

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE WITH THE DELTA BURIAL CORPORATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Delta Burial Corporation as they celebrate 100 years of service.

Delta Burial Corporation has a long history of serving residents of the Mississippi Delta and beyond, regardless of status or income. In 1925, Delta Burial Corporation was founded by Silas Kelly during a time when several hundred Black people were being lynched across the Delta. The business provided services throughout the Jim Crow era, the AIDS epidemic, floods, and even wars, giving families the opportunity to bury their loved ones without the crushing weight of financial hardship. Kelly and his Black colleagues also provided sanctuary for civil rights organizers. They hosted burial society galas and organized countless celebrations of life.

Today, Delta Burial Corporation continues to offer funeral services at prices well below the state average. This is critical, as many counties in the Mississippi Delta face poverty rates between 30 and 40 percent, with some reaching as high as 68 percent, particularly among Black families. As our Nation's economy continues to place added strain on poor and working families, we need the work of Delta Burial Corporation now more than ever.

On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I thank and congratulate Delta Burial Corporation on 100 years of service.

HONORING THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Bedford, Massachusetts, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

In 1822, at the request of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Brother Charles Spicer was sent to establish the Bethel AME Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. There, 22 free African American men inspired by the Free African Society of Philadelphia sought to create a place of worship in the community. Under the leadership of Bishop Daniel E. Payne and Reverend Eli Hall, these men led the construction of Bethel AME at 318 Kempton Street.

As the founding church of New England Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District

of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the New Bedford Bethel AME Church quickly became a spiritual and civic cornerstone of the Northeast. The church welcomed some of the most prominent voices of the abolitionist movement to its pulpit, including Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Remond, Frances Ellen Watkins, Samuel Penneton, and Harriet Tubman.

Over the years, Bethel AME's congregation included important community leaders such as Elizabeth Carter Brooks and Dr. Herbert R. Waters, Jr., both of whom made lasting contributions to the City of New Bedford's educational and civic life, as well as Sister Elnora Williams, Brother William Kydd, Reverend Birdilyn Watson, and Reverend Delphina Harrison, who played a key role in supporting the church. Additionally, three of Bethel AME's pastors—William S. Brooks, Reverdy C. Ransom, and Dougal D. Walker—became bishops of the AME Church.

As one of the 47 founding congregations of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford, Bethel AME has played a leading role in regional collaboration. Today, located at 532 County Street and under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Sandra Whitley and Reverend Kenneth Whitley, the church remains committed to advancing public health, social services, and housing access through initiatives and partnerships with the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Massachusetts Alliance for Supportive Housing.

After postponing celebrations in 2022 due to the pandemic, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will commemorate its 200th anniversary on July 27, 2025, bringing together community leaders and welcoming the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District of Philadelphia, Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., to honor of this historic milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Bedford, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the church and its congregation's dedication to spiritual leadership, civic engagement, and advocacy over the last two centuries.

HONORING SANTA MONICA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the City of Santa Monica, California.

This milestone marks one hundred and fifty years since July 14, 1875, when the town of Santa Monica was first mapped out and the initial plots of land were sold, following its co-founding by Senator John P. Jones and Colonel Robert S. Baker on July 10, 1875. Officially incorporated in 1886, Santa Monica has

grown from a quiet coastal settlement into a thriving urban community.

Known affectionately over the years as the "City by the Sea," "Pearl of the Pacific," and "Jewel of the Sunset Bay," Santa Monica has long been admired for its natural beauty, but its true strength lies in the spirit of its people from its early days as a destination for leisure and tourism to its role today as a growing center for art, culture, sports, technology, architecture, environmentalism, and more, Santa Monica continues to evolve dynamically.

This year, the city is marking its sesquicentennial with a series of community celebrations spanning July through December 2025. These events offer opportunities to reflect on the city's journey, honor its achievements, and acknowledge the complex history that has shaped it—including the legacy of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples, the original stewards of the land now known as Santa Monica. In October 2013, the City of Santa Monica dedicated a beautiful landscape in their honor called Tongva Park, located on Main Street across from city hall.

