

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

provided leadership in New Members Orientation, the General Missionary Ministry, the Floral Club, Benevolence Ministry, and the Prison Ministry. A lifelong learner and warm companion, she enjoyed reading, bowling, playing the piano, and card games—always guided by the philosophy to “lift as you climb.” The great agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong, because someday in life you will have been all of these.” Mrs. Benson went far in life because she treated all people with dignity and respect and always reached her hand back to help others.

Mrs. Benson leaves behind her husband of 59 years, Winfred Benson, Sr.; her daughter, Thedjuana (Jerry) Nicholson; a sister, Juanita James; three granddaughters, four great-granddaughters, a great-great-grandson; and a wide circle of family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors who will cherish her memory.

Mr. Speaker, Sara Benson's devoted work as an educator, mentor, and community servant made a lasting difference in Albany and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Sara Clementine James Benson.

I join her family and the people of southwest Georgia in mourning her passing and in celebrating a life lived in service to others. May her example continue to inspire our communities to educate, uplift, and care for one another. We pray that all who knew and loved her will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the weeks, months, and years to come.

RECOGNIZING LOIS WASHINGTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lois Washington as she celebrates her 100th birthday. It is my pleasure to join her family and friends in honoring the remarkable life she has led.

Born on December 12, 1925, at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Ms. Washington moved with her family to New York City at the age of five and she never looked back. Since then, she has proudly called our great city home. She grew up here, married here, started her family here, and has lived an extraordinary life in the greatest city in the world. Lois also worked for the New York Telephone company and retired after 25 years of hard work and service.

As a resident of Co-op City, she is an active member of her community and a longtime member of the Co-op City Methodist Church. Although she is retired, that has not slowed her down, she watches the news, keeps up with current events, calls family and friends each day, and sometimes doesn't go to sleep until midnight, almost reverting back to her teenage self. She loves her shows and loves her family and the Bronx more. After many incredible years, Lois's contagious positivity and

kindness is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in wishing Lois Washington another year of good health and happiness as she celebrates the milestone of her 100th Birthday.

HONORING BISHOP DUANE TISDALE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the pastoral service of Bishop Duane C. Tisdale in Toledo, Ohio. I will be honored to join his congregation and our community leaders to celebrate his 40th anniversary this Sunday at his church, Friendship Baptist Church, where he was first elected to Associate Pastor in 1985. Beginning on December 9, 1986, Bishop Tisdale has been the congregation's senior Pastor.

As noted in the history, “Bishop Tisdale's leadership, preaching and teaching gave birth to a new concept of ministry for the congregation of Friendship Baptist Church. As a result, Friendship Baptist Church adopted this new concept, entitled ‘New Vision’ as its church vision. ‘New Vision’ embraces the spiritual, mental, physical, economical, and social dimensions of our total being, therefore emphasizing ‘Ministering to the Total Person.’ Through ‘New Vision’ Friendship Baptist Church integrates a holistic ministry in all areas that affect man, his family, and his worship.”

CEO of Friendship New Vision, Bishop Tisdale has led the effort toward practical applications of the “New Vision” philosophy. The outreach ministry offers drug and alcohol outpatient treatment, transitional and residential housing, tutoring, teen services and an economic empowerment and financial freedom initiative.

Bishop Tisdale was born to Pastor Clyde E. and Thelma M. Tisdale, their fourteenth child. Accepting the call to ministry at the age of fifteen, he began preaching at his home church where his father pastored, Rossford First Baptist Church. He was ordained at age nineteen.

In 1987 Bishop Duane Tisdale married his wife Thelma. Together they raised five children: LaTonya, Jerel, Samuel, Joshua, and Sara.

Continuing his calling, Bishop Tisdale received his Bachelor's Degree in Religious Education from the Calvary Bible Institute, Toledo, Ohio in 1981. He went on to attain a Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1994. In June 2010 Bishop received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from St. Thomas Christian College, Jacksonville Florida. Bishop Tisdale completed his Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Black Church Studies from Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio in June 2011.

Bishop Tisdale became affiliated with Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship International in 1995 and he is a student in the Full Gospel Graduate School of Episcopal Studies. Since then, he has served on the national level in the Pastor's Division on the Advisory Board under Bishop H. Jerome Ross. On the district

level he served as the Northern District Overseer in the State of Ohio. On the state level, he served as the First Administrative Assistant to State Bishop William Morris. From the years of 2001 to 2023, he served as Bishop of the State of Ohio.

A pillar in our community, Bishop Tisdale saw the critical need for financial services in the neighborhoods. He inspired civic and community leaders to rally around a “New Vision” and established the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union. Since its founding in 1996, the credit union has grown into a strong \$10 million institution of stability, serving small and larger depositors alike while developing its mission to secure the economic futures of Toledo's central city residents.

Throughout his life, Bishop Duane Tisdale has led with a servant's heart. He has been minister, mentor, leader and friend. A guiding light in our community and to his congregation, we thank Bishop Tisdale for forty years of faithful service and look forward to his continued light.

RECOGNIZING DECEMBER 21, 2025 AS WORLD MEDITATION DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunday, December 21, 2025, as World Meditation Day, which is designated by the United Nations to celebrate the growing recognition of meditation as a practical tool for mental well-being and peace.

The day will culminate in a global moment of stillness at 10 am ET, when millions of people across time zones will join a live, guided meditation led by global humanitarian Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of The Art of Living Foundation. Gurudev has devoted his life to serving humanity, promoting peace, and advocating human values for over 45 years.

Gurudev is universally acknowledged for his ground-breaking work in stress-management and personal development through powerful breathing techniques such as SKY Breath Meditation, which have benefited more than 800 million people across 182 countries.

Various events throughout the United States will bring communities together in a shared moment of peace and connection during the holiday season, supporting mental well-being, resilience, and utility across our cities.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence in recognition of the World Meditation Day.

CONCERNS WITH H. RES. 939

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, impeachment is the most consequential tool Congress to has protect our Nation from a president or other public official who has betrayed their oath, abused their power, and committed high crimes and misdemeanors against the American people. Impeachment necessitates a deliberate process of investigation and a thorough documentation of crimes committed