

active member of the NAACP, the Democratic National Committee, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she celebrated 75 years of membership as a distinguished Diamond member.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Johnson was a woman of deep faith. She was a lifelong member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, serving in various leadership roles at Mount Pisgah AME in Sumter. Her faith was the foundation of her work, guiding her unwavering dedication to justice, education, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Rubye J. Johnson. She was a trailblazer who not only broke barriers but built bridges for future generations to cross. Her influence will be felt for years to come through the programs she established, the lives she touched, and the example she set. May her legacy continue to inspire us, and may she rest in peace.

**CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER  
ELLIOTT E. DOUGLAS, JR.**

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of dedicated U.S. Capitol Police Officer, Elliot E. Douglas, Jr. Officer Douglas retired this past December after 22 years of service with the Capitol Police.

The brave men and women of the USCP stand guard over our Capitol each day they come to work. They spend their careers prepared to risk their lives to protect our Capitol. Every member in this body is thankful for their service and sacrifice. Among their finest, is Officer Douglas, Jr.

Born and raised in our capital city, Officer Douglas graduated from McKinley High School in 1988. Early in his life Officer Douglas expressed a desire to serve his country after joining the U.S. Army two weeks after graduating high school. While serving his country honorably, he worked as a cannon crewmember, military policeman, and in logistics. He served in active duty from 1988 to 1991 before completing his remaining 20-year career with the army as a member of the U.S. army reserves.

In November of 2002, Officer Douglas Jr. joined the U.S. Capitol Police. Throughout his tenure he has worked in the House, Senate, and Capitol divisions of the USCP. Officer Douglas Jr. is known for his devout faith, friendliness, and reliability as an officer and friend.

While serving his country honorably, Officer Douglas Jr. has continued to advance his education, earning a bachelor's degree from Ohio Christian University in 2013, his master's degree from Regent University in 2017, and his Master of Divinity in 2024. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate at Trinity International University, located in my home state of Illinois.

As he looks back on his long career of public service, he remembers his time in the U.S. Army and the Capitol Police fondly. Some of his favorite memories include traveling to Italy, Germany, Turkey, and Central America while in the Army, and making lifelong friends with his fellow Capitol Police officers.

In retirement, he plans to continue his education and finish his doctorate and to take some much-needed time to rest and relax on the beach with his wife.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to thank Officer Douglas Jr. for his outstanding service, kindness, and professionalism. I thank him for giving us his best and for providing a safe, secure workplace every day. It has been an honor to serve with him.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT  
LAKES GATEWAYS NETWORK  
ACT OF 2025**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and protect the largest system of fresh surface water on the planet by introducing, with my good friend Representative DAVID JOYCE, the Great Lakes Gateways Network Act of 2025.

Declared a "national treasure" by Executive Order in 2004, the Great Lakes and their watershed are rich in unique natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources. With 94,600 square miles of surface water, 10,000 miles of shoreline, 35,000 islands, 532,938 acres of coastal wetlands, and 27.8 million hectares of forest, the Great Lakes support a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and two globally important migratory bird flyways.

Home to twenty national wildlife refuges, 7 national parks, lakeshores, monuments, and memorials, 6 national forests, and many state parks, wildlife management areas, and trail systems, the watershed's assets afford numerous recreational opportunities, including boating, fishing, hiking, beach use, and birding, that generate more than \$52 billion annually for the region. It is a region rich in history and cultural heritage, central to the stories of our Nation's indigenous peoples, the westward expansion of the United States, the industrial revolution, and abolition.

The Great Lakes Gateways Network Act of 2025 will help conserve, restore, and interpret the precious historical, cultural, recreational, and natural resources in the Great Lakes Watershed by catalyzing public and private investment in a linked network of gateway sites. Modeled on the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide matching grants to state and local governments, non-profits, and the private sector to develop and conserve important resources within the gateway system, enhancing public education and access regarding the region's unique heritage.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital legislation to protect our national fresh water treasure.

