

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT HOME RULE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint the members of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment (Board), except when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to a chancery. The Board issues special exceptions, or variances, to the regulations issued by the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). The Board has no authority over federal property. This bill would not alter the authority of the Board.

Under current law, in general, the Board consists of a representative each from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP), which is a federal agency, and the Commission, each of whom may be a federal official, and three appointees of the D.C. Mayor, subject to D.C. Council approval.

Under current law, when the Board is performing functions regarding an application by a foreign mission with respect to the location, expansion or replacement of a chancery, the Board consists of the Executive Director of NCP, the Director of the National Park Service (or, if the President so designates, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services) and the three mayoral appointees. This bill would not change this composition.

D.C., like every other jurisdiction in the United States, should be free to set its own local land-use policies. This bill is an important step to increase home rule for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support it.

### RECOGNIZING MACON'S NEXT LEVEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Next Level Community Development Center, a community nonprofit organization driven by its mission to foster academic achievement, college and career readiness, parental involvement, and youth development through mentorship and programming in Middle Georgia. The organization celebrated its 25th year of service at their annual closing ceremony on July 10, 2025, at the Macon City Auditorium in Macon, Georgia.

Executive Director Lakesia Toomer has worked hard with her staff to help ensure that

Next Level is a safe haven and launchpad for all children and families that need it. It is their solemn mission to ensure that no child is left behind, and every child is equipped with the tools they need to succeed throughout their lives. For a quarter of a decade, the staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide students with tutoring and educational programs, as well as courses concerning leadership development, financial literacy, and community service. Through these activities, students are given the opportunity to learn about the jobs of the future and to tour nationally ranked colleges and universities while gaining essential college and career readiness skills.

Next Level is known for its immersive summer experiences like Camp Zion, but the organization is not limited to the summer months; its work continues throughout the year, through crucial after-school programming that extends the mission of academic success and personal growth for students, while providing parents opportunities to find meaningful employment and attending school so that their families can get ahead and stay ahead.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

At its core, the Next Level Community Development Center is proof that when a community comes together to uplift its children, it doesn't just change individual lives; it transforms generations to make our communities safer, wealthier, and more attractive to economic development and growth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Next Level Community Development Center team and 25 successful years of service to the Middle Georgia community. Their dedication, leadership, and compassion are invaluable, and I am confident that this organization will continue to shape future generations of outstanding young leaders for years to come.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF OBERLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS 4X200 METER RELAY TEAM FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school track and field relay team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Oberlin High School's Girls 4x200 Meter Relay team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Track and Field Title. The team overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in their effort to surpass all other relay teams in their event.

In pursuing the State Championship, Alyssa Webb, Aubrey Abeyta, Jasmine McDearmon,

and Olivia Hudson defeated their outstanding competitors to win with an impressive time of 1:24.25. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Oberlin High School Girls 4x200 Meter Relay team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT, DR. CISSY REYNOLDS-PEREZ

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Kingsville Independent School District (ISD) Superintendent, Dr. Cissy Reynolds-Perez on her retirement from 38 years of public service.

Dr. Reynolds-Perez is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University-Kingsville where she earned a bachelor's degree in education with a minor in English. She later went on to earn a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Reynolds-Perez has made incredible contributions to our state's education system, having served as principal for multiple schools and Assistant Superintendent of West Oso ISD. During her tenure as an administrator, Dr. Reynolds-Perez established herself as a leader in school safety. In 2018, Governor Greg Abbott appointed her to serve on the Texas School Safety Center Board of Directors for two terms. Later she was selected to sit on Texas House Chairman Todd Hunter's Suicide Prevention Task Force, where she helped spearhead the passage of HB 3980 and HCR 137, monumental suicide prevention legislation.

In August of 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Dr. Reynolds-Perez was appointed as the Superintendent in her hometown of Kingsville, Texas. Her dedication to education and public service is unmatched, and I thank her for her tremendous work in educating the future generations of South Texans.

Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank Dr. Reynolds-Perez for her 38 years of public service and congratulate her on her retirement.

• 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.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS AT THE RICHMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of courageous Virginians who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and persevered through adversity to open doors for future generations. On July 1, 1950, the City of Richmond hired ten African-American men to serve in the Richmond Bureau of Fire, making them the first Black career firefighters in both the city and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I recognize and commend these trailblazers: Charles L. Belle, William Brown, Douglass O. Evans, Harvey Hicks, Warren W. Kersey, Bernard C. Lewis, Farra Lucas, Arthur L. Page, Arthur C. St. John, and Linwood M. Wooldridge.

Their arrival formed the first all-Black unit in Richmond's segregated fire department. Although these men met all the qualifications, the department subjected them to unequal treatment, including segregated facilities, extended training periods, and limited chances for promotion. Despite holding college degrees and completing superior training, the men of Engine Company No. 9 worked exclusively at a single station at Fifth and Duval Streets, in the heart of Richmond's Black business and residential district.

