

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 Tobechei 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

face every single day when they put on the uniform.

Officer Flattes leaves behind a loving family, including his wife, who also serves as a detention officer, his children and grandchildren, and a son-in-law who wears the same badge in defense of our communities.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Flattes family and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. We honor his courage, his kindness, his dedication, and his memory. May we never forget the price that heroes like Officer Flattes pay so that we may live in safety and peace.

May God bless the Flattes family and may God bless all those who wear the badge in service to our communities.

HONORING TALÍA GLASS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the years of dedicated public service of Talía Glass, a Senior Community Representative in my District Office. Ms. Glass has selflessly served Minnesota's 5th District for over six years—since my first day in Congress. She has proven herself to be an incredibly thoughtful, organized, and reliable public servant, and the people of the 5th District are better off because of her service.

Talía is a born and raised Minneapolis resident and her dedication to this city and the entire 5th District is exemplified in everything she does. Over the last six years, Talía has helped countless constituents through federal case-work assistance. She made sure small businesses were awarded the funding needed to stay open, fought for families' long-awaited tax returns, and ensured that individuals received their vital health insurance benefits. She organized major events to bring hundreds of constituents, advocates, and public officials together to tackle some of our community's biggest problems—the opioid crisis, Black maternal health, hospital stability, and so much more.

Along with her stellar casework record, Talía led my office's work on Community Project Funding. In just three years, Talía successfully managed our effort to bring home over fifty-four million dollars to the 5th District. She has a history of success, with every single project within her first three years being approved for funding. Her attention to detail, her reliability, and her dedication to quality work has served her well in her commitment to improving the lives of Minnesotans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Talía for her years of remarkable public service during her time with the U.S. House of Representatives. It would be impossible for us to do this work without hardworking, compassionate staff supporting us. It has been a privilege to work with Talía and witness her accomplishments over the last six years, and I wish her the best in this new chapter of her career.

HONORING DEBORAH PORTER ON
HER 68TH BIRTHDAY

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 multifaceted contributions of Deborah J. Porter, a distinguished media professional, passionate stylist, and dedicated community advocate. As she marks her birthday on July 21, 1957, we take this moment to honor her remarkable journey and enduring legacy.

Born in Port Gibson, Mississippi, and reared in Chicago from a very young age, Deborah J. Porter was shaped by the values of dedication and perseverance, instilled by her hardworking mother, a domestic worker, and her father, employed at a steel mill.

A proud alumna of Columbia College Chicago, Deborah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Television in 1980. During her senior year, impactful internships at WBMX and WLS proved instrumental in launching her illustrious career. Her commitment to community empowerment began at just eleven years old when she joined the choir of Operation Breadbasket, remaining actively involved through its successor, Rainbow PUSH. This organization profoundly shaped her character, discipline, and ambition, fueling her remarkable success.

Immediately after college, Deborah embarked on a decade-long career at V103FM (formerly WBMX-FM), evolving through various roles from receptionist to producer of "Sunday Morning Live," and later contributing to traffic, music research, and sales. Her talent then led her to Black Entertainment Television (BET), where she enjoyed a sixteen-year tenure, starting as the first Sales Service Planner and advancing to management for both the Midwest and West Coast offices. Her outstanding contributions earned her numerous awards.

Following her time at BET, Deborah freelanced at Burrell Communications before pursuing her passion for fashion. At Macy's flagship store on State Street in Chicago, her genuine care for people and standout personality made her the No. 1 Salesperson in the Midwest region. Today, Deborah continues to live with purpose, working part-time as an Ambassador at GCJ Hospitality and pursuing her love for styling, connecting with people and elevating their confidence through fashion.

Deborah remains deeply connected to civic and cultural life, maintaining affiliations with Rainbow PUSH, The Power of Women, the Black Women's Expo (BWe) Advisory Board, and the BET Alumni Reunion Committee. Of all her accomplishments, she is most proud of her role as a loving mother to her two beloved sons, Herman Porter III and Harrison Jeffrey Porter, and cherishes her partnership with her fiancé, Jerome "JJ" Jones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and ongoing accomplishments of Deborah J. Porter, a resilient professional, a community pillar, and an inspiring individual whose legacy of excellence, community engagement, and timeless style continues to enrich our Nation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF MONTVERDE, 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 Anniversary of the Town of Montverde, Florida. Officially incorporated on May 18, 1925, Montverde is located on the western shore of Lake Apopka in Lake County, Florida. Montverde derives its name from the Spanish "Monte Verde", meaning "green mountain," a tribute to the area's rolling hills and natural beauty.

From 1887 to 1969, Montverde was served by the Tavares and Gulf Railroad, which transported agricultural goods such as grapes, citrus, and vegetables. Over the years, the town supported a variety of industries, including a cement plant, a moss processing facility, and notably, the original manufacturing site of the Snapper Mower—originally called the "Snappin' Turtle." Developed by local innovators Alex and Neal Smith, the Snapper went on to become a globally recognized brand.

Today, Montverde is home to approximately 2,200 residents and remains a vibrant small town with a strong sense of community and rural charm. It is a proud part of the Green Mountain Scenic Byway, celebrated for its historical significance and scenic landscapes that draw cyclists, outdoor enthusiasts, and visitors from near and far. A central pillar of the town is Montverde Academy, founded in 1912. This world-renowned college preparatory institution reflects the town's commitment to excellence in education.

As Montverde celebrates its centennial milestone, we honor its rich past, celebrate its present, and look forward to a bright and enduring future. Again, it is my privilege to recognize the Town of Montverde on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHAD KAMPBELL

HON. GEORGE WHITESIDES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Chad Kampbell. Chad wasn't just a devoted father, a husband, and an admired community leader—he was a cornerstone of the Santa Clarita Valley.

He and his wife Michelle, who have been close friends for several years, were deeply involved in our community.

Chad was a former president of the Democratic Alliance for Action of Santa Clarita Valley, an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley Democrats, and someone whose commitment to service ran deep.

One of his friends described him perfectly: "He was someone who truly grounded those around him. The kind of person who would help you cut through the noise, find your center, and remember why you do the work in the