionists in 1924 and welcomed its first retreatants in July 1926. Today, several Passionist Retreat Centers can be found across the United States, welcoming all individuals who seek a deeper relationship with their faith.

Over the past 100 years, Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center has faced many challenges, from economic hardships to natural disasters including earthquakes and

wildfires. Most recently, the Eaton Fire burned many of their structures and left others filled and covered with smoke and dust. Yet, through perseverance, the Retreat Center has been able to rebuild and recover, while continuing to welcome new retreatants.

Every year, over 10,000 people receive services from Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center. It hosts weekend retreats offering opportunities for people from all backgrounds and every stage of life, including men, women, couples, and youth, to reconnect with themselves and their faith.

The 100th anniversary of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center is an incredible milestone and I am proud to recognize its legacy of the organization and their impact in Sierra Madre and across the San Gabriel Valley. Because of their services, members of our community have been given the tools they need to heal, grow, and thrive.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CONCUSSION CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Concussion Awareness Day, observed on September 18, 2026, and to draw attention to the millions of Americans, civilian and military, affected by concussions each year.

Today, I am proud to highlight the University of Michigan Concussion Center, the national leader in advancing our understanding of these injuries. Since its founding, the Center has generated more than \$100 million in research funding and produced more than 200 publications spanning injury prevention, identification and clinical care, and most importantly its long-term effects. Michigan Concussion Center researchers connect scientific discovery with clinical expertise and real-world needs, working alongside civilian and military health professionals, educators, and community partners to improve prevention, treatment and recovery. The Center's impact extends well beyond Michigan and the United States, with members collaborating on research and public education in more than 25 countries.

As a leader of the NCAA-DoD-supported Concussion Assessment, Research, and Education (CARE) Consortium, researchers at the Michigan Concussion Center are conducting the largest concussion study in the world, tracking more than 53,000 civilians and military officers to understand the acute and long-term effects of concussions. This public-private partnership has been instrumental in understanding and mitigating the effects of concussions on brain health, military readiness, and warfighter lethality.

Their collaborations have also produced practical innovations. In partnership with the

University's Center for Academic Innovation, the Center developed a virtual-reality training tool that allows athletic trainers and other health providers to practice recognizing and responding to concussions before stepping onto the sidelines. The Michigan Concussion Center also helped develop the recently released Concussion Navigator with the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. This resource gives Michigan families trusted guidance on symptom monitoring, locating specialist care, and ensuring safe return to school, work, and play.

The University of Michigan Concussion Center recognizes that research has its greatest impact when reliable information reaches the public. Through outreach, community engagement, and education, the Center equips students, athletes, parents, coaches, health professionals, and others to recognize concussion symptoms, respond appropriately, and support a safe recovery.

On National Concussion Awareness Day, I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to learn the signs and symptoms of concussions, support safety measures, and seek timely medical care when a head injury occurs. I commend the University of Michigan Concussion Center as a national leader in advancing concussion science and for working to protect everyone, in every field, every day. Their dedication reflects the University of Michigan's enduring commitment to research and service for the common good.

RECOGNIZING JEFF LONG AS RECIPIENT OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ALTOONA'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jeff Long for his selection as the recipient of the Kiwanis Club of Altoona's Distinguished Citizen Award.

The award is given in recognition of major contributions to the betterment of society and advancement of the Altoona area.

With nearly 50 years of achievement in the construction industry, including development of the popular Graystone properties, Jeff has generously supported numerous charitable and nonprofit organizations throughout the communities where he lives and works.

Impressively, Jeff measures success by the people he has helped, the communities that he has built and strengthened, and the opportunities that he has created for so many others.

As a businessman and community volunteer, Jeff has truly devoted his life to investing in Central Pennsylvania.

On behalf of constituents throughout Blair County and the entire 13th Congressional Dis-

trict, I congratulate Jeff Long on this prestigious award and thank him for his contributions to the community.

HONORING MEL ORPILLA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 21, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mel Orpilla, in recognition of nearly 40 years of distinguished public service, community leadership, advocacy and dedication to preserving the history heritage of Filipino Americans. Mel Orpilla is a lifelong resident of Vallejo, his commitment to public service began through community-based organizations, including Filipinos for Affirmative Action and Fighting back Partnership. He then spent the next nine years as the Community and Government relations manager for Kaiser Permanente. Mel subsequently brought his experience in community advocacy to Congressman MIKE THOMPSON's office, serving as his Senior Field representative for nearly ten years in the Vallejo office.

Mel has continued his work, serving as our Senior District representative for the last four years, where he has been pivotal in bringing federal funds and resources to Vallejo and Solano County.

Throughout his work, he became the trusted resource for constituents, elected officials, city staff, and everyone in between to assist. Beyond his professional work, Mel has devoted decades to preserving Filipino American history, promoting cultural pride, and ensuring that the contributions of Filipino Americans are recognized and remembered by future generations.

As a leader of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), Mel played a significant role in the effort to establish Filipino American History Month in California. He and his team helped advance legislation through the California Legislature recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. Under the leadership of key figures like Mel, FANHS helped advance the recognition of October on the federal level. In 2015, the White House recognized FANHS's longstanding efforts to establish Filipino American History Month and hosted the first-ever White House celebration of Filipino American History Month, with Mel, then FANHS National President, delivering keynote remarks.

Mel Orpilla's career reflects the very best of community and public service, a commitment to people and determination to ensure that his community's history and voice are valued and remembered.

We proudly recognize Mel Orpilla for his decades of service and his lasting contributions to Vallejo, Solano County, the Filipino American community and the people he has had the privilege of serving.