

never cut corners when it came to constituent service.

As my Casework Director, she instilled the same standard across my team. One of the things I'm most proud of during my time in Congress is the high level of service we've provided to Idahoans—and Linda played a key role in making that happen. Federal government agencies are often difficult and complex to navigate. However, Linda's ability to cut through the red tape made her an invaluable resource and help to many.

Linda's public service did not stop at casework. She created mobile district office hours so Idahoans—especially those living in small, rural areas—could meet with my staff, ask questions, and find out how we can help when problems arise.

She also created an event known as the "Funders Fair," a one-stop shop where federal agencies and organizations came together to help Idahoans learn about and apply for available grants.

Additionally, Linda has remained actively involved with Idaho's military and veterans. She took it upon herself to create Service Academy Days for the entire Idaho Delegation—an event for Idaho's high school students to learn about our Nation's military academies. This tradition has lasted for nearly 30 years. She also put together the Veterans History Project, a Library of Congress project that collects, preserves and makes accessible firsthand the recollections of veterans who served during World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

From helping tens of thousands of Idahoans navigate complex federal issues to personally attending meetings and events across the district to supporting veterans, Linda has been far more than an asset—she has been family. As she enters retirement, Linda will enjoy some well-deserved time with her husband, their dogs Koda and Tessa, and their children and grandchildren.

I will miss Linda, the rest of my staff will miss Linda, and so will the Idahoans that she so faithfully served for the last two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to Linda's husband, Brent, for sharing his amazing wife with Team Simpson for all these years. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Linda Culver for her decades of outstanding public service to the people of Idaho and this great Nation.

#### CELEBRATING CARTER BROADCAST GROUP'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Carter Broadcast Group (CBG), a pillar of Black music and culture in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and the oldest Black-owned and family-operated radio broadcast company in the United States. Let us take a moment to reflect on the 75 years of creativity, 75 years of challenges overcome, and 75 years of community contribution that have undisputedly been instrumental in shaping the Kansas City I know and serve today.

The station's story began with a visionary, Andrew Skip Carter. Born in 1919, in Savannah, Georgia, Carter always had a passion for radio. However, Carter's ambitions coincided with a time when segregation and Jim Crow laws worked to prevent their realization. Due to the color of his skin, Carter was turned down from jobs and forced to work in a hostile industry. However, in keeping with the principles that would come to define CBG, Carter advocated for himself and his community. In August 1948, he wrote a letter to Broadcast magazine criticizing the FCC's prejudiced treatment of African Americans. Through this effort, he was able to make a connection with former Kansas Governor Alf Landon, who would assist Carter in receiving his FCC license in August 1949, making him the second African American to obtain one. Through financial backing from Landon and continued demonstrations of grit, Carter was able to launch KPRS, the Kansas People's Radio Station, in 1950. Two years later, Carter purchased the station, making it the first Black-owned radio station west of the Mississippi River.

CBG prioritizes playing Black music of all genres, with a specific focus on exploring jazz, blues, R&B, gospel, and hip-hop. Not only does the station promote Black music, but it engages with the artists behind it, interviewing creators who have cultivated fan bases around the world, including Kansas City locals like Janelle Monae and Tech N9ne. Indeed, listeners throughout the KC area all feel the impact of having a radio station that amplifies Black voices and stories.

Beyond music programming, CBG is an informational hub. Its hosts regularly interview political figures to discuss topics ranging from student debt on a national level to issues facing Kansas City locally. In hopes of building a healthier Kansas City, programmers craft segments to inform local listeners of critical resources. Whether disseminating information regarding suicide prevention and COVID-19 vaccination clinics, or shining a light on local organizations like Giving Hope and Help, which works to support domestic abuse survivors, and Harvesters, which works to prevent food insecurity, the Carter Broadcast Group consistently serves the city it calls home.

Indeed, this station epitomizes the ideas expressed in 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, "So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it: if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Carter Broadcast Group recognizes the obligation we have to one another and surpasses it to a commendable degree.

