

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALVIN STIMAGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated leader and community servant, Mr. Alvin Stimage, for his 34 years of outstanding service at the Vicksburg YMCA.

Mr. Stimage has been a pillar of the Vicksburg community, promoting fitness, well-being, and mentorship through his work at the YMCA. When the facility first acquired exercise equipment, Mr. Stimage became instrumental in training members on how to use the machines effectively, demonstrating his commitment to health and wellness.

Throughout his career, Mr. Stimage has worn many hats, from helping run the YMCA's childcare program and working in maintenance to serving as one of the organization's first personal trainers at the Vicksburg location. He currently serves as a personal trainer and the facility's night supervisor, roles through which he continues to positively impact countless lives.

Mr. Stimage's contributions extend far beyond physical fitness. He has been a mentor to young people, offering guidance and instilling values of respect and resilience. One example of his impactful mentorship involved a young man who was able to calmly and effectively handle a tense situation, crediting Mr. Stimage's influence for his ability to de-escalate the incident.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Alvin Stimage for his exemplary dedication to the Vicksburg YMCA and his unwavering commitment to bettering his community. His legacy of leadership and service will inspire generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA TAPANES

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melissa Tapanes on being named President of the Builders Association of South Florida.

Ms. Tapanes is an accomplished attorney who specializes in complex legislative and quasi-judicial matters. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, holding leadership roles with the Miami Downtown Development Authority and numerous civic and legal organizations.

Her dedication to education and public policy began early, with an appointment by Governor Jeb Bush and her successful advocacy for the establishment of a public law school at Florida International University.

Throughout her career, Ms. Tapanes has earned prestigious honors, including the South Florida Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and Ford's "Mujeres Legendarias." She has been consistently recognized by The Legal 500, ranked in Chambers USA, and acknowledged by Super Lawyers and Florida Trend.

I look forward to working with Ms. Tapanes in her new role as President of the Builders Association of South Florida.

RECOGNIZING RHIENNA MCCLAIN FOR RECEIVING THE ATHENA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhienna McClain for receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award. This award celebrates the leadership of women who create opportunities for other women. Ms. McClain exemplifies these qualities through her entrepreneurial vision and commitment to her community.

As the owner of the 1776 Restaurant in Crystal Lake, Ms. McClain has established a fine dining experience that prioritizes high-quality, gluten-free, and allergy-safe cuisine. Through her leadership, she has strengthened the local economy by fostering partnerships with local businesses and sourcing ingredients from Illinois farms. Her restaurant not only offers an upscale dining experience but also serves as a community space that brings people together.

In addition to her entrepreneurial accomplishments, Ms. McClain is deeply committed to her community. She previously served as the chairperson of Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, an organization that provides critical mentorship services to children, helping them develop the confidence they need to succeed. Since 2018, she has been a passionate advocate for the organization, opening doors of opportunity for countless young people. Furthermore, Ms. McClain has dedicated her time and expertise to various community development efforts, including serving on the Economic Development Committee of Crystal Lake, the McHenry County Department of Health, and the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Rhienna McClain, whose exceptional contributions have made a lasting impact on McHenry County. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on receiving the ATHENA International Leadership Award, a recognition that is truly well-deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTROOM ACCESS ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Restroom Access Act of 2025, which would require a retail establishment to provide an individual who has a medical condition requiring immediate use of a restroom, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, access to an employee-only restroom when such an establishment does not have a public restroom. Individuals would be required to present a Department of Labor-issued identification card certifying that they have an eligible medical condition.

Individuals who have certain medical conditions need immediate access to a restroom. When public restrooms are not available, these individuals may experience uncomfortable or embarrassing situations. As long as there are no safety concerns, which this bill addresses, these individuals should be able to use an employee-only restroom.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CHANGE OF COMMAND DANIEL RUSSELL

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, rain or shine, turbulence or calm, the Red Lancer's Commanding Officer is always steady at the helm—because leadership doesn't come with an 'abort mission' button.

I rise today to congratulate Commander Daniel Russell on his promotion to Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron VP-10 of the United States Navy, also known as the Red Lancers.

When it comes to leadership in the Navy, it's more than just a title. It is a calling, a duty, and a profound responsibility. It requires vision, dedication, and commitment to those who serve. Commander Russell has already demonstrated these qualities in abundance, serving with distinction as Executive Officer, guiding this squadron with a steady hand and an unwavering focus on operational excellence.

A native of Troy, North Carolina, Commander Russell is a graduate of East Carolina University, where he earned a degree in the science of biology. He began his military career by enlisting in the United States Navy in 2005 and has since held numerous assignments, including on the USS *Maryland* (SSBN-738), USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74), and successfully completed two deployments.

Throughout his service, he has not only accumulated over 2,000 flight hours in various

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

aircraft, but numerous military decorations, including the CAPT Tim Tibbets Leadership Award, six Navy Commendation Medals, as well as the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

As he steps into the role of Commanding Officer, I know that Commander Russell will continue to execute vital maritime patrol and reconnaissance missions with precision and uphold the highest traditions of Naval Aviation.

Mr. Speaker, Commander Russell is a true patriot and distinguished American who has devoted himself to the service of our Nation. It is appropriate that we honor him today by expressing our gratitude for his dedication and wishing him well on his new command.

And while he may not be able to push the "abort mission" button, I know that when the pressure rises, Commander Russell will rise higher.

CELEBRATING THE 2024 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 10th Congressional District, I want to recognize the exceptional Hispanic leaders of Florida's 10th congressional district who have shown outstanding dedication to the Hispanic community.

These individuals have worked tirelessly to uplift and empower our communities, contributing to the preservation and advancement of Hispanic culture, values, and traditions.

