

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE MARYANN WRIGHT ANIMAL ADOPTION AND EDUCATION CENTER

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan recognizes the opening of the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center in Dearborn. The center is a new facility that belongs to the Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit, a non-profit animal shelter that provides invaluable services to our community and our beloved animals.

Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit has extended their animal rescue, adoption, and education services over the past 27 years to serve people and animals within and beyond the Detroit Metropolitan Area. We extend our deepest gratitude to the staff and volunteers who make the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center work every day.

Our district and community recognize the crucial services the MaryAnn Wright Adoption and Education Center delivers. We will see the impact of their contributions for generations to come, and we, alongside our animals, will continue to acknowledge their selfless dedication. I congratulate them on this momentous occasion.

### WELCOMING REVEREND TONY RIGOLI BACK TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome back Reverend Tony Rigoli to celebrate a special mass at St. Rose of Lima Church in Buffalo, New York. Our community is thankful for the guidance and comfort Father Rigoli provides to parishioners across Western New York, and we are humbled and honored that he has returned to continue spreading the word of God.

Father Rigoli was born in Buffalo and grew up on the West Side, where he graduated from Grover Cleveland High School. He was ordained as a priest in 1972 in the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He served as pastor of Holy Angels Church on Porter Avenue, as well as the Chaplain of D'Youville College, throughout the 1990's, in the heart of the neighborhood he knew so well. He then continued his ministry at St. Rose of Lima parish in North Buffalo, where he was associate pastor until his departure from Buffalo in 2002.

Father Rigoli has been the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, which is also the International Shrine of St. Jude, in New Orleans, Louisiana, since 2002. During his tenure

in New Orleans, Father Rigoli helped parishioners through extremely trying times in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Ida. COVID-19, as well as the New Year's Day terror attack. He has served as a guiding light for many in need of counsel, faith, and support, and the people of New Orleans are blessed to have him.

Today, we honor the lasting impact Reverend Tony Rigoli has made on Western New York, touching countless lives and guiding those on the path of Jesus Christ. The people of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church have a steadfast leader who cares deeply about his parishioners and the people of New Orleans. I am thankful that Reverend Rigoli has returned to St. Rose of Lima Church in Buffalo to spread his everlasting light upon us all. May we all thank him for his tireless acts of service to the communities he loves.

### HONORING RICHARD LEBLANC

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes and honors Richard LeBlanc on his extraordinary 33-year career in public service and on his recent retirement as the City of Westland's City Clerk.

Mr. LeBlanc's steadfast dedication to community and service to our residents has spanned five elected offices, from his start on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education to the Michigan House of Representatives, and most recently, as Westland City Clerk. At every step, LeBlanc was known as a hard worker and accessible leader, focused on making our government work for everyday families. He modernized the Clerk's Office, expanded access to civic participation, and mentored countless public servants along the way, shaping the lives and careers of young leaders. He is proud of his strong roots and service to the Western Wayne community. I have seen his commitment firsthand.

His retirement marks our district's appreciation for his service to our families. His recent heartfelt tribute from city officials and the presentation of a key to the city is a symbol of how deeply he shaped Westland's civic life and communities. While Richard LeBlanc's formal legislative work has ended, his legacy of service and integrity will continue to inspire our community for generations to come.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. WALLACE CLARK RONEY

#### HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Wallace Clark

Roney, who passed away on July 6, 2025, at the age of 79.

Wallace, known as "Wally," was a fifth-generation cattle rancher. From a young age, he balanced school with the responsibilities of adulthood, working alongside the men on the ranch. As he grew older, Wally helped drive cattle on horseback to and from the mountains, a journey of more than eight days each way. He made the trip multiple times each year with several herds, accompanied by up to 20 ranch hands, a chuck wagon, and camp gear. Wally's passing marks the end of an era that will not be repeated.

Wally went on to earn a degree in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He received numerous awards and recognition over the years and was known as an industry leader focused on finding better ways to do things and making the seemingly impossible work. He also honed lifelong skills training exceptional horses and competing as a rodeo cowboy while at Cal Poly.

In the late 1980's, Wally traveled to Washington, D.C. to warn the Department of the Interior that our forests would someday burn to the ground if changes weren't made to their management. Wally, as usual, was right. His insights on so many issues were nothing short of remarkable. He often said he "learned something new every day."

He is survived by his wife, Billie Jean; sister, Catherine Jane Oviedo; son, Jaret; daughter, Sally Roney; grandchildren, Eric, Tyler, Gigi, Joy Roney, Austin, George, and Ani Knox; and great-granddaughter, London. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

Rest in peace, Wally.

### RECOGNIZING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, FOR BEING NAMED THE NO. 1 CITY IN THE U.S.

#### HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santa Fe—our state capital, the heart of New Mexico, and my beloved home, where I raised my family, for being named the No. 1 City in the United States in Travel + Leisure's annual reader survey.