These men trained as a unit and held higher qualifications than many of their white peers, yet the department consistently denied them equal opportunities for advancement. They waited years for the department to recognize their promotional exam results. Mr. Charles L. Belle passed the lieutenant's exam in 1956 but didn't receive a promotion until 1967, after he retook the test ten more times. Several other men overcame similar barriers to advance their careers: Harvey S. Hicks earned promotions to Lieutenant in 1955 and Captain in 1961; Linwood M. Wooldridge became a Lieutenant in 1956; Oscar L. Blake advanced in 1959; and Arthur L. Page earned the rank of Lieutenant in 1961.

These brave men faced discrimination on and off duty. Many times, homeowners forced them to use back entrances or refused them entry when they responded to emergencies. Despite these challenges, they served with dignity, courage, and professionalism. Their presence uplifted Richmond's Black community, where they actively participated in faith-based, civic, fraternal, and social institutions.

In 1963, the Richmond Fire Department finally began to desegregate six of its 28 companies. Although the city demolished Engine Company No. 9 in 1968, its legacy endures. In 1992, former members of that unit founded Engine Company No. 9 and Associates Inc. to preserve and share their history. On July 1, 2000, the City of Richmond honored the 50th anniversary of its hiring by installing a Virginia State Historic Highway Marker—Marker Number SA-54—at the corner of Fifth and Duval Streets.

These men were more than firefighters. They were pioneers who paved the way for

equity in public safety. I rise to honor their memory and the legacy of courage, service and perseverance that continues to inspire generations of public servants across the Commonwealth.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLORIA KAY MAZZA

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and legacy of Gloria Kay Mazza of Clive, Iowa, who passed away on July 1, 2025. A small-town Iowan with a world-class heart, Gloria's unwavering strength and resilience in the face of cancer inspired all who knew her.

Born on February 17, 1953, in rural Iowa, Gloria was the embodiment of Iowan values. She married her beloved husband, Tom Mazza, who became a stepfather to their daughter, Kelly. She cherished her role as grandmother to Cassidy, James, and Lilly, finding joy in their laughter and endless antics.

Gloria lived her life as "just a country girl." She served the people of Iowa with distinction as Iowa Outdoor Skills Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, empowering young women through the Outdoor Skills Journey for Girls program and championing education and conservation with her characteristic passion.

In her hometown of Clive, Gloria was an active member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Her dedication to public service extended into the political sphere, where she volunteered first as office manager for the Republican Party of Polk County before serving as its Chairwoman from 2021 to 2025.

Her tireless contributions were deeply impactful with leadership roles at every level, including as President of the Capitol Region Republican Women and President of the Iowa Federation of Republican Women, where she also served on subcommittees for the National Federation of Republican Women.

Gloria was also a dedicated volunteer in numerous Federal, State, and local campaigns and initiatives, including her statewide signature idea, "Build the Base," emphasizing that all politics is local and getting everyday Iowans involved in grassroots organizing. Her exemplary service earned her multiple awards and accolades from the Republican Party.

Gloria Mazza will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, public servant, and patriot. Her legacy of leadership and service to both Iowa and our Nation will endure. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and her impact, which will surely endure for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARLA REYNOLDS FOGELMAN

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to

Ms. Carla Reynolds Fogelman, affectionately known to all as Carla. Carla was born on December 17, 1961, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was a dedicated advocate, passionate public servant, and beloved family member. With profound sadness, we honor Carla following her passing on July 8, 2025.

Carla made it her mission to be an agent of positive change wherever she could, and she had excelled remarkably in that endeavor. Carla was an unwavering advocate, activist, event organizer, humanitarian, and beacon of hope for all in our community, especially for those facing adversity. Through the Boots on the Ground Foundation, which she founded in 2021 alongside Danyelle Eckert, Carla worked relentlessly to provide vital resources and support to anyone in need. Whether collecting food, toiletries, and other necessities, distributing holiday meals and gifts, assisting seniors, providing financial and peer-based recovery support, or organizing community and family-driven events, Carla had created an organization that served as a vital lifeline and incredible resource for individuals and families in our community in need of assistance. Carla is also responsible for spearheading Bristol Borough's annual Unity Day celebration.

It is through the work of people like Carla Reynolds that our communities thrive, and our Nation grow stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stood as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can positively ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. We remember Carla not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is, a true hero in every sense of the word.

In addition to her professional and community involvement, Carla had a vibrant array of interests. She had an eye for beauty and a flair for the dramatic, which she expressed through her enjoyment of modeling and fashion. Her adventurous spirit led her to travel and explore the world, yet she found equal joy in the simple pleasure of shopping or spending quality time with loved ones.

Above all, Carla is cherished by her family. She is survived by her loving daughter, Tamara Monroe (Shon), and her beloved grandchildren, Naya, Matthew, Shawn Thomas, Patricia, and Camille. Her memory will also be treasured by her siblings, Ronald Reynolds (Shiela) and Dawn Reynolds King (Anthony), and her nephews, Tyler, Brooklyn, and RJ, who will all miss her deeply. Carla's legacy is characterized by her loving nature, her kindness, and her friendly demeanor. She had the rare ability to make everyone feel like family, and her presence was a source of joy and comfort to those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Mr. Speaker, as we say farewell to Carla Reynolds Fogelman, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and deeply loved. Her spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her, and her contributions to the world will be long remembered. As a woman who served her community and loved her family, it is with deep respect that I honor her memory today. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing her.