

He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING MS. THELMA NEWSOME
AND MAMMA'S HOT DOG STAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable entrepreneur, Ms. Thelma Newsome, who has proudly owned and operated Mamma's Hot Dog Stand in Vicksburg, Mississippi, for the past sixteen years.

In 2009, Ms. Newsome turned her vision into reality by transforming an old service station on Openwood Street into what is now a beloved local establishment. Fueled by determination and a dream, she invested her savings to bring Mamma's to life. Since then, the restaurant has become a staple of the Vicksburg community.

Although the name highlights her signature hot dogs, Mamma's is best known for its generous, homemade burgers—proudly advertised on a sign created by local artist Keith Matthews that reads, "You bite the meat before the bun." Her menu also features chili cheese hot dogs, chili cheese nachos, and her famous homemade Kool-Aid.

Ms. Newsome's path to success was paved with perseverance and hard work. While launching the restaurant, she simultaneously held a full-time position with the Veterans' Administration in Jackson, serving for 21 years as a nurse and telephone operator. Today, she continues to operate Mamma's entirely on her own, serving customers with heart, hospitality, and a commitment to quality.

Located at 1209 Openwood Street and open Monday through Friday for lunch, Mamma's Hot Dog Stand is more than just a restaurant—it is a testament to the power of vision, dedication, and community spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Thelma Newsome for her entrepreneurial spirit and for enriching the city of Vicksburg with her passion and perseverance.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment No. 233 to the FY 2026 Defense Appropriations bill. I thank Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member McCOLLUM for including it in the Amendments En Bloc No. 3.

Our world is facing numerous water challenges. Climate change is making those challenges worse.

Our military is not exempt. The Defense Department has previously identified water services failures as a growing risk, as they impact a military facility's ability to execute missions and maintain warfighter readiness. That is where my amendment comes in.

My amendment would increase funding for ongoing research and work being done by the Army, with the help of some leading institutions of higher education like the one in my district, Marquette University.

These partnerships with the Department of Defense (DoD), Marquette, and other institutions of higher education are being used to study technology and other solutions to water challenges facing our military and our service members that can also benefit our communities like improved sensing/monitoring of water pollution, and advanced water/wastewater treatment technologies to facilitate reuse of pollution-impacted water resources.

Thus, collaboration between DoD and civilian researchers on water contamination and resilience issues has the potential for many benefits, including positive public health impacts.

With these additional funds, we can help unleash researchers to explore water sustainment and resiliency technologies that increase readiness and safety of military personnel in contingency bases and at military installations, that can address and improve water efficiency, and improve the conservation of water resources, and the resiliency of water infrastructure.

I urge support for my amendment.

HONORING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE AMERICAN G.I.
FORUM

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the American G.I. Forum's 77th anniversary. It is an honor to shed light on an organization who dedicates itself to strengthening our democracy and building a legacy of service.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia founded the American G.I. Forum in 1948 to address the inequalities Hispanics faced in the postwar era. Dr. Garcia mobilized veterans like himself, who valiantly served our Nation, to advocate for the growth and development of communities in need. From a single chapter in Texas, the American G.I. Forum quickly expanded throughout the state and country.

The organization began to achieve widespread notoriety for its work within the community. It improved access to government hospitals for veterans, ended the poll tax in Texas, created pre-schools for Spanish speaking children, and improved equity for veterans' burial services. The organization broke down barriers for veterans in housing and education, reaching those that the country had forgotten about.

After 77 years, the American G.I. Forum continues advocating for equitable opportunities. For our veterans and their families, they offer essential services that address issues ranging from healthcare accessibility to workforce readiness and housing. Additionally, they work to empower our youth by offering scholarships to students intending to enroll in higher education. It is through their efforts that our communities continue to take the steps forward to ensure a strong and thriving democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize to the American G.I. Forum and their accomplishments in serving our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
LLOYD W. COPPEDGE

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable man and devoted member of the Myrtle Beach community, Mr. Lloyd W. Coppedge, who passed away on July 19th at the age of 80, surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Abilene, Texas, Lloyd was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a friend to all. After graduating from Texas Tech with a degree in accounting, Lloyd brought his talents and heart to the business world, eventually purchasing Wolverine Brass in Myrtle Beach in 1988. There, he not only built a thriving company, but a family. He knew every employee by name, cared for their families, and led with a huge heart.

His entrepreneurial spirit extended to the restaurant industry, where he became a partner in Divine Dining, helping grow a beloved institution and once again touching the lives of thousands through his generosity and leadership.

But beyond his business accomplishments, Lloyd's legacy lives in the lives he impacted, from his daughters Tracie and Allison, to his wife Judi, to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and even to the many "adopted" friends and family he made around the world.

Lloyd Coppedge led with integrity, treated everyone with kindness, and never stopped working to make his community better. If you had Lloyd as a friend, you knew you had a guardian angel.

May we remember his legacy, not just in words, but in the way we treat those around us.

CONGRATULATING DONNIE
OLDHAM ON BEING INDUCTED
INTO THE CAROLINAS AGC HALL
OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mr. Donnie Oldham, for his induction into the Carolinas Associated General Contractors of America Hall of Fame.

As President of Sanford Contractors Incorporated since 1989, and team member since 1975, Mr. Oldham has had a lasting impact on the company and the wider construction industry through his many years of leadership, sacrifice, and commitment to safety.

Mr. Oldham has contributed immensely to support North Carolinians through his volunteer work and career. Mr. Oldham was awarded the Man of the Year by the Lee County Community Foundation for his volunteer work

and philanthropy. He has also served as a board member for the Sanford Area Growth Alliance, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, and Lee County Education Foundation, among others.