Imagine a city nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, where the sun blesses us in winter, spring, and summer. The skies stretch endlessly—clouds dance, summer storms roll through and leave behind the fresh smell of rain and double rainbows.

And when you walk our streets, you are surrounded by creativity and inspiration: the work of our artists, musicians, and writers; the care of our educators, medical professionals, and first responders; the vibrancy of our small businesses, museums, and cultural institutions; the unmatched flavors crafted by our

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

chefs; and the deep pride of our hardworking residents.

Visitors may come for the food, the views, the art—but they leave with something more. A sense of calm, of peace, of awe. They say they have just visited a place where love is paramount—love for a city, a culture, the Earth, and for each other.

I congratulate and Felicidades to Santa Fe—and it has always been No. 1 in our hearts. Now the world knows it too.

HONORING ARLENE BYCZEK OF  
WARRENDALE

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes Arlene Byczek, a beloved resident of the Warrendale neighborhood in Detroit, for her decades of unwavering service to our community.

Originally from New Jersey, Arlene moved to Michigan to earn her nursing degree from Henry Ford College and settled in Warrendale with her husband, Richard, in 1975. She dedicated nearly 20 years as a parish treasurer at Sacred Heart of Jesus and continued her community involvement at Ss. Peter and Paul parish, helping with school fundraisers, Scout Troop committee, and serving as a basketball coach.

Arlene played a vital role in local organizing as a founding member of the WaSaTi Block Club and a longtime member of the Warrendale Business Association and Warrendale Community Organization. Most in the community know her as “the Bike Lady,” whose daily rides symbolize her deep love and constant care for her neighbors. Warrendale is better because of her.

The 12th Congressional District celebrates Arlene Byczek for her service to the community and our district. We send Arlene Byczek and her family our best wishes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL GREEN

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Phil Green, who passed away on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Phil was an incredible father, citizen, and advocate for ALS patients, and he will be deeply missed.

Phil Green’s journey was one of resilience, dedication, and advocacy. A former walk-on kicker for the 1991 University of Washington National Championship football team, Green went on to build a fulfilling life with his wife Jennifer and their four children, Arianne, Hunter, Parker, and Whitney, in Temecula, California. Unfortunately, he began experiencing unexplained muscle weakness in early 2018 and was diagnosed with ALS later that year.

Following his diagnosis, Green became a tireless advocate, working with prominent ALS organizations such as Augie’s Quest, I AM ALS, and others, and he worked with Major

League Baseball to raise awareness of ALS and Lou Gehrig’s day. Beyond advocacy and raising awareness, Green was committed to advancing research by partnering with UW Medicine to support ALS initiatives at the Center for Translational Muscle Research and the Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine. His life centered on creating a better future for others with ALS, combining personal courage with public advocacy to drive meaningful change.

Phil is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and four children. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Green family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Phil. Although he may be gone, Phil’s many contributions have left an enduring legacy. I and many others will keep working until we find a cure for ALS.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
BARUCH SAMUEL BLUMBERG

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg and commemorate 100 years of his enduring impact on scientific advancement and human welfare.

Dr. Blumberg was born on July 28, 1925. In a fitting tribute to his trailblazing discoveries, the world observes World Hepatitis Day on this date each year. In 1967, Dr. Blumberg and his colleagues discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed the first blood test to detect it. Two years after his discovery, he helped develop the first Hepatitis B vaccine—widely regarded as the world’s first “anti-cancer vaccine.” This seminal contribution had a global impact, reducing Hepatitis B infection rates in Chinese children from 15 percent to 1 percent within a decade. Much of this research was conducted at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1976, Dr. Blumberg was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology, alongside Dr. Daniel Carleton Gajdusek, in recognition of these groundbreaking discoveries.

His contributions to Hepatitis B research extended far beyond his initial breakthroughs. He continued his advocacy and research efforts through helping to establish the Hepatitis B Foundation and the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research—later renamed the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute after his passing in 2011. At their Doylestown, Pennsylvania campus, he actively worked with scientists and the public health team. He also served on the Foundation’s Scientific and Medical Advisory Board and as its Distinguished Scholar for nearly two decades.

Beyond his pioneering contributions to Hepatitis B research, Dr. Blumberg’s career was marked by other accomplishments across science, academia, and public service. After high school, he served as a U.S. Navy deck officer during World War II. He later earned his M.D. from Columbia University and a D.Phil. in Biochemistry from Balliol College, Oxford.

Beginning in 1977, Dr. Blumberg was a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and was the first American to serve

a Master of Balliol College from 1989 to 1994. From 1999 to 2002, he directed the NASA Astrobiology Institute, and in 2001, he was named to the Library of Congress Scholars Council. In 2005, he became President of the American Philosophical Society, continuing his lifelong commitment to scholarship.

