

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MEBAL KAANYI FOR HER LIFE SAVING HEROISM

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mebal Kaanyi for her extraordinary and courageous act. On November 20, 2025, she saved a missing 4-year-old child from drowning in Lake Owasso. We are so grateful to recognize Mebal Kaanyi for her extraordinary courage, compassion, and selflessness.

Ms. Kaanyi is a Roseville Area School District bus driver. On November 20, 2025, she was completing her route in Shoreview when she noticed a young boy running down a hill towards Lake Owasso. She tried to interact with the child from her bus, but he did not respond. The boy passed through a gate and continued running towards the lake, entering the frigid water. Ms. Kaanyi leapt into action. Even though Ms. Kaanyi didn't know how to swim, she followed the child into the lake, risking her own safety to pull the child to shore. Ms. Kaanyi's quick reaction to this emergency saved the 4-year-old boy's life.

Unbeknownst to Ms. Kaanyi, the child's aunt had reported her nephew missing to the Ramsey County Sheriffs Office that same day. Following the incident, the sheriffs office contacted Ms. Kaanyi to let her know that the young boy had been reunited with his family. Ms. Kaanyi's actions will be recognized with a Life-Saving award from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Kaanyi exemplified what it means to be a good Samaritan and a leader in our community. Thanks to her heroic and selfless actions this story had a happy ending. In Ms. Kaanyi's own words, "we need to live in a society, whereby we care for one another." Our community is safer and stronger because of people like Ms. Kaanyi who embody compassion in their daily lives. May we all follow her example and stand ready to help our neighbors when they need us most.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and honoring Mebal Kaanyi for her remarkable courage and her outstanding dedication to the well-being of our community.

HONORING JOANNE MEADE YOUNG AS CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES- SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the privilege of honoring women on the Central Coast who have made a meaningful impact in our community through the Women of the Year Award. This year, it is my pleasure to recognize JoAnne Meade Young of Santa

Barbara, California, for her outstanding contributions to education and community leadership.

JoAnne's lifelong commitment to educational equity was shaped early in life. Born on February 11, 1946, she attended a segregated two-room Catholic school—an experience that profoundly influenced her dedication to ensuring that low-income children, children of color, and students with learning disabilities received equitable access to learning and support.

JoAnne began her career in Ohio, where she served in Title 1 schools as a Primary Language Development Specialist and later as a Library Media Specialist. Her talent for instructional leadership led her to Middletown, Connecticut, where she became an Instructional Consultant responsible for diagnostic testing and monitoring literacy and math programs. In 1987, JoAnne made history as the first Black principal in the Hamden Connecticut School District.

After relocating to Santa Barbara in 1990, JoAnne once again broke barriers, becoming the first Black principal in Santa Barbara County when she was appointed principal of Mountain View School in Goleta. Over the next 17 years, she served as principal of Brandon, El Rancho, and Ellwood Schools and directed the Goleta State Preschool. Throughout her career, JoAnne centered the well-being and success of all students. She introduced innovative enrichment opportunities—including drumming circles, swing dancing, and visiting artist programs—and organized a Spring Sing performance at UCSB's Campbell Hall that brought together hundreds of students and families.

Following her retirement in 2007, JoAnne continued her public service by directing the Santa Barbara County Spelling Bee, co-founding the Santa Barbara Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, and serving on the board of the Family Service Agency. She remains a dedicated community leader through her work with Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County where she is Treasurer and Tri-Chair of Membership & Community Engagement, and she represents District 2 as a Commissioner for Women.

In 2024, she was elected to the Democratic Central Committee for District 2 and was honored as Women of the Year by California State Senator Monique Limón.

It is with great pride that I honor JoAnne Meade Young as a 2025 Woman of the Year for her exceptional leadership, her steadfast advocacy for educational equity, and her lasting impact on the Santa Barbara community. Her work has enriched generations of students and continues to strengthen the Central Coast.

