

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALICE SMITH JONES ON
HER FIFTH JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the impactful life and remarkable dedication of Alice Smith Jones, an extraordinary educator and tireless activist whose commitment to fostering hope and empowering young minds has spanned decades. As we mark the anniversary of her fifth Juneteenth celebration, we take this opportunity to honor her inspiring journey.

Born in Chicago, Alice Smith Jones was raised in a home steeped in community service and activism. Her mother, a dedicated nurse, worked tirelessly in public schools, while her father served both the post office and the streets and sanitation department. Both of her parents were esteemed activists and community leaders, instilling in Alice the profound belief in making the world a better place.

Driven by a passion for learning and a desire to connect with others, Alice pursued higher education with zeal. She earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Columbia College, followed by a master's degree in education from Roosevelt University, and further specialized with a master's in Literacy from Northeastern University. This extensive academic journey laid the foundation for her distinguished career.

For an impressive thirty-three years, Alice Smith Jones has dedicated herself to the students of Chicago as a cherished public-school teacher. Her teaching philosophy is rooted in a deep desire to see the world become a better place, and she consistently finds profound hope when she sees noticeable growth in her students. She tirelessly instills in her students a strong sense of pride and identity, encouraging them to always find ways to improve themselves. Her classroom has been a beacon of inspiration, nurturing confidence and intellectual curiosity. Alice lives by the principle of finding what works for you and encourages others to live a principled life. Her commitment to personal growth and global understanding led her to significant milestones, including living and teaching in another country for three years. This transformative experience allowed her to truly find herself and broadened her perspective. Her dedication to excellence was further recognized when she became the recipient of a full Bright Scholarship and a Study Abroad opportunity, underscoring her exemplary achievements and thirst for knowledge.

Beyond her professional life, Alice Smith Jones is deeply engaged in her community. She is a proud member of Operation PUSH, actively involved with the Woodlawn Summit Organization, and serves on the Board of ETA. Furthermore, she acts as a consultant for the African Festival of the Arts and gener-

ously volunteers her time at various churches, demonstrating her relentless commitment to social and community upliftment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and ongoing accomplishments of Alice Smith Jones, a tireless educator, a beacon of hope, and an inspiring leader whose dedication continues to enrich our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF POLK CITY, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the City of Polk City, Florida.

Polk City, known locally as the Gateway to the Green Swamp, is in the northern part of Polk County, Florida. The city officially received its charter on April 3, 1925, thus marking the beginning of its formal governance and development.

Polk City was first settled in 1922 when Mr. Isaac Van Horn was traveling through Polk County and believed oil fields waited to be exploited. Mr. Van Horn was responsible for naming the town after President James K. Polk and increasing the population with new construction of oil rigs.

Today, Polk City is home to approximately 2,000 residents and remains a vibrant small town with a strong sense of community and rural charm. It is known for the General James A. Van Fleet Trail and beautiful lakes. As we commemorate this centennial milestone, we honor the generations who have shaped Polk City's legacy as a city built on resilience, agriculture, and a deep sense of community.

Happy Centennial, Polk City.

APPRECIATING ED FEULNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America will always cherish the vision of Ed Feulner for limited government, expanded freedoms, and Peace Through Strength. Personally, on January 4, 2019, he sent me a note acknowledging his achievements, "Dear Joe, I'm honored. You're a real hero to all of us! Onward! Ed."

The following is from The Heritage Foundation on the loss of its Founder, Ed Feulner:

"WASHINGTON—The Heritage Foundation released the following statement today from Heritage President Dr. Kevin Roberts and Board of Trustees Chairman Barb Van Andel-Gaby, lauding the legacy and mourning the loss of Heritage Founder Edwin J. Feulner:

"It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Edwin J. Feulner, founder, trustee, and the longest-serving president of The Heritage Foundation.

"Ed Feulner was more than a leader—he was a visionary, a builder, and a patriot of the highest order. His unwavering love of country and his determination to safeguard the principles that made America the freest, most prosperous nation in human history shaped every fiber of the conservative movement—and still do.

