

RECOGNIZING THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE, THE WORLD'S GREATEST AMUSEMENT PARK

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Land of Make Believe in Hope Township, Warren County the "World's Greatest Amusement Park," the "Most Iconic Amusement Park in New Jersey" and the "Number One Amusement Park in New Jersey."

The Land of Make Believe has provided lasting entertainment and fun in the Northern New Jersey area for over seven decades. Since its founding in 1954 by Herman Maier, the park has remained family-owned and operated, with the Maier family upholding the same high standards of excellence and service that have defined it from the beginning. These high standards also earned the Land of Make Believe the award of "Best Theme Park in New Jersey" by MSN.com earlier this summer. Christopher Maier, Herman's son and the park's current owner, credited its most recent achievement to the park's enduring commitment to affordability, safety, and family-centered fun.

As we celebrate this accomplishment, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this beloved institution and its legacy. I look forward to seeing it continue to bring joy to generations of families for years to come in Warren County and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEAD JOHNSON NUTRITION

HON. MARK B. MESSMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mead Johnson, a global leader in science-backed pediatric nutrition, as they celebrate 120 years of leadership and innovation in the field. Mead Johnson's flagship manufacturing and R&D center was created in Evansville over 100 years ago and still stands as one of the largest manufacturing facilities for infant formulas.

The Mead Johnson story began with the founder, Edward Mead Johnson and his son, who was born with a condition that made it difficult for him to digest his feedings. He worked with Dr. Abraham Jacobi, known as the father of American pediatrics, to create the first scientifically-based infant formula that saved his son's life. Since then, Mead Johnson has become a world leader with a mission to nourish the world's children for the best start in life. Mead's dextro-maltose was the first clinically supported infant feed product in the U.S. Today, the Enfamil family of formulas developed in Evansville support infant nutrition across the globe, and Enfamil is the top infant formula brand recommended by pediatricians in the U.S.

Mead Johnson has hired thousands of people in and around Evansville throughout their history and currently employs nearly 800 em-

ployees working across 25 departments. Nearly 20 percent of their employees have been with the company for 15 or more years, showing how much people value being a part of the Mead Johnson mission. Mead's R&D strength comes from a deep bench of diverse experts working across disciplines to advance infant nutrition.

New scientific discoveries made in Evansville have allowed Mead Johnson to innovate and evolve their products. One of the heritage innovations is the addition of DHA, an omega-3 fatty acid that is critical for infant brain and eye development. Mead Johnson was the first in the U.S. to introduce DHA into infant formula in 2002 which is now widely recognized as a standard of care in infant nutrition. I commend Mead Johnson and the important work their team accomplishes in advancing pediatric nutrition and nourishing the world's children, starting in Southern Indiana.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM TORLAKSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the distinguished career of Tom Torlakson, a dedicated public servant and steadfast advocate for California's students, families and educators.

Tom's career in service began in the classroom. As a high school science teacher and coach in the Mount Diablo Unified School District, he saw firsthand the transformative power of education. His early experience in education shaped a lifelong commitment to ensuring that every child could learn, grow, and succeed, regardless of their background or zip code.

Recognizing the broader systemic challenges facing education, Mr. Torlakson entered public office to expand his impact. He served on the Antioch City Council and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, where he advocated for stronger schools, safer communities, and greater opportunities for all residents. His leadership in local government paved the way for his election to the California State Assembly and later the California State Senate, where he continued to be a leading voice on education and public health policy.

During his tenure in the California Legislature, Mr. Torlakson authored significant legislation that fundamentally improved the lives of millions. Among his many accomplishments, he was instrumental in establishing California's system of after-school programs, the largest after-school program system in the nation, providing students with safe, enriching environments after school hours. He also spearheaded the Quality Education Investment Act (SB 1133), securing billions of dollars in critical funding to support the state's most challenged schools and reduce educational inequities.

In 2011, Tom was elected as California's 27th State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position he held with honor and distinction until 2019. As superintendent, he championed initiatives to close the digital divide, address achievements gaps, reduce dropout

rates, and promote innovative programs such as the State Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing students who achieved proficiency in multiple languages. His leadership was key in preserving vital resources for schools and safeguarding educational opportunities for California's six million students, despite the state's budget challenges.

