

that aims to directly support artists, businesses, and the government to maintain the region's dominance in the artistic and creative industry. By connecting industries and communities all over the greater Ann Arbor area, she has directly led to the flourishing creative scene in Washtenaw County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the magnificent career of Deb Polich and congratulating her as she moves on to the next chapter of her life. Her dedication to her community and country in advancing the field of art has created a more beautiful world for us all.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ESTRADA, GUZMAN, MENDEZ, PALOMINO, AND RAMIREZ FAMILIES TO AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the extraordinary contributions of five California families to our Nation's struggle for civil rights. Together, the Estrada, Guzman, Mendez, Palomino, and Ramirez families challenged segregation in California public schools and won. In 1946, these families bravely fought for their children's right to equal access to education, even as the backlash could have put them in harm's way.

Their case, *Mendez et al v. Westminster et al*, attracted nationwide attention, including support from the NAACP and its counsel, Thurgood Marshall. The case led to California passing a law officially banning school segregation in the state, and it paved the way for the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case seven years later, ending school segregation across the country.

While the case is known as *Mendez v. Westminster*, the Guzman, Palomino, Estrada and Ramirez families are equally as critical to this important moment in our Nation's history.

Lorenzo and Josefina Ramirez tried to enroll their children in Roosevelt Grammar School, only to be told that they would have to attend a segregated school for Mexican students. When called to testify, Mr. Ramirez shared his belief that all children should be educated together.

Virginia and William Guzman tried to enroll their son, Billy, at Franklin Elementary but were told that it was school board policy to have separate schools for Mexican students. The Guzmans were the first to file suit in Orange County and, though their initial suit was unsuccessful, they joined forces with the other four families and rallied support.

Thomas and Mary Luisa Estrada worked to support the U.S. war efforts during World War II, and later galvanized their Westminster community behind them to fight for a better education for their six children. Frank and Irene Palomino tried to enroll their 11-year-old son, Arturo, in the local school, but were told by the superintendent that he needed to go to a school only for kids of Mexican descent. The Palominos decided to enroll Arturo elsewhere and challenge this injustice.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, we remember and celebrate the Estrada, Guzman,

Mendez, Palomino and Ramirez families. They fought for the right to an equal education for all—and won.

RECOGNIZING JUAN S. TENORIO

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Juan Sablan Tenorio, Juan Santiago. Juan was born to the late Santiago Camacho Tenorio and Maria Sablan Tenorio on the island of Saipan in 1953.

Most will describe Mr. Tenorio as a prominent businessman, but I would describe Juan as a lifelong philanthropist and an advocate for entrepreneurship in the Northern Mariana Islands.

After attending school abroad and graduating from Gonzaga University in 1976, Mr. Tenorio returned to the Marianas at the pivotal time when the Trust Territory Government was transitioning to the Commonwealth Government. Mr. Tenorio spent the next few decades dedicated to building business and in support of entrepreneurship recognizing its crucial role in growing the NMI economy.

In 1977, he became the president of JET Holding Company and later served as the chairman of several Commonwealth boards, including the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. In private business he has served on the boards of Saipan Stevedore Company, Pacific Health, Inc., City Trust Bank, and, currently, as the President of Saipan Shipping Company.

Mr. Tenorio actively supports numerous non-profit organizations, including serving as chair of the financial committee of the Mount Carmel Cathedral Parish for many years.

He was recognized as Businessman of the Year in 1994; and, on the occasion of his retirement from public service in 2002, was recognized for his contribution to our community and for his public service by the 13th Northern Mariana Islands Legislature.

Always in service to his community, Juan was front and center after Super Typhoon Kim in the 1980s and the two most recent category 5 supertyphoons Soudelor and Yutu, using his relationships and resources to provide necessary supplies including water and ice to those in need.

