

From ethanol production to carbon capture, Marquis forges new opportunities that support American families and put our farmers first. What started as a local operation grew into a prosperous company that has created over 450 jobs and purchases over 140 million bushels of corn annually. Still today, the deep roots of family farming and a strong commitment to the agricultural community continue to be the foundations of Marquis' success.

As we commemorate this incredible milestone, I want to recognize Mark Marquis, Tom Marquis, the whole Marquis family, and their entire team for their entrepreneurial spirit, strong values, and unwavering commitment to their community and country.

Congratulations to Marquis on 50 years of American excellence. May the next 50 years strengthen the values that make Marquis and rural America strong.

HONORING WESLEY LePATNER

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the family, friends, and colleagues of Wesley LePatner, one of the victims of the tragic shooting in Midtown Manhattan.

A city is only as strong as its people, and Wesley LePatner represented the very best of New York. She left a lasting impact wherever she went: as a senior executive at Blackstone, a devoted congregant at the Altneu Synagogue, and a dedicated board member at the Heschel School.

Wesley lived as we all should strive to live: with civic purpose, compassion, and a commitment to something greater than herself. She was a devoted spouse and parent, a distinguished professional, and a doggedly public-spirited New Yorker whose love for family and community was palpable to everyone she knew. May her memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING 2025 AS "A CHORUS YEAR"

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak in celebration of a group of workers and artists who entertain live audiences in every state across the country: the theatrical chorus. I am pleased to recognize 2025 as "A Chorus Year."

From Oklahoma! to Hamilton, some of the greatest art to come out of the United States has been musical theatre, and a staple of this art form is the chorus.

The chorus has always been more than a group of singers and dancers filling up a stage. It is an integral part of theatrical storytelling, as well as a major player in labor history. The historic actors strike of 1919 that established union protections for live performers succeeded in large part because of the women and men of the chorus who formed their own union and walked off Broadway stages in large numbers to join the fight.

And 2025 is a particularly auspicious year to celebrate the chorus. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the merger between Chorus Equity Association and Actors' Equity Association into the Equity that exists today, protecting the rights of actors and stage managers in live theatre across the U.S.

I want to recognize not only the talent of chorus performers, but their great skilled labor and tireless work ethic. They make it all look easy, but their ongoing contribution to American culture and a healthy entertainment industry is born of fierce commitment and dedication to their craft. They exemplify the best of America: many people working as individuals to build something amazing together.

PROCLAMATION HONORING DR.  
REVEREND GRIFFIN DAVIS

**HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Dr. Reverend Griffith Davis.

Whereas, born one of eighteen children to Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Ruth Davis, Reverend Griffin Davis emerged early as a charismatic and gifted leader, first a performer alongside his sister, to then becoming the iconic drum-major at Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach, channeling his creativity and gift for leadership into divine purpose;

Whereas, at age 21, Reverend Davis courageously answered his calling, leaving behind a successful management role, answering God's calling to set out with only ten cents and a command to "Go Build";

Whereas, after attending seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, Reverend Davis returned to his community with his wife, Mrs. Hughetta Davis, and their three sons, Reverend Griffin Davis Jr., Denzel Davis, and Sydney Davis, to establish Hilltop Missionary Baptist Church, a sanctuary built on prayer, faith, generosity, and service;

Whereas, for more than 55 years, Reverend Davis led his congregation by powerful example, ringing in each new year with a forty-day fast and prayer, instilling the transformative power of spiritual discipline and never-ending faith;

Whereas, his ministry extended far beyond the church walls, touching the lives of the most vulnerable through food and clothing drives, housing initiatives, compassionate counsel, and tireless community advocacy, all of which are reminiscent of his mantra that "Being nice costs nothing, but it pays a million";

Whereas, his legacy as a servant-leader, spiritual father, and pillar of goodwill lives on in the countless lives he touched and in the enduring foundation of Hilltop Missionary Baptist Church; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly honor and celebrate the contributions, wisdom, and life, of Reverend Griffin Davis for his spiritual guidance, unwavering dedication to service, and elevation of morality.