Beyond policy achievements, Tom's tenure was marked by his compassionate nature, which underscored his belief that the future of our communities, our economy, and our democracy depends on how we nurture and educate our young people. He worked collaboratively with educators, parents, and policymakers to foster a culture of inclusion, innovation, and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we recognize Tom Torlakson today not only for his extraordinary record of public service but also for the profound and positive difference he has made in countless lives. His steadfast commitment to education and public welfare stands as an enduring example to us all. Please join me in honoring Tom Torlakson for his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the people of California.

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELL: THE NATURE OF TRUTH, ODESSA AMERICAN

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an opinion column from the Odessa American titled "Campbell: The Nature of Truth," published May 1, 2025. In it, the author reflects on how society grapples with competing claims of truth and encourages readers to return to foundational and verifiable sources—a theme with deep implications for both our civic culture and the way we approach legislation.

I believe this thoughtful reflection is a meaningful reminder of the importance of clarity, honesty, and shared understanding in democratic discourse.

[From the Odessa American]

CAMPBELL: THE NATURE OF TRUTH

Truth is ephemeral in the temporal world. It seems that everyone has his or her own version and whether or not they actually know the truth is open to interpretation and subject to one's own preference or prejudice. It's a key concept in my business, journalism, where truth is the lynchpin. We are bound to be truthful to the best of our ability and we are prohibited from writing anything that we know to be false. We can be fired for doing it.

That's the difference between the Odessa American and publications like the National Enquirer, which publish nothing but stories that they know to be untrue. That's not to say we never publish falsehoods, but we don't do it deliberately. It's that we have good reasons like credible sources and reliable references to believe that what we write is true.

In the case of political candidates, if we had to believe everything they say we would never write anything about them. We're not saying that what they say is true. We're saying it's true that that is what they said. We attribute accurately and leave it to the readers to ascribe credibility or not.

There has never been a newspaper or a book written that had nothing false in it. Only one book is 100 percent true: the Bible. God cannot lie and we may be certain that every word of the Bible is true.

Depending on the translation, Jesus 75-80 times in the Gospels uses the phrase "I tell you the truth" or variations of it and in John 14:5 he is even more specific when he says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." So he was not just telling the truth, he was and is the truth. He embodies it. I think Jesus emphasized the truth and the fact that he was always telling it because he understood the inherent deceitfulness of the world. He was saying, if you want the pure truth, look to me.

At the end of Revelation we see the importance of this issue when it says that everyone who loves and practices falsehood is classified with the sexually immoral, murderers and idolators as being among those who will be damned. Of course some people occasionally tell white lies in deference to the feelings of those they love, but then people who are always strictly truthful are often respected for it and their candor is accepted in deference to the values they espouse.

Truth derives from wisdom and like wisdom it is more valuable than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the honeycomb. The English philosopher Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said truth is the child of time, meaning that it emerges and is revealed through the passage of time, not through someone's immediate authority or declaration.

When we hear things privately or in the public arena, if the truth of them is not discernible we may be confident that time will show the truth. The political writers' adage is that nothing anyone says during a campaign may be true, but during the course of it the truth will become clear and the voters will know whom to vote for from the total body of the dialogue. German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) said lying steals one's dignity and we know from Scripture that God wants us to maintain our dignity as Christians by avoiding such things.

Stone-Campbell Church Movement leader Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) advocated for a rational and deliberative understanding of Christianity, firmly rooted in the New Testament. He opposed both speculative theology and emotional revivalism, emphasizing a return to the Bible as the primary source of truth. Campbell advocated for a focus on biblical text and avoided theological systems that relied on philosophical or speculative reasoning.

Truth derives from the wisdom developed through the fear of the Lord and wisdom and truth are indispensable in our pursuit of virtue. How may we obtain these treasures of the Holy Spirit? Of course, through prayer, reading Scripture, attending church and fellowshiping with other Christians.

Pray and ask God for the wisdom to discern truth and succeed in our ever-advancing pursuit of higher and higher virtue. Let be empowered to bear well the responsibility of being a link in the multi-generational sustenance and progress of good character in your family. Ask for a complete God-given understanding of the nature and importance of truth and thereby avoid the errors that can set back or thwart your spiritual goals.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JUANITA CARSON BOOKER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving mother, dedicated grandmother, trailblazing leader, dedicated community servant and faithful woman of God, Mrs. Juanita Carson Booker. Mrs. Booker celebrated her 95th Birthday with her family, friends, and community leaders at a celebration on August 21, 2025, at the Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Georgia.

