

means. He was the fifth of six siblings to their parents, the late Maurice and Mary Browne. He migrated with his siblings to the United States of America in 1983 and settled in Brooklyn, New York. Andrew married his fiancée, June, and arranged her migration to the USA. From this union came three offspring. In 2003, the family relocated to the state of Florida, where they currently reside in the City of Kissimmee.

There are moments in every life that become turning points. For Andrew, one such moment was the World Trade Center terrorist attack in 2001. In January 2002, he was diagnosed with an enlarged heart with an ejection fraction of 10 percent. Even though he was still able to pursue a semi-normal lifestyle, he was given one year to live. He then placed his complete trust in the Most-High-God and his Savior Jesus Christ and continues to give total glory to the God he serves for keeping him alive.

Andrew discovered passions that ignited his spirit. This involves helping others who need computer assistance, but most of all, being the director of his local church's food pantry, which reaches out to serve community neighbors. This brings him joy and gives him a sense of fulfillment.

As he writes this, he is reminded that his autobiography is far from complete. There are chapters yet to be written. This is his story—one of resilience, growth, and hope. It is a testament to his faith in God, dreams, and the strength of the human spirit. As he continues this journey, he is reminded that the best stories are those that are shared.

RECOGNIZING REGINALD L. THOMAS FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LABORERS LOCAL 264 AND THE MISSOURI AFL-CIO

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a steadfast leader, a tireless advocate, and a committed public servant, Mr. Reginald L. Thomas, who has dedicated his time to improving the lives of workers in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state. As Mr. Thomas steps down from his roles as Vice President of the Missouri AFL-CIO and Business Manager of Laborers Local 264, a position he held for more than 15 years, let us celebrate the work he has done to defend workers' rights, raise workplace standards, and expand union access across numerous industries.

Mr. Thomas began his career in the labor movement with Laborers Local 264 in May 1996, earning promotions to Laborer Foreman and Crew Supervisor. In these positions, he was responsible for managing job-site teams, ensuring safety compliance, and overseeing the timely and effective completion of construction projects. In April 1999, Mr. Thomas was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of Local 264, where he managed financial operations, enforced fiscal accountability, and ensured resources were directed toward member support and workforce development. He then went on to serve as Assistant Business Manager and Field Representative, where he coordinated

grievance procedures, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, and advocated for safer job conditions on behalf of the local membership. These roles prepared him well for his election as Business Manager of Laborers Local 264 in February 2010, a position he held for over a decade.

As Business Manager, Mr. Thomas spearheaded numerous initiatives to empower union members, improve labor protections, and expand job opportunities. He worked to create training partnerships with local school districts and technical colleges, building pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs aimed at opening doors for young people to enter family-supporting careers in construction and skilled trades.

Throughout his career, Mr. Thomas has demonstrated strong leadership and an unwavering commitment to the labor movement, and his contributions have not gone unnoticed. In 2016, he received the Lillian L. McKittrick Labor Advocacy Award from the NAACP, an honor named in memory of Lillian L. McKittrick, a lifelong advocate for the rights of minorities and women. Having worked for many years in the garment industry, McKittrick witnessed firsthand the need for reform within the labor movement. This honor recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding dedication to labor advocacy while advancing the broader goals of civil rights and economic justice. In 2019, Reggie was named Labor's Representative of the Year by the Labor's Educational & Political Club Independent in recognition of his effectiveness in organizing, legislative engagement, and grassroots mobilization. These accolades reflect the tangible, community-level impact of Mr. Thomas' contributions toward creating more equitable hiring practices, greater workplace protections, and a stronger pipeline for economic mobility.

Beyond the state of Missouri, Mr. Thomas' voice has been heard across the country. As Special International Representative for the Laborers International Union of North America and Vice President of the Missouri AFL-CIO, he played a major role in supporting national labor efforts. These included advocacy for the expansion of wage protections, along with infrastructure-investment legislation such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Mr. Thomas was also a vocal proponent of pro-labor reforms to the National Labor Regulation Act, aligning Missouri's agenda with national priorities.