Their commitment to service and advocacy has had a profound impact on our community and beyond, their names are:

Yesica Ramirez
General Coordinator, The Farmworker Association of Florida
Tatiana Quiroga
Executive Director, Come Out With Pride, Inc.
Stephanie Loraine Piñero, MSW
Executive Director, Florida Access Network
Sonia Ledger
Former Local Group Lead, Moms Demand Action
Nancy Rosado, MSW
Community Advocate, UCF RESTORES and Alianza Center
Melissa Marantes, Esq.
Executive Director, Attorney, Orlando Center for Justice
Karla Radka
President and CEO, Senior Resource Alliance
Cyndia Morales Muñoz, Ed.D.
Senior Director, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, University of Central Florida
Andrea Guzmán, Ed.D.
Vice President for Access and Community Engagement, University of Central Florida
Laudi Campo
Florida State Director, Hispanic Federation
William J. Diaz
Founder, Casa de Venezuela Orlando & Made in Venezuela Business Club
Marco Antonio Quiroga
Founder and Executive Director, Contigo Fund
Juan Pablo Santa Luna
Director of Strategic Business Development, Mills Gallery Arts and Multicultural Foundation

Juan Marcos Vilar
President and CEO, Alianza Center
Fernando I. Rivera, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology and Director, Puerto Rico Research Hub, University of Central Florida
Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet
Executive Director, Hope Community Center
Eric Camarillo
President & Founder, SALT Outreach Inc.
Rev. Dr. David Maldonado
Bishop of Christ International Church and Co-Founder for Hablamos Español
Chief Charlie Salazar
Fire Chief, Orlando Fire Department
Rev. Dr. Jose Rodriguez
Rector, The Episcopal Churches of Christ the King and Jesus de Nazareth

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERNARD J. MCCULLOUGH

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bernard J. McCullough, better known as "Bernie Mac" by his fans. Born on the south side of Chicago on October 5, 1957, Bernie would go on to become a singular comedic talent who spent his entire career in show business, bringing laughter and joy to his audiences.

To his fans and a world that adored him, he was comedian Bernie Mac. But his real name was Bernard Jeffery McCullough born October 5, 1957 as the second child of Mary McCullough and Jeffery Harrison, who had already made their life transition. Bernard, or "Bernie", as he was affectionately named, grew up in the gang-ridden Englewood Community of Chicago. Always a leader and not a follower, he gained the respect of most of the gang members without ever joining. He was forever the clown and always known for making people laugh. He accepted Jesus Christ at a young age and attended Burning Bush Missionary Baptist Church.

His big break came in 1990 when he won first place with a remarkable performance in the Miller Lite Comedy Search. From that point, his popularity spread, and he garnered attention prompting Russell Simmons to give him a spot on his groundbreaking show Def Comedy Jam. Bernard's first stage appearance was so well received that he was invited back to perform a second time. From that moment on, the Mac Man was a phenomenon. He would soon go on tour as the opening act for Chaka Khan, Barry White, the Whispers and many other performers.

Bernie made his film debut with the release of *Mo' Money* in 1992. His breakthrough performance, however, came in his role as Pastor Cleaver in Ice Cube's hit movie, *Friday* (1995).

Bernie Mac's comedy was raw, honest, and fearless. His stand-up often revolved around his personal experiences, delivered with his signature raspy voice and bold stage presence. He gained widespread recognition as one of the four comedians in the 2000 stand-up film *The Original Kings of Comedy*, where his set stole the show with its hilarious takes on family and discipline. The Bernie Mac Show, his self-titled sitcom, was a groundbreaking hit, blending humor with heart-

felt moments as he played a fictionalized version of himself raising his sister's kids. The show earned multiple awards and cemented his place in TV history. Bernie transitioned seamlessly into acting, appearing in films like *Ocean's Eleven*, *Mr. 3000*, and *Guess Who*. His charisma made him stand out in every role he took on.

Even after his passing in 2008, Bernie Mac remains a beloved figure in comedy. His fearless approach and unique comedic style continue to influence comedians today, impacting hundreds of lives still. Bernie launched The Bernie Mac Foundation in Chicago, Illinois in 2005 as Founder and Chairman of the Board to bring awareness to sarcoidosis and build a bridge between awareness and a cure. He dedicated his mission to informing the community on the impact of sarcoidosis to patients and transform the opinions of treatment. Bernie used his celebrity to support the Bernie Mac Sarcoidosis Translational Advanced Research (STAR) Center at the University of Illinois Health Sciences System to provide patients with outstanding care. He was also passionate about patients receiving evaluations in a timely, compassionate and courteous manner for all forms of sarcoidosis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Bernard J. McCullough.

COMMEMORATING ARMED FORCES DAY AND THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of our brave men and women for Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2025. Armed Forces Day is a 75-year tradition to thank all of those who are currently serving, as well as those who have served and sacrificed to defend our freedom. It is because of their duty, honor, and courage that the United States of America remains free today.

This Saturday, the Western New York Armed Forces Committee will honor eleven service men and women to be honored at its 62nd Military Ball, and it is my honor to include in the RECORD their names as a tribute to their service, and the service of their brothers and sisters in arms:

RP2 Amber N. Cardillo—United States Navy.
LS1 Anthony Taylor—United States Navy Reserve.
SSG Jacob Hinds—United States Army.
SSG Andrew Sulski—United States Army Reserve.
SSG Kaleb Acosta—New York Army National Guard.
SSG Bradley A. Bray—New York Guard Honoree.
BMT Brett Lawrence—United States Coast Guard.
MST2 Krishnan Muthaiah—United States Coast Guard Reserve.
SSgt Favan G. Perez—United States Marine Corps.
Sgt Codey Aboff—United States Marine Corps Reserve Honoree.
SrA Tess E. Barone—United States Air Force.