

Pride. As a proud host of the Gay Softball World Series, Kansas City looks forward to continuing its rich history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance for their admirable work with the LGBTQ+ community nationwide and celebrating the 2019 Gay Softball World Series in Kansas City. We are indebted to the NAGAAA which has changed the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals for the past forty-two years and left an indelible mark on our country and communities.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF  
SPRINGFIELD, TENNESSEE, ON  
ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Springfield, Tennessee, in honor of its 200th anniversary. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, located just north of Nashville and just south of the Tennessee-Kentucky border.

With a little over 16,000 citizens, Springfield has regularly demonstrated exactly what it means to be a tight-knit community. This town is built on a solid foundation of hard work, agricultural acumen, and family values, and it has continued to show these unwavering attributes over the course of its long history.

Although Springfield was not incorporated until 1819, the first General Assembly of Tennessee gave a county seat identified as Springfield to Robertson County in 1796. Two years later, in 1798, the town was established under this name.

Since the early eighteenth century, agriculture has played a large role in Springfield's development, and it continues to provide many employment opportunities for its citizens. Thanks to its rich soil, Springfield thrives in the production of hay, corn, and wheat, but is best known for its production of tobacco. In fact, in 1928, Springfield was labeled as the "Home of the World's Finest Dark Fired Tobacco."

I hope that my House colleagues will join me in celebrating this bicentennial achievement of Springfield, Tennessee. The town and its residents have continued to show the strong faith and values of Tennessee since the days when its first courthouse was built of hand-hewn logs. I wish Springfield and its citizens much prosperity and happiness over its next 200 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING DOUG GIBSON AS  
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am honored to name Doug Gibson, of Encinitas, as my Constituent of the Month for his 23 years of leadership as the Executive Di-

rector and Principal Scientist of Nature Collective, formerly known as San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

Residents of North County may remember that, not so long ago, our beautiful lagoons and river valleys were not valued for their biodiversity and were threatened by development and pollution. Their outlets to the ocean were blocked and invasive plant species were growing out of control. Few fish or invertebrates could survive in the murky waters. Today, they have largely been restored to their natural states. They provide critical habitats for native plants and animals as well as wetlands for migrating birds.

It has taken years of stable leadership, hard work, and a shared commitment by professionals, local citizens, elected officials, and supportive organizations to restore the ten beautiful wetlands in North County San Diego and South Orange County. They enhance our coastline—from the Los Penasquitos Lagoon in the south—to the San Juan Creek in the North.

Under Gibson's leadership, the Nature Collective is guiding to completion the \$120 million restoration of the 1,000-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Forty miles of streams have been restored. An annual breaching of the inlet has been established to keep the lagoon healthy. More than three thousand school children in the Nature Collective's nationally recognized school program receive field trips throughout the Escondido watershed. Walkers and joggers can access seven miles of trails from Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Rancho Santa Fe, and new trail connections are coming soon.

Gibson's contribution goes beyond the San Elijo Lagoon. For decades, he has collaborated on the planning of large restoration projects in seven north San Diego County watersheds, including Buena Vista Lagoon, San Dieguito Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit. He has chaired the San Diego County Wetlands Task Force and chaired five coastal counties for the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

There is no doubt that Gibson's dedication to protecting our environment has improved the quality of life for families in Southern California and uplifted our communities. I am deeply grateful for his hard work, and I am proud to recognize him as the Constituent of the Month.

HONORING VIOLET BARTON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Violet Barton, a doctoral candidate at UC Merced who has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship. While receiving this highly competitive scholarship, Violet lived in El Salvador to research the socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequality present in the country.

During her time in El Salvador, Violet connected closely to her culture as a Latina woman and worked towards uplifting the community. Violet spearheaded the creation of the first ever indigenous Nahuatl spiritual guide leadership program and coordinated with oth-

ers to identify and train future spiritual leaders. She has also recently completed her level four Nahuatl language training at the University of Central America, furthering her understanding and study of the culture.

Violet's passion for her research and the communities she serves has distinguished her as a true pioneer in her field. During her year abroad, Violet was selected to serve as a panelist at the annual Latin American Studies Association Conference in Boston, where she presented some of her ongoing research findings. In addition to the Fulbright Scholarship, Violet received the coveted UC Merced Miguel Velez Scholarship alongside a \$10,000 fellowship from the UC Office of Multi Campus Research Programs.

While earning these countless honors for her academic excellence, Violet has distinguished herself as a student leader who works tirelessly to better the lives of her community. Violet received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2018, the UC Merced Social Justice Award in 2017 and 2018, and during that same timeframe, was nominated for UC Merced's Outstanding Student Leadership for three consecutive years.

Violet's successes do not stop at her professional and academic achievements. Violet and her daughter, Danielle Bermudez, made Fulbright history as the first mother and daughter to receive the Fulbright Scholarship as graduate students during the program's 72-year history. Together, they exemplify the pioneering spirit of UC Merced and the diversity that embodies California's San Joaquin Valley.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Violet Barton for her outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service to her community. I join Violet and her family as they celebrate her incredible accomplishments and wish her the best as she completes her PhD at UC Merced.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FRANKLIN AUGUSTUS

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 27, 2019*

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Franklin Augustus, a stunt pilot and avid flyer. Mr. Augustus passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019 at the age of 69.

Mr. Augustus was an acrobatic air show pilot and a member of a New Orleans-based group that honored the Tuskegee Airmen. A licensed pilot who had been flying since the age of 19, he once described himself as the "world's only black civilian air-show acrobatic pilot" in a 1988 Times-Picayune Newspaper article. Mr. Augustus performed hundreds of daredevil aerial maneuvers at shows and often visited schools to speak with young students to encourage them to explore aviation.

In addition to being a stunt pilot and avid flyer, Mr. Augustus was a longtime community activist, a U.S. Army veteran, the president of the Lake Charles Tuskegee Airmen Chapter and a Reserve Deputy for the New Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Augustus was a treasure to us all. He lived a fulfilled life doing what he loved to do for so many years. We are forever grateful to