The impact is clear. Countless listeners proclaim their praise for the station, citing the significance it has had on their lives and the lives of their loved ones. CBG is dedicated to providing a Black radio station that plays amazing music and nourishes the community culturally, socially, and politically. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating CBG's 75th anniversary. This is an accomplishment deserving of recognition in our Nation's Capital, and I am honored to extend my congratulations as the station begins its celebrations. I anticipate many more monumental anniversaries, for I know CBG will continue to be a fountain of knowledge and joy for our commu-

nity, progressing the innovative work of Andrew Skip Carter.

#### HONORING PATRINA M. LAWRENCE 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, Patrina M. Lawrence is a dynamic and accomplished executive who has made a lasting impact on Florida's Ninth Congressional District through her leadership in behavioral health and social services. As the founder and chief executive officer of Serving Children and Reaching Families (SCARF), a community-based mental health organization headquartered in Kissimmee, Florida, Ms. Lawrence has led efforts to deliver high-quality, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed care to children and families across Central Florida since 2013.

Guided by the belief that "safety and security don't just happen—they are the result of collective consensus and public investment," as Nelson Mandela once said, Ms. Lawrence has dedicated her career to building systems that protect and uplift the most vulnerable. Through SCARF, she has expanded access to mental health services, secured funding from the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Health, and Osceola County Schools, and fostered long-standing partnerships with the Department of Children and Families and regional managing entities.

Through an eight-year partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Ms. Lawrence was instrumental in creating a diversion program that has helped strengthen families and successfully diverted over 500 children annually from entering the foster care system. A licensed clinical social worker and seasoned clinician, Ms. Lawrence has provided direct care and clinical oversight to hundreds of clients. She has authored SCARF's operational policies and training curricula, helping to elevate standards across Florida's behavioral health workforce. Her work has not only improved outcomes but also ensured service fidelity and compliance with state regulations.

Ms. Lawrence holds an advanced degree in social work from Howard University and has completed executive education at Harvard University in leadership, business strategy, and public health equity. Her work embodies a commitment to access, quality, and innovation in behavioral health for Florida's most vulnerable populations.

#### COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH AMID THE EROSION OF BLACK HISTORY

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, after just four short years since I proudly cast my vote to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday

through the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, the very history that this day honors is now under attack by the current administration. While we mark Juneteenth with prayers and proclamations, we must also confront a harsh and unsettling truth: the significance of this day and African American history is being erased. Across our Nation, we are witnessing the systemic losses of our hard-fought gains—the stripping of diversity, equity, and inclusion from federal institutions, censoring school curriculums, and silencing conversations about the true history of America.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and informed over 250,000 enslaved Black people that they were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth is a reminder that freedom and equality remain delayed for Black Americans. For generations, this history of intentional continuation of slavery was ignored, and now that it is finally acknowledged as part of our Nation's past, we see the Trump Administration trying to strip away Black history. Banning books, censoring lessons, and eliminating honest conversations about race is not about education, it is about control. We must ensure that Juneteenth is not just a day off but a day of truth.

In 2005, I partnered with then-Senator Barack Obama to introduce legislation recognizing Juneteenth. And now that it has become law, we must defend it and the history it represents from being erased. The history of our people is not optional. Let me be clear: Black history is American history. As a Black man who was raised in the rural South during segregation, I know all too well what it feels like to be told that your history does not matter. As the Representative of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, a district with a rich history of Black culture and resilience, I fight in Congress for equity, inclusion, and the honest American history.

Today, the Trump Administration threatens Chicago Public Schools with the loss of over one billion dollars in federal funding for its efforts to improve the success and reduce suspensions of Black students, teach Black history, and recruit teachers who reflect the students they teach. African Americans have faced enormous challenges in every corner of life—education, economic security, health care, employment, housing and the criminal justice system. We are routinely denied opportunity solely because of the color of our skin. And still, we continue to fight for justice and equity in the face of deep-rooted, systemic racism.