Mr. Thomas' service is not only defined by awards and titles, but by the lasting impact of his work. He forged partnerships between unions and civic groups and strengthened the role of labor in addressing housing, healthcare, and education challenges. Additionally, he led efforts to remove systemic barriers to union jobs for communities of color and championed a public education campaign on the economic and social benefits of organized labor.

Now, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO, Mr. Thomas continues to provide leadership and vision for the future. Those who have worked with Reggie know him as a man of principle, integrity, and resolve. He is respected by colleagues, union members, and public officials alike. His legacy includes not only stronger institutions but a more empowered, united labor force in Missouri and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and thanking Mr. Regi-

nald L. Thomas for his years of extraordinary service to the American labor movement. As he begins this new chapter, we celebrate his legacy of progress and look forward to the continued impact he will have in building a more equitable and empowered workforce for Missouri and beyond.

HONORING RICHARD KOCH FOR  
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND  
LEADERSHIP

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the strong-willed commitment Richard Koch holds for the people of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Mr. Koch served as the Cabarrus County Attorney for 19 years alongside serving as the County Planning and Zoning Attorney for an impressive 32 years.

Mr. Koch earned his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University, where he was a member of the swimming team. He then went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest Law School, and he has been a licensed attorney for 47 years. Mr. Koch currently serves as both the Administrative Law Judge for North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health, and the Harrisburg Town Attorney, which he has been doing for 37 and 32 years, respectively. Serving on two boards, the Historic Cabarrus Board and the Cannon School Board, there is no doubt that Mr. Koch is dedicated to his county.

Over the past 37 years, Mr. Koch has exemplified high levels personal sacrifice and commitment to Cabarrus County. The magnitude of his efforts and dedication cannot be overstated.

Renee and I offer our most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Koch for the decades of loyal service he gave to Cabarrus County. We wish him continued success and happiness as he moves forward on to his next adventure.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Richard Koch for the lifetime of service he dedicated to his community.

HONORING JAMILAH FELIX AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jamilah Felix is a passionate advocate for civic engagement and public service. Her love for service began while growing up in Osceola County. For over a decade, she has dedicated her professional and educational journey to service. She's often at the helm of helping lead revitalization initiatives, mentoring, and government affairs.

In 2024, she received the statewide recognition of being named as a News Service of Florida's 40 Under 40 Rising Star and a trailblazer by the City of Kissimmee during Women's History Month. Ms. Felix currently serves as the manager of government relations for

one of the largest health systems in Florida, AdventHealth, where she works at the intersection of healthcare and public policy—building trusted relationships with government and strategic partners, ensuring stakeholder representation. Before joining AdventHealth, Jamilah served in the Executive Offices of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, where she managed several programs and led community-driven initiatives focused on parity in infrastructure and neighborhood development.

While working at the city, she successfully secured funding for a \$400,000 infrastructure improvement project in an underserved neighborhood. Her career spans Fortune 500 companies, including Edward Jones Investments, where she earned the Spirit of Partnership Award, recognizing her exceptional role in fostering external partnerships and branch management.

Ms. Felix holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in public policy from the University of Central Florida. While at UCF, Jamilah was selected as a Legislative Scholar, earning a fellowship in the Florida Senate for a ranking member of Congress.

Ms. Felix is also the founder of Aminah Joy Jewelry, an online jewelry boutique. She is a graduate of Leadership Orlando and currently serves on several regional boards, including the St. Cloud Chamber Government Affairs Committee. She's passionate about helping to solve complex social issues to create lasting change.

#### HONORING MICHAEL DOWNS FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Downs for a lifetime of dedication and commitment to the people of Cabarrus County. Having served as deputy county manager for 8 years and going on to serve as county manager for another 14 years, he was the longest standing county manager in Cabarrus County history.

Mr. Downs received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Business Administration Management and Operations in 1983 from Pfeiffer College (now University) in Misenheimer, North Carolina, where he also played both varsity basketball and baseball. He was inducted into the Pfeiffer University Hall of fame for both sports in 2017. Beginning his career in 1986 as a zoning inspector, Mr. Downs has spent nearly four decades serving his community. He is known for his strong leadership and management skills.