In his career, Mr. Oldham's company's involvement in a variety of projects, including critical infrastructure, commercial buildings, site development, and utility construction have been critical for the development of North Carolina.

Mr. Donnie Oldham embodies the mission of Sanford Contractors to deliver the highest quality projects that exceed expectations while ensuring the safety and professionalism of team members.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Donnie Oldham on his induction to the Carolinas AGC Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING RAYMOND E. CARLSON AS THE 2025 UPPER PENINSULA VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Raymond E. Carlson for being named the 2025 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. This well-deserved honor reflects his steadfast dedication to his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Mr. Carlson has long demonstrated exceptional leadership within the American Legion of Michigan, where his distinguished service has included terms as Post Commander, District Commander, Zone Commander, and as a member of the State Department Finance Committee. As president of the U.P. Convention Corporation, he successfully bid for and coordinated American Legion conventions for fourteen consecutive years. In this role, he also secured future convention dates in Sault Sainte Marie, ensuring the continued success of these important gatherings.

His commitment extends beyond organizational leadership. As Commander of Post 44, Mr. Carlson spearheaded a \$240,000 renovation project to improve the post's facilities. He remains a constant presence at post-sponsored events, from Bingo at the Marquette County Fair and the Jacobetti Veterans Home, to Boys State programs that promote youth development and civic engagement.

In addition to his service to veterans, Mr. Carlson has been a pillar of support for youth athletics in the Upper Peninsula. As a youth baseball coach, he led his team to multiple district championships and a coveted spot in the state tournament. During his twelve years as chairman of the district baseball committees, he oversaw and organized numerous successful district tournaments, enriching the lives of countless young athletes.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Raymond E. Carlson for receiving the prestigious honor of being named the 2025 Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his enduring commitment to veterans, his community, and our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR ROBERT COLEMAN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Robert Coleman's exemplary and distinguished record of service to our country. Rob is an active-duty Military Police Officer in the United States Army, and he served as my Defense Fellow throughout last year.

A native of Monterey, California, Rob earned his degree in Psychology from Gonzaga University in 2009 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He also attended the Marine Corps University and George Washington University, where he earned master's degrees in military studies and legislative affairs, respectively. During his 16-year career in the Army, Rob served in key tactical and strategic positions. He has successfully completed the Basic Officer Leader's Course, Air Assault School, Marine Expeditionary Warfare School, and the Marine Command and Staff College. Upon commissioning, Rob became a military police platoon leader in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he was charged with training and coordinating with the Afghan National Police. He later deployed with the 101st Airborne Division to Afghanistan as an advisor to the National Directorate of Security. Following the deployment, Rob served for two years as a Company Commander in the 101st Airborne's 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

After his tenure as a company commander, Rob was stationed at the Pentagon as an Army Staff operations officer. He worked directly for the chief of the Integrated Personnel Pay System—Army (IPPS-A) program and later returned to the 101st Airborne to serve as its Chief of Operations and executive officer for battalion operations. For his outstanding service, Rob has earned two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, the Army Achievement Medal, the Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. While serving as my Defense Fellow, Rob also played a critical role in drafting my NDAA priorities for FY2025, which ensured the Army and Department of Defense could adapt and modernize at the speed of warfare. He also helped enact an important law to grant military recruiters the same physical access to high school campuses in the same manner as colleges and industries, which allowed our Nation's Armed Forces to adequately address its recruiting crisis. I would like to thank Rob for his continued selfless service and contributions to our country. I am excited to see what lays ahead for him in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 92ND
BIRTHDAY OF LOUISE BISHOP

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 92nd birthday of Louise Bishop, a former longtime member of the Pennsylvania House of Rep-

resentatives with whom I had the distinction of serving for six years.

Born in Cairo, Georgia, Louise graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953. She completed a communications and radio broadcasting degree at the American Foundation of Dramatic Arts, where she developed her talent to become the host of "The Louise Williams Show." This gospel radio show was a fixture in the homes of many Philadelphians, providing inspiring hymns that had an enduring impact on our city.

Following work in radio broadcasting and ministry in Philadelphia, Louise was elected to represent Pennsylvania's 192nd Legislative District in 1989 and was reelected to serve for thirteen more consecutive terms. During that time, she was a consistent advocate for her constituents and the City of Philadelphia, working tirelessly to bring positive change to our city and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Louise and join her family and friends in celebration as we lift her up as an accomplished legislator, a longtime Philadelphia leader, and a dear friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes No. 213 and No. 214 on July 21, 2025. Had I been present, my votes would have been: Nay on Roll Call No. 213, and Yea on Roll Call No. 214.

RECOGNIZING TEAM CNMI AT THE
2025 PACIFIC MINI GAMES

HON. KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Ms. KING-HINDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable athletes of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for their outstanding performance at the 2025 Pacific Mini Games in Palau. Competing on a regional stage with more than 1,000 athletes from across Oceania, Team CNMI brought home 31 medals—10 gold, 8 silver, and 13 bronze—a proud achievement for a small but determined community.

These results speak to more than athletic talent; they reflect the resilience, discipline, and unbreakable spirit that define the people of the Marianas. Our athletes trained through distance, limited resources, and the everyday challenges of island life—and still excelled.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to the coaches, trainers, families, and volunteers who stood behind these competitors every step of the way. Their sacrifice, encouragement, and quiet hours of service are the foundation on which these victories were built.

Today we celebrate the medals, but we also celebrate the example these athletes set for every young person back home; dream big, work hard, and represent our islands with pride. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Team CNMI for lifting the Marianas