

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE WITH THE DELTA BURIAL CORPORATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Delta Burial Corporation as they celebrate 100 years of service.

Delta Burial Corporation has a long history of serving residents of the Mississippi Delta and beyond, regardless of status or income. In 1925, Delta Burial Corporation was founded by Silas Kelly during a time when several hundred Black people were being lynched across the Delta. The business provided services throughout the Jim Crow era, the AIDS epidemic, floods, and even wars, giving families the opportunity to bury their loved ones without the crushing weight of financial hardship. Kelly and his Black colleagues also provided sanctuary for civil rights organizers. They hosted burial society galas and organized countless celebrations of life.

Today, Delta Burial Corporation continues to offer funeral services at prices well below the state average. This is critical, as many counties in the Mississippi Delta face poverty rates between 30 and 40 percent, with some reaching as high as 68 percent, particularly among Black families. As our Nation's economy continues to place added strain on poor and working families, we need the work of Delta Burial Corporation now more than ever.

On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I thank and congratulate Delta Burial Corporation on 100 years of service.

HONORING THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Bedford, Massachusetts, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

In 1822, at the request of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brother Charles Spicer was sent to establish the Bethel AME Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. There, 22 free African American men inspired by the Free African Society of Philadelphia sought to create a place of worship in the community. Under the leadership of Bishop Daniel E. Payne and Reverend Eli Hall, these men led the construction of Bethel AME at 318 Kempton Street.

As the founding church of New England Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District

of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the New Bedford Bethel AME Church quickly became a spiritual and civic cornerstone of the Northeast. The church welcomed some of the most prominent voices of the abolitionist movement to its pulpit, including Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Remond, Frances Ellen Watkins, Samuel Pennetton, and Harriet Tubman.

Over the years, Bethel AME's congregation included important community leaders such as Elizabeth Carter Brooks and Dr. Herbert R. Waters, Jr., both of whom made lasting contributions to the City of New Bedford's educational and civic life, as well as Sister Elnora Williams, Brother William Kydd, Reverend Birdlyn Watson, and Reverend Delphina Garrison, who played a key role in supporting the church. Additionally, three of Bethel AME's pastors—William S. Brooks, Reverdy C. Ransom, and Dougal D. Walker—became bishops of the AME Church.

As one of the 47 founding congregations of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford, Bethel AME has played a leading role in regional collaboration. Today, located at 532 County Street and under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Sandra Whitley and Reverend Kenneth Whitley, the church remains committed to advancing public health, social services, and housing access through initiatives and partnerships with the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Massachusetts Alliance for Supportive Housing.

After postponing celebrations in 2022 due to the pandemic, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will commemorate its 200th anniversary on July 27, 2025, bringing together community leaders and welcoming the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District of Philadelphia, Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., to honor of this historic milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Bedford, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the church and its congregation's dedication to spiritual leadership, civic engagement, and advocacy over the last two centuries.

HONORING SANTA MONICA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the City of Santa Monica, California.

This milestone marks one hundred and fifty years since July 14, 1875, when the town of Santa Monica was first mapped out and the initial plots of land were sold, following its co-founding by Senator John P. Jones and Colonel Robert S. Baker on July 10, 1875. Officially incorporated in 1886, Santa Monica has

grown from a quiet coastal settlement into a thriving urban community.

Known affectionately over the years as the "City by the Sea," "Pearl of the Pacific," and "Jewel of the Sunset Bay," Santa Monica has long been admired for its natural beauty, but its true strength lies in the spirit of its people from its early days as a destination for leisure and tourism to its role today as a growing center for art, culture, sports, technology, architecture, environmentalism, and more, Santa Monica continues to evolve dynamically.

This year, the city is marking its sesquicentennial with a series of community celebrations spanning July through December 2025. These events offer opportunities to reflect on the city's journey, honor its achievements, and acknowledge the complex history that has shaped it—including the legacy of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples, the original stewards of the land now known as Santa Monica. In October 2013, the City of Santa Monica dedicated a beautiful landscape in their honor called Tongva Park, located on Main Street across from city hall.

With a population of more than 90,000 residents, Santa Monica remains a place where people from all walks of life come together. As the city commemorates another year, I express my gratitude for the generations of residents, public servants, and visionaries who have contributed to its enduring success.

