

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF DON KOEHLER

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Representative SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., to congratulate Don Koehler on his remarkable career and to extend our appreciation for his decades of dedicated service to Georgia's agriculture community.

Since 1986, Don has served as Executive Director of the Georgia Peanut Commission. Throughout his distinguished career, he has provided exceptional leadership to organizations including the Southern Peanut Growers, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, the U.S. Peanut Federation, the American Peanut Council, and the American Peanut Shellers Association. As Chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee, he has also helped shape U.S. agricultural trade policy by advising both the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Don's leadership has strengthened Georgia's peanut industry, expanded opportunities for producers, and elevated the voice of American agriculture at home and abroad. His lasting contributions have been recognized through numerous honors, including being named one of Georgia Trend's 500 Most Influential Georgians for three consecutive years and his induction into the Georgia Peanut Commission Hall of Fame earlier this year.

The mark that Don has left on this industry will not be forgotten. On behalf of Georgia's 8th and 2nd Congressional Districts, and a grateful agricultural community, we thank him for his remarkable service and wish him and Cheryl every happiness in retirement. May his next chapter be filled with good health, cherished time with his children and four grandchildren, and the many blessings he has so richly earned.

CONGRATULATING NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ON ITS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to congratulate Nova Southeastern University on its 50th anniversary and for a half century of service to our students, community and state. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University was founded as Nova University of Advanced Technology on December 4, 1964, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida;

Whereas, in 1994, Nova University merged with Southeastern University of Health and Sciences to form Nova Southeastern University;

Whereas, today, Nova Southeastern University is the largest independent institution of higher education in the southeastern United States and the ninth largest inde-

pendent, not-for-profit institution of higher education nationally;

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University has graduated more than 162,000 students who have become professionals in such areas as health care, education, law, business, computer sciences, mental and social sciences;

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University employs more than 4,000 people, and has an economic impact of \$2.6 billion, in Florida; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, congratulate Nova Southeastern University on its 50th Anniversary and commend it for its contributions to education and for its commitment to our community, state and our country.

HONORING LORI WHITE, JASON
CHEW, AND THE ENTIRE
DEPAUW GROWING GREEN AND
GOLD TOGETHER INITIATIVE

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Depauw University's "Growing Green and Gold Together" initiative, which has made tremendous progress and is soon entering its final year of implementation in 2027.

Since 1837, Depauw has provided a well-rounded, premier education to many budding scholars. It is the alma mater of several influential people in American history, including a Vice President, a Congressman, and an NBA Executive.

Depauw continually makes outstanding contributions to its students and local Greencastle residents. This initiative is part of a larger \$109 million "Bold & Gold 2027" plan that has invested in resources and amenities for the entire community.

I thank Depauw President Lori White, Project Director and Community Liaison Jason Chew, and the entire "Growing Green and Gold Together" team for giving back to our local communities every day. I look forward to seeing the completion of this greatly anticipated project soon. They have my sincere gratitude for all their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
MRS. MATTIE MAE PAUL

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, a faithful servant of God, a community activist—who lived in the district for 57 years—a beloved mother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, an inspiration to all who knew her, returned to school at the age of 59 fulfilling a lifelong dream to further her education by earning her AA Degree in Education;

Whereas, Mrs. Paul, after her retirement from Saint Francis Hospital following a 23-year career, went to work for Miami-Dade County Public Schools at Henry E.S. Reeves Elementary School;

Whereas, Mrs. Paul was an active member of New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for 40 years, where she was active with the Mission Ministry, Music Ministry/Mass Choir, Usher Ministry, Woman's Ministry and was an assistant Sunday School Teacher; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, for her commitment to God and her church, and for her dedication and devotion to her family, friends and to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALFONSO "AL" RODRIGUEZ

HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Alfonso "Al" Rodriguez, a beloved mentor, community leader, and pillar of Arizona's boxing community. After more than six decades of dedicated service to young people and boxers across the Valley, Rodriguez passed away on July 6, 2026. While his passing marks the end of an extraordinary life, his legacy will endure through the countless lives he impacted and through the continued work of the Rodriguez Boxing Club.

Al and his wife, Carmen Rodriguez, moved from Texas to Arizona, where they raised five children: Al Rodriguez, Jr., Carolina Olmos, Ofelia Hooper, Fernando Rodriguez, and Seferino "Sefer" Rodriguez. As a third-generation boxer, Al founded the Rodriguez Boxing Club in the backyard of his Mesa home in 1961, where he began coaching his children while instilling in them the notion that everyone is a "diamond in the rough". To Al, every individual possessed the potential to become a champion, both inside and outside the ring.

That belief became the foundation of the Rodriguez Boxing Club, a gym in the heart of downtown Phoenix and a refuge for generations of young people. For decades, the gym has provided a safe, welcoming environment where youth can develop discipline, confidence, and resilience. Operating as a non-profit organization, the Rodriguez Boxing Club has remained committed to ensuring that it is accessible to all members of the community.

Today, Al's children continue to carry forward his mission with the same compassion, dedication, and commitment to service that defined their father's life. Through their leadership, the Rodriguez Boxing Club remains a testament to Al's enduring belief in the transformative power of mentorship, opportunity, and community.

It is my privilege to recognize the remarkable life of Alfonso "Al" Rodriguez and to honor his more than six decades of service to Arizona's 3rd Congressional District.