CONGRATULING DEERE & COMPANY VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COLLIS JONES ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Collis Jones, Vice President of Global Government Affairs, for his nearly 37 years of distinguished service at Deere & Company. Throughout his career, Jones demonstrated unwavering dedication, strategic insight, and a deep commitment to advancing the company's mission and values.

Collis joined John Deere in 1989 as a financial services representative. Throughout his career, he has held key positions in Sales, Marketing, and Government Affairs, including serving as the director of U.S. Public Affairs before leading the Global Government Affairs organization. In this pivotal role, he developed Deere's strategy and advocacy priorities leading to legislative, regulatory, and public policy outcomes that ultimately benefited the company, customers, employees, and business partners.

His extensive experience with product sales uniquely equipped him to educate policymakers and regulators about the company, its products, and processes. This expertise made him an effective advocate at the global, federal, and state levels, where he successfully influenced policy discussions.

Throughout his career, Collis has dedicated himself to building and leading effective teams and mentoring numerous colleagues. As a strong brand ambassador, he has served on several boards, including the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and The Congressional Award Foundation. His dedication and leadership have left a lasting impact on the company and his many colleagues across the enterprise.

Collis and his wife Stefanie, who also recently retired, plan to spend time traveling, enjoying family and friends, and perfecting their golf game. I wish Collis, Stefanie, and their daughter, Camryn, all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY SERVICE, ALONG WITH THE 360TH, 361ST, AND 362ND TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRONS

**HON. AUGUST PFLUGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and commend the distinguished service of the 6994th Security Squadron of the United States Air Force Security Service, along with the 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons. These squadrons executed highly classified and dangerous missions aboard the venerable EC-47 aircraft to meet the intelligence

requirements of the Military Assistance Command and the Central Intelligence Agency in the operating areas of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

These integrated aircrews flew out of Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang, Pleiku, Phu Cat, and Da Nang Air Bases in the Republic of Vietnam, as well as Nakhon Phanom and Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Bases in Thailand, from 1966 to 1974.

The 6994th Security Squadron was primarily composed of enlisted logistical and maintenance personnel, intelligence analysts, Morse intercept operators, and cryptologic linguist mission specialists. These professionals maintained and operated state-of-the-art airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) equipment aboard the EC-47 aircraft, used to detect, identify, and geolocate low-powered enemy transmitters on the battlefield. They also collected critical signals and communications intelligence about enemy plans and movements.

Working closely with the aircraft navigator, the mission specialists were able to geolocate enemy radio transmitters, often within a 200-meter radius, and determine the identity of enemy units. When priority targets were detected and confirmed, their locations and identifications were relayed to ground commanders for decisive action. During its tenure in Vietnam, the 6994th earned five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor, two Presidential Unit Citations, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device. It remains the most highly decorated squadron in the command from its origins in the United States Air Force Security Service to its current configuration as the 16th Air Force. Their success came at a high cost; 17 members of the squadron were killed in action during the conflict.

The 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons were co-located with their 6994th counterparts and provided the pilots, navigators, and maintenance personnel necessary to operate and sustain the EC-47 aircraft. In flight, pilots controlled the aircraft while navigators coordinated with enlisted mission specialists to take electronic lines of bearing on specific enemy radio transmissions. These lines were then plotted on maps to pinpoint the exact location of enemy transmitters. Like the 6994th, the Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons also endured significant sacrifice, losing 19 members during the war.

As integrated teams, these squadrons provided battlefield intelligence that was vital for ground commanders to plan offensive and defensive operations. It has been reported that, thanks to intelligence provided by the ARDF program, many attacks on friendly forces were mitigated, and up to 95 percent of B-52 strikes during the Vietnam conflict were influenced by data collected through the program.

