

HONORING DARRELL McNARY  
COLLINS

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and deep respect that I honor Mr. Darrell McNary Collins. Mr. Collins was a national treasure and has cemented himself as an Outer Banks icon though his work as a Historian at the Wright Brothers National Memorial where he shared the magnificent story of the "Miracle at Kitty Hawk".

A faithful student to the history of the Wright Brothers, his over 40 years of learning and research led to him becoming one of the top 3 Wright Brothers historians in the world. He shared the stories of the rich history of the Outer Banks, including that of his family legacy as part of the Freedmen's Colony and the African American history on Roanoke Island.

But Mr. Collins was much more than a historian. He cared deeply about his hometown of Manteo and its residents. He was appointed to his late mother's Town of Manteo Commissioner seat upon her death in 2006, serving for the next 18 years. The town honored his dedication by officially declaring December 17th as the "Honorable Darrell Collins Day" to coincide with the Anniversary of Flight.

Mr. Collins also served on the Town's Planning Board and was a past President of Dare Home Health and Hospice End of Life Coalition, as well as the founder and President of the Pea Island Preservation Society, Inc.

In 2003, Mr. Collins was personally presented with "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" from then Governor Mike Easley, earning the state's highest honor for those who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities.

For his whole life Mr. Darrell McNary Collins has dedicated himself to the Outer Banks's history, its people, and its future. His contributions are immeasurable, and his legacy will have a lasting impact on the people of Dare County. May we remember all of the contributions Mr. Collins has made to the Outer Banks, Dare County, and the great state of North Carolina.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF EXTENSION ACT**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to introduce the "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act" to safeguard federal funding for disaster-recovery projects. I thank U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D-CA) and U.S. Senator JOHN CORNYN (R-TX) for sponsoring the companion legislation and my colleague, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA) for cosponsoring the bill. I also want to thank the California Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Transportation for their support of this critical legislation.

Americans across the country are facing increasingly frequent and severe floods and

wildfires due to the climate crisis. When disasters strike, our communities deserve nothing less than the full support of their federal government. The "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act" will ensure state and local governments have adequate time to fully utilize federal funds awarded to repair roads and infrastructure damaged by disasters.

Current U.S. Department of Transportation regulations allow the federal government to claw back "emergency relief" funding for highway projects if those projects do not reach construction within 2 fiscal years. The "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act" would repeal this regulatory deadline and provide up to 6 years for projects awarded these funds to advance to construction. The new 6-year deadline would start following the date on which a disaster was declared by the respective state's governor or the president.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that any surface transportation reauthorization bill this Congress will include the "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act." As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am working with my fellow colleagues deliver this critical priority for our communities.

**HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN DONALD VILLARD**

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible dedication and service of Fire Captain Donald Villard of Dearborn's Fire Department and well wishes on his upcoming retirement.

Captain Villard started his service with the Dearborn Fire Department on June 8, 1999. Since then, Captain Villard has served as Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2, from there serving as Fire Engineer and six years later promoted to Fire Lieutenant for three years. Since 2019, Donald Villard has served as Fire Captain for the City of Dearborn. In his tenure with the department, he's received many accolades including the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation and Fire Chief Unit Commendation and has been awarded the Safe Driving Award over five times. His awards received are a reflection of his continued dedication and commitment to ensuring our communities are safe and protected.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding service and contributions of Fire Captain, Donald Villard, on his well-deserved retirement. The 12th Congressional District thanks him for his service to our community.

**RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERANS**

**HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and honor seven remarkable Americans whose military service embodies the very best of our Nation.

Colonel Mark R. Baaden, Colonel John W. Mansur, Sergeant Raymond L. Burkard, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas W. Thompson, Sergeant Jeff William Patterson, Specialist Pascuale F. Coniglio, and Sergeant Lloyd Lasenby each served our country with honor and unwavering commitment.

Though their paths and ranks differed, all shared a common purpose, to defend our freedoms and protect the values that define the United States of America.

