

On September 26, 1774, John Chapman was born in Leominster, Massachusetts. Taught by his father from a young age, Chapman became an orchardist and nurseryman.

Since frontier law allowed anyone to lay claim to land through the development of a permanent homestead, Chapman traveled over 100,000 square miles. All the while, he planted apple seeds as he walked.

At the time of his death on March 11, 1845, John Chapman owned over 1,200 acres of land from Massachusetts all the way to Illinois.

Every year since 1993, thousands of people have gathered in Leominster to celebrate the life and work of John Chapman.

Through live music, and of course, apple crisp, the festival aims to inspire and educate the public about Johnny Appleseed's important ties to Central Massachusetts. And just as importantly, it offers a chance for our community to come together and celebrate our shared heritage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the communities in Central Massachusetts, I'd like to offer a sincere "thank you" to the hardworking volunteers and organizers—who make this event such a success every year. I'd especially like to thank Leominster City Councilor Rick Marchand, who has organized the event for the last 20 years.

Johnny Appleseed is a treasured national figure that we in Central Massachusetts are proud to share. I commend the Johnny Appleseed Festival on its 25th anniversary and am proud of all they do to make this such a beloved annual event.

HONORING WARDEN NICOLE
KOZICKI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the Honorable MARK DESAULNIER, JERRY MCNERNEY, and ERIC SWALWELL to honor Nicole Kozicki upon her retirement as a Wildlife Officer with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Warden Kozicki was born and raised in Oakland, California and graduated from Skyline High School in 1986. Post-graduation Warden Kozicki attended the California Fish and Game Academy. She was the youngest cadet to graduate and one of only thirteen women in the Class of 1989. Shortly after graduation, Warden Kozicki was recruited by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Warden Kozicki has been steadfast in her work to protect California's wildlife over the past 29 years. She led an investigation of the illegal development practices, which threatened two endangered species. Warden Kozicki lent her expertise by testifying during the trial and the developers were fined \$1 million for destroying endangered species habitat, among other violations. Her tireless efforts have resulted in the preservation of hundreds of acres of land and millions of dollars in fines. Warden Kozicki also collaborated with the Fish and Wildlife Committee to secure over \$1 million from the Annual Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Grant to for community projects that benefit fish and wildlife in our community.

Warden Kozicki has been recognized for her incredible work on multiple occasions. In 2017, she received both the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year Award and the Pogue-Elms Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, the latter being the highest honor given by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Warden Kozicki was named the Officer of the Year by Safari Club International in 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Nicole Kozicki has dedicated her career to preserving and protecting California's precious fish and wildlife. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL A.
BASTON

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael A. Baston on his inauguration as Seventh President of Rockland Community College (RCC) in Suffern, N.Y. on September 13, 2018.

Dr. Baston began his career as a public interest lawyer, representing educational and social justice organizations and this work led him to pursue a career in academia. He joined RCC from LaGuardia Community College in Queens, part of the City University of New York, where he held several key leadership positions, including Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Provost. Known for his work in integrating student success initiatives to advance college completion through guided pathways, Dr. Baston also helped grow LaGuardia's grant funding with a special focus on diverse and underserved student populations.

During his distinguished career, Dr. Baston's work has been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Atlantic, Diverse Education, Community College Times, Education Advisory Board, MSNBC, and Handbook for Student Affairs in Community Colleges. Dr. Baston was selected as a member of the inaugural class of Aspen Institute Presidential Fellows for Community College Excellence where he explored systemic issues impacting the educational access pipeline and student success.

He holds a BA from Iona College, a JD from Brooklyn Law School, and an EdD from St. John Fisher College. Named by Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine among the most Notable Education Leaders of 2017, Dr. Baston is an extraordinary man whose dedication and determination have inspired all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Baston's numerous accomplishments have left a lasting impact on the communities he has served and he has pledged to broaden the scope, reach and influence of RCC in the years ahead. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and vision of Dr. Michael Baston and to welcome him to Rockland Community College.

SUPPORTING THE REAL ID ACT
MODIFICATION FOR FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the REAL ID Act Modification for Freely Associated States Act (H.R. 3998).

When Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005, no reference was made to the Freely Associated States (FAS) of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau—trusted U.S. allies and friends. Instead, in a true technical glitch, the law defined "State" to include the "Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands," a legal entity that has once included the FAS but has not existed since 1994. This anachronistic reference to the Trust Territories of the Pacific clearly demonstrates congressional intent to include FAS citizens in the law.

As a consequence of the law's wording, FAS citizens today are denied anything more than a temporary ID or driver's license valid only for one year. This makes it extraordinarily difficult for them to maintain employment and otherwise contribute meaningfully to society.

This problem must be resolved and our House Dean, Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska and my good friend Congresswoman TULSI GABBARD of Hawaii have devised the right Bi-Partisan solution in crafting H.R. 3998.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia are some of the U.S.'s closest allies and great friends and neighbors in the Pacific to American Samoa. They vote with us consistently and reliably at the United Nations. They send their sons and daughters to fight with us, side by side, in the United States Armed Forces.

The RMI in particular, which was once my home, is also home to The Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll, which I recently visited on a CODEL, and all three nations play a key critical role in U.S. national defense and strategy in a threatening part of the world, close to North Korea and China.

Congress needs to make this technical correction and enable those from the Freely Associated States to fully contribute to the American communities in which they live. I urge my colleagues to please vote yes on final passage of H.R. 3998.

HONORING THE COUNTRY MUSIC
ASSOCIATION ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Country Music Association for its 60 years of providing unity, purpose, and leadership within the country music industry.

The Country Music Association was the first trade association formed to promote a genre of music. Since its founding in 1958, it has