Even today, much of the work and results of the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program in Vietnam remain classified. Nonetheless, their impact on the success of the war effort and the broader mission of safeguarding the interests of the United States and the free world is undeniable.

Today, we honor the professionalism, dedication, and courage of the airmen of the 6994th Security Squadron and the 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons, whose work in executing the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program provided critical intelligence to ground com-

manders during the conflict in Southeast Asia. May the legacy of their service and sacrifice be remembered and honored forever.

RECOGNIZING THE EXCEPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH OF DR. SHAMIRA BROWN

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Shamira A. Brown—a dedicated researcher, a passionate toxicologist, and a trailblazer in the field of environmental work.

Dr. Brown began her academic journey at Southern University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Chemistry. Her pursuit of knowledge did not stop there. She went on to earn her MS/Ph.D. with a concentration in Environmental Fate and Exposure from the same institution, demonstrating both her commitment and excellence in the scientific field.

In 2003, Dr. Brown further distinguished herself by studying and conducting research at Oxford University, expanding her global perspective and deepening her expertise.

Dr. Brown's research has addressed some of the most complex issues in environmental toxicology and public health. These include the fate and transport of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), pesticides contamination in groundwater, and the development of green chemistry solutions to reduce industrial pollution. Her groundbreaking investigations into the disproportionate effects of environmental toxins on disadvantaged communities have raised awareness around environmental justice and equity.

As a toxicologist, Dr. Brown does not simply study issues, she creates pathways toward solutions that focus on scientific progress and community health. Throughout her career, Dr. Brown has also been a committed mentor and advocate for underrepresented students in STEM. Her leadership and dedication have inspired many young scientists, including her own six children, some of whom have pursued environmental research. Her impact goes beyond the classroom and the lab, shaping a future for science that is more innovative and more inclusive and representative of the communities it serves.

Dr. Brown's professional experience highlights her exceptional expertise. She worked as an Environmental Protection Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration from 2004 to 2018. She also served as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Specialist for the Office of Airports and Environmental Planning. Additionally, she was an Environmental Fate Consultant for pesticides and persistent chemical pollutants (PCPs) in air, soil, and water.

I want to personally thank Dr. Brown for her lifelong dedication to research, scientific advancement, and the mentorship of future generations. Her contributions have not only elevated the standards in her field, but have also opened doors for countless others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Shamira A. Brown for her outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to science and edu-

cation. She is a true asset to our community and to our environment and I wish her the best of luck in her research to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENCY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Residency Act. This bill would require that a majority of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) be District of Columbia residents.

Under federal law and presidential executive orders (EOs), the CFA has review authority for federal property in D.C., certain military property, certain coins and medals, D.C.-owned parks and buildings and certain private land in D.C. Under the EOs, CFA has review authority for the design of D.C.-owned parks and buildings. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in D.C. "adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance," such as Rock Creek Park and the Potomac riverfront. Under the Old Georgetown Act, the CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the part of Georgetown referred to as "Old Georgetown" in the act.

Residency requirements for government positions are found in federal, state and D.C. law, including for members of the National Capital Planning Commission. The primary reason such laws 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.

I have also introduced the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Home Rule Act, which would remove the authority of the CFA over non-federal property in D.C. However, until that bill is enacted, a majority of the members should be D.C. residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PROCLAMATION HONORING BAND CaRiMi

**HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 12, 2025*

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Band CaRiMi.

Whereas, music has long been a unifying force that transcends borders and generations, preserving culture and celebrating heritage. Few bands have embodied this mission more profoundly than CaRiMi, a pioneering group that has played an instrumental role in shaping and elevating Haitian music and culture. Through their infectious rhythms, they have inspired generations and brought people together through the universal language of music;

Whereas, the band's founding members—Carlo Vieux, Richard Cave, and Mickael Guirand—left their homeland of Haiti to pursue education but never abandoned their passion for music. Their name, "CaRiMi," derived from the first two letters of their