Dr. Blumberg’s character was just as remarkable as his professional accomplishments. He was a proud Jewish American born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He credited the teachings of the Talmud with shaping his mental discipline and societal contributions. His friends and colleagues described him as “endlessly curious, deeply compassionate and profoundly impactful.” It was said that during nature walks, he could speak with near encyclopedic knowledge about the plants and animals he encountered. He had a true zest for life and learning, as well as a deep commitment to teaching.

Today, on what would have been his 100th birthday, it is my distinct honor to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg. His unparalleled work continues to save millions of lives, and his example continues to inspire generations of scientists around the world.

CELEBRATING THE 81ST BIRTHDAY  
OF DR. HESHAM ALALUSI

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor the accomplishments and community dedication of Dr. Hesham Alalusi on his 81st birthday. We recognize his service as a distinguished engineer, educator, and humanitarian work at home and abroad.

He is proud of his roots and being born in Baghdad, Iraq. Dr. Alalusi was orphaned as a teen, and even under enormous challenges, he earned a PhD in civil and structural engineering from UC Berkeley and went on to shape Iraq’s infrastructure and engineering future before political unrest led him to resettle in the U.S.

Dr. Alalusi’s most enduring contribution, however, lies in the founding of the Alalusi Foundation, which has delivered over 830 million in humanitarian aid to orphans, widows, and families in Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, for medical assistance, food security, and access to clean water.

He has been married to his lovely wife, Diana, for 58 years, and has two children and six grandchildren. Dr. Alalusi’s life exemplifies resilience, generosity, and global compassion, and I am proud to uplift his remarkable legacy on his 81st birthday.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF DEDE HOWARD

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor DeDe Howard, an extraordinary woman whose remarkable achievements in pageantry

and philanthropy have inspired individuals across the Nation and beyond. For over four decades, Ms. Howard has shown leadership, compassion, and dedication through her outstanding career and selfless service.

Since capturing the Miss Hemisphere title in 1974, Ms. Howard has earned over 250 pageant titles, including Ms. Italy Worldwide 2000, Mrs. Christian World International 2004, Ms. America World Ambassador 2003, and Mrs. Minnesota United States. Her accolades include induction into the National Registry of the Library of Congress as Ms. Universe Outstanding Woman and the American Biographical Institute's Outstanding Woman of the 21st Century in 2002.

Ms. Howard's philanthropy reflects her compassionate heart. She founded National Teddy Bear Days and the House of Hope for Runaways, uplifting vulnerable youth, and has raised significant funds for Shriners Hospitals, Special Olympics, and Ronald McDonald House Charities. Her service earned her the 1999, Ms. Minnesota Outstanding Service Award, the 2001 Presidential Award, and the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award, among others.

We honor DeDe Howard for her incredible accomplishments, guided by her deep Christian faith, which has cemented her commitment to improving lives. Her legacy as a philanthropist, leader, and beacon of compassion will continue to inspire generations.

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HONORING ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

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**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the rich history and enduring impact of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in the Bronx.

St. Luke's grew from All Saints Mission which began in 1914, meeting in the homes of community members like Mr. and Mrs. William Whitty. Under their leadership, St. Luke's Mission became official in 1921. Through decades of dedicated leadership that has ranged from Reverend Harold McLean to Reverend Hugh Henry, and Reverend Franklin Lionel Reid, St. Luke's has grown both physically and spiritually.

This church has been a pillar of faith and community, expanding its facilities, developing senior housing, and fostering fellowship and outreach programs. Under Reverend Reid's leadership, St. Luke's extended its care beyond the Bronx, reaching vulnerable children in Tanzania and South Africa.

Today, St. Luke's continues to be a beacon of hope and service under Reverend Pierre-Andre Duvert.

I commend St. Luke's for its unwavering commitment to faith, fellowship, and the Bronx community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF LIZZIE TOLES

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the life and contributions of remarkable resident Lizzie Toles, as she turns 100 years old. We congratulate her on decades of community work that has had a lasting impact on our community.

Lizzie's roots started in Mississippi, where she was born. She moved to Detroit in 1952, eager to work and make our communities a better place. When she worked at a local nursing home, people always loved her smile and conversations that brought so much warmth and comfort to every person she met. Mother Lizzie has three children—James, Patricia, and Jerry—and has five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Apart from her career and family, Lizzie has remained an active member of the community through her participation in water aerobics, bowling, and the Derrick Memorial Missionary Baptist Church. She loves her garden, and her home is surrounded by beautiful flowers, which reflect her love for nature. Join me in celebrating Ms. Lizzie on 100 years of life.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. JAN  
SETNOR

**HON. VERN BUCHANAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Jan Setnor, MSN, CRNA, Col. (Ret), USAFR, NC. Ms. Setnor will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA). I am proud that Ms. Setnor was elected as the 2024 to 2025 president of this prestigious healthcare organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals. CRNAs have full practice authority in the Army, Navy, and Air Force and are the predominant provider of anesthesia on forward surgical teams and in combat support hospitals.