Mike has served on a multitude of boards and volunteered for many charitable and service organizations. Among them, The Cannon Foundation Advisory Board, Greater Cabarrus Foundation, Cabarrus Rotary Club, Pfeiffer Falcon Club and Legacy Club. His service has been honored with the Executive Level Leadership Award, Leadership Cabarrus Alumni Impact Award, and Hometown Hero Award to recognize his service, to just name a few. He is also a Shriner and has served in many capacities with them.

Over the course of Mr. Downs' career, he demonstrated his hard work ethic, commitment

to service, and dedication to his county. He undoubtedly is leaving Cabarrus County in a better place than where he found it.

Renee and I offer our most heartfelt appreciation to Mike for his decades of service; we wish him well and hope he enjoys this new chapter where he can spend more time with his wife, Beth, along with his children and grandchildren. I am confident that I speak for the entire community when I thank him for all he has accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Mike Downs for a lifetime of extraordinary service to his community.

#### HONORING DON HEWITT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Don Hewitt, a trailblazer in sustainable urban development and a visionary entrepreneur whose work has made a transformative impact on communities throughout Jackson, Mississippi, and beyond.

Mr. Hewitt is the founder and owner of Advanced Technology Building Solutions (ATBS), established in 2004 and headquartered in Jackson. With more than 20 years of experience in real estate development and urban planning, Mr. Hewitt has consistently prioritized community-centered solutions that emphasize walkability, environmental design, and economic opportunity.

Under his leadership, ATBS has emerged as a leader in mixed-use developments that integrate green spaces, affordable housing, retail accessibility, and local business engagement. The company's initiatives frequently involve partnerships with public housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and government entities—leading to the revitalization of underutilized spaces into vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods.

Currently, ATBS is collaborating with the West Jackson Community Development Corporation and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation to implement an innovative urban streetscape project in West Jackson. This development will offer affordable workspace for local entrepreneurs and startups, fostering economic opportunity and nurturing local talent.

Mr. Hewitt's commitment to sustainability extends beyond physical infrastructure. As a participant in the AI Business Accelerator Cohort, he is integrating artificial intelligence into project planning to optimize sustainability metrics and enhance community engagement. His forward-thinking approach ensures that urban development remains both efficient and equitable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Don Hewitt for his service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to building a stronger, more inclusive Mississippi. His work exemplifies what it means to develop with the community and for the community.

#### HONORING SOPHIA GREEN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Sophia Green, known affectionately as Sophie G, is a vibrant radio personality hosting "The Sophie G Show" on Cultural Vibrations Radio. Broadcasting to the Central Florida area, Sophia's show celebrates Caribbean culture, entertains, and encourages listeners with inspiring stories and discussions.

Sophia has over 14 years of experience in broadcasting, establishing herself as a trusted voice in the Caribbean diaspora community.

Born in Jamaica, Sophia proudly identifies as an "Island Girl" and brings a unique perspective to her shows.

She won the Jamaica National Festival Song in 1989 with her sister Andi Green, becoming the first female duo to achieve this feat.

Sophia is a dedicated mother and loving grandmother, drawing inspiration from her family and community. As a certified professional life coach, Sophia focuses on life purpose, forgiveness, and happiness. She contributes to Caribbean Under One Magazine (KUOMagazine & TV), sharing her perspectives on various topics.

Sophia believes in finding the positive in life's experiences, often quoting the idea of making "lemonade" from life's challenges. With her witty humor and heartfelt approach, Sophie G has built a loyal following and established herself as a respected voice in the Caribbean diaspora. Through "The Sophie G Show" on Cultural Vibrations Radio, Caribbean Rhythms Radio Network, Sophia continues to inspire and connect with her audience in Central Florida and beyond.

#### RECOGNIZING LINDA CULVER'S RETIREMENT

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize my long-time employee, Linda Culver, as she prepares to retire at the end of June.

I've often said that a really good staff makes a decent Member of Congress—and throughout my time in office, I've been fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Linda by my side.

Linda began working in my Twin Falls office on the very first day we opened our doors. From that day forward, she has been a steady, dedicated presence—not only for me and my team but for the people of Idaho.

Many people do not recognize what congressional offices can do for them, but with Linda's presence in Idaho, she worked tirelessly to help Idahoans where she could and serve their needs. Linda trained under one of the best caseworkers in Idaho and not only carried on that legacy but enhanced it. She