He, also, has organized a larger group of friends, who call themselves the chenchulu group, after the Chamorro word for the drag-net used for fishing. Much as the harvest of the chenchulu is shared with family and friends, this group often rallies to support those in need, whether the local little league teams, individuals who needed financial medical assistance, and students who needed help to travel abroad. This work is at the heart of Tenorio's humble nature.

Beyond his professional achievements, Juan is a devoted family man, married to Elizabeth "Becky" Kintol Tenorio and blessed with four children; Juan Santiago, Michelle Ross, Mary Margaret, and Francine Angeline; and eight grandchildren.

I recognize Juan Sablan Tenorio's lifelong dedication to improving the lives of those who

call the Northern Marianas home. His unwavering support for entrepreneurship and his commitment to helping others have left an indelible mark on the islands, making him a true inspiration to the community.

HONORING OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE DAVE LEVACY

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Fairfield County Commissioner Dave Levacy, who will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame this November. This distinguished honor recognizes Dave's exemplary service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Dave was drafted into the Army while a student at Ohio University, serving for two years between educational deferments. During his time in the military, he oversaw the development of Fort Story in Virginia. As a new inductee into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, Dave views this recognition as an opportunity to highlight the importance of military service and to support veterans facing challenges.

Dave has held many roles in his community. He has worked as an accountant, business owner, paramedic, and firefighter with the Millersport/Walnut Township Fire Department. Dave has remained deeply involved in public service, serving as a county commissioner for over a decade. As a lifelong resident of Fairfield County, his years of dedication have established him as a pillar of the community.

I am honored to join in celebrating Commissioner Levacy as he is recognized by the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. I thank him for his service to our Nation and to Ohio's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING LUIS JESUS LOPEZ WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luis Jesus Lopez, of Waco, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to his country and fellow man serves as a template for American exceptionalism.

Born and raised in Texas, Luis answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in February 1969, during the escalating conflict of the Vietnam War. Throughout his four years of Active Duty, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he faced the perils of enemy fire on the battlefield with unwavering courage. In one particularly harrowing encounter, Corporal Lopez and his squad came under intense attack. Amid the chaos, he exhibited extraordinary bravery and selflessness. Alongside a corpsman and another Marine, he worked tirelessly to load two radiomen onto a helicopter, shielding them from life-threatening enemy fire. One of the radiomen had already made the ultimate sacrifice, but Corporal Lopez upheld the sacred

duty to never leave a fallen comrade behind. His actions that day not only saved lives but also exemplified the highest ideals of honor and brotherhood.

Corporal Lopez's distinguished service is reflected in the numerous awards and honors he has received, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

In his civilian life, Luis has remained a pillar of his community. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion in Waco. Through these organizations and his personal efforts, he consistently strives to support and assist his fellow veterans. His unwavering commitment to service extends beyond official capacities, making him an invaluable member of the community who continues to enrich the lives of others.

Even in retirement, Corporal Lopez has dedicated himself to serving others, just as he did during his military career. His ongoing contributions to his fellow veterans and his community stand as a testament to his character and the values he embodies.

It is with profound honor and respect that I award Luis Jesus Lopez with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable milestone in northeastern Pennsylvania—Misericordia University's centennial anniversary. For 100 years, Misericordia has been a beacon of hope, education, and service in our community and beyond.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy on September 15, 1924, the Sisters fulfilled Mother Superior Teresa Walsh's dream of establishing Luzerne County's first four-year institution of higher learning, College Misericordia, on nearly 100 acres of land in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

The name "Misericordia" translates to "heart of mercy," which remains at the core of the university's mission to cultivate a transformational educational experience that promotes intellectual curiosity and critical thinking in a supportive and inclusive community to inspire students to engage in a life of service and global citizenship.

The history of Misericordia is deeply intertwined with the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, whose origins trace back to the compassionate vision of their founder, Catherine McAuley.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1778, Sr. Catherine dedicated her life to serving the poor, sick, and uneducated. Sr. Catherine's words, "The proof of love is deed," resonate powerfully within the halls of Misericordia University. Her vision for a compassionate, community-oriented approach to education and social service laid the groundwork for the Sisters of Mercy, who continue to inspire Misericordia's mission today.

