

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOMING TECHO-BLOC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to welcome Techo-Bloc to the Second District of South Carolina. In the fall of 2026, Lexington County will be the home of the company's first South Carolina operation.

With an investment of \$45 million, more than 40 new jobs will be created contributing to the growth of opportunities within the state. I appreciate the courageous leadership of their President, Charles Ciccarello.

Techo-Bloc specializes in manufacturing high-quality hardscape products such as pavers, slabs, and retaining walls for residential and commercial outdoor spaces.

With more than 850 employees, Techo-Bloc distributes products to over 900 stores across the United States and Canada.

Best wishes to Techo-Bloc for success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH BIRTHDAY OF LEONA HARPER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th birthday of a great leader and dear friend in Western New York, Leona Harper. Leona is a lifelong Buffalonian whose innumerable contributions to our community have made a difference in the lives of so many. With nearly three decades of service at M&T Bank and prior experience at HSBC Bank, Leona's professional accomplishments are eclipsed only by her love of family, especially her beloved children Brandon and Jacqueline, as well as her adored grandchildren. A tireless volunteer, Leona stands as a pillar of the community, always ready to help those in need, serving as a shining example of what it means to be a citizen in the City of Good Neighbors.

Born on April 26, 1960, in Buffalo, Leona Harper is a graduate of Bennett High School and Bryant & Stratton College. Her father, Norman, inspired her love of public service through his leadership in the United Auto Workers. Her life has been marked by selfless public service. From her work reactivating the St. Martin DePorres Boy Scout Troop No. 39, to her efforts to assist those impacted by the Tops Supermarket domestic terror attack, to her corporate service as a member of M&T Bank's African American Resource Group, Leona Harper never ceases to find new ways to give back to the community that has given her so much. She has served as her block club president, a member of the Naomi Chapter No. 10 Order of the Eastern Stars, and is always ready to jump into action.

Through her various roles and tireless efforts, Leona Harper has demonstrated a profound commitment to the well-being of Buffalo's children, families, and communities, carrying forward a legacy of service and activism. As a result of her work, lives have been transformed, and the Queen City is a better place to live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Leona Harper the happiest of birthdays and thanking her for her volunteerism. I know that she will continue to play an important leadership role in Western New York for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter ("Friends") as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Since its founding in 2005, Friends has served as the independent nonprofit fundraising partner of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and a vital advocate for the welfare of homeless pets in our community.

Friends was established by a small group of devoted animal lovers who envisioned a better future for pets in need. Over the past two decades, their commitment has never wavered, and their impact has grown through the support of like-minded donors, volunteers, and business partners.

In 2024 alone, the generosity of Friends' supporters made possible a live release rate of over 90 percent at the Shelter. Their contributions provided personalized leashes and collars to 2,579 adopted pets. Parasite prevention treatments reached 2,189 cats, 1,821 dogs, and 135 rabbits. Medical care was administered to 46 animals suffering from injury, illness, or abuse. Dental treatment and pain relief were given to 47 pets in need. In addition, spay or neuter surgeries and vaccinations were provided to 622 community cats, a key step in reducing stray populations.

As Co-Founder and President Evelyn Grieve has stated, "Their generosity allows us to continue transforming the lives of both pets and people in our community for the better." When we improve the well-being of animals, we strengthen the emotional and mental health of the individuals and families who welcome them into their homes. Companion animals offer comfort, stability, and joy, and ensuring their safety and care creates a more compassionate and connected community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for their extraordinary service over the past 20 years and wishing them continued success in their mission.

CELEBRATING MR. JAMES A. BUSSEY'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the 99th birthday of a dear friend of longstanding to my wife, Vivian and me, Mr. James A. Bussey, Sr. His birthday celebration will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, at the St. James AME Church in Columbus, Georgia. David Viscott once said that, "The purpose of life is to discover your gift. The Work of life is to develop it. The Meaning of life is to give your gift away." Mr. James Bussey has given his life away in service to others and we are all better for it.