I wish a happy 150th anniversary to Santa Monica.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE TOUR

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the 10th anniversary of The Leadership Experience Tour (LET), a visionary platform founded by Shawn Fair and guided by the spiritual leadership of Dr. Anthony D. Shannon.

Since 2015, Mr. Fair has elevated emerging voices through corporate coaching and media, including the "Follow the Leader: Fair to Greatness" podcast. In 2018, he launched LET, now a national hub for empowerment, personal growth, and public speaking. Dr. Shannon, a respected pastor and author, has played a key role as Community Director, mentoring speakers and centering LET in faith, purpose, and transformation.

Together, they have inspired thousands across industries, launched careers, and built a community of leaders rooted in vision and integrity. As LET prepares for its August 2025 gathering at Michigan State University, we celebrate a decade of impact and the continued legacy of these two remarkable changemakers.

● 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DURWARD
WARREN OWEN**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Mr. Durward W. Owen, a beloved member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and a giant in the interfraternal world, who passed away on Easter Sunday April 20th at the age of 94.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Mr. Owen was born on August 30, 1930. His roots in the Roanoke Valley and love for that part of Virginia remained for years, no matter where he and his family lived. As a young, promising talent in baseball, Mr. Owen received a scholarship to play catcher at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia where he was initiated into the Xi Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

Through Mr. Owen's time at Roanoke College, he grew as a young adult and matured. Around this time in 1952, he married the love of his life, Hazel Claudine "Connie" Manning. He also served his country in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, Mr. Owen returned to Roanoke College to finish his studies before graduating in 1955.

An integral part of Mr. Owen's college life and later his adult life was the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. The organization helped shape Mr. Owen and provided him and opportunity to foster lifelong friendship and a commitment consistent with the mission, vision and values of the Fraternity. Shortly after his graduation from Roanoke College, Mr. Owen was recruited to begin his career with the organization, working first in South Carolina before relocating to North Carolina.

His service to Pi Kappa Phi included his role as National Executive Secretary, later renamed Executive Director. In a span of 35 years, Mr. Owen's disciplined leadership and unique vision resulted in the Fraternity's growth from 46 chapters to 136 chapters nationally and led to Pi Kappa Phi being recognized among the country's most important Greek organizations.

Other significant accomplishments and pursuits of Mr. Owen included the creation of a national philanthropic organization, PUSH, Inc., for Pi Kappa Phi. PUSH, now known as the Ability Experience, which strives to instill a passion for lifelong service in fraternity members while helping to empower people living with disabilities. Mr. Owen also developed the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation, an educational foundation of the fraternity and provides funding for the educational and leadership programs of the Greater Fraternity.

Thanks to Mr. Owen's exceptional work, Pi Kappa Phi's direction has positively impacted the lives of more than 160,000 young men. I know this, because I myself am a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. I was invited to membership in 2013, well after my undergraduate experience at Emory & Henry College. The invitation to membership came from Roanoke-area friends who were active alumni in the Fraternity's chapter at Roanoke College.

I am thankful for the opportunity to become a member of Pi Kappa Phi and to witness the important role the organization has in creating an uncommon and lifelong brotherhood that develops leaders and encourages service to

others for the betterment of our communities. I, along with all members of Pi Kappa Phi, owe Mr. Owen a debt of gratitude for his help in making shaping this organization that has impacted me and thousands of other men.

Roanoke College later recognized Mr. Owen for his outstanding qualities of integrity, leadership and citizenship that Maroons hold dear. In 2020, Roanoke awarded Mr. Owen its highest honor for alumni, the Roanoke College Medal. A scholarship was also created in Mr. Owen's honor to recognize an exemplary Roanoke College student and Fraternity member who has exhibited superior leadership skills.

Durward is survived by three children—Melissa Luer (Bill) of New Orleans, Louisiana, David Owen (Leigh Ann) of Greenville, South Carolina and Sally Jackson (Bill) of Huntersville, North Carolina. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Owen's ceaseless dedication and service to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and to his community will be missed by many. He will be remembered by the brotherhood as a visionary, a leader and a dear friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JAMES MILTON HAWKINS**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Mr. James Milton Hawkins of Bolton, Mississippi—a gifted musician, devoted educator, and man of deep faith. Mr. Hawkins served his community, his students, and his church with unwavering passion and humility for more than four decades.