With a population of more than 90,000 residents, Santa Monica remains a place where people from all walks of life come together. As the city commemorates another year, I express my gratitude for the generations of residents, public servants, and visionaries who have contributed to its enduring success.

I wish a happy 150th anniversary to Santa Monica.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE TOUR

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the 10th anniversary of The Leadership Experience Tour (LET), a visionary platform founded by Shawn Fair and guided by the spiritual leadership of Dr. Anthony D. Shannon.

Since 2015, Mr. Fair has elevated emerging voices through corporate coaching and media, including the "Follow the Leader: Fair to Greatness" podcast. In 2018, he launched LET, now a national hub for empowerment, personal growth, and public speaking. Dr. Shannon, a respected pastor and author, has played a key role as Community Director, mentoring speakers and centering LET in faith, purpose, and transformation.

Together, they have inspired thousands across industries, launched careers, and built a community of leaders rooted in vision and integrity. As LET prepares for its August 2025 gathering at Michigan State University, we celebrate a decade of impact and the continued legacy of these two remarkable change-makers.

• 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 LIFE OF DURWARD
WARREN OWEN

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of Mr. Durward W. Owen, a beloved member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and a giant in the interfraternal world, who passed away on Easter Sunday April 20th at the age of 94.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Mr. Owen was born on August 30, 1930. His roots in the Roanoke Valley and love for that part of Virginia remained for years, no matter where he and his family lived. As a young, promising talent in baseball, Mr. Owen received a scholarship to play catcher at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia where he was initiated into the Xi Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

Through Mr. Owen's time at Roanoke College, he grew as a young adult and matured. Around this time in 1952, he married the love of his life, Hazel Claudine "Connie" Manning. He also served his country in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, Mr. Owen returned to Roanoke College to finish his studies before graduating in 1955.

An integral part of Mr. Owen's college life and later his adult life was the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. The organization helped shape Mr. Owen and provided him and opportunity to foster lifelong friendship and a commitment consistent with the mission, vision and values of the Fraternity. Shortly after his graduation from Roanoke College, Mr. Owen was recruited to begin his career with the organization, working first in South Carolina before relocating to North Carolina.

His service to Pi Kappa Phi included his role as National Executive Secretary, later renamed Executive Director. In a span of 35 years, Mr. Owen's disciplined leadership and unique vision resulted in the Fraternity's growth from 46 chapters to 136 chapters nationally and led to Pi Kappa Phi being recognized among the country's most important Greek organizations.

Other significant accomplishments and pursuits of Mr. Owen included the creation of a national philanthropic organization, PUSH, Inc., for Pi Kappa Phi. PUSH, now known as the Ability Experience, which strives to instill a passion for lifelong service in fraternity members while helping to empower people living with disabilities. Mr. Owen also developed the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation, an educational foundation of the fraternity and provides funding for the educational and leadership programs of the Greater Fraternity.

Thanks to Mr. Owen's exceptional work, Pi Kappa Phi's direction has positively impacted the lives of more than 160,000 young men. I know this, because I myself am a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. I was invited to membership in 2013, well after my undergraduate experience at Emory & Henry College. The invitation to membership came from Roanoke-area friends who were active alumni in the Fraternity's chapter at Roanoke College.

I am thankful for the opportunity to become a member of Pi Kappa Phi and to witness the important role the organization has in creating an uncommon and lifelong brotherhood that develops leaders and encourages service to

others for the betterment of our communities. I, along with all members of Pi Kappa Phi, owe Mr. Owen a debt of gratitude for his help in making shaping this organization that has impacted me and thousands of other men.