COMMENDING THE LATE MRS.
LOTTIE MITCHELL HINES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to commend the late Mrs. Lottie Mitchell Hines, a dedicated community activist, successful entrepreneur, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Hines worked tirelessly to improve living conditions and provide quality and affordable housing for residents of Miami's Liberty City;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines was a staunch supporter of the democratic process and worked to ensure that South Floridians exercised their right to vote;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines invested in Miami's Liberty City and Overtown communities by opening businesses numerous businesses over the years that included a taxicab service, a restaurant, grocery store and the Model City Diagnostic Center;

Whereas, Mrs. Hines volunteered with numerous organizations and served on countless neighborhood and housing improvement boards; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Mrs. Lottie Mitchell Hines for her dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life all South Floridians.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN MEMORIAL ACT OF 2026

HON. SHOMARI FIGURES

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Act of 2026, which would authorize Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated to establish a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen are widely recognized for their exceptional combat record, including their escort missions protecting American bombers over the skies of Europe, which was vital to the Allied victory in World War II. During combat, they flew more than 15,000 sorties, escorting bombers and engaging enemy fighters. Their courage, skill, and unwavering determination helped pave the way for the desegregation of the U.S. military. Their achievements effectively broke down racial barriers, expanded opportunities for future generations of Black military personnel, and had a profound effect on the U.S. Armed Forces.

These men defended rights and freedoms abroad that they did not have back at home. They were trained as pilots on Moton Field and on Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama, going on to form units such as the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group. The Tuskegee Airmen, alongside thousands of Black mechanics, navigators, bom-

bardiers, instructors, and support personnel, were essential to American victory in World War II.

The memorial will serve as an educational resource, designed to teach future generations about one of the greatest, most well-known, most well-decorated fighting forces in this Nation's history, and to highlight the important roles that Black military pilots and support personnel played during World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen have received numerous accolades for their service, including the Congressional Gold Medal, 14 Bronze Stars, one Silver Star, 3 Distinguished Unit Citations, 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, and at least 60 Purple Hearts.

Their legacy has continued through Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a national nonprofit organization founded in 1972 and incorporated in Washington, D.C., in 1975. The organization was established to preserve the history and achievements of the original Tuskegee Airmen and engage with youth to inspire future careers in aviation, aerospace, and STEM.

It is fitting that Congress enact legislation that would authorize a memorial of the Tuskegee Airmen in our Nation's capital, allowing millions of visitors who travel to Washington, D.C. each year to learn about and honor the extraordinary service and enduring legacy of the Airmen.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

COMMENDING MR. T. WILLARD
FAIR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. T. Willard Fair, a visionary and community activist, whose distinguished and unprecedented leadership as President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami for fifty years broke down racial and discriminatory barriers in employment, education, and housing for African-Americans. His leadership transformed the climate of exclusion in South Florida in the 1960s and ushered in new era of inclusion and social change. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mr. Fair has dedicated his professional career to promoting the interest and well-being of the African-American community, and as president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami lead campaigns that successfully integrated corporations and businesses, and public and private volunteer organizations, in Miami, desegregated public housing in Dade County, and worked to make affordable housing available through countless construction and rehabilitation projects;

Whereas, Mr. Fair is deeply committed to solving complex problems, ranging from unemployment to illiteracy, that plague our community and offering solutions through expert analysis, publications in the Miami Herald, Miami Magazine, and Tropic Magazine, and through interviews with 60 Minutes, the Tom Brokaw Show, and Ebony Magazine;

Whereas, Mr. Fair has demonstrated superior capabilities in community development

while providing dynamic leadership over the Urban League of Greater Miami, which strives to improve the lives of individuals and families through employment, childcare, senior citizen services, housing, economic development, training, community service, political advocacy, and education;

Whereas, Mr. Fair co-founded Florida's first charter school, and has served as an adjunct professor at the Atlanta University School of Social Work, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida International University, and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Center for Urban Leadership;

Whereas, Mr. Fair's excellence in education, leadership, and service has been recognized by various organizations through awards, accolades, and appointments, including former Secretary of State Colin Powell's Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs, President Obama's Commission on White House Fellowships—Miami Regional Selection Panel, the United States' Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs, and a tenure as past chairperson of the Florida State Board of Education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mr. T. Willard Fair for his unwavering commitment and faithful service to our community, state and country, and the Urban League of Greater Miami.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS
"L.B." ECKELKAMP, JR.

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of my constituents and a dear friend, Louis "L.B." Eckelkamp, Jr. of Washington, Missouri. It is difficult to put into words what L.B. meant for so many people and the City of Washington. L.B. started his career at a young age, learning the value of hard work while working for his father at Diamonds Restaurant in via a Ridge as a teenager washing dishes and busing tables. He was a tireless advocate for our community, devoting his life to making the world better for those around him. He served over five decades with the Bank of Washington, the longest-serving director in its history, and he also founded the oldest law firm in Washington, Eckelkamp Kuenzel LLP.

He had a great many professional accomplishments, but he was so much more than just the successes of his career.

He believed in volunteer service and giving back to the community and was one of the most involved and engaged people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was deeply committed to the Boy Scouts, serving locally and nationally, and helped nurture so many individuals who will become leaders in their own right in the next generation. His service included roles at the YMCA, Washington Town and Country Fair, Mercy Hospital, St. Louis Archdiocese, Missouri Historical Society, and St. Francis Borgja Parrish, among so many others. L.B. worked every day of his life to inspire those around him. He was a pillar of Washington and will leave a long legacy from which we all can learn.

I am blessed to have known him personally and learned so much from him, and I know