This Juneteenth, Chicago will celebrate Juneteenth as a testament to community, remembrance, and pride. There is the Pullman Porter Museum's Juneteenth parade, games, and concert. Or the Cook County celebration at Malcolm X College, the Juneteenth Annual barbecue at the DuSable Black History Museum, or 1865 Fest in West Garfield Park, to name just a few. Events like these are not just festivals: they are declarations that we will not be silent. We will celebrate. We will educate. We will resist.

I will continue to fight for equality and opportunity at every turn, while honoring the history my forefathers and foremothers endured. Let's not forget, the White House and this country were built by enslaved labor. As we commemorate Juneteenth this year, let it be a call

to action. The struggle for freedom will not end here. I am committed to protecting the truth of our past, fighting for justice in our present, and building a future where every African American can learn their history, see their worth, and know they belong.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL JUROR NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2025

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2025. This bill would clarify that D.C. residents may not be excluded or disqualified from jury service in the local D.C. trial court, the D.C. Superior Court, based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Specifically, this bill would clarify that the term "sex," which is a protected class under the non-discrimination law that applies to jurors in the D.C. Superior Court, includes sexual orientation and gender identity. The term "sex" would also include a sex stereotype; pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition; and sex characteristics, including intersex traits. In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed a version of this bill.

D.C. has one of the strongest non-discrimination laws in the country, including protecting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the D.C. Council does not have the authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code, which contains the non-discrimination provisions that apply to jurors in the D.C. Superior Court. Therefore, until D.C. is given authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code, which one of my bills would do, an act of Congress is required to clarify that LGBTQ+ jurors in the D.C. Superior Court are protected from discrimination.

As the Supreme Court said in *Edmonson v. Leesville Concrete Company*, "discrimination within the courtroom raises serious questions as to the fairness of the proceedings conducted there. . . . [B]ias mars the integrity of the judicial system and prevents the idea of democratic government from becoming a reality." Similarly, the Court, in *Batson v. Kentucky*, which was a juror discrimination case based on race, said, "The harm from discriminatory jury selection extends beyond that inflicted on the defendant and the excluded juror to touch the entire community. Selection procedures that purposefully exclude black persons from juries undermine public confidence in the fairness of our system of justice."

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING MARIA LAWRENCE 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, Maria Lawrence is a visionary leader, community advocate, and accomplished financial executive based in Florida's Ninth Congressional District. As co-founder and chief financial officer of Serving Children and Reaching Families, LLC (SCARF), she has been instrumental in expanding access to mental health and family support services throughout Central Florida. Based in Kissimmee, SCARF is a CARF-accredited organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth and families thrive.

With over 15 years of experience in financial leadership, Maria has built a reputation for driving operational excellence, securing government contracts, strengthening internal controls, and improving revenue cycle processes. Her work has helped SCARF achieve full compliance in numerous federal and state audits, positioning the organization for long-term sustainability and growth. Maria's professional background includes serving as an information technology supervisor at Devereux Florida and managing a major capital project for Jacobs Engineering. Earlier in her career, she worked in financial compliance on Wall Street, where she was selected by the NASD to assist with regulatory audits following a firm closure.

Outside of her professional life, Maria is deeply committed to community service. She has volunteered with Second Harvest Food Bank and the American Heart Association and participated in international mission work, including supporting church development efforts in Venezuela. Maria holds both a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. She also maintains certifications in Microsoft Engineering and Lean Six Sigma. Through her financial expertise, servant leadership, and heart for service, Maria continues to shape stronger communities and create meaningful change for families across Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

#### HONORING THE JASPER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' TENNIS TEAM

#### HON. MARK B. MESSMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my personal congratulations to the Jasper Indiana High School Girls' Tennis team for becoming the IHSA State finals champions.

In the stunning final four match, our Wildcats won 4-1, earning the girls' tennis team their first ever State title, and the first State title for any girls' sports team at Jasper High School.

Thanks to these great athletes for showing the world their formidable Hoosier/Jasper spirit.

Congratulations again to the Wildcats and to their head Coach Scott Yarbrough, who led this great group to their historic win.