Their careers reflect decades of sacrifice and discipline. They represent the strength and resilience of our Armed Forces and the patriotism of those who serve out of a deep sense of duty.

Some among them have borne the scars of war. Others have shaped the lives of those they led and mentored. All have left a lasting impact on their units, their communities, and this country.

It is my distinct privilege to include their names in the RECORD. May their example inspire future generations to serve with the same courage, integrity, and selflessness.

**HONORING SARNOVA'S NEW DUBLIN, OHIO, HEADQUARTERS**

**HON. MIKE CAREY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, this is a great time to celebrate, and I want to offer specific thanks.

First, I would like to recognize Dublin Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes for her leadership and making this community a hub for companies, workers, and families to settle in.

I would also like to thank Sarnova's CEO Brian LaDuke for investing further in our community and seeing the untapped potential here in Dublin.

For those of you who don't know, my team and I have been working with Sarnova for years, and the longer we've worked together, the better results we've delivered for Central Ohio.

Today is a testament to that. Our relationship has resulted in more jobs and productivity in the community.

As a national leader in equipping our first responders, Sarnova has been critical to saving lives. I'm sure the first responders using their equipment on a daily basis would agree.

Whether it's police officers, firefighters, or EMS workers, Sarnova has been there to make their jobs easier. But I firmly believe the best is yet to come for Sarnova, for Dublin, and for all of Central Ohio.

As the new facility opens, I can't wait to see what will happen here in the months and years to come.

I want to thank them all, and I look forward to coming and visiting soon.

**HONORING THE 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR SALTERS**

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors Pastor Salters

on the 10th anniversary of her dedicated service to New Wine Ministries International. Her ministry is located on James Couzens, and Pastor Salters is a proud resident of Michigan's 12th Congressional District and a steadfast supporter of community empowerment.

Her tireless advocacy for single mothers, families, and the unhoused has transformed lives through a vibrant community pantry, back-to-school drives, and her "Somebody Loves You Committee," which distributes food, clothing, and toiletries to those in need. Pastor Salters leads with faith and compassion, providing financial literacy programs, Easter baskets, and Christmas gifts for children across the district. Her leadership reflects the very best of our community: generosity, service, and deep love for her neighbors.

I congratulate Pastor Salters on this incredible milestone and thank her for her unwavering dedication to uplifting those she is called to serve. May her ministry continue to thrive.

#### HONORING THE BASQUE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND TRADITION

##### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the rich cultural traditions of the Basque people and to reaffirm the enduring friendship between the Basque Country and the United States. This year marks the long-awaited return of Jaialdi, one of the largest Basque festivals in the world and the largest of its kind in the United States.

For the first time in over a decade, thousands from around the world are gathering in Boise, Idaho, to celebrate Basque culture through food, music, dance, and community. Jaialdi—meaning "festival" in the Basque language—is a joyous and spirited celebration of heritage and identity.

As one of only two Basque Americans to ever serve in Congress, I am proud to celebrate Basque identity and tradition. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to strengthening the bond between the United States and the Basque Country. It is a friendship rooted in shared values, democratic ideals, perseverance, and dedication to community.

I was honored to play a role in bringing a sapling of the Tree of Gernika—an enduring symbol of Basque freedom and resilience—to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. The Basque-American community has long enriched the fabric of our Nation, and events like Jaialdi are a testament to its contributions.

As Jaialdi returns to Boise this summer, I offer my warmest congratulations to the organizers, participants, and all who celebrate. May the friendship between the United States and the Basque people remain strong for generations to come.

HONORING DR. DINA BENNETT  
FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN  
JAZZ MUSEUM

##### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 1, 2025*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dina Bennett, Director and visionary of the American Jazz Museum (AJM), as she bids farewell to the iconic institution and transitions to new professional ambitions.

