

nonprofits, including NAMI Hernando. He has consistently gone above and beyond—whether offering professional expertise, mobilizing support through Meares Plumbing, or showing up as a visible advocate for mental health awareness. His quiet leadership, humility, and spirit of service have made a lasting impression on all who work with him.

It is clear Tommy Baker has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NON-DISCRIMINATION HOME RULE ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Non-Discrimination Home Rule Act of 2025, which would end the applicability of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) to the District of Columbia government. This bill would treat the D.C. government in the same manner as state governments under RFRA, and allow D.C. to protect LGBTQ+ and reproductive rights.

RFRA, which provides more protection for religious exercise than the First Amendment requires, applies to the federal government and the D.C. government, but not to state governments.

While RFRA was designed to be a shield to protect religious freedom, it is being used, as evidenced by the Supreme Court's 2014 *Hobby Lobby* decision, as a sword to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community and women. Republicans in Congress have cited RFRA as a justification for trying to overturn D.C. non-discrimination laws. For example, since 2015, Republicans have repeatedly tried to nullify or block D.C.'s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014, which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and their families based on reproductive health decisions, claiming, in part, that it violates RFRA.

This bill would help ensure that D.C. is able to enact and carry out non-discrimination laws. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING JAYDEN MCKINNON OF DYETT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an extraordinary achievement by a remarkable young man from my district, Jayden McKinnon, a vital member of the Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts boys' basketball team, the Eagles. This team achieved a historic victory, winning the 2024–2025 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 2A State Champion-

ship with a decisive 52–41 win over Althoff Catholic High School on March 15, 2025.

This championship is more than just a win on the court; it is a profound testament to the resilience, determination, and unity of the Dyett High School community and the vibrant Bronzeville neighborhood.

A decade ago, Dyett faced the threat of closure, but through powerful community advocacy and unwavering commitment, its doors remained open. Today, the Eagles' triumph, in which Jayden McKinnon played a crucial role, symbolizes the incredible potential that flourishes when a community invests in its youth and its institutions.

Jayden McKinnon, along with his teammates, demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and teamwork throughout their season, navigating challenges and competing at the highest level. His hard work and dedication were integral to the team's success, culminating in this well-deserved championship that brings immense pride and joy to his school, family, and the entire community.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to Head Coach Jamaal Gill, whose visionary leadership and guidance steered the team to this historic victory, and to Assistant Coaches Kimani Harris, Pierre Adams, and Nathan Townsen, Jr., whose mentorship was vital to the players' development.

Jayden McKinnon's contribution to the Dyett Eagles' journey from near closure to state champions is an inspiring narrative for us all. It underscores the critical importance of supporting our public schools and investing in programs that empower young people to achieve their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jayden McKinnon and the entire Dyett High School boys' basketball team on their momentous achievement and in honoring them for the inspiration they provide to communities across our Nation.

RECOGNIZING HUGH TOWNSEND

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Hugh Townsend has made as a volunteer with the Board of Hunter's Ridge Homeowner's Association. Over the past 30 years, Hugh has worked tirelessly on the Board, mostly serving as President. When safety concerns arose about people walking on the street, he successfully fought for the installation of sidewalks at no cost to our HOA. He negotiated the development of a front entrance monument to maintain the community's visibility. Hugh consistently attends meetings to keep us updated on new laws and changes affecting his community. He pursued certification as a Homeowner Board member before it was required by the state. Regardless of the issue, he remains positive and works towards reasonable resolutions, even while facing medical challenges. Beyond his own community, Hugh volunteers extensively. His roles include Vice Chair of the Penny for Pasco Oversight Committee for Education, Field Training Officer with the Pasco Sheriff's Office Citizens

Service Unit, Board member of the Council of Neighborhood Associations, Eagle Scout Review member, Greek Orthodox Youth Association leader, Juvenile Justice Advisory Board member, and more. He has served in various capacities to improve Pasco County, demonstrating his commitment to volunteerism and community service.

It is clear Hugh Townsend has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the enduring legacy and spiritual leadership of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, a historic institution founded in 1906 by Reverend Walter A. Robinson in Greenville, Mississippi. Born from the Old Jerusalem Church, New Jerusalem began with eleven members and a powerful vision rooted in faith, unity, and service.

Rev. Robinson served as pastor until 1923, laying a strong foundation for the generations that followed. Under his leadership and that of his successors, the church survived the devastating 1927 flood and continued to grow—constructing a new building in 1951 and establishing the city's first African American church Usher Board in 1928.

New Jerusalem stands firm in its belief that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, and that salvation is found through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. The church emphasizes water baptism, the observance of communion, and a personal, growing relationship with Christ through obedience, spiritual discipline, and transformation.

The church's pastoral legacy includes a line of devoted leaders:

Rev. Walter A. Robinson (1906 to 1923)
Rev. Eddie Payne (1924 to 1927)
Rev. Cleveland Williams (1927 to 1932)
Rev. J.V. Haywood (1933 to 1956), who led the 1951 building reconstruction
Revs. C.R. Raymond and H.C. Cherry (1956 to 1962)
Rev. C.H. Moreland (1962 to 1969)
Rev. Hosea Robinson (1969 to 1985), a spirit-filled leader from Chicago
Rev. Jesse Jackson (1986 to 2004), known for his Bible-teaching ministry and inspirational voice
Rev. Myron Holmes (2005 to Present), the youngest minister ever elected by the church whose motto is "Preach to Impact and Not to Impress"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church for its steadfast service, historic leadership, and spiritual influence in the Mississippi Delta. It stands today not only as a house of worship, but as a pillar of hope, faith, and transformation for the community it so faithfully serves.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ERIC
UHR

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Chief Petty Officer Eric Uhr on his well-deserved retirement from the Coast Guard after 20 years of valiant service. I am honored to represent brave individuals like Chief Petty Officer Uhr for their hard work and dedication to our great Nation. Chief Uhr enlisted in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) on June 27, 2005, and completed basic training at USCG Training Center Cape May in New Jersey.

