

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. Ask to 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

to develop a strong community of faith, and has presided over events including the 150th anniversary of the Theological School of Halki and the 500th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Community in Venice, among others;

Whereas, he has visited the United States during the Clinton (1997), Bush (2004), Obama (2009) and Biden (2021) administrations;

Whereas, His All-Holiness was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, and has served for nearly 34 years;

Whereas, His All-Holiness has authored four books in English and has been invited to speak before the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I Robin L. Kelly, serving as a member of the House of Representatives, recognize and honor the remarkable work and accomplishments of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome.

RECOGNIZING LIBERTY CORNER  
FIRE COMPANY'S 115TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**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 Liberty Corner Fire Company, an essential part of Bernards Township, Somerset County, for its steadfast and selfless service to our community for 115 years. Since 1910, the Liberty Corner Fire Company's enduring strength has been built not only on the courage of its members but also on the support of the community it serves. Comprised of more than 65 volunteers, the Liberty Corner Fire Company is responsible for providing fire and rescue service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the Liberty Corner section of Bernards Township. Through community fundraising events and donations, residents ensure that these volunteers have the equipment, training, and protective gear needed to continue their mission safely and effectively. Generations of families in Bernards Township have worn the uniform of Liberty Corner Fire Company, making it both a proud tradition and a vital lifeline.

Mr. Speaker, as Bernards Township hosts its upcoming First Responders Appreciation Night, I am especially proud to commend Liberty Corner Fire Company for its unwavering commitment and remarkable legacy of more than a century of service to our community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring these extraordinary volunteers, whose dedication to protecting our neighbors is a shining example of community spirit and sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF HARRIETT BURT

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Harriett Burt.

Harriett was born in Alameda, California in 1940. Throughout her life, Harriett dem-

onstrated her compassion and dedication to service. She followed in her parents' footsteps, becoming a teacher and educator. She moved to Martinez, California shortly after college to teach at Martinez Junior High and later taught in Australia before stepping into administrative and consulting roles in the education field. Her work took her throughout the United States and Canada. Additionally, Harriett was deeply passionate about serving her community. She was a journalist for the Martