

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE 101ST BIRTHDAY OF GENEVA GIVENS

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 101st birthday of an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Geneva Givens—a remarkable milestone in a life defined by faith, family, and resilience.

Mrs. Givens was born on March 2, 1924, in Caruthersville, Missouri, during the presidency of Calvin Coolidge and in the same year as President Jimmy Carter. Over more than a century of life, she has lived through some of the most defining moments in our nation's history—including the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War.

In March of 1939, she married Robert Givens, and together they raised five children: Mary Ann Cramer, Louise Givens, Charles Givens, Tony Givens, and Jessie Givens. Her family has grown to include 7 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren—each a living testament to her enduring love and legacy. In 1951, she made Buffalo, New York her home and began building a life rooted in faith and service.

Mrs. Givens became an active member of Calvary Baptist Church, where she served faithfully on the Number 1 Usher Board. Later, she joined Elim Christian Fellowship and was consecrated as a church mother under the leadership of Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Bronner—a role she embraced with grace and wisdom.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Givens served her community with care and diligence. She worked at the Fisher Price Toy Company, Child and Family Services, and ultimately the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she retired from Building Management in 1994. Her contributions helped shape the lives of countless individuals and families.

A woman of deep faith and vibrant spirit, Mrs. Givens finds joy in simple pleasures—walking during the warmer seasons, listening to gospel music, reading her Bible, watching television, and cooking for her loved ones. Her signature dishes—sweet potato pie, biscuits from scratch, and fried chicken—continue to bring joy to all who gather at her table. Even at 101 years old, her heart remains full of dreams: she plans to travel to Las Vegas to visit her sister and attend a New York Knicks game to cheer on her favorite players, Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor and thank Mrs. Geneva Givens for being a truly remarkable woman—an embodiment of strength, grace, and unwavering love. Her life continues to inspire all who know her, and her legacy is a profound blessing to her family, her community, and generations to come. We celebrate Mrs. Geneva Givens on her 101st birthday and honor a life that continues to be richly and faithfully lived.

### ALARM AT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DANGEROUS ATTACK ON EDUCATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Henry Peter Brougham once said, "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave." The Trump Administration's deliberate evisceration of education—from preschool to higher education—is a dangerous attack on our democracy that will damage our people, communities, and country.

Given that education is a key factor in economic well-being, federal education law promotes equity and access so that students from various backgrounds can thrive. President Trump, with the help of Elon Musk, is gutting the Department of Education under the false pretense of returning power to the states which already have the primary responsibility for public education.

In addition to cutting federal workers that oversee Head Start, President Trump reportedly plans to eliminate Head Start in his FY26 Budget. Head Start reduces educational disparities so that lower-income children enter school ready to learn. Gutting it directly harms over 1 million parents who rely on Head Start to work, over 800,000 children, and tens of thousands of workers—undermining vulnerable children and communities.

For K–12 education, Trump's actions jeopardize key programs that improve educational success for low-income students and students with disabilities. Contrary to federal law, Mr. Trump plans to withhold Title I grants that help districts meet the educational needs of students with limited financial means based on his personal whims about curricular content. Title I assists 26 million children across the nation and is a principal tool to address the disparities that impact marginalized groups, such as Black and brown students. Further, the Republicans Budget plans seek to dramatically cut education funding, with Illinois at risk of losing approximately \$793 million and 12,000 teachers. Further, Trump's cuts threaten the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) that provides protection and funding for students with disabilities. Illinois received one billion dollars in IDEA funding in 2024 to strengthen education for our youngest Illinoisans. Federal support is vital to providing students with an educational foundation for success.

The attacks on higher education are equally devastating to the well-being of our citizens and economy, promoting a greater divide between the haves and have nots. This Trump Administration seeks to slash key federal programs that improve access to higher education, including Pell Grants, loans, work-study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and CCAMPIS. Approximately 45 percent of full-time Black stu-

dents graduate from public four-year colleges and universities within six years, with finances playing a large role in this outcome. Stripping first-generation, low-income, or minority students of the few financial and academic resources the government provides reduces college affordability and, once again, places students who are already at a disadvantage further from the finish line. In addition, he signed an executive order refusing Public Service Loan Forgiveness to non-profits that he does not like.

President Trump further is targeting higher education institutions as if they were the enemy, withholding billions in research funds, removing visas from students and faculty, illegally-halting grants, and threatening to revoke their nonprofit status simply because their work does not align with the President's agenda. Illinois is home to several R1 institutions whose work revolves around studying under-represented populations that are impacted by these decisions. I helped expand these federal education laws and research funding, and I will fight to protect them.

The Trump-Musk administration and Congressional Republicans seek to demolish the educational foundation of our country to fund tax handouts for the wealthiest individuals and companies. I am especially appalled by the President's myopic focus to write race, gender, and ability out of history. We must remind ourselves that federal investment in education fosters enrichment and equal opportunities. If we allow this evisceration of education to continue, our country and students will wither.

### HONORING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF RUSSELL E. WROTEN

**HON. ANDY HARRIS**

MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned about the passing of Russell E. Wroten of East New Market, Maryland.

Russell E. Wroten served as Chief of Police for the City of Cambridge from 1971 until he retired in 2001. His years of service were marked by bravery and dedication, and his accolades include the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal, Wounded Combat Medal, an Exceptional Service Award, and Governor's Citations. Russell was well respected for his unwavering commitment to his officers and community. In 2024, Mr. Wroten was honored with being the first recipient to be inducted into the Cambridge Police Department Hall of Fame.

Chief Wroten passed away at the age of 84 years old on Monday, April 14, 2025, in Easton, Maryland. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Regina Wroten of East New Market; their daughter, Christina (Chrissy) and son-in-law, Tom Thompson of Cambridge; granddaughter, Savana (Jon) Linthicum of

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Rhodesdale; very special great-granddaughter, Arya; and several nephews and a niece. Besides his parents, Mr. Wroten is preceded in death by his brothers; Matthew and George Wroten.

The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for Chief Wroten's commitment to service and his dedication to Maryland.

REMEMBERING MR. DARRELL  
ROWSER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Darrell Rowser, a man whose strength, dedication, and unwavering love for his family left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Rowser's commitment to his work, faith, and most importantly, his family, defined the essence of his character.

Born on September 14, 1958, in Buffalo, New York, to his late father Bertin Rowser, and his mother, Marlene Rowser, Mr. Rowser was the third of five children. He received his formal education through the Buffalo Public School system and graduated from Kensington High School in 1976. He then went on to receive his Associate's Degree at Medaille College.

Mr. Rowser was a dedicated athlete, excelling in basketball, track, and Taekwondo. He won All-High championships in the 400-meter and 800-meter races at Kensington High School and later continued playing basketball, winning championships with the North Buffalo Community Center league. After 30 years of training, he earned a Black Belt 2nd Dan in Taekwondo. Mr. Rowser also had a love for music, playing bass guitar with his brothers in a band, and filling his home with his favorite songs.

After college, Mr. Rowser began his career at General Motors for 10 years, later working at Ford Motor Company Stamping Plant where he retired in 2024 after 33 years. While at Ford, Mr. Rowser rose to the role of Team Leader, earning him a Six Sigma Lean Belt certification which represented his commitment to knowledge, efficiency, and excellence. Mr. Rowser was known to be fair but firm at work, and with his recognizable voice that commanded attention, he was greatly respected by his team.

What truly defined Mr. Rowser was his deep love for his family. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife Jacqueline and their children Brandon and Brianna. Mr. and Mrs. Rowser shared a 37-year marriage built on love, faith, and cherished memories. He is survived by his wife and children, his mother Marlene Rowser, mother-in-law Violet Lewis, brother-in-law Darryl Prude, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Darrell Rowser lived a life devoted to his family, his work, and his faith. His unwavering love for his family and his commitment to those around him left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Mr. Rowser believed deeply in the importance of family, and he worked tirelessly to create a life full of love, faith, and cherished moments. His strength, kindness, and dedication will always be remembered,

and his legacy will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched.

APPRECIATING THE UNITED WAY  
OF THE MIDLANDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the United Way of the Midlands on their 100th birthday.

Founded in 1925 and now serving six counties in central South Carolina, the United Way of the Midlands continues to unite people and resources to improve the quality of life in the community.

The United Way of the Midlands is a branch of the 135 year-old United Way which works to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities to advance the common good. In the Midlands, this purpose is seen through tackling problems like homelessness, children's literacy, and lack of access to healthcare.

In support of these initiatives, Ms. MacKenzie Scott donated a bountiful ten million dollars in 2020, and due to her generosity, the organization decided to make it their goal to match her donation.

Proudly, United Way of the Midlands announced that upon reaching their 100th birthday, they have achieved that goal and matched her donation.

Donations are distributed in the community to tackle issues such as affordable housing, improve workforce development, and encourage improvements in child literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) studies.

I am grateful for the commitment of the United Way of the Midlands to serve and better the people of South Carolina.

RECOGNIZING SCLERODERMA  
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scleroderma Awareness Month, an important commemoration dedicated to increasing public understanding and awareness of Scleroderma, a chronic autoimmune disease that impacts approximately 300,000 individuals across the United States. Scleroderma, meaning "hard skin," is a rare autoimmune disease characterized by the abnormal growth of connective tissue, leading to skin thickening and potential involvement of internal organs, which can result in serious complications.

Each June, we unite with the brave patients, families, and devoted healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to advocate for research, treatment, and support for those affected by scleroderma. This month not only serves as a time of recognition but also as a call to action to advance our commitment to finding a cure for this debilitating disease.

Organizations such as the Scleroderma Foundation, the Scleroderma Research Foun-

ation, and the Scleroderma Family Registry and DNA Repository lead the way in research and patient advocacy, providing hope and meaningful support to those impacted. Through public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and patient-focused initiatives, these organizations are making great progress in increasing awareness and advancing scientific breakthroughs.

Despite these efforts, there is still much work to be done. Many patients experience delayed diagnoses due to a lack of awareness and limited understanding of this complex disease. Enhancing diagnostic tools, boosting research funding, and expanding access to care are crucial for improving patient outcomes.

Today, I stand to amplify the voices of scleroderma patients and their families. We must continue to support efforts that promote research, education, and compassionate care for those impacted by this disease. It is my hope that through our collective efforts, we can bring much-needed awareness and resources to the fight against scleroderma, ultimately improving the lives of those affected and bringing us closer to a cure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY SELECKY

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my colleague Rep. DAN NEWHOUSE, to honor the life and legacy of Washington's former Secretary of Health, Mary Selecky. For over four decades, Mary dedicated her life and career to public health throughout Washington. She began her career as the administrator for the Northeast Tri County Health District. In 1999, she was appointed as the Secretary of Health by Governor Gary Locke and continued in that role under Governors Chris Gregoire and Jay Inslee until her retirement in 2013.

During her tenure, Mary was instrumental in reducing smoking rates and increasing childhood vaccination coverage across the state. She was known for her commitment to preventive care and for strengthening the collaboration between state and local health agencies.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mary was deeply connected to her community in Colville, Washington, where she resided for over 50 years. Her dedication to both her local community and the broader public health landscape left a lasting impact on the state. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mary Selecky's life and contributions to public health.

CELEBRATING THE 92ND BIRTH-  
DAY OF RUSSELL J. SALVATORE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. I rise today to celebrate the 92nd birthday of a remarkable individual, Russell J. Salvatore, a beloved member of our community and Army veteran