As an AANA member since 1996, Ms. Setnor has contributed greatly to the healthcare community nationwide. She has held numerous state and national nurse anesthesiology leadership positions, including previous service on the AANA Board of Directors as President-Elect, Vice-President and, Director (as well as two terms as president of the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists

(VANA)). Her extensive involvement with the AANA includes roles as the Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists AANA Liaison, Professional Development Chair, and participation in various committees, including Political Action and Communications.

She served in the United States Air Force Reserve, retiring with 26 years of honorable service. Setnor's roles included Flight Nurse Instructor/Evaluator, CRNA, and senior staff member for the Air Force Surgeon General. Notably, she served in Afghanistan as both the Anesthesia Team Lead in the largest in-country medical facility and as the sole anesthesia provider at a Special Forces Forward Operating Base.

In addition to her work with the AANA and VANA, Setnor has contributed to the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care as a member of the Governance Unit-Standards Development Committee and served as the CRNA Advisor to the Virginia Board of Nursing's Committee of the Joint Board of Medicine and Nursing.

Ms. Setnor earned her Master of Science in Nursing from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

During her AANA presidency, Ms. Setnor has been a prominent advocate for the patients and practice of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. She has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system. Ms. Setnor has advocated to eliminate burdensome regulations for CRNAs, to have CRNAs recognized as full practice providers in the Veterans Health Administration, and to address underlying causes of surprise billing such as provider discrimination.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Setnor today on a job well done. Her service to AANA and her commitment to safe, quality anesthesia care nationwide, are highly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Setnor's notable career and outstanding achievements.

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COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE CLAREMONT  
COLLEGES

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend The Claremont Colleges on their 100th Anniversary. I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, on October 14, 1925, The Claremont Colleges were founded with the vision of creating a unique consortium of world-class institutions rooted in academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a shared commitment to the liberal arts and sciences; and

Whereas, for 100 years, The Claremont Colleges have contributed immeasurably to the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of California, the nation, and the world through the education of generations of students, groundbreaking research, and public service; and

Whereas, the consortium, comprising five undergraduate colleges and two graduate institutions, exemplifies the values of innovation; freedom of thought and expression; a

liberal arts foundation combined with specialized and practical training; high academic standards; and a diverse and inclusive community that provides students with broad academic resources while preserving the intimacy of small college environments; and

Whereas, The Claremont Colleges have been a vital part of the Claremont and Southern California region, supporting the local economy, partnering with civic organizations, supporting community organizations, and serving as a hub for cultural enrichment, discourse, and discovery; and

Whereas, the 100th anniversary of The Claremont Colleges is a moment to honor the legacy of its founders, celebrate a century of achievement, and inspire future generations to uphold the principles of academic inquiry, leadership, and service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Congresswoman Judy Chu, representing California's 28th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and commend The Claremont Colleges on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere appreciation for their enduring contributions to the people of California and beyond.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
ESSIE DELL O'BRYANT WOODS  
AND THE 6888TH BATTALION

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District proudly recognizes Staff Sergeant Essie Dell O'Bryant Woods, a lifelong Detroit and courageous member of the historic 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Known as the "Six Triple Eight," this all-Black, all women unit served under grueling conditions during World War II, sorting over 65,000 pieces of mail per shift to boost troop morale across Europe. Despite facing racism and poor living conditions, Staff Sergeant Woods and her battalion cleared a six-month mail backlog in just three months. She earned numerous medals for her service and continued supporting fellow veterans for over 35 years, co-founding the National Association of Black Military Women and the Wolverine Chapter of the WAC Veterans Association.

Sergeant Essie Dell O'Bryant Woods' induction into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor is a powerful reminder of her legacy and the trailblazing bravery of the 6888th.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD  
COMMANDING GENERAL RESI-  
DENCY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Commanding General Residency Act, which would require the Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard to reside in D.C. Two Congresses ago, the House Com-

mittee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill.

The president controls the D.C. National Guard. In contrast, governors of the states and the three territories that have National Guards each control their National Guards.

The Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard is the top official in the D.C. National Guard, is appointed by the president and is a federal employee. There are residency requirements for government officials in federal law, D.C. law and the laws of jurisdictions throughout the country. In fact, several states have laws that require the top official in their National Guard to reside in the state, and it is highly likely that every state and territory only appoints residents as the top official in their National Guard. The primary reason residency requirements exist is so that government officials have a connection to the residents they serve and knowledge of the unique issues and challenges faced by residents.

