

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHAIRMAN BILLY CYPRESS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Billy Cypress, the longest-serving Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe, which lies within my district. On behalf of Florida's 18th Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Billy's family, the Miccosukee Tribe and all who mourn his loss.

Chairman Cypress was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to the sovereignty and prosperity of the Miccosukee Tribe. Elected to the Miccosukee Business Council in 1973, he served for over a decade before becoming Chairman—a position he held for more than 26 years.

During his tenure, he achieved significant milestones that transformed his community. Cypress was instrumental in expanding the Tribe's national prominence and self-governance and championed the creation of Miccosukee Resort and Gaming. In effort to commemorate the Tribe's culture and history, Chairman Cypress established the Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum. He standardized many of the Tribe's government processes, increasing professionalism and improving quality of life for the Miccosukee. And, his decisive leadership helped secure funding for vital programs, which greatly improved healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

A strong advocate for our environment, the Chairman played a critical role in protecting Florida's Everglades, working to restore natural waterflow into the everglades and helped implement the first pollution control standards. The Chairman's efforts underscored his people's deep connection with the Everglades and helped ensure their access to this land for future generations.

His influence extends beyond Florida, as he established the Tribe's first embassy and built diplomatic relationships with foreign nations. Perhaps most importantly, Billy will be remembered for far more than his accolades and impressive accomplishments.

As current Chairman, Talbot Cypress, recalls: "Billy was known for his humor, warmth and generosity—always making time for family, friends and Tribal members." Mr. Speaker, may his legacy of hard work, courage and wisdom continue to live on and inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE LANDMARK CASE MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens—the oldest Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States, which for nearly one hundred years has advanced the civil, economic, and educational interests of Hispanic communities.

LULAC has been at the forefront of some of the most consequential battles for inclusion and recognition in our Nation's history, including the landmark case of Mendez v. Westminster.

When Sylvia Mendez was rejected from attending school because of her Mexican heritage, her parents, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, joined together with the Estrada, Guzman, Palomino, and Ramirez families to challenge the status quo. As the families sought to take action against segregation in their school system, LULAC helped bring their fight to court. Its steadfast commitment and financial support helped to elevate the case from a local lawsuit to front and center in the national conversation on civil rights.

Together, these families led the struggle against segregation in California's public schools which culminated in a historic win, and which paved the way for the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision just seven years later.

I am deeply honored to accept an award from LULAC in recognition of the efforts I led to rename the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse after Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez—the first Federal Courthouse to be named after a Latina. Usually, federal courthouses are named after judges, but history and the law are not just shaped by the judges that make the decisions. They are molded by the people who have the courage to challenge unjust laws. This recognition is a testament to the advocacy of all the parents, children, and advocates who challenged unjust laws and won. I congratulate LULAC on its continued action and advocacy which stands as an enduring commitment to championing civil rights and serving Hispanic communities across the country.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STORY OF
KRIS LEBRON ROMERO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the remarks recently

given by my constituent, Kris Lebron Romero, a student at Common Ground High School in New Haven, Connecticut. Kris participated in a press conference held in New Haven highlighting some of the impacts our community is feeling due to the freeze of federal funding. It is a powerful reminder that behind every federal budget and program dollar we invest in our communities, there is a human face—a very real impact on the lives of those we are elected to serve.

"Hello, my name is Kris, I am a student at Common Ground High School, and I am deeply honored to stand here today as a voice for my fellow students. If you had told me a few weeks ago that a single order could drastically change my life, I wouldn't have believed you. Yet, here I am, and here we are. The federal funding freeze and the termination of critical grants have taken away so much from me and countless students and community members.

My school has a program called the Green Jobs Corps. This program provides New Haven High School students with leadership development training and paid internships. Not only within our school but in collaboration with non-profit organizations across New Haven. It is an incredible opportunity for students to connect, engage with their community, and gain real-world job experience before graduating high school. For many of us, including myself, it was more than just a job, it was a way to support our families and build a foundation for our futures.

I was a part of this program. I worked with one of its partner organizations, Haven's Harvest, a food recovery non-profit that collects food that would otherwise be thrown away and redistributes it to people in our community who are food insecure. I believe this is one of the most important and meaningful things anyone can do. Through this job, so many doors opened for me. I met elders from across the community, performed at events for other organizations, and learned to give back on my own time.

I have a clear vision for my future. I aspire to become a graphic designer working with nonprofit organizations that need assistance in communicating effectively with hard-to-reach audiences and amplifying their outreach efforts. Through my time in the Green Jobs Corps, I've discovered a deep passion for using design to help organizations connect with their communities and share their messages more effectively. A simple program at my school helped me map my career pathway. The mentorship, training, and work experience made all of this possible. I felt secure. But then the federal funding freeze happened, and everything changed.

Haven's Harvest, a volunteer-run organization that relies on grant funding to operate, is struggling to continue its mission. An organization that does nothing but feed those in need is now at risk of shutting down because of this freeze. Green Jobs Corps, which employed over 70 students with jobs, has also been put on hold. Without the necessary funding, they can no longer pay students for their very real and impactful work. This vital program, which did nothing but provide students with life-changing opportunities, is now in jeopardy.

And it's not just the Green Jobs Corps. My school itself is in danger. Common Ground

• 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.

operates on grants, community support, and state funding. If those grants are taken away, what does that mean for us? For the students? For me? It means our education is in danger. I am currently a junior at Common Ground High School. I have been here since I was a freshman and can't imagine being anywhere else. Common Ground has opened my eyes to so many possibilities. But now, I am worried that future generations won't have the same opportunities—they won't experience the transformative power of this school.

