

liberal arts foundation combined with specialized and practical training; high academic standards; and a diverse and inclusive community that provides students with broad academic resources while preserving the intimacy of small college environments; and

Whereas, The Claremont Colleges have been a vital part of the Claremont and Southern California region, supporting the local economy, partnering with civic organizations, supporting community organizations, and serving as a hub for cultural enrichment, discourse, and discovery; and

Whereas, the 100th anniversary of The Claremont Colleges is a moment to honor the legacy of its founders, celebrate a century of achievement, and inspire future generations to uphold the principles of academic inquiry, leadership, and service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Congresswoman Judy Chu, representing California's 28th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and commend The Claremont Colleges on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere appreciation for their enduring contributions to the people of California and beyond.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
ESSIE DELL O'BRYANT WOODS
AND THE 6888TH BATTALION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District proudly recognizes Staff Sergeant Essie Dell O'Bryant Woods, a lifelong Detroit and courageous member of the historic 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Known as the "Six Triple Eight," this all-Black, all women unit served under grueling conditions during World War II, sorting over 65,000 pieces of mail per shift to boost troop morale across Europe. Despite facing racism and poor living conditions, Staff Sergeant Woods and her battalion cleared a six-month mail backlog in just three months. She earned numerous medals for her service and continued supporting fellow veterans for over 35 years, co-founding the National Association of Black Military Women and the Wolverine Chapter of the WAC Veterans Association.

Sergeant Essie Dell O'Bryant Woods' induction into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor is a powerful reminder of her legacy and the trailblazing bravery of the 6888th.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD
COMMANDING GENERAL RESI-
DENCY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Commanding General Residency Act, which would require the Commanding General of the District of Columbia National Guard to reside in D.C. Two Congresses ago, the House Com-

mittee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill.

The president controls the D.C. National Guard. In contrast, governors of the states and the three territories that have National Guards each control their National Guards.

The Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard is the top official in the D.C. National Guard, is appointed by the president and is a federal employee. There are residency requirements for government officials in federal law, D.C. law and the laws of jurisdictions throughout the country. In fact, several states have laws that require the top official in their National Guard to reside in the state, and it is highly likely that every state and territory only appoints residents as the top official in their National Guard. The primary reason residency requirements exist is so that government officials have a connection to the residents they serve and knowledge of the unique issues and challenges faced by residents.

Congress has justifiably required certain federal officials to reside in the jurisdiction to which they are appointed, including U.S. district court judges, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Attorneys. Similarly, Congress, which controls the local D.C. court system, has justifiably required local D.C. judges and members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to reside in D.C.

There is no reason that the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, a federal entity that serves D.C. residents and that has both a military and law enforcement role, should not be required to reside in D.C. A D.C. residency requirement for the Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard will lead to a better relationship between the D.C. National Guard and D.C. residents and is a matter of fairness for D.C. residents.

The D.C. mayor should control the D.C. National Guard. Until then, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING ELLIE J. DAHMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary Mississippian, a dedicated educator, civil rights advocate, and public servant—Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer, who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Dahmer is the widow of the late Vernon F. Dahmer, Sr., a civil rights icon who gave his life in the pursuit of voting rights for African Americans. Together, they formed a powerful partnership that challenged the injustices of the Jim Crow South. When their home was firebombed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1966, Mrs. Dahmer's courage and quick thinking saved her family. In the years that followed, she not only rebuilt her life, but continued the work she and her husband began—ensuring that all Mississippians had access to the ballot box.

After her husband's murder, Mrs. Dahmer worked tirelessly to support her family, maintain their farm, and provide for the community. She went on to serve with distinction as the District 2 Election Commissioner in Forrest

County for 12 years. Her quiet strength and tireless advocacy played a critical role in the fight for justice, culminating decades later in the long-overdue conviction of her husband's killer.

Mr. Speaker, On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District and a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer for a century of unwavering commitment to justice, education, and democracy. Mrs. Ellie J. Dahmer is a living symbol of strength, sacrifice, and service. Her 100th birthday is not just a celebration of longevity—it is a celebration of a life that has left a permanent mark on the conscience of this country.

HONORING BATTALION CHIEF
RYAN PHIPPS ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, The 12th Congressional District recognizes and honors Battalion Chief Ryan Phipps of the Dearborn Fire Department for over 27 years of dedicated service to the people of Dearborn, Michigan.

Since beginning his career on April 28, 1998, Battalion Chief Phipps has served with honor, rising through the ranks from Firefighter to Battalion Chief and earning over 30 departmental awards and commendations for bravery, leadership, and community service.