Congress has justifiably required certain federal officials to reside in the jurisdiction to which they are appointed, including U.S. district court judges, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Attorneys. Similarly, Congress, which controls the local D.C. court system, has justifiably required local D.C. judges and members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to reside in D.C.

There is no reason that the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, a federal entity that serves D.C. residents and that has both a military and law enforcement role, should not be required to reside in D.C. A D.C. residency requirement for the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard will lead to a better relationship between the D.C. National Guard and D.C. residents and is a matter of fairness for D.C. residents.

The D.C. mayor should control the D.C. National Guard. Until then, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING ELLIE J. DAHMER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary Mississippian, a dedicated educator, civil rights advocate, and public servant—Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer, who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Dahmer is the widow of the late Vernon F. Dahmer, Sr., a civil rights icon who gave his life in the pursuit of voting rights for African Americans. Together, they formed a powerful partnership that challenged the injustices of the Jim Crow South. When their home was firebombed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1966, Mrs. Dahmer's courage and quick thinking saved her family. In the years that followed, she not only rebuilt her life, but continued the work she and her husband began—ensuring that all Mississippians had access to the ballot box.

After her husband's murder, Mrs. Dahmer worked tirelessly to support her family, maintain their farm, and provide for the community. She went on to serve with distinction as the District 2 Election Commissioner in Forrest

County for 12 years. Her quiet strength and tireless advocacy played a critical role in the fight for justice, culminating decades later in the long-overdue conviction of her husband's killer.

Mr. Speaker, On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District and a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer for a century of unwavering commitment to justice, education, and democracy. Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer is a living symbol of strength, sacrifice, and service. Her 100th birthday is not just a celebration of longevity—it is a celebration of a life that has left a permanent mark on the conscience of this country.

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF  
RYAN PHIPPS ON HIS RETIRE-  
MENT

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, The 12th Congressional District recognizes and honors Battalion Chief Ryan Phipps of the Dearborn Fire Department for over 27 years of dedicated service to the people of Dearborn, Michigan.

Since beginning his career on April 28, 1998, Battalion Chief Phipps has served with honor, rising through the ranks from Firefighter to Battalion Chief and earning over 30 departmental awards and commendations for bravery, leadership, and community service.

A two-time cancer survivor, Battalion Chief Phipps has shown extraordinary strength and resilience both in uniform and in life. His commitment extends beyond the station; as Vice President of Neighbors United, he has worked to support firefighters facing cancer. A proud father of four, including his stepson, and a mentor to future firefighters, Battalion Chief Phipps exemplifies the heart of public service. I thank him for his decades of sacrifice and leadership and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING FABIAN I. VALENTIN'S  
SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of my staff, Fabian I. Valentin, who is departing the Committee on Homeland Security to begin his graduate studies at Princeton University and commence a fellowship program.

Mr. Valentin joined the Committee on Homeland Security as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellow in August 2022, and his contributions were immediately apparent. He assisted committee staff with oversight of the Department Homeland Security, including through bipartisan site visits, interviews, and briefings. Mr. Valentin also analyzed budget details and provided the Committee with insights into and recommendations regarding the Administration's budget and supplemental requests.

Mr. Valentin transitioned to permanent Committee staff in June 2023, due to his exceptional performance as a fellow. During his time on the Committee, Mr. Valentin contributed significantly to legislative and oversight efforts and served as a trusted resource for Member Offices. He prepared and accompanied Members of Congress on domestic and international site visits to conduct oversight of U.S. policy and Department of Homeland Security activities. Through Mr. Valentin's efforts, he helped Democratic Members advocate for the fair and humane enforcement of U.S. law, combat transnational crime, and support the DHS workforce.

Mr. Valentin played a pivotal role in preparing Members for countless border security hearings and markups over the past three years, as well as for engagements with officials regarding countering narcotics smuggling and human trafficking. He also assisted in the development of legislation that would strengthen Federal efforts against gun smuggling, expand U.S. training and support for foreign law enforcement investigating human trafficking, and improve border security technology used for seizing illicit contraband.

Mr. Valentin has become an integral and valued member of my staff. He consistently demonstrates commendable professionalism, dedication, good humor, and an eagerness to assist the most vulnerable among us.

I thank Mr. Valentin for his service to the Committee on Homeland Security, and I wish him the very best as he begins graduate school and prepares for a career in the Foreign Service.

## CELEBRATING BROWNTOWN

### HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to the following comprehensive history of Browntown, and to include in the RECORD in perpetuity.