James Andrew Bussey was born in Harris County, Georgia in 1926 and attended Spencer High School, where he graduated in 1944. Upon graduation, James was accepted into Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he remained for one year before marrying Ms. Marguerite Lindsey in 1947 and moving to Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Bussey is an industrious man who worked two jobs every week to support his family because he wanted to provide a better life for them. He constantly had to fight the scourge of racism and because of this, he left Columbus in 1957 to move to Washington, D.C. where he obtained employment at the Washington Hotel. But the stench of racism was not far behind as Mr. Bussey discovered that his weekly paycheck was \$20 less than that of his White counterparts. With a heavy heart, he returned to Georgia and settled in Columbus.

Because of his grit, determination and unwavering faith in God, Mr. Bussey found employment as a mail handler with the United States Postal Service. He took pride in delivering the mail and especially enjoyed the East Highland route, which allowed him to visit his mother and grandmother frequently. Becoming a Mail Handler allowed Mr. Bussey to connect with his community on a personal level, and he was known to sing as he walked with joy along his daily route. In addition, he would support and assist community members with literacy troubles and would read and respond to mail whenever asked. Mr. Bussey's dedication to his job as a Mail Handler and passion for members of his community granted him the recurring opportunity to drive the postal vehicle in the annual Christmas parade in Columbus.

Mr. Bussey retired from the United States Postal Service in 1976, and upon his retirement, returned to college with his undying resilience and dedication, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbus College in 1988. Mr. Bussey became a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and to this day lives by their mission to promote brotherhood and service to all mankind.

• 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.

Furthermore, Mr. Bussey is a longtime active member of St. James AME Church where he is an officer, a member of the Sons of Allen, and a soloist with the choir. He has volunteered with the Ambassadors of the Columbus Visitors Bureau and has appeared on stage and performed in musical productions at the Liberty Theater, the Three Arts Theater, and the Columbus RiverCenter. He is known for his skills on the dance floor which he continues to exhibit regularly at local senior center ballroom dance activities.

Mr. Bussey continues to live a selfless and generous life, serving as a proud Christian, father, husband, and friend and has been blessed with four children, James Jr., (Deceased) Janet, Margaret and Michael. I have known Mr. Bussey and the Bussey family for almost 60 years. He is one of the finest human beings that I have ever met in my lifetime. None of the success that he achieved in life would have been possible without the Grace of God as well as the love and support of his loving wife, Marguerite, his children, other extended family members and friends. He is an example of what Jesus meant when he said, "He that is great among you shall be a servant and he that is greatest among you shall be a servant unto all."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me and my wife, Vivian; along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our best wishes to Mr. James A. Bussey, Sr. on the occasion of his 99th birthday. As we celebrate yet another year of Mr. Bussey's remarkable life, we would all do well to follow the example of his legacy: striving to improve the quality of life of others by giving away the gift of his extraordinary life for the betterment of his community and all humanity. May God continue to bless him with life, health, joy, and happiness.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
REVEREND JAMES D. PETERS, JR.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of Reverend James D. Peters, Jr., a titan of civil rights, a moral leader in Denver's faith community, and a man who dedicated his life to lifting up the voices and needs of the most vulnerable among us. Reverend Peters leaves behind a powerful legacy of faith in action, tireless advocacy, and an unwavering commitment to Justice.

Born in an era marked by deep segregation and inequality, Reverend Peters found his calling at the intersection of ministry and the Civil Rights Movement. He marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama, crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 in the fight for voting rights. He was present at the founding meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But as those closest to him will attest, Reverend Peters did not merely honor history—he made it, lived it, and carried its mission forward in Denver.