This is happening right now, and it's happening fast.

I came here today to ask you to fight. Fight for youth development programs. Fight for our schools. Fight for our teachers. Fight for the future of our students."

HONORING REVEREND JIMMY SWAGGART'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Jimmy Swaggart for his 90th birthday. Throughout his life, Reverend Swaggart has been a beacon of faith and inspiration, leaving a legacy through his preaching and ministry.

Reverend Swaggart hails from humble beginnings in Ferriday, Louisiana. Early in his career in the 1950's, Swaggart preached throughout rural Louisiana, living in church basements, and homes of pastors. During this time, Reverend Swaggart received an offer to join a record label as a gospel artist but opted instead to follow his calling "to preach the gospel."

By 1961, Reverend Swaggart was ordained by the Assemblies of God and began reaching wider audiences through the radio. He also founded his own brick-and-mortar church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over the following two decades, Reverend Swaggart began telecasting bible studies, Christian music, and his weekend services. 1987 was arguably Swaggart's most influential year on record. Swaggart's TV ministry reached an estimated 510 million people in 145 countries. His sermons and educational programs yielded \$150 million a year to his church, bible college, and mail-order business. On a daily basis, donations averaged an astounding \$500,000, and Reverend Swaggart poured every penny into delivering the word of God across the world.

Reverend Swaggart's influence gained international esteem and influence over the 1990's and 2000's by spreading the Word of God through his remarkable sermons. Today, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries is comprised of the Family Worship Center, Crossfire Youth Ministries, The Evangelist Magazine, Family Christian Academy, and Jimmy Swaggart Bible College (JSBC). Swaggart's SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) provides Christian programming 24/7 and is available around the world in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The ministries remain headquartered on 270 acres in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries has evolved into a family business with Frances, his wife of 72 years, their son Donnie, and grandson Gabriel. Frances Swaggart embodies unwavering faith, exceptional leadership, and substantial

impact on the Work of God, making her a personification of the 31st Chapter of Proverbs. Donnie serves as Executive Vice-President of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and Pastor of the Family Worship Center Church. Donnie has traveled globally evangelizing and teaching from Holland to Papua New Guinea on the Holy Spirit, with his Pentecostal foundation clear in every message. Gabriel Swaggart, President of JSBC and co-pastor of Family Worship Center, has a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, a Master's in Christian Ministries from Oral Roberts University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership while managing operations at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and SBN.

At 90 years old, Reverend Jimmy Swaggart continues his dedication to spreading the message of the Bible and Jesus Christ through his ministry. His unwavering commitment to spreading Christ's love has touched the hearts of millions around the world, leading countless people to salvation. Reverend Swaggart's contributions to Christian ministry and broadcasting have left an immeasurable mark on the world of evangelism.

Happy birthday to Reverend Swaggart. I greatly commend his dedication to God, to Country, and to the State of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE BILTMORE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the iconic Biltmore hotel.

For a century, the Biltmore hotel and its renowned golf course have stood as a beacon of elegance, history, and world-class hospitality in the heart of Coral Gables.

Since opening its doors in 1926, this historic national landmark has welcomed presidents, dignitaries, and guests from around the world.

In 1942, the Biltmore was transformed into a military hospital, serving our brave service members as an Army Air Force hospital, and later as a Veterans Administration hospital until 1968.

After reopening in 1987 and following a 10-year restoration beginning in 1992, the grand hotel and golf course have entered a new era, reclaiming its former glory and embodying Miami's rich sporting heritage; its halls and tower have served as the backdrop for a century of unforgettable moments.

The Biltmore is more than just a hotel—it's a living landmark, a symbol of Miami, and a treasured piece of our community's history that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MARK KAPLAN

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we thank Mark Kaplan, the University of Florida's

Vice President of Government and Community Relations and wish him the best in what comes next.

Kaplan, a Gator Grad, has served the University in this role since 2018. Calling it his dream job, Kaplan has built countless relationships and developed strong ties for the university at the local, state, and federal levels. The university community has benefited from his wisdom, collaborative spirit, calm, steady approach to his work, and ability to get things done.

Telling Florida Politics, Kaplan said, "We talk about UF being among the most comprehensive universities in the country, with one of the few places in the country that has a vet school and a pharmacy school and a medical school and a law school. And one of the things that comes from all of that is it adds to the scope of things that you're paying attention to and issues that you get to work on."

Kaplan worked as Governor Jeb Bush's chief of staff, special counsel for the Speaker of Florida's House of Representatives, and a judicial clerk to a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. He also worked as the executive director for the Florida Housing Finance Corp. and as global head of public affairs at Mosaic Company.

We wish Mark and his wife Sherry a wonderful next chapter. I thank him for his service and Go Gators.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ZAGLOUL "ABU SAAD" KADAH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible contributions of Zagloul "Abu Saad" Kadah, a pioneering Syrian American entrepreneur and innovator in Silicon Valley. His lifelong dedication to technology, business, and mentorship has paved the way for countless others in the industry.

After immigrating to the United States in 1966, Zagloul earned his M.S. in electronics from San Jose State University while working and raising a family. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish successful businesses in solid-state relay design and laser services for the medical industry. Beyond his professional achievements, he has dedicated himself to research and writing on religion and philosophy.

On February 21, 2025, Sync—Syria—Silicon Valley honored Zagloul with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his legacy. His work has inspired a new generation of Syrian technologists, and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was delayed as a result of my delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63; YEA on Roll Call No. 64; and YEA on Roll Call No. 65.