Roanoke College later recognized Mr. Owen for his outstanding qualities of integrity, leadership and citizenship that Maroons hold dear. In 2020, Roanoke awarded Mr. Owen its highest honor for alumni, the Roanoke College Medal. A scholarship was also created in Mr. Owen's honor to recognize an exemplary Roanoke College student and Fraternity member who has exhibited superior leadership skills.

Durward is survived by three children—Melissa Luer (Bill) of New Orleans, Louisiana, David Owen (Leigh Ann) of Greenville, South Carolina and Sally Jackson (Bill) of Huntersville, North Carolina. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Owen's ceaseless dedication and service to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and to his community will be missed by many. He will be remembered by the brotherhood as a visionary, a leader and a dear friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF JAMES MILTON HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Mr. James Milton Hawkins of Bolton, Mississippi—a gifted musician, devoted educator, and man of deep faith. Mr. Hawkins served his community, his students, and his church with unwavering passion and humility for more than four decades.

Born on August 12, 1950, in Bolton, Mississippi, James was the son of Mae Lillie Atkinson Hawkins and Eldridge Hawkins, Sr. He was a 1968 graduate of Sumner Hill High School and went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music, with a concentration in voice and performance, from Jackson State University. A product of Mississippi's rich musical and spiritual traditions, James dedicated his life to uplifting others through song, mentorship, and education.

Mr. Hawkins was best known as the long-time choral director at Jim Hill High School in Jackson, where he built one of the most respected public school choir programs in the country. Under his leadership, the Jim Hill Choir earned national and international acclaim, performing at Carnegie Hall, the Mormon Tabernacle, the White House, and internationally in Vienna, Italy, Great Britain, and Canada. His students sang for presidents, dignitaries, and at major festivals, consistently earning top honors and recognition.

Beyond his classroom, Mr. Hawkins was a devoted church musician at Orange Hill and Rose Hill M.B. Churches, where he led choirs and inspired generations with his spiritual gifts. He also served as music director for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi and was a longtime supporter of youth and music ministries across the state. In 2023, he founded the Sumner Hill Alumni Choir—one of his final gifts to the community he cherished.

He is remembered lovingly by his devoted wife, Barbara Ann Thurman Hawkins; his cherished grandsons, James Hyche and Jason Butler, his siblings, extended family, and the countless students, friends, and church members whose lives he enriched. His legacy is found in the voices he trained, the dreams he nurtured, and the faith he lived daily.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Milton Hawkins was a true servant of the people—a Mississippi treasure whose influence reached far beyond any stage. His life was a symphony of purpose, faith, and excellence. On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I honor his memory and extend my heartfelt condolences to all who loved him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY
BAILEY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates the incredible life of Shirley Bailey, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. Shirley was born on December 12, 1936, in New Orleans, Louisiana, to the late Clent and Beulah Cook. Her family moved to Detroit when she was a toddler. On May 22, 2025, Shirley peacefully made her transition, leaving behind a legacy of grace, kindness, and devotion to family and faith.

She met her husband Kenneth at Northeastern High School; their 70-year marriage brought forth Kenneth Jr., Robert, and Traci. Shirley was known for her warm smile, legendary meals, and dedication to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband Kenneth Sr., her children, a special daughter Barbara Cook-Dent, sister Elaine Williamson, sister-in-law Gloria Peters, 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many loved ones. Shirley Bailey will be deeply missed, but her spirit lives on in the lives she touched.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF
SUCCESS AS CREIGHTON BROTHERS
LLC TURNS 100

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone for a family-run business that has been a cornerstone of Indiana agriculture for a century, Creighton Brothers LLC.

This year, Creighton Brothers is celebrating 100 years in business, a legacy that began in 1925 when Hobart and Russell Creighton started a modest egg operation with just 2,500 hens.

Over the last century, this operation has grown into one of the most respected and vertically integrated egg producers in the country, with more than 3 million laying hens, feed production on 10,000 acres of farmland, and distribution to customers nationwide.

What makes this story truly special isn't just the scale of their growth, but the fact that