A two-time cancer survivor, Battalion Chief Phipps has shown extraordinary strength and resilience both in uniform and in life. His commitment extends beyond the station; as Vice President of Neighbors United, he has worked to support firefighters facing cancer. A proud father of four, including his stepson, and a mentor to future firefighters, Battalion Chief Phipps exemplifies the heart of public service. I thank him for his decades of sacrifice and leadership and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING FABIAN I. VALENTIN'S
SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of my staff, Fabian I. Valentin, who is departing the Committee on Homeland Security to begin his graduate studies at Princeton University and commence a fellowship program.

Mr. Valentin joined the Committee on Homeland Security as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellow in August 2022, and his contributions were immediately apparent. He assisted committee staff with oversight of the Department Homeland Security, including through bipartisan site visits, interviews, and briefings. Mr. Valentin also analyzed budget details and provided the Committee with insights into and recommendations regarding the Administration's budget and supplemental requests.

Mr. Valentin transitioned to permanent Committee staff in June 2023, due to his exceptional performance as a fellow. During his time on the Committee, Mr. Valentin contributed significantly to legislative and oversight efforts and served as a trusted resource for Member Offices. He prepared and accompanied Members of Congress on domestic and international site visits to conduct oversight of U.S. policy and Department of Homeland Security activities. Through Mr. Valentin's efforts, he helped Democratic Members advocate for the fair and humane enforcement of U.S. law, combat transnational crime, and support the DHS workforce.

Mr. Valentin played a pivotal role in preparing Members for countless border security hearings and markups over the past three years, as well as for engagements with officials regarding countering narcotics smuggling and human trafficking. He also assisted in the development of legislation that would strengthen Federal efforts against gun smuggling, expand U.S. training and support for foreign law enforcement investigating human trafficking, and improve border security technology used for seizing illicit contraband.

Mr. Valentin has become an integral and valued member of my staff. He consistently demonstrates commendable professionalism, dedication, good humor, and an eagerness to assist the most vulnerable among us.

I thank Mr. Valentin for his service to the Committee on Homeland Security, and I wish him the very best as he begins graduate school and prepares for a career in the Foreign Service.

CELEBRATING BROWNTOWN

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to the following comprehensive history of Browntown, and to include in the RECORD in perpetuity.

PHYSICAL LOCATION OF BROWNTOWN

In what is known as Browntown, near present-day Snow Hill, located in Greene County, North Carolina, centuries of human presence, resilience, and cultural exchange have shaped the land. Long before Europeans or Africans arrived, the Tuscarora Nation, part of the Iroquoian speaking people, inhabited this region as early as the late 15th and 16th centuries, establishing an Indigenous cultural and agricultural presence along the Contentnea Creek and its trade areas. By the time of European contact in the late 1600s, explorers such as John Lederer had passed through and began to map the area. Followed by John Lawson, whose writings in the early 1700s documented the complexity of community life and culture among the Tuscarora living within the land's boundaries.

Although Greene County, originally named Glasgow County formally established in 1791 and renamed Greene County in 1799, its origins were deeply entwined with those of the Tuscarora stronghold of Cotechney, located near what would later become the county seat. As settlers arrived in the early 18th century, they interwove their lives with those of Native Tuscarora through conflict, cooperation, and kinship. The town of Snow Hill, founded in 1828, emerged later in Greene County.

Yet, beyond these chartered towns and official records, a different legacy took shape: one of kinship ties, spiritual traditions, and cultural memory of the rural settlement that became known as Browntown. Never incorporated, Browntown emerged as a self-sustaining community built on shared land, interwoven ancestry, and mutual survival. Its roots reflect a unique blend of African, Tuscarora, and European heritage, forming a tri-racial community whose resilience and cultural impact continue to shape Greene County's identity to this day.

Browntown lies along ancient Native American trade routes and waterways, connecting to Contentnea Creek, located just south at a distance of 2-3 miles, and near the Neuse River, approximately 7-10 miles away. Browntown took form as a significant settlement and hunting area for the Tuscarora, located less than 10 miles away from the final, most decisive battle of the Tuscarora War in 1713 at Fort Neoheroke. Browntown is also home to several blended cemeteries, including at least one known unmarked Indigenous burial ground, as well as unmarked slave graves and colonial and antebellum burial sites. The presence of these sacred sites, ranging from Native burial grounds to unmarked family plots and church cemeteries, reflects the deeply intertwined histories of the people who once lived and blended on this land.