Born on August 12, 1950, in Bolton, Mississippi, James was the son of Mae Lillie Atkinson Hawkins and Eldridge Hawkins, Sr. He was a 1968 graduate of Sumner Hill High School and went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music, with a concentration in voice and performance, from Jackson State University. A product of Mississippi's rich musical and spiritual traditions, James dedicated his life to uplifting others through song, mentorship, and education.

Mr. Hawkins was best known as the long-time choral director at Jim Hill High School in Jackson, where he built one of the most respected public school choir programs in the country. Under his leadership, the Jim Hill Choir earned national and international acclaim, performing at Carnegie Hall, the Mormon Tabernacle, the White House, and internationally in Vienna, Italy, Great Britain, and Canada. His students sang for presidents, dignitaries, and at major festivals, consistently earning top honors and recognition.

Beyond his classroom, Mr. Hawkins was a devoted church musician at Orange Hill and Rose Hill M.B. Churches, where he led choirs and inspired generations with his spiritual gifts. He also served as music director for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi and was a longtime supporter of youth and music ministries across the state. In 2023, he founded the Sumner Hill Alumni Choir—one of his final gifts to the community he cherished.

He is remembered lovingly by his devoted wife, Barbara Ann Thurman Hawkins; his cherished grandsons, James Hyche and Jason Butler, his siblings, extended family, and the countless students, friends, and church members whose lives he enriched. His legacy is found in the voices he trained, the dreams he nurtured, and the faith he lived daily.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Milton Hawkins was a true servant of the people—a Mississippi treasure whose influence reached far beyond any stage. His life was a symphony of purpose, faith, and excellence. On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I honor his memory and extend my heartfelt condolences to all who loved him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY
BAILEY**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates the incredible life of Shirley Bailey, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Shirley was born on December 12, 1936, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to the late Clent and Beulah Cook. Her family moved to Detroit when she was a toddler. On May 22, 2025, Shirley peacefully made her transition, leaving behind a legacy of grace, kindness, and devotion to family and faith.

She met her husband Kenneth at Northeastern High School; their 70-year marriage brought forth Kenneth Jr., Robert, and Traci. Shirley was known for her warm smile, legendary meals, and dedication to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband Kenneth Sr., her children, a special daughter Barbara Cook-Dent, sister Elaine Williamson, sister-in-law Gloria Peters, 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many loved ones. Shirley Bailey will be deeply missed, but her spirit lives on in the lives she touched.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF
SUCCESS AS CREIGHTON BROTHERS LLC TURNS 100**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone for a family-run business that has been a cornerstone of Indiana agriculture for a century, Creighton Brothers LLC.

This year, Creighton Brothers is celebrating 100 years in business, a legacy that began in 1925 when Hobart and Russell Creighton started a modest egg operation with just 2,500 hens.

Over the last century, this operation has grown into one of the most respected and vertically integrated egg producers in the country, with more than 3 million laying hens, feed production on 10,000 acres of farmland, and distribution to customers nationwide.

What makes this story truly special isn't just the scale of their growth, but the fact that

Creighton Brothers is still proudly family-owned. Today, over 180 family members are connected to the business; such a level of generational commitment is rare, and it speaks volumes about the values on which this company was built.

Over the years, Creighton Brothers has faced its fair share of challenges. Still, through it all, they've stuck to their principles: producing safe, high-quality food, caring for their employees, and supporting the local community.

Just last month, the town of Mentone honored Creighton Brothers as the Grand Marshal of the Egg Festival Parade, celebrating "100 Years of Egg-cellence." It's clear how deeply rooted this business is in our community, and we take immense pride in their success.

As we reflect on what it takes to keep a business running strong for 100 years, we see that it requires hard work, innovation, and an unshakable commitment to people. I want to congratulate everyone at Creighton Brothers on achieving this remarkable milestone.

Here's to the next 100 years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ALLIES PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Congressman JIM MOYLAN of Guam, in highlighting the urgent need to modernize U.S. maritime policy through our Merchant Marine Allies Partnership Act, which we have introduced to realign federal incentives in our domestic shipping industry away from adversaries, such as the People's Republic of China (PRC), and toward our trusted allies with proven mainline capacity, such as Japan and South Korea.