**HONORING MILWARD FUNERAL  
DIRECTORS**

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2025*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an historic business, Milward Funeral Directors,

as they celebrate their 200th anniversary. Milward's is located in Lexington, Kentucky.

In 1825, Lexington had a population of 5,517 and was the largest town west of the Allegheny Mountains. Joseph Milward, at the age of 21, began a cabinet and furniture business. Soon he started producing caskets for families throughout Lexington. The business grew and continued for 200 years, providing comfort and support to families during times of grief. Milward's is the oldest business in Lexington and the 37th oldest continuously operating business in the United States.

Six generations of Milward family members have led the business, beginning with Joseph Milward, continuing to Col. William Rice Milward, William Rice Milward, Jr., William Emmet Milward, Robert Emmet Milward, and Robert Emmet Milward, Jr. Through their leadership, the business grew, changed with the times, and eventually expanded to three locations. Each of these men have been involved in the Lexington community in important ways and have made significant contributions. Milward's has served Lexington families for six generations and exemplified compassion and humility in the services they provide to grieving families.

As Milward Funeral Directors celebrates their 200th anniversary, it is my honor to lift up this historic business.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF REVEREND HENRY  
WILLIAMSON, SR.**

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 6, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Chicago legend, Reverend Henry Williamson, Sr., who sadly passed away this past Christmas day at the age of 76. Reverend Williamson leaves behind an iconic legacy of faith, service, and stewardship that has positively impacted the lives of all his congregants.

Reverend Williamson was born in 1949 in Arkansas and was first called to ministry in 1967 at Israel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Gary, Indiana. He was ordained as an elder in 1969 by Bishop J. Claude Allen. His ministry spanned from 1969 through 2002 at CME churches across the country. Notably, he pastored at Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago for 16 years and led the congregation in growing to over 3,000 active members with 50 active ministries in the church. During his ministry in three Episcopal Districts, over 30 men and women accepted their call to preach in the CME Church.

In each city while serving as pastor, Bishop Williamson motivated the congregations he led to meet the spiritual and social needs of the church and the larger community. He served as the National President of PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) from 1991 to 1993, helping to stabilize the organization financially and continues to work with Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. on the National Board of Rainbow/PUSH.

Bishop Williamson was the founder and CEO of One Church One School Community Partnership Program. This nationwide program involves churches and schools in partnerships

that teach our young people to Value Life and Learning. Over 200 One Church One School partnerships across the Nation are positively impacting students through tutoring and mentoring programs, parent involvement, homework assistance programs, scholarships, and student empowerment conferences. The CME Church formally adopted a resolution supporting One Church, One School program at its 1994 General Conference.

Bishop Williamson received numerous awards and Keys to the City including the 2001 Keeper of the Dream, Purdue University's Outstanding Alumni Award, Pastor of the New Generation, PUSH Dream Keepers Award, and Black Expo Award for Community Leadership, among others. Bishop Williamson serves on the Boards of Northern Trust Bank, and World Methodist Council of Churches.

Most proud of his family, he and his wife Doris Yvonne are the proud parents of Henry, Jr., a graduate of Northwestern University, and currently a financial analyst with LaSalle Partners of Chicago, and married to Dana Soedarmo-Williamson; and Kelli Daonne, a graduate of Chicago State University, and currently teaching Music Education in the Chicago Public Schools, and married to Dr. Ramon W. Key, Jr. Their grandsons, Jonathan, Henry III, and Derek Alexander, are the source of much joy and happiness in their lives. Bishop Williamson was especially grateful to his mother Mrs. Alma J. Carvin of Gary, IN for her love, influence, and sacrifice in making him the son, husband, father and Christian leader that he is today, in the body of Christ.

Bishop Williamson was a much sought after public speaker and an advocate for civil and human rights and especially for the needs of children and youth. His favorite scripture—Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

#### HONORING BILL HARRIS

#### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and work of Bill Harris. A lifelong advocate for children and their families, especially those facing difficult circumstances. Bill believed in crafting sound public policy to help those in need, those facing trauma, and any other difficult situation affecting the lives of children. He will be remembered as a kind father, a loving husband, a good friend, and man who was willing to help those who needed it. May he rest in peace.