The Sisters of Mercy arrived in the Wyoming Valley in 1875, earning the affectionate title "The Walking Sisters" as they tirelessly served the local community. Their work in education flourished, establishing schools for children and adults alike in response to the pressing needs of Northeastern Pennsylvania's coal mining region.

In September of 1924, Misericordia began with just 37 students, who were welcomed into a community committed to the school's motto: "Mulier Fortis," meaning "valiant women," symbolizing the spirit of scholarship and spirituality that has guided generations. Over the years, the university has grown significantly, attaining university status in 2007 and becoming co-educational in 1979.

Today, Misericordia offers over 50 academic programs, fostering leadership, compassion, and a lifelong commitment to service. The university continues to evolve and adapt, with innovative programs that reflect the needs of our changing world, including an array of undergraduate and graduate degrees in health sciences, business, education, and the liberal arts. The university also emphasizes experiential learning, encouraging students to engage with the community through service projects, internships, and research opportunities.

As we celebrate this centennial anniversary, we honor the enduring impact of Misericordia University and the vision that propelled its inception. The university has transformed countless lives, providing a nurturing environment that embraces diversity and fosters academic excellence. Its commitment to a student-centered approach continues to form and inspire the next generation of leaders.

As the member of the U.S. House representing Northeastern Pennsylvania, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Misericordia University, its faculty, staff, and students, on the remarkable milestone of celebrating 100 years. I look forward to witnessing the continued impact of Misericordia University for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEON WALLACE

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my constituent, Leon Wallace, who will be commemorated with a street naming in his honor on October 5, 2024, at the intersection of Post Avenue and Simonson Place in Staten Island, New York. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas Leon Wallace was a native Staten Islander who grew up in West Brighton and Mariners Harbor, attended P.S. 18 and graduated from McKee High School in 1956.

Whereas Leon Wallace enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as a jet mechanic while stationed in Guam until his honorable discharge in 1961. He later returned to service with the New York State Army National Guard's 5-117th Cavalry Unit in 1976 while simultaneously pursuing an education at Staten Island Community College, now the College of Staten Island. During his 39 years of combined military service, he contributed as a map-reading instructor and retired in 2001 as a Sergeant.

Whereas Leon Wallace put his life on the line for our country at a time when our nation did not afford him equal rights as an African American. Not only was Leon a dedicated patriot and member of our military but he was a steward of outstanding service to our community.

Whereas after Leon's time in the Air Force, he dedicated his time to helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. He was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The United States Island Veterans Organization (USIVO), and the 369th Veterans Association, as well as St. Philips Baptist Church, and completed the New York State chaplains' course to minister to other veterans in need.

Leon is still greatly missed and our community remains deeply appreciative of his service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE KEWEENAW RESEARCH CENTER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Technological University for earning the Defense Counterintelligence Agency's Industry Award for Excellence.

Every year, DCSA annually recognizes entities which exhibit the most impressive counterintelligence capabilities and cooperation with U.S. Government efforts to deter, detect, and disrupt the theft of sensitive or classified information and technology by foreign entities.

This is just the latest achievement in what has been a tradition of excellence at Michigan Tech, which has \$110 million in research expenditures and has experienced a double-digit increase in research awards over last year's totals. Such an award is quite the achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the faculty and students of this exemplary institution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Technological University for earning the Defense Counterintelligence Agency's industry award for Excellence. I have no doubt they will continue to serve Northern Michigan and our Nation well, as they are always on the cutting edge of innovation.

HONORING VICTOR MONTALVO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Victor Montalvo is a renowned American B-boy, also known as "B-boy Victor."

He is recognized as one of the best breakers in the world and has won numerous championships, including two Red Bull BC One titles and bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Montalvo was the first American to qualify for the Olympic Games in the sport of breaking, competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics. He