Our measure directly responds to the real-world consequences of gaping loopholes in the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, better known as the Jones Act, which restricts domestic shipping including routes between the U.S. West Coast and Hawaii to vessels that are U.S.-built, U.S.-flagged, U.S.-owned and U.S.-crewed. The rationale for this ancient and outdated restriction has always been argued as national security, to maintain a strong U.S. shipbuilding industry and merchant fleet capable of supporting the military in times of conflict.

But today that argument, if it has any merit at all, is being dangerously undermined, and not by our adversaries, but by the very companies benefiting from the monopolistic protections of the Jones Act.

Specifically, Jones Act loopholes allow for supposedly minor parts fabrication and supposedly minor repairs to be conducted in foreign shipyards using foreign workers with no condition or restriction as to country. But these are not minor parts but whole sections, and not minor repairs but full retrofits. And the preferred source of this fabrication and these repairs in the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Jones Act vessels such as the Daniel K. Inouye, Kaimana Hila and Manukai have undergone major structural conversions, includ-

ing liquefied natural gas (LNG) engine retrofits, at PRC-based shipyards like COSCO's Nantong facility, which has known ties to the Chinese government and military-industrial complex. These modifications are frequently reclassified as mere "major modifications" to avoid triggering the 50 percent U.S. import duty intended to disincentivize foreign work. But AIS data, company filings, U.S. Coast Guard correspondence and even photographs confirm that these are anything but routine.

This poses a significant and immediate national security concern. First, by enabling vessels critical to U.S. domestic supply chains to undergo major upgrades in foreign-controlled shipyards of adversaries, we introduce unnecessary strategic risk. These ships support domestic commerce, but they also arguably constitute the backbone of sealift capacity that would be required during any military mobilization. Second, the continued outsourcing of vessel modification and construction undermines the U.S. shipbuilding and repair base, leaving us with fewer than 100 Jones Act-compliant vessels in active service nationwide, many of which are aging or specialized. And third, it sends U.S. dollars, jobs and technological investments directly into the hands of a strategic competitor identified by our National Defense Strategy as the most significant long-term challenge to U.S. interests.

Nowhere are the consequences of this policy failure more acute or more strategically dangerous than in my home state of Hawaii. Located in the middle of the Indo-Pacific, Hawaii is not just a remote island economy dependent on maritime commerce. It is the linchpin of U.S. power projection and force posture across the Indo-Pacific. Any disruption to Hawaii's shipping system is not only an economic risk to our residents but a direct vulnerability in America's strategic readiness.

Moreover, while Jones Act supporters continue to claim the law protects U.S. jobs, the evidence says otherwise. According to the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, maritime employment in the U.S. shipbuilding and repair sector has declined by 15 percent over the past 23 years. This steady erosion is not due to foreign competition alone, but to deliberate business decisions by Jones Act carriers who choose to take advantage of legal loopholes that let them outsource high-value work overseas while still reaping the benefits of domestic protectionism.

Despite these clear defects in the law, Hawaii and other islands and noncontiguous parts of our country remain a fully captive market, with no viable alternatives to a Jones Act duopoly that prioritizes profit over preparedness. We see no meaningful return on this federal maritime policy. The economic burden of this broken system, including inflated shipping costs driven by duopoly protections and foreign outsourcing, is borne daily by Hawaii's families and businesses. We have previously introduced three separate measures to address these specific consequences.

The overall answer for our country to this national security risk is not to force any and all fabrication, repair and operation exclusively into our country since that just compounds a problem we can't effectively fix. It is instead to cease rewarding our adversaries and start incentivizing our international friends and allies to assist us with our domestic merchant marine and related defense sealift needs.

Our Merchant Marine Allies Partnership Act addresses these problems through a targeted,

security-conscious realignment of incentives. Specifically, the bill exempts the current 50 percent import duty on major vessel modifications only if the work is performed in shipyards located in allied or partner countries, such as Japan and South Korea—nations with world-class maritime industries and deep national security alignment with the United States. It allows ships constructed in those allied countries to qualify for the U.S. domestic (coastwise) trade under a limited Jones Act exemption, thereby expanding access to modern, secure and cost-effective vessels without subsidizing adversarial economies. Finally, the legislation establishes a regulated pathway for foreign-built, foreign-crewed vessels operated by companies from allied nations to participate in the U.S. coastwise trade under clearly defined national security safeguards.