The Genesis of the Life of Juanita Booker began with her birth in Reynolds, Georgia to the union of Thomas Carson and Mildred Dent Carson Perry. She was primarily raised by her grandmother, Mrs. Leather Dent who instilled in her a love of serving others and an unwavering faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Instilled with a love of learning, Mrs. Booker graduated from Albany State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree, a Master of Science Degree in Counseling and Guidance from Fort Valley State College, and a Specialist Degree in Education and Counseling and Guidance from Auburn University.

Armed with the knowledge and skill, Mrs. Booker turned that gift into a 46-year career in Education that touched the lives of thousands of young people. Her career encompassed 12 years as a classroom teacher, 7 years as Director of Guidance at Talbotton Road Junior High School, 7 Years as Director of Guidance at Daniel Junior High School, and 20 Years as the first Coordinator of Guidance Services for the Muscogee County School District. Because of her trailblazing effort, the Muscogee County School Board voted to name the counseling and social work department after her. A ceremony to commemorate this occasion was held on August 21, 2025, at the school board's administrative offices.

For over 70 years, Mrs. Juanita Booker has devoted her life to uplifting others, especially children, through her work as an educator and community leader. She has exemplified the values of compassion, perseverance, and faith—qualities that have earned her deep respect and admiration from those who know her.

As a faithful 73-year member of First African Baptist Church, Mrs. Booker has held numerous leadership positions, including Deaconess, Trustee, and Finance Committee Member, where she has demonstrated her commitment to spiritual growth and community service. Her involvement in various initiatives showcases her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others.

Mrs. Booker's service extends far beyond her church. She has been a consistent advocate for children's welfare and has worked relentlessly to provide opportunities for underserved populations. Her tireless efforts reflect her core belief that every child deserves access to quality education and a supportive community. Mrs. Booker has been involved with many social and civic organizations recognizing her enduring legacy to her community to include Partners in Education Coordinator, Department of Family and Children Services, Columbus Community Center, Stu-

dent Assistant Professional Association, Rape Crisis Center, Women Wanting Justice, Family Center, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. (Local Charter Member), Jack and Jill of America Foundation, Columbus Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Historical Columbus Foundation Scholarship, Girl Scouts, Girls, Inc., Columbus State University Teen Achievers, Orchettes Civic and Social Club, Matron Bridge Club (President), Starlight Bridge Club (Secretary), Girlfriends Bridge Club (President), Magnificent Bridge Club, and Network, Inc.

Moreover, her contributions to organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Tau Omega Chapter, where she is a Golden Soror and Pearl Member and SISTERS, Inc. highlight her commitment to enriching the lives of those around her. Mrs. Booker's passion for service is infectious as she inspires others to get involved and make a difference.

Juanita Carson Booker is not only a devoted mother and grandmother, but also a cherished friend and mentor to many. Her kindness, grace, and integrity serve as a model for us all and remind us of the profound impact one individual can have on the community.

On a personal note, it has been an honor to know Mrs. Booker for almost five decades. I will always cherish her friendship as well as her sage counsel and advice that have been invaluable to me as I have served in Congress. Accordingly, the impact of her life is inspiring and exemplifies the kind of love and devotion to others for which we should all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and service of Mrs. Juanita Carson Booker on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW I, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME

HON. ROBIN L. KELLY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation recognizing Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome.

Whereas, on September 15, we will welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome to Washington, D.C., to receive the Templeton Prize, the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science;

Whereas, His All-Holiness is the spiritual leader and Primus inter pares ("First among Equals") of Orthodox Christianity worldwide—a Church of 30 million individuals—and is the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople;

Whereas, in 1997, His All-Holiness was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and declared that pollution, deforestation, and climate change, among other acts harmful to the environment, should be considered "ecological sin" and moral failings, as opposed to merely practical missteps;

Whereas, he has worked to guide the Orthodox Christian Church in an environmentally conscious and Godly way, helping