#### HONORING EDUCATOR NATHAN CAMPBELL—2024 WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nathan Campbell for being named the 2024 World Language Teacher of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association.

Mr. Campbell teaches Spanish at Manheim Central High School. His twenty years of teaching are best defined by his dedication and passion for helping students to succeed at broadening their horizons by learning another language.

As a graduate of Manheim Central himself, as well as Millersville University, Mr. Campbell is an alumna of two esteemed educational institutions in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Campbell on his recognition as the 2024 World Language Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and wish him continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 18, No. 19, No. 20, No. 21, No. 22, No. 23, No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, and No. 27 on January 21, 2025, January 22, 2025, and January 23, 2025 due to the passing of my father. Had I been present, my votes would have been: Yea on Roll Call No. 18; Yea on Roll Call No. 19; Nay on Roll Call No. 20; Nay on Roll Call No. 21; Yea on Roll Call No. 22; Nay on Roll Call No. 23; Yea on Roll Call No. 24; Nay on Roll Call No. 25; Yea on Roll Call No. 26; and Nay on Roll Call No. 27.

#### RECOGNIZING CLARENCE HENDRICKS FOR 60 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clarence Hendricks, a great friend and leader in the City of Chicago, for his 60 years in public service and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Hendricks worked for Paradise Haven Homes for 25 years as a Service Coordinator. His dedication to this role, which significantly improved the lives of the elderly and disabled, earned him over 36 certificates of appreciation for public service. His commitment did not go unnoticed. In 2010, he was inducted into the Mayor Daley Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, a testament to the profound impact of his work.

Prior to working for the Paradise Haven Homes, he worked for the City of Chicago for 32 years in the Department of Planning and Development as a Planner and Advisor.

Aside from his leadership in his employment, he was also a leader in the community. He served as a longtime member of PUSH Coalition, an organization founded by my father, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., in 1996. For 25 years, he has attended the Cook County Christmas Jail program with the PUSH Coalition. He is a committed PUSH Coalition advocate, and I appreciate that. It means so much for me to watch a public servant breaded in cold Chicago to be out fighting for civil rights and social justice.

Furthermore, Mr. Hendricks also values legacy, something that I cherish as a legacy child. He is a member of the Progressive Way Church of God in Christ, where his father served as a pastor. Mr. Hendricks was his pianist for 36 years and performed with the church choir all around the city of Chicago.

Mr. Hendricks was born on September 20, 1943, and has lived all his life in Chicago, IL. He was the third oldest boy out of eight siblings. In 1971, he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois.

Additionally, he also studied urban planning at Roosevelt University and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

As a retiree, Mr. Hendricks plans to spend more time with his wife, Jean Hendricks, whom he has been married to for 44 years. He also has five sons: Kenneth, Clarence, Jr., Kevin, Fountain, and David, one granddaughter, Brittany, and two grandsons, Jordan and Greyson. But his retirement does not mark the end of his public service. He plans to continue working with elected officials and fighting for civil justice, a testament to his unwavering commitment to the community.

Clarence Hendricks has lived a good life of hard work. This man has been in public service since the age of 21. I personally thank him for his service. His retirement is well deserved. I thank Clarence Hendricks for his hard work and dedication to public service for my beautiful city of Chicago. His legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the career and retirement of Clarence Hendricks.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances outside my control leading to delays in travel, I was unable to be present for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 28 and YEA Roll Call No. 29.

#### RECOGNIZING SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF WILLIAM "BILL" FARMER

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Sumter County Sheriff William "Bill" Farmer for his extraordinary leadership and lifelong commitment to serving his community. This month, Sheriff Farmer retired after 49 years of dedicated service to the residents of Sumter County.

Having first joined the Sumter County Sheriff's Office as a patrolman, Sheriff Farmer then became a criminal investigator, and Chief Deputy before being elected to Sheriff in 1996. He served as Sumter County's Sheriff for 7 terms totaling 28 years and the only Sheriff to ever run unopposed in Sumter County. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Farmer