This legislation does not repeal or abandon the Jones Act. It restores the law to its intended purpose—to serve as a foundation for national resilience, industrial strength and strategic security, rather than being hijacked by the hypocritical umbrella of national defense at the expense of increased costs of consumer goods across the country. It recognizes that modern maritime commerce is global, but that global alignment must be rooted in trust, shared values and common defense. By partnering with our allies and closing loopholes that empower our adversaries, this bill protects the U.S. supply chain, reduces security vulnerabilities and ensures that the Jones Act serves our people, our economy, and our military, not just corporate bottom lines.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to continue defending a system that fails to defend us. The Merchant Marine Allies Partnership Act is a bipartisan, commonsense step toward maritime policy that reflects 21st-century challenges and opportunities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and update our maritime policy to modern world reality.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY J. HOWARD, MSN, RN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible contributions of Betty J. Howard, a native Detroit and leader in the field of public health.

Beginning her career at Critten Hospital as a staff nurse, Betty's dedication led her to hold several administrative positions. In 1987, she was promoted to Maternal Child Health Consultant for the City of Detroit Health Department where she co-authored several government-funded grants and devoted her time to advancing maternal and adolescent health services.

Betty's impactful career has led her to receive numerous outstanding service awards and certificates of recognition for her work. In addition to her service in the health industry, Betty is deeply connected to the Detroit community through her membership in organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., and lifelong membership of the NAACP.

HONORING DARRELL MCNARY
COLLINS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and deep respect that I honor Mr. Darrell McNary Collins. Mr. Collins was a national treasure and has cemented himself as an Outer Banks icon though his work as a Historian at the Wright Brothers National Memorial where he shared the magnificent story of the “Miracle at Kitty Hawk”.

A faithful student to the history of the Wright Brothers, his over 40 years of learning and research led to him becoming one of the top 3 Wright Brothers historians in the world. He shared the stories of the rich history of the Outer Banks, including that of his family legacy as part of the Freedmen’s Colony and the African American history on Roanoke Island.

But Mr. Collins was much more than a historian. He cared deeply about his hometown of Manteo and its residents. He was appointed to his late mother’s Town of Manteo Commissioner seat upon her death in 2006, serving for the next 18 years. The town honored his dedication by officially declaring December 17th as the “Honorable Darrell Collins Day” to coincide with the Anniversary of Flight.

Mr. Collins also served on the Town’s Planning Board and was a past President of Dare Home Health and Hospice End of Life Coalition, as well as the founder and President of the Pea Island Preservation Society, Inc.

In 2003, Mr. Collins was personally presented with “The Order of the Long Leaf Pine” from then Governor Mike Easley, earning the state’s highest honor for those who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities.

For his whole life Mr. Darrell McNary Collins has dedicated himself to the Outer Banks’s history, its people, and its future. His contributions are immeasurable, and his legacy will have a lasting impact on the people of Dare County. May we remember all of the contributions Mr. Collins has made to the Outer Banks, Dare County, and the great state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF EXTENSION ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to introduce the “Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act” to safeguard federal funding for disaster-recovery projects. I thank U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) and U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN (R-TX) for sponsoring the companion legislation and my colleague, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA) for cosponsoring the bill. I also want to thank the California Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Transportation for their support of this critical legislation.

Americans across the country are facing increasingly frequent and severe floods and

wildfires due to the climate crisis. When disasters strike, our communities deserve nothing less than the full support of their federal government. The “Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act” will ensure state and local governments have adequate time to fully utilize federal funds awarded to repair roads and infrastructure damaged by disasters.

Current U.S. Department of Transportation regulations allow the federal government to claw back “emergency relief” funding for highway projects if those projects do not reach construction within 2 fiscal years. The “Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act” would repeal this regulatory deadline and provide up to 6 years for projects awarded these funds to advance to construction. The new 6-year deadline would start following the date on which a disaster was declared by the respective state’s governor or the president.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that any surface transportation reauthorization bill this Congress will include the “Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act.” As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with my fellow colleagues deliver this critical priority for our communities.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN DONALD VILLARD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible dedication and service of Fire Captain Donald Villard of Dearborn’s Fire Department and well wishes on his upcoming retirement.