#### PHYSICAL LOCATION OF BROWNTOWN

In what is known as Browntown, near present-day Snow Hill, located in Greene County, North Carolina, centuries of human presence, resilience, and cultural exchange have shaped the land. Long before Europeans or Africans arrived, the Tuscarora Nation, part of the Iroquoian speaking people, inhabited this region as early as the late 15th and 16th centuries, establishing an Indigenous cultural and agricultural presence along the Contentnea Creek and its trade areas. By the time of European contact in the late 1600s, explorers such as John Lederer had passed through and began to map the area. Followed by John Lawson, whose writings in the early 1700s documented the complexity of community life and culture among the Tuscarora living within the land's boundaries.

Although Greene County, originally named Glasgow County formally established in 1791 and renamed Greene County in 1799, its origins were deeply entwined with those of the Tuscarora stronghold of Cotechney, located near what would later become the county seat. As settlers arrived in the early 18th century, they interwove their lives with those of Native Tuscarora through conflict, cooperation, and kinship. The town of Snow Hill, founded in 1828, emerged later in Greene County.

Yet, beyond these chartered towns and official records, a different legacy took shape: one of kinship ties, spiritual traditions, and cultural memory of the rural settlement that became known as Browntown. Never incorporated, Browntown emerged as a self-sustaining community built on shared land, interwoven ancestry, and mutual survival. Its roots reflect a unique blend of African, Tuscarora, and European heritage, forming a tri-racial community whose resilience and cultural impact continue to shape Greene County's identity to this day.

Browntown lies along ancient Native American trade routes and waterways, connecting to Contentnea Creek, located just south at a distance of 2-3 miles, and near the Neuse River, approximately 7-10 miles away. Browntown took form as a significant settlement and hunting area for the Tuscarora, located less than 10 miles away from the final, most decisive battle of the Tuscarora War in 1713 at Fort Neoheroke. Browntown is also home to several blended cemeteries, including at least one known unmarked Indigenous burial ground, as well as unmarked slave graves and colonial and antebellum burial sites. The presence of these sacred sites, ranging from Native burial grounds to unmarked family plots and church cemeteries, reflects the deeply intertwined histories of the people who once lived and blended on this land.

Browntown also sits near the intersection of North Carolina Highways 11 and 13, which connect to Indian Woods to the North in Bertie County. Indian Woods was the Tuscarora Reservation established in 1717 after the Tuscarora War, which also contained blended people. Essential highways, such as Routes 58 and 70, once served as key routes for both Indigenous nations, like the Tuscarora, and later colonial settlers. Browntown runs parallel to Highway 258, a route constructed initially by the British for trade between Eastern NC and Southeast Virginia. It is where the descendants of tri-racial communities continue to live, such as those in the Winton Triangle of Hertford County. These trading paths were and still are conduits for agricultural exchange, tribal passageways, and rural resettlement areas before and after emancipation.

#### BROWNTOWN IN THE MAKING

Browntown in modern times has been a part of Hookerton Township, which lies within a deeply historical corridor that connects the lived experiences of tri-racial descendants throughout eastern North Carolina. The Browntown Community stands as a living testament to the enduring spirit of people of tri-racial heritage. Forged not by municipal charter but by the shared tenacity of descendants from African, European, and Tuscarora people of rural eastern North Carolina.

Browntown's legacy is one of resilience and unity. Established as a free, autonomous, and safe haven before and after the Civil War, it was home to pioneers of land stewardship and mutual aid, all woven together by distinct cultures into a thriving, mixed-rural community. The Browntown community is also not far from Wheat Swamp, as the wooded wetlands offered natural seclusion for worship and reflection during antebellum times. This uncharted settlement, born outside the boundaries of conventional towns, cultivated a unique social fabric that honored mixed people while cherishing common purpose.

#### PLACE OF WORSHIP AND STUDY

Before the formalization of land deeds and property holdings in Browntown, the people came together to worship. Although not located in Browntown, Shady Grove Church is closely linked to the community's history

and identity, as it was the first organized church established nearby as a place of worship near Hookerton Town in Greene County. Shady Grove Church is the oldest known church serving people of mixed race in the community, established in 1867 as a bush shelter (a bush arbor) made of leaves and branches to offer shade during worship. Considered the mother church, Shady Grove gave rise to several churches, reflecting its profound spiritual influence.

The founding landowners Ellis Dixon, Ellis Suggs, Lewis Dunn, Squire Turnage, and Ephraim Dixon laid the groundwork for faith-based resilience in post-Civil War Greene County. It is located approximately 6 to 9 miles from Browntown. Shady Grove church represents the early roots of communal worship that would later continue within Browntown itself through Brown Chapel, Oak Grove, McCoy's Chapel Church, and other churches in the community. Established in 1899 and formally deeded by Richard Brown in 1918. The creation of this church further cemented the community's spiritual legacy. As a central landholder and patriarch of the Browntown community, by deeded land "for church purposes only" to the United America Free Will Baptist Church, Brown Chapel, later known as Brown Chapel. This land, situated along the public road from Brown's Crossroads to Glenfield Road and near the cemetery road, served as sacred ground for religious practices, fellowship, and ancestral remembrance. The deed signed and witnessed on February 28, 1918, represents one of the earliest documented acts of faith-based land transfer by a mixed landowner in the county, reinforcing the continuity of spiritual life that began at Shady Grove and anchoring a new generation of worship in Browntown's evolving identity.