RECOGNIZING SACRAMENTO MET- ROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and their unwavering commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the Greater Sacramento Area.

Founded in 2000, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District "Metro Fire" is a testament to the power of unity and a shared passion for public safety. This robust California Special District was forged from the strategic unification of 16 smaller, independent departments, culminating in the final merger of the American River Fire Department and Sacramento County Fire Protection District.

Today, Metro Fire is a vital safeguard for the lives of over 720,000 Sacramentans across a 359-square-mile area. From humble beginnings, it has evolved into one of the largest and most responsive fire agencies in California, operating 41 state of the art fire stations strategically positioned across the region. Sacramentans can rest assured knowing Metro Fire's highly trained professionals are prepared to handle a diverse range of emergency situations.

Beyond emergency response, the Metro Fire district excels in building public trust and ensuring transparency. Their commitment to providing timely and relevant data empowers the public, community leaders, and decision makers to make informed, data driven choices.

My mission as your congresswoman has always been to ensure our region's first responders are equipped with the absolute best tools and technology the federal government can help provide. Our partnership has expanded training for "front line" firefighters and advanced rescue capabilities through the acquisition of cutting-edge thermal imaging technologies to better locate victims in low-visibility environments. As we look ahead, I remain committed to working with Metro Fire to keep them on the frontline of emergency and disaster response, with the resources necessary for any situation they may face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the dedicated men and women of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District for 25 years of exceptional service and their enduring promise to the community.

• 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.

DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS OF
FERNANDO V. COTA FROM FORT
SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEME-
TERY, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to join Republican and Democrat colleagues in passing the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act, critical legislation that advances the Peace Through Strength priorities of President Donald Trump.

Led by Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike ROGERS, this bill represents the ongoing commitment for national security, modernization, servicemembers, and readiness to defend America at home and around the globe.

I am particularly grateful my language was included which:

Supports the Savannah River Site and nuclear modernization.

Authorizes defense research programs at higher institutions like the University of South Carolina, bridging the gap between academia and national security.

Repeals the Caesar Act, giving Syrians a chance for a better future after years of a murderous conflict and 54 years of sadistic dictatorship of Ba'athist Socialists.

The Senate, with the leadership of Armed Services Committee Chairman ROGER WICKER, will have to pass this legislation so that President Trump can sign it into law on behalf of American families.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting Peace Through Strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, accelerating murderous attacks on civilian Ukrainian energy systems to freeze Ukrainians in the sadistic tradition of Stalin in order to starve Ukrainians.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JARRETT CROSSGROVE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lieutenant Commander Jarrett Crossgrove, United States Navy, during his outstanding service as a legislative fellow in my Washington, D.C. office this year. Throughout 2025, Jarrett played a vital role in supporting my work on the House Armed Services Committee and representing the proud Navy community both active duty and retired—in eastern Connecticut.

As Ranking Member of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, which has the solemn, critical duty of overseeing much of our Nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and various Air Force programs and policies, his experience and perspective were instrumental to me and my office's work. Every year, the Department's legislative fellowship program brings highly talented individuals to Congress who provide invaluable ben-

efits to Members of the House and Senate focused on national security issues. Officers like Jarrett bring real-world experience from their time in the classroom at the various military academies and training schools, as well as experiences from their time serving on active duty. This year, as our subcommittee actively worked to boost our Nation's critical shipbuilding programs in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, with a particular focus on ensuring full funding in our Virginia and Columbia-class submarine programs, Jarrett provided real life experience and informed judgement in the research and drafting this complex legislation.