Captain Villard started his service with the Dearborn Fire Department on June 8, 1999. Since then, Captain Villard has served as Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2, from there serving as Fire Engineer and six years later promoted to Fire Lieutenant for three years. Since 2019, Donald Villard has served as Fire Captain for the City of Dearborn. In his tenure with the department, he’s received many accolades including the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation and Fire Chief Unit Commendation and has been awarded the Safe Driving Award over five times. His awards received are a reflection of his continued dedication and commitment to ensuring our communities are safe and protected.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding service and contributions of Fire Captain, Donald Villard, on his well-deserved retirement. The 12th Congressional District thanks him for his service to our community.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA’S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERANS

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and honor seven remarkable Americans whose military service embodies the very best of our Nation.

Colonel Mark R. Baaden, Colonel John W. Mansur, Sergeant Raymond L. Burkard, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas W. Thompson, Sergeant Jeff William Patterson, Specialist Pascuale F. Coniglio, and Sergeant Lloyd Lasenby each served our country with honor and unwavering commitment.

Though their paths and ranks differed, all shared a common purpose, to defend our freedoms and protect the values that define the United States of America.

Their careers reflect decades of sacrifice and discipline. They represent the strength and resilience of our Armed Forces and the patriotism of those who serve out of a deep sense of duty.

Some among them have borne the scars of war. Others have shaped the lives of those they led and mentored. All have left a lasting impact on their units, their communities, and this country.

It is my distinct privilege to include their names in the RECORD. May their example inspire future generations to serve with the same courage, integrity, and selflessness.

HONORING SARNOVA’S NEW DUBLIN, OHIO, HEADQUARTERS

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, this is a great time to celebrate, and I want to offer specific thanks.

First, I would like to recognize Dublin Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes for her leadership and making this community a hub for companies, workers, and families to settle in.

I would also like to thank Sarnova’s CEO Brian LaDuke for investing further in our community and seeing the untapped potential here in Dublin.

For those of you who don’t know, my team and I have been working with Sarnova for years, and the longer we’ve worked together, the better results we’ve delivered for Central Ohio.

Today is a testament to that. Our relationship has resulted in more jobs and productivity in the community.

As a national leader in equipping our first responders, Sarnova has been critical to saving lives. I’m sure the first responders using their equipment on a daily basis would agree.

Whether it’s police officers, firefighters, or EMS workers, Sarnova has been there to make their jobs easier. But I firmly believe the best is yet to come for Sarnova, for Dublin, and for all of Central Ohio.

As the new facility opens, I can’t wait to see what will happen here in the months and years to come.

I want to thank them all, and I look forward to coming and visiting soon.

HONORING THE 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR SALTHERS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors Pastor Salters

on the 10th anniversary of her dedicated service to New Wine Ministries International. Her ministry is located on James Couzens, and Pastor Salters is a proud resident of Michigan's 12th Congressional District and a steadfast supporter of community empowerment.

Her tireless advocacy for single mothers, families, and the unhoused has transformed lives through a vibrant community pantry, back-to-school drives, and her "Somebody Loves You Committee," which distributes food, clothing, and toiletries to those in need. Pastor Salters leads with faith and compassion, providing financial literacy programs, Easter baskets, and Christmas gifts for children across the district. Her leadership reflects the very best of our community: generosity, service, and deep love for her neighbors.

I congratulate Pastor Salters on this incredible milestone and thank her for her unwavering dedication to uplifting those she is called to serve. May her ministry continue to thrive.

HONORING THE BASQUE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND TRADITION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the rich cultural traditions of the Basque people and to reaffirm the enduring friendship between the Basque Country and the United States. This year marks the long-awaited return of Jaialdi, one of the largest Basque festivals in the world and the largest of its kind in the United States.

For the first time in over a decade, thousands from around the world are gathering in Boise, Idaho, to celebrate Basque culture through food, music, dance, and community. Jaialdi—meaning "festival" in the Basque language—is a joyous and spirited celebration of heritage and identity.

As one of only two Basque Americans to ever serve in Congress, I am proud to celebrate Basque identity and tradition. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to strengthening the bond between the United States and the Basque Country. It is a friendship rooted in shared values, democratic ideals, perseverance, and dedication to community.

I was honored to play a role in bringing a sapling of the Tree of Gernika—an enduring symbol of Basque freedom and resilience—to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The Basque-American community has long enriched the fabric of our Nation, and events like Jaialdi are a testament to its contributions.

As Jaialdi returns to Boise this summer, I offer my warmest congratulations to the organizers, participants, and all who celebrate. May the friendship between the United States and the Basque people remain strong for generations to come.