After his enlistment, he began his military career as a deck seaman aboard the USCG *Edisto* in San Diego, California, before being promoted to Officer in Charge of USCG Aids to the Navigation Team in South Padre Island, Texas. Additionally, Uhr also served as the Executive Petty Officer of this team and the first lieutenant of the USCG Station Port Aransas, Texas.

Chief Uhr has exemplified the valor and dignity in the United States Coast Guard. His dedication to his county has not gone unnoticed, and I wish him a long and happy retirement with his wife and two children.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Chief Petty Officer Uhr on his retirement and honor his 20 years of service to our Nation.

HONORING JAHMIR BROWN OF DYETT HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an extraordinary achievement by a remarkable young man from my district, Jahmir Brown, a vital member of the Walter H. Dyett High School for the Arts boys' basketball team, the Eagles. This team achieved a historic victory, winning the 2024–2025 Illinois High School Association (IHSAA) Class 2A State Championship with a decisive 52–41 win over Althoff Catholic High School on March 15, 2025.

This championship is more than just a win on the court; it is a profound testament to the resilience, determination, and unity of the Dyett High School community and the vibrant Bronzeville neighborhood. A decade ago, Dyett faced the threat of closure, but through powerful community advocacy and unwavering commitment, its doors remained open. Today, the Eagles' triumph, in which Jahmir Brown played a crucial role, symbolizes the incredible potential that flourishes when a community invests in its youth and its institutions.

Jahmir Brown, along with his teammates, demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and teamwork throughout their season, navigating challenges and competing at the highest level. His hard work and dedication were integral to the team's success, culminating in this well-deserved championship that brings immense pride and joy to his school, family, and the entire community.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to Head Coach Jamaal Gill, whose visionary leadership and guidance steered the team to this historic victory, and to Assistant Coaches Kimani Harris, Pierre Adams, and Nathan Townsen, Jr., whose mentorship was vital to the players' development.

Mr. Speaker, Jahmir Brown's contribution to the Dyett Eagles' journey from near closure to state champions is an inspiring narrative for us all. It underscores the critical importance of supporting our public schools and investing in programs that empower young people to achieve their fullest potential. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jahmir Brown and the entire Dyett High School boys' basketball team on their momentous achievement and in honoring them for the inspiration they provide to communities across our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS SMITH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Travis Smith has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Smith was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Travis Smith has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

CONGRATULATING LEON RESSLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Leon Ressler on his retirement after 37 years with Penn State Extension in Lancaster County.

Across nearly four decades, Leon Ressler has served Penn State Extension, a Pennsylvania-wide educational organization and network focusing on science, agriculture, and the environment, in many roles. Leon's tenure with Penn State Extension began in 1988. Ultimately, he became Lancaster County Extension Director in 2001. Though his titles and duties changed over the years with the reorganization of Penn State Extension, he managed finances, developed budgets, and coordinated with local counties on development and grants. He took a step back from his role in 2017 to become an Extension Educator, where he served on the agronomy team and assisted farms with his expertise in nutrient management, water quality, and sustainable agriculture—just a few of his areas of his vast knowledge of agriculture.

Beyond his time with Penn State Extension, Leon Ressler is a frequent contributor to Lancaster Farming, a churchgoer, a political volunteer, and is himself a farmer in Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania. He holds bachelor's degrees in agronomy and plant science, and has a master's degree in environmental pollution control, all of which are from Penn State.

As he transitions his focus from Penn State Extension back to his farm, I thank Leon Ressler for his service to the agricultural community. His expertise and commitment have positively impacted not just the farmers in Lancaster County, but the health of the people and environment across Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. I wish him continued success in all that he does.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the Hurricane Helene report, reconciliation process, and disaster recovery efforts.

DEAR FRIEND: On January 24th, I had the honor of being selected by President Trump to serve on his special task force to speed up recovery in Western North Carolina. After several months of hearing from constituents and developing plans to pick up the momentum in rebuilding our mountains, I'm pleased to share my report detailing recommendations on how to fix FEMA and accelerate the recovery process.

These recommendations were shared with the White House and the FEMA task force, and I look forward to continuing to work with the President and the task force in the next phase of the process, where we implement some of these recommendations. The report is available here,

ONE COMPREHENSIVE BILL TO DELIVER AN AMERICA FIRST AGENDA

The U.S. House has opened the door to the next step in the reconciliation process by passing the Senate's amendment to the House budget resolution.

The House and Senate budget resolution instructs committees to now start drafting a singular bill that will deliver significant savings while protecting essential programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare.

This bill sets the framework for Congress to deliver a secure border, pro-family and pro-growth tax policies, reliable domestic energy, strong national security, and a healthier economy for the American people. While this resolution doesn't become law, it sets budget goals for specific committees to reduce spending and increase revenue.

The American people have had enough of the government's reckless spending, and reining in overspending starts with passing a reconciliation bill that cuts overall expenditures and results in savings, not adds to the deficit.

Thankfully President Trump, Speaker Johnson, and Majority Leader Thune have made it clear that they are committed to passing a final reconciliation bill that restores fiscal sanity by guaranteeing at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts like the budget resolution the House Budget Committee framed.