Jarrett also seized initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs that benefit eastern Connecticut. He participated in meetings with Navy and Marine Corps leadership, toured General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard to view ongoing construction of our Block V Virginias and first-in-class Columbia submarine, and visited Naval Submarine New London where he served in the past to discuss ongoing installation and submarine force operations. Jarrett utilized his experience as an Engineer on USS *SANTA FE* (SSN763) and as Executive Officer on USS *ALABAMA* (SSBN 731) (GOLD) to provide invaluable insight into naval reactor issues, submarine maintenance and sustainment capacity, and vital personnel issues. Lastly, he engaged in persistent communication with the embassies of Australia and the United Kingdom to facilitate various engagements in my office and around Capitol Hill and, most importantly, leveraged those relationships as Congress and the Navy continue their strong support of the trilateral AUKUS security agreement.

Jarrett's work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and first-hand experience as a Submarine Officer made an immediate benefit and memorable impact on my office and subcommittee staff. He was also an energetic, affable colleague to my entire congressional staff, willing to help in small ways and big ways to serve the constituents of Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District. On a personal note, we both share a passion (some might call it an obsession) for the great game of golf, and dissected all 2025 major championships, particularly Rory McIlroy's victory at the Masters. Aside from submarines and sports, his curiosity and thoughtfulness on issues outside of his Navy portfolio was much appreciated by the whole team, and myself and staff will be friends with Jarrett for life.

After his Junior Officer tour aboard USS *Topeka* (SSN 754), tour as an engineer on USS *Sante Fe* (SSN 763), on shore duty in Guam, and Executive Office tour on the USS *ALABAMA*, I am thankful for his family's tremendous sacrifice to our Nation and for landing in the District of Columbia for the current phase of their life. Though Jarrett's presence will be deeply missed by both my personal staff and Seapower staff, I know he will be an incredible leader and asset to the U.S. Navy during his upcoming command tour.

Mr. Speaker, as has also been the case for each of his predecessors that my office has had the opportunity to host, I have benefitted greatly from Jarrett's training and background. This recurring process that the fellowship program fosters and strengthens civilian-military understanding for future leaders of the greatest military in the world, which I believe is a necessary component of a strong democracy.

Our Nation is best served at sea and here onshore by officers and leaders of the highest caliber, like Jarrett. He embodies such qualities and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our Nation, and we owe him much gratitude. I ask that the House join me in wishing LCDR Jarrett Crossgrove, his wife Tiffany, and their two children, Audrey and Emily, the best of luck in their next life chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. SARA CLEMENTINE
JAMES BENSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Sara Clementine James Benson of Albany, Georgia, who passed from labor to reward on November 27, 2025. A devoted educator, community leader, and stalwart of faith, Mrs. Benson dedicated her life to the service of others and to the betterment of southwest Georgia. A service to celebrate her remarkable life will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Born on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1941, in Albany, Mrs. Benson—known to family and friends as Clem or Clemmie—was the daughter of the late Owen F. James, Sr., and Mary Harrell James. She graduated from Monroe High School in 1959 and, with the support of a full scholarship from the Las Amigas Civic and Social Club, earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Albany State College in 1963. She went on to receive a Master of Business Education in 1969.

For more than three decades Mrs. Benson shaped young minds and strengthened academic institutions. Mrs. Benson understood that "Education is the passport to the future, it belongs to those who prepare for it today." She served Albany State University with distinction—first as secretary for the Hazard Laboratory School and later as a valued member of the Business Education faculty. Upon her retirement in 1993, she was honored with the title Assistant Professor Emeritus of the School of Business. She continued to share her knowledge as an adjunct instructor at Albany Technical College.

A committed sorority sister and civic volunteer. Mrs. Benson was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Gamma Sigma Chapter in 1962 and later served in Delta Eta Omega Chapter in numerous leadership roles. She was a Golden Soror with more than fifty years of service. Someone once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Benson paid her rent and she paid it well. Her civic involvement extended to Las Amigas Civic and Social Club, the Albany State University National Alumni Association, the Southwest Georgia Association for Convalescent and Aging Persons, and many other local organizations. She was very giving and never shy about asking others to give to the causes that she cared deeply about. She was very persuasive and would not take "no" for an answer.

Mrs. Benson's faith and service were deeply rooted in Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where she