Additionally, Browntown School served as an educational center for generations of children in this rural tri-racial community. Though no longer standing, the school's memory lives on through oral history and preserved photographs. Its foundation may remain buried on the original site, offering future potential for archaeological or cultural recovery. Browntown School was more than a building; it represented self-determination, literacy, and intergenerational legacy during a time when rural education for African American and mixed, heritage children was underfunded and overlooked by formal systems. Its presence reinforces the longstanding footprint of Browntown residents in shaping Greene County's educational and civic landscape.

#### LIVING SUMMARY OF BROWNTOWN

A living testament to the complexity of North Carolina's and America's rural past, it includes Richard Brown, a cornerstone figure in Browntown's development. Born in 1852, to formerly enslaved or free parents, after living through Emancipation and Reconstruction, a photograph taken of him highlights a prominent figure. It captures not just his face but also his determination. Born just before the Civil War, Richard would raise a family amid the struggles of Reconstruction and segregation, passing on values of land stewardship and kinship.

His daughter, Annie Jane Jones (1884-1950), and her marriage to John C. Grant (1878-1936), represent the enduring lineage that remained on the land. Browntown stood as a sanctuary for those born of blended lineages, offering dignity where societal bonds of rigid racial hierarchies were enduring. Historical records document Browntown's origins, at least, as far back as 1880. A warranty deed executed in 1887 by Chappel H. Churchill and M.E. Churchill, transferring land in Hookerton Township to William Brown, born in 1874, an African American landowner

whose wife, Addie Grant Brown, born in 1881, to Needham Grant, 1845, of mixed ancestry, symbolizes remarkable self-determination during the post-Reconstruction era.

The records for Greene County confirm that members of the Brown family legally held property in the area now known as Browntown. This deed serves as tangible evidence of landownership by a mixed, heritage family during an era when such claims were not only rare but often met with resistance. Unlike chartered townships, Browntown emerged as a self-defined community operating outside formal governance but deeply rooted in traditions of kinship, survival, and cultural unity. The legal documentation, when paired with oral histories passed down through generations, affirms that Browntown was not a place imagined but a living, land-based community that sustained itself through shared heritage, mutual protection, and pride in place.

#### THE ACT OF PRESERVATION

The Browntown Annual Community Picnic is a living act of preservation. For over 300 years, people and families of Tuscarora, African, and European descent have lived in this community in Greene County. The people return to honor their lineages, which shaped a rural community that continues to unite in celebration of a shared heritage, family ties, and collective memory. Preserving traditional foods, stories, and customs that contribute to the culture of Greene County and the State of North Carolina, the Annual Community Picnic is a living tradition that stands as both a homecoming and a cultural archive. This gathering is more than a reunion; it is an act of generational memory, where traditional foods, stories, and customs are passed down under the shade of longleaf pines. Generations in Browntown have thrived by blending traditions, celebrating lived experiences, and fostering a sense of belonging that transcends historical significance.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the many groups and people whose contributions helped capture history and now are living history to Browntown. Dr. Arwin Smallwood—for his writing, research insight, and peer review guidance, enriching this work with scholarly depth and cultural integrity. Mr. Earl Ijmes—for his historical consultation, community storytelling, and grounding wisdom that shaped our understanding of the past. The 2025 Browntown Picnic Planning Committee: Mona Warren, Sharon Bright, Shaniqua Jones, and David Brown—for their tireless coordination, vision, and commitment to honoring tradition and bringing our people together. Penny Wade, Lucy Suggs, Arlena Brown, Helen Scott, and Reginald Sutton—for their historical fact-checking and family research, your voices carry the weight and beauty of generations. Billy Dale, Ruffus Grant, Dorris Speight—for nourishing the community with love and generosity, and who made the 2025 picnic day itself possible through food, fellowship, and celebration. Steven Dale—for sharing his gift of music and creating the joyful rhythm that tied the day together with pictures. The Greene County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Bennie Heath, Commissioners Jerry Jones, Ray Johnson, Robert (Bobby) Taylor, Jr., Derek Burruss, and former Commissioner James Shackelford—for officially recognizing Browntown and passing the community resolution. Their leadership and support help ensure the story is appreciated. Kathy Mooring, Deputy Clerk to the Board—for her administrative coordination and professionalism. Ignacia Joyner—At the heart of this initiative, formally launched the Browntown Legacy effort to safeguard the

cultural and historical identity of this tri-cultural community. Her leadership galvanized community collaboration, garnering recognition at both the county and federal levels as a contributing preservation Author and Community Historian.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COMMISSIONER IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN

##### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman, a tireless champion for the people of Detroit and Wayne County. From the Detroit Board of Education to the Michigan Legislature, the NAACP, and the Wayne County Commission, Irma dedicated over six decades to public service and uplifting her community. She was a fierce advocate for children, seniors, and working families, always centering justice, equity, and compassion in her work.