"Ed founded The Heritage Foundation in 1973, planting a flag for Truth in a town too often seduced by power. What started as a small outpost for conservative ideas became—under Ed's tireless leadership—the intellectual arsenal for the Reagan Revolution and the modern conservative movement. In the four decades that followed, Ed's foresight, discipline, and moral clarity made Heritage a battleship, unshaken by political winds and focused solely on fighting for the American people.

"After leading Heritage for 37 years as president, Ed continued to serve on our Board of Trustees, offering encouragement and sage advice in equal measure. Ed was an important mentor to us, respectively, and to all of those who had the honor of knowing him. In addition to his work at Heritage, he continued his active participation in many other conservative organizations.

"Whether he was bringing together the various corners of the conservative movement at meetings of the Philadelphia Society, or launching what is now the Heritage Strategy Forum, Ed championed a bold, "big-tent conservatism." He believed in addition, not subtraction. Unity, not uniformity. One of his favorite mantras was "You win through multiplication and addition, not through division and subtraction." His legacy is not just the institution he built, but the movement he helped grow—a movement rooted in faith, family, freedom, and the founding.

"His 'Feulnerisms' still resonate in the halls of Heritage—where they will always be remembered. 'People are policy,' for instance—the heartbeat of his mission—to equip, encourage, and elevate a new generation of conservative leaders, not just in Washington, but across this great country. And we still remember his adjuration to never be complacent or discouraged: 'In Washington, there are no permanent victories and no permanent defeats.'

"Ed himself seemed immune to discouragement. Every day was, for him, a new opportunity to strike a blow for freedom, to further the promise of America and make it a reality for all. His was a life of joyful defiance in the face of tyranny and bureaucratic decay—a life defined by courage, conviction, and the word he signed off with every single day: Onward!

"To his beloved wife, Linda, their children, and grandchildren—we extend our deepest prayers and condolences. And to Ed—we say thank you. Thank you for showing us what one faithful, fearless man can do when he refuses to cede ground in the fight for self-governance.

"The Heritage Foundation will honor Ed's life the best way we know how: by carrying his mission forward with courage, integrity, and determination. We will never forget his leadership, his example, or his favorite charge: "Onward. Always.""

• 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.

FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL
REMOVAL ACT**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act, which would remove the plaque and inscriptions on a fountain bearing Francis G. Newlands' name from Chevy Chase Circle, a federal park located in both the District of Columbia and Maryland. Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland joins me in introducing this bill, and Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland is the sponsor of the companion bill.

Newlands was a U.S. senator from Nevada, a conservationist and the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, which developed the Chevy Chase neighborhood that touches D.C. and Maryland. Newlands was also a segregationist. He built Connecticut Avenue and ran a streetcar up the road to the newly built Chevy Chase Lake. However, homes on Connecticut Avenue were purposely priced to keep working families out, and covenants were later added to many of the property deeds in Chevy Chase explicitly prohibiting the land from ever being owned by African Americans or Jews. These covenants have since been declared void. Newlands went further to keep Black and White Americans separate. In the late 1800s, he and Senator William Stewart secured 2,000 acres of land for Rock Creek Park. Establishing this park not only increased property values for landowners like Newlands and Stewart, but also kept White communities separate from emerging Black communities on what they called the "wrong side of the park." Newlands' racist views went even further. In 1912, he called for the repeal of the 15th amendment, which gave African-American men the right to vote.

The fountain in Chevy Chase Circle was established in 1932 by Congress. In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company added a plaque with Newlands' name next to the fountain. A resolution to remove Newlands' name from the fountain was first introduced by the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission in 2014. On July 27, 2020, the commission voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service (NPS) to remove the plaque bearing Newlands' name and to begin discussion on a new name for the fountain. On September 14, 2020, the Maryland Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers adopted a resolution calling on NPS and Congress to remove any mention of Newlands from the fountain. On April 19, 2022, the Montgomery County Council introduced a resolution affirming the county's support for this bill. Newlands should not be honored on federal land.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MR. FRANK FIGGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong civil rights

activist, educator, and servant leader, Mr. Frank Figgers. A son of Mississippi, Mr. Figgers has dedicated his life to empowering communities, defending civil rights, and shaping a more just society.