Browntown also sits near the intersection of North Carolina Highways 11 and 13, which connect to Indian Woods to the North in Bertie County. Indian Woods was the Tuscarora Reservation established in 1717 after the Tuscarora War, which also contained blended people. Essential highways, such as Routes 58 and 70, once served as key routes for both Indigenous nations, like the Tuscarora, and later colonial settlers. Browntown runs parallel to Highway 258, a route constructed initially by the British for trade between Eastern NC and Southeast Virginia. It is where the descendants of tri-racial communities continue to live, such as those in the Winton Triangle of Hertford County. These trading paths were and still are conduits for agricultural exchange, tribal passageways, and rural resettlement areas before and after emancipation.

BROWNTOWN IN THE MAKING

Browntown in modern times has been a part of Hookerton Township, which lies within a deeply historical corridor that connects the lived experiences of tri-racial descendants throughout eastern North Carolina. The Browntown Community stands as a living testament to the enduring spirit of people of tri-racial heritage. Forged not by municipal charter but by the shared tenacity of descendants from African, European, and Tuscarora people of rural eastern North Carolina.

Browntown's legacy is one of resilience and unity. Established as a free, autonomous, and safe haven before and after the Civil War, it was home to pioneers of land stewardship and mutual aid, all woven together by distinct cultures into a thriving, mixed-rural community. The Browntown community is also not far from Wheat Swamp, as the wooded wetlands offered natural seclusion for worship and reflection during antebellum times. This uncharted settlement, born outside the boundaries of conventional towns, cultivated a unique social fabric that honored mixed people while cherishing common purpose.

PLACE OF WORSHIP AND STUDY

Before the formalization of land deeds and property holdings in Browntown, the people came together to worship. Although not located in Browntown, Shady Grove Church is closely linked to the community's history

and identity, as it was the first organized church established nearby as a place of worship near Hookerton Town in Greene County. Shady Grove Church is the oldest known church serving people of mixed race in the community, established in 1867 as a bush shelter (a bush arbor) made of leaves and branches to offer shade during worship. Considered the mother church, Shady Grove gave rise to several churches, reflecting its profound spiritual influence.

The founding landowners Ellis Dixon, Ellis Suggs, Lewis Dunn, Squire Turnage, and Ephraim Dixon laid the groundwork for faith-based resilience in post-Civil War Greene County. It is located approximately 6 to 9 miles from Browntown. Shady Grove church represents the early roots of communal worship that would later continue within Browntown itself through Brown Chapel, Oak Grove, McCoy's Chapel Church, and other churches in the community. Established in 1899 and formally deeded by Richard Brown in 1918. The creation of this church further cemented the community's spiritual legacy. As a central landholder and patriarch of the Browntown community, by deeded land "for church purposes only" to the United America Free Will Baptist Church, Brown Chapel, later known as Brown Chapel. This land, situated along the public road from Brown's Crossroads to Glenfield Road and near the cemetery road, served as sacred ground for religious practices, fellowship, and ancestral remembrance. The deed signed and witnessed on February 28, 1918, represents one of the earliest documented acts of faith-based land transfer by a mixed landowner in the county, reinforcing the continuity of spiritual life that began at Shady Grove and anchoring a new generation of worship in Browntown's evolving identity.

Additionally, Browntown School served as an educational center for generations of children in this rural tri-racial community. Though no longer standing, the school's memory lives on through oral history and preserved photographs. Its foundation may remain buried on the original site, offering future potential for archaeological or cultural recovery. Browntown School was more than a building; it represented self-determination, literacy, and intergenerational legacy during a time when rural education for African American and mixed, heritage children was underfunded and overlooked by formal systems. Its presence reinforces the longstanding footprint of Browntown residents in shaping Greene County's educational and civic landscape.

LIVING SUMMARY OF BROWNTOWN

A living testament to the complexity of North Carolina's and America's rural past, it includes Richard Brown, a cornerstone figure in Browntown's development. Born in 1852, to formerly enslaved or free parents, after living through Emancipation and Reconstruction, a photograph taken of him highlights a prominent figure. It captures not just his face but also his determination. Born just before the Civil War, Richard would raise a family amid the struggles of Reconstruction and segregation, passing on values of land stewardship and kinship.

His daughter, Annie Jane Jones (1884-1950), and her marriage to John C. Grant (1878-1936), represent the enduring lineage that remained on the land. Browntown stood as a sanctuary for those born of blended lineages, offering dignity where societal bonds of rigid racial hierarchies were enduring. Historical records document Browntown's origins, at least, as far back as 1880. A warranty deed executed in 1887 by Chappel H. Churchill and M.E. Churchill, transferring land in Hookerton Township to William Brown, born in 1874, an African American landowner