

Constitutional issues and his instinctive grasp of the complex details of legislation has been a steady guide as I've endeavored to be worthy of my own responsibility to serve We, the People.

Mr. Mills is highly deserving of the 2025 Horatio Alger Award. I'm fortunate to know him and to call him a friend. I thank him for his commitment to our community, and I congratulate him on this prestigious accomplishment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND SAMUEL J. WILLIAMS, JR. OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Reverend Samuel J. Williams, Jr. of Farmville, Virginia. Reverend Williams was a devoted father, pastor, educator, historian, and civil rights activist who inspired generations of Virginians to advocate for justice and equality. Throughout his lifetime, he remained a steadfast pillar of his community, dedicating over eight decades to the fight for civil rights and social progress.

A trailblazer in the movement for desegregation, Reverend Williams played a pivotal role in organizing student-led demonstrations aimed at integrating public schools and places of worship. He was a prominent leader in the protests against the segregated school system in Prince Edward County, Virginia, which became a focal point in the national struggle for educational equality.

Notably, Reverend Williams was instrumental in the historic student strike on April 23, 1951, at Robert Russa Moton High School, led by Barbara Rose Johns. Built in 1939 as the first free-standing segregated high school for African American students in Prince Edward County, Moton High was originally designed to accommodate 180 students. However, by 1951, it was overcrowded, serving 477 African American students in inadequate conditions. The strike captured national attention and garnered the support of NAACP attorneys, ultimately contributing to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

Reverend Williams' legacy of activism continued to shape Farmville and beyond. In recognition of his contributions, the Town of Farmville honored him in December 2024 by renaming Watkins Street to Williams Way. This tribute brought the community together to reflect on his unwavering commitment to justice and the transformative impact of his work.

Reverend Williams is remembered as a leader who called attention to injustice, inspired change, and encouraged his community to persevere with faith and determination. He reminded Farmville and the Nation of the timeless words, "We shall overcome, someday." His unwavering dedication to justice not only shaped the course of history but also paved the way for a more equitable future in education and civil rights.

Farmville has embraced his legacy as a champion of change, honoring his courage

and rights commitment to social progress. His life's work continues to inspire future generations to stand against injustice and remain steadfast in the pursuit of equality. Reverend Samuel J. Williams, Jr. will forever be remembered as a man of faith, conviction, and service—one who never wavered in his commitment to his community and the ideals of justice and equality.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEREMY KERR

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an American and Arizona hero, Sergeant First Class Jeremy James Kerr, who we lost on February 23, 2025.

Sergeant Kerr was born in Buffalo, New York on September 26, 1973, to Joann and Gary Kerr and spent most of his childhood in Columbus, Ohio where he was active on the soccer and wrestling teams in high school. He entered the United States Army in 1992 as an infantryman and joined the elite Army Rangers where he became airborne certified and completed the rigorous Ranger School.

In 1993, Sergeant Kerr deployed to Somalia as part of Operation Gothic Serpent. While there, he was thrust into the forefront of a defining moment of United States military history: the Battle of Mogadishu.

He was honorably discharged from the Army after 5 years of service, and in 2009 he joined the Arizona Army National Guard as an Information Technology Specialist. Shortly after in 2011, he was deployed to Afghanistan where he provided critical support to combat operations for the raid that brought Osama Bin Laden to justice. He deployed to Jordan in 2018 and was a key leader in many Warfighter training exercises.

Sergeant Kerr served with the 158 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) from 2012 until his passing and was known for his technical expertise and witty personality. He had a gift for uplifting those around him. Always quick to tell a joke or share trivia, he brightened the darkest moods and kept morale high on long days.

He had a passion for fantasy football and March Madness Brackets, always organizing leagues for his unit, and he enjoyed listening to Eighties and Nineties rap.

Sergeant First Class Jeremy Kerr will be deeply missed by his friends, his wife Heather and his extended family members, and the Arizona National Guard community. We stand with his family in gratitude for his service and sorrow at his loss. His legacy will remain an enduring part of Arizona National Guard history. I thank him, and Ranger that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to

vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 58; NAY on Roll Call No. 59; and YEA on Roll Call No. 60.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 58.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to the passing of a cherished member of my family, my elder brother and former Member of Congress, the Honorable Lincoln Diaz-Balart, I was unable to vote the week of March 3, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on H.R. 856—Roll Call No. 54; YEA on H.R. 758—Roll Call No. 55; YEA on Ordering the Previous Question on H. RES. 177—Roll Call No. 56; YEA on H.J. RES. 177—Roll Call No. 57; YEA on H.J. RES. 61—Roll Call No. 58; YEA on H.J. RES. 42—Roll Call No. 59; NO on Motion to Table on H. RES. 189—Roll Call No. 60; YEA on S.J. RES. 11—Roll Call No. 61; and YEA on H. RES. 189—Roll Call No. 62.

HONORING ABRAHAM ALEXANDER'S OSCAR NOMINATION FOR BEST ORIGINAL SONG FOR THE FILM SING SING

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Alexander on his first Oscar nomination for Best Original Song for the film *Sing Sing*. Mr. Alexander grew up in Fort Worth and began his musical career at Niles City Sound, a Fort Worth-based studio. He performed at open mics around the city before releasing his debut album, *Sea/Sons*.

In recent years, Mr. Alexander has achieved numerous musical milestones in Fort Worth. He debuted his album at Bass Hall in 2020, performed at Sundance Square in 2022 before a crowd of over 100,000 people, and played alongside Leon Bridges during a sold-out show at Dickies Arena. He was recently honored at Sundance Square, where he received a City Proclamation from Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker.

The nominated song, "Like a Bird," was written and performed by Mr. Alexander and Texas native Adrian Quesada. Mr. Alexander learned of his nomination at his home in Fort Worth and credits the city for fostering his artistic growth. Fort Worth has a rich legacy of artistic innovation, and Mr. Alexander is a proud continuation of this tradition.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Mr. Alexander's outstanding achievement and his rich

contribution to the City of Fort Worth. I extend my best wishes to him and have no doubt that

he will continue to create award-winning music in the future.