Commissioner Clark-Coleman was the first in her family to graduate college, blazing trails for Black women in leadership. Whether serving holiday meals to our community, helping others, or advancing housing justice, she did so with unmatched grace and conviction.

Her legacy will live on in every life she touched. My deepest condolences go out to her family, including her husband, Rev. Ron D. Coleman, Sr., her two children, her grandchildren, and her loved ones. We mourn her passing, celebrate her 88 years of life, and remember her deep commitment to public service. May her memory continue to guide us toward a more just and loving future.

#### HONORING COLONEL CHAD W. CALDWELL

##### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Colonel Chad W. Caldwell after a distinguished career with the United States Army of Engineers and over 25 years of service to our Nation.

Colonel Caldwell most recently served as Commander of the Sacramento District, South Pacific Division. A graduate of West Point, he holds advanced degrees in structural and civil engineering and has served in key command and academic roles both stateside and overseas.

Throughout his career, Colonel Caldwell exemplified integrity, discipline, and excellence. He began his service in 1999, first assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and went on to hold a variety of leadership positions, including company commander in Iraq and Afghanistan, and as the first commander of the 5th Brigade Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson. His leadership helped strengthen our national defense and bolster critical infrastructure in California and beyond. His influence will be felt for years to come through the projects he led and the soldiers he mentored.

#### HONORING CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

##### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Caribbean American Heritage Month, and celebrate the culture, contributions, and history of Caribbean Americans in Michigan's 12th Congressional District and across our Nation.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month, first recognized in 2005, was established after years of global efforts to spotlight Caribbean Americans' vibrant culture and contributions to our country. Caribbean Community Services, a nonprofit organization based in Detroit, Michigan, has done an outstanding job of uplifting Caribbean history. Through their engaging events, they celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean and its significant impact on our southeastern Michigan communities. I am incredibly proud of the important work Caribbean Social Services undertakes to foster diverse and welcoming communities. I especially want to highlight their leadership in ensuring these contributions are recognized and valued as we celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Please join me in recognizing National Caribbean American Heritage Month and the contributions of Caribbean Americans across our Nation and the 12th Congressional District.

#### COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF DELTA AIR LINES

##### HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize and honor Delta Air Lines as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

Delta Air Lines was founded on March 2, 1925, as Huff Daland Dusters, the world's first aerial crop-dusting company in Georgia. Huff Daland's fleet of 18 planes became one of the largest privately owned fleets in the crop-dusting business.

In 1928, Huff Daland Dusters was renamed Delta Air Service to reflect the Mississippi Delta region it served, and by the following year, the airline's first passenger flight took off from Dallas, Texas. By 1945, the company accrued more than 300 million passenger miles and formally became Delta Air Lines.

From its humble beginnings, Delta has evolved into one of the world's leading airlines, transforming the way we travel. Today, Delta has over 4,000 daily flights to more than 280 destinations. Delta currently employs a team of 100,000 people, including over 4,750 Michigan-based employees.

Since establishing Detroit Metropolitan Airport as one of its major hubs, Delta has transformed Michigan into a gateway to the world.

From connecting local businesses to global markets to reuniting families across time zones, Delta has played a crucial role in shaping Michigan's modern identity.

Through innovation, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to safety and service, Delta has continuously redefined the air travel experience.

As we look to the skies, we celebrate Delta Air Lines for becoming the first U.S. airline to reach this milestone, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue to soar to new heights.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF REGINA ROSE EDWARDS

**HON. RASHIDA TLAI**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Mother Regina Rose Edwards on her 90th birthday. We honor her life of dedication to service, mentorship, and spiritual leadership in Michigan's 12th Congressional District.

Mother Edwards served her community in the Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical

Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ through three successive administrations as Jurisdictional Supervisor of Women for the Michigan Southwest First. In her role, she has exemplified strength, leadership and a spirit of generosity. Through her position, she has transformed lives across generations, building bridges between tradition and progress to serve a legacy grounded in love, justice, and faith.

The 12th Congressional District honors Mother Edwards for her commitment to faith and service in celebration of her 90th birthday. I thank her for her lifetime of wisdom, guidance and her remarkable influence on our community and district.