Reverend Peters moved to Denver in 1978 to serve as the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church—a position he held with distinction for nearly three decades. Through this ministry,

he became a spiritual anchor, civil rights leader, and moral conscience for the city. Though he was never a candidate for public office, he helped shape public life in Colorado. He chaired the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and served as a trusted voice within the Colorado Democratic Party, always pushing for a broader, more inclusive vision of Justice.

Reverend Peters was truly a man of deep conscience and unwavering resolve. He stood up for what was right—even when it was not popular—and he never lost the fire that fueled the Civil Rights Movement. He always stood firmly with community leaders demanding justice and systemic reform. His presence gave strength to all Denverites and lent moral clarity to those fighting for change.

His advocacy extended far beyond politics and deep into people's lives. Reverend Peters inspired countless elected leaders, including State Senator Rhonda Fields, whom he encouraged to run for office after the tragic loss of her son. On a personal note, Reverend Peters was a friend and confidante of mine for many years, generously sharing his wisdom and advice.

Reverend Peters was not only a champion for civil rights, he was also a unifier. As his ministry reached across the racial divides, he reminded us that faith calls us not only to believe, but to act, not only to pray, but to serve, not only to hope, but to build.

He loved the Rockies. He loved the Broncos. He loved his friends. And above all, he loved his church and community.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we honor the life of Reverend James D. Peters, Jr., a man who walked with history, who shepherded a city, and who never ceased to care for the people of Denver and beyond. May we carry forward his vision of justice, compassion, and unity.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL"
LEONARD CHIN, FORMER CATHAY POST NO. 186 COMMANDER
AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize William "Bill" Leonard Chin for his many years of dedication to our country, both through his military service and active involvement within the Seattle Chinese-American and Veterans communities.

Bill valiantly served during World War II in the U.S. Army with the 93rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in the Central European Campaign and the Battle of Rhineland, and his dedication to service continued long after his active military duty. Upon graduating from Seattle University, Bill pursued a career as an accountant at Boeing and then as a life and health insurance broker, where he spent over 50 years serving numerous clients in the Seattle Chinese community. He displayed exemplary work ethic and was widely known for his willingness to help others.

Outside of his career, Bill carried this same unceasing devotion to serving those around him. He played an instrumental role in creating the Oriental Restaurant Association in 1970, which provided a healthcare plan for Chinese restaurant workers. He was also a committed

member of Cathay Post No. 186, where he served as Commander and contributed to fundraising efforts for the Kin On Nursing Home and youth scholarships. Additionally, Bill served as the English secretary for the Gee How Oak Tin Family Association and the Bing Kung Association, and as an officer of the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce. He left a resounding impact on all those around him and was a true leader of the various communities he was part of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Bill Chin for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to his community. I am deeply grateful for his important efforts towards protecting our country, advancing healthcare access, and fostering connection. His legacy will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DUNN LORING
WOODS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Dunn Loring Woods Civic Association on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Fairfax County and the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, the Dunn Loring Woods neighborhood consists of approximately 550 homes situated on about 300 acres.

By the summer of 1964, construction of the homes was complete. The next spring, residents formed the Dunn Loring Woods Civic Association (DLWCA) to enable the community to speak with one voice on local issues and seek improvements in the neighborhood.

Dunn Loring Woods is known as an exceptionally warm, friendly, and welcoming neighborhood. Many of the original owners still reside there, and those who have moved often return to attend community events such as block parties. Residents tell stories of young residents helping their elderly neighbors, and civic association meetings that more closely resemble friends stopping by to chat.

By May 1965, the Civic Association was formally organized, allowing Dunn Loring Woods residents to pursue a voice in county government and improvements in the neighborhood.

Over the last 60 years, Dunn Loring Woods has led the effort to promote civic pride among its residents, inform the community about local and regional issues that affect the residents, and advocate for land use policies and public service investments that benefit the community. The quality of life and community spirit enjoyed by the residents now is a testament to their success.

As the former president of my own civic association, I know firsthand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits us all.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the Nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Dunn Loring Woods on its 60th anniversary and thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.