Dr. Bennett's dedication to sustaining, cultivating, and celebrating music has echoed throughout her life. Growing up in a music family, music was always around her; her father was in a band with her uncle, and as a young girl she attended the Fun Factory of the Arts, a program that aimed to nurture the talents of children with an interest in music. The camp not only gave her a space to begin exploring the artistry of music, but it recognized a capacity within her that was needed to sing. As a result, she was offered a scholarship for piano lessons, which gave her a consistent and formal setting to refine her skills. In addition to her love for music, service was an equal part of her life, starting with sharing her newfound expertise in piano. She went on to become a Minister of Music at her Baptist church, playing for Sunday school, for the choir, and for her dad before sermon.

Once Dr. Bennett hit thirty, her childhood passion began to beat louder, and she decided it could no longer be a side-gig, music and the arts would be her contribution to the world. This led her to pursue her PhD in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, with a minor in African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University. Dr. Bennett chose to study jazz; her fieldwork and dissertation took her, not to the birthplace of jazz, but to where it was raised: Kansas City. She did her anthropological work in the 18th and Vine District, and it is beyond fitting that her career in museum curation led her back to our beloved Jazz District, starting as Deputy Director of AJM and leaving as Director.

AJM is a cultural touchstone of Kansas City and a beacon of the Black community, history and legacy. As Dr. Bennett says, "In African American music, music is part of everything from birth to the grave." The strength of jazz is in its variability, in riffs and chord changes that demand improvisation and invention. Its melodies can serve as an anthem of joy, a requiem of pain, and a force of creativity and evolution. AJM appreciates and preserves jazz as an art form, with all its whims and caprices. The museum showcases legendary musicians; Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, and countless others who have played a pivotal part in composing the symphony of American jazz. Beyond recounting the rich history of jazz in the United States, AJM carries the art form into the modern era by offering jazz instruction to middle and high school students and orchestrating The Blue Room, a jazz club that hosts professional artists and community jam sessions.

These contributions could not come to fruition without an outstanding conductor ensuring all the pieces move together in harmony. That is where Dr. Dina Bennett has so spectacularly shined. As an employee of AJM for nearly five years and now its Director, Dr. Bennett, has orchestrated the success of many remarkable exhibits at the museum. To mark their 25th anniversary, the museum created a timeline of jazz that allowed visitors to engage and share their own memories and moments in history, creating a community record of jazz in Kansas City. Dr. Bennett also worked on an exhibit that partnered with Disney to examine the significance of the movie *Soul* and incorporated an interactive piano for guests to play themselves. In these examples and many more, the skill and influence of Dr. Bennett resound. She has been instrumental in maintaining and refining our beloved American Jazz Museum that Kansas City enjoys today. Dr. Bennett has set AJM on a new course, one that will strum new engagement with jazz and its cultural wellspring, while supporting the never-ending transformation of the art form in Kansas City and beyond.

The time, effort, and sacrifice that Dr. Bennett has invested in the museum will not be forgotten and her impact will continue to ring through AJM and our 18th and Vine District for many years to come. With a surplus of gratitude, we thank her and watch with anticipation as she continues to be a formative voice in the legacy of jazz and Black music.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP EARL JEROME WRIGHT, JR., PHD

##### 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 remarkable life and legacy of Bishop Earl Jerome Wright, Jr., PhD. A faithful servant, devoted pastor, and beloved leader in the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Wright has left behind a legacy rooted in ministry, scholarship, and love.

Bishop Wright served with distinction as the Prelate of the Turks and Caicos Islands Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and as pastor of Loving Restoration Ministries and Greater Miller Memorial Church Of God In Christ. His ministry was grounded in compassion, community, and unwavering dedication to God's people. As the son of the late Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., and Mother Geraldine Marvell Miller Wright, and the grandson of the late Bishop U.E. Miller, a foundational leader of the Church and architect of the historic Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, he continued a rich legacy of faith and service.

Our prayers and heartfelt condolences are with his beloved wife Lady Elaine P. Wright, PhD, sons Earl Jerome Wright, III and Edmund Wright, and the entire Wright family. May his memory be a blessing, and may we carry forward the light he so faithfully shared with the world.