Mr. Figgers is a graduate of Tougaloo College, Class of 1971, where his journey as a freedom fighter began through his work rooted with the Jackson Human Rights Project, founded by SNCC Field Organizer Howard Spencer. He played a foundational role in launching the Georgetown Liberation School, which evolved into the Black and Proud Elementary School, an institution rooted in liberation, pride, and academic excellence.

Throughout his life, Mr. Figgers has remained on the front lines of social transformation. He served eight years as Election Commissioner for Hinds County District 3, becoming the first African American elected to that post in his district. His professional career also includes 27 years at Sherwin-Williams Company as an Architectural Products Specialist, serving in key leadership positions. Additionally, he served as a Parent and Community Development Specialist at Lanier High School through the nationally recognized Algebra Project, working to close education gaps in underserved schools.

Currently, Mr. Figgers serves as Program Manager of Community Outreach and Education at One Voice, a non-partisan nonprofit committed to strengthening civic engagement, promoting voting rights, and advancing leadership development throughout Mississippi.

Mr. Figgers' commitment to education, youth development, and social justice extends through his leadership on multiple boards and advisory bodies. He is a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for the Jackson Public School District. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement (VMCRM), preserving the legacy and lessons of the Movement for future generations. He has served, since 1998, as a board member of the Young People's Project (YPP) in Jackson, an organization rooted in the legacy of the Algebra Project, which uses peer-to-peer math literacy and organizing as tools for youth empowerment.

Mr. Figgers is also a member of China Grove Lodge No. 110 of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge of MS, PHA. He is also a Life Member of the NAACP, demonstrating his enduring passion for justice and equality. Recently, Mr. Figgers was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mississippi Historical Society.

Spiritually grounded and civically engaged, Mr. Figgers is a faithful member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, serving as a deacon and the Chairman of Finance. He is the proud husband of Mrs. Laura Terrell Figgers and the devoted father of Fareeda Tobeche Figgers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Figgers. His life reflects integrity, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to empowering others through education, activism, and service. Mississippi and this Nation are better because of him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MASTER
SERGEANT JAMES GARNER, JR.**HON. MIKE EZELL**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant James Edward (Jim) Garner, Jr., who passed on June 17, 2025, at the age of 88.

Born in Paulding, Mississippi in 1936, Jim served 27 years in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to places such as Korea, Vietnam, The Dominican Republic, Thailand, Cambodia, and more, retiring in 1980 as a Special Forces Master Sergeant.

He led operations under Colonel Charles Beckwith of Delta Force, and later taught ROTC at Marion Military Institute, where he created the school's first Orienteering Team.

His unmatched dedication is awarded and shown through his dozens of military honors and decorations.

Jim excelled at checkers and dominos, cooked delicious meals, loved outdoor pursuits, and kept a thriving garden.

He was known for being an avid reader and having a vast knowledge of old movies. But above all, he cherished his wife Margaret, and their big loving family.

Today we honor a life that was full of service, courage, mentorship, and love. Jim Garner was a true American Hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2025, I was unable to attend votes due to a travel issue. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call 213, and YEA on Roll Call No. 214.

HONORING OFFICER FRANCISCO
FLATTES**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and sacrifice of Officer Francisco Flattes, a devoted detention officer in Cherokee County, North Carolina, who was killed in the line of duty on June 30, 2025.

Officer Flattes was more than just a public servant. He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a colleague, and a friend to many. For four years, he served the Cherokee County Detention Center with unwavering commitment, ensuring that the rule of law was upheld with integrity and compassion.

Tragically, while performing his duties—escorting an inmate for medical care—Officer Flattes was killed in the line of duty in an act of senseless violence. He gave his life protecting others, and in doing so, reminded us all of the risks our law enforcement officers