HONORING DR. DINA BENNETT FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN JAZZ MUSEUM

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dina Bennett, Director and visionary of the American Jazz Museum (AJM), as she bids farewell to the iconic institution and transitions to new professional ambitions.

Dr. Bennett's dedication to sustaining, cultivating, and celebrating music has echoed throughout her life. Growing up in a music family, music was always around her; her father was in a band with her uncle, and as a young girl she attended the Fun Factory of the Arts, a program that aimed to nurture the talents of children with an interest in music. The camp not only gave her a space to begin exploring the artistry of music, but it recognized a capacity within her that was needed to sing. As a result, she was offered a scholarship for piano lessons, which gave her a consistent and formal setting to refine her skills. In addition to her love for music, service was an equal part of her life, starting with sharing her newfound expertise in piano. She went on to become a Minister of Music at her Baptist church, playing for Sunday school, for the choir, and for her dad before sermon.

Once Dr. Bennett hit thirty, her childhood passion began to beat louder, and she decided it could no longer be a side-gig, music and the arts would be her contribution to the world. This led her to pursue her PhD in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, with a minor in African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University. Dr. Bennett chose to study jazz; her fieldwork and dissertation took her, not to the birthplace of jazz, but to where it was raised: Kansas City. She did her anthropological work in the 18th and Vine District, and it is beyond fitting that her career in museum curation led her back to our beloved Jazz District, starting as Deputy Director of AJM and leaving as Director.

AJM is a cultural touchstone of Kansas City and a beacon of the Black community, history and legacy. As Dr. Bennett says, "In African American music, music is part of everything from birth to the grave." The strength of jazz is in its variability, in riffs and chord changes that demand improvisation and invention. Its melodies can serve as an anthem of joy, a requiem of pain, and a force of creativity and evolution. AJM appreciates and preserves jazz as an art form, with all its whims and caprices. The museum showcases legendary musicians; Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and countless others who have played a pivotal part in composing the symphony of American jazz. Beyond recounting the rich history of jazz in the United States, AJM carries the art form into the modern era by offering jazz instruction to middle and high school students and orchestrating The Blue Room, a jazz club that hosts professional artists and community jam sessions.

These contributions could not come to fruition without an outstanding conductor ensuring all the pieces move together in harmony. That is where Dr. Dina Bennett has so spectacularly shined. As an employee of AJM for nearly five years and now its Director, Dr. Bennett, has orchestrated the success of many remarkable exhibits at the museum. To mark their 25th anniversary, the museum created a timeline of jazz that allowed visitors to engage and share their own memories and moments in history, creating a community record of jazz in Kansas City. Dr. Bennett also worked on an exhibit that partnered with Disney to examine the significance of the movie Soul and incorporated an interactive piano for guests to play themselves. In these examples and many more, the skill and influence of Dr. Bennett resound. She has been instrumental in maintaining and refining our beloved American Jazz Museum that Kansas City enjoys today. Dr. Bennett has set AJM on a new course, one that will strum new engagement with jazz and its cultural wellspring, while supporting the never-ending transformation of the art form in Kansas City and beyond.

The time, effort, and sacrifice that Dr. Bennett has invested in the museum will not be forgotten and her impact will continue to ring through AJM and our 18th and Vine District for many years to come. With a surplus of gratitude, we thank her and watch with anticipation as she continues to be a formative voice in the legacy of jazz and Black music.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP EARL JEROME WRIGHT, JR., PHD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the remarkable life and legacy of Bishop Earl Jerome Wright, Jr., PhD. A faithful servant, devoted pastor, and beloved leader in the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Wright has left behind a legacy rooted in ministry, scholarship, and love.

Bishop Wright served with distinction as the Prelate of the Turks and Caicos Islands Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and as pastor of Loving Restoration Ministries and Greater Miller Memorial Church Of God In Christ. His ministry was grounded in compassion, community, and unwavering dedication to God's people. As the son of the late Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., and Mother Geraldine Marvell Miller Wright, and the grandson of the late Bishop U.E. Miller, a foundational leader of the Church and architect of the historic Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, he continued a rich legacy of faith and service.

Our prayers and heartfelt condolences are with his beloved wife Lady Elaine P. Wright, PhD, sons Earl Jerome Wright, III and Edmund Wright, and the entire Wright family. May his memory be a blessing, and may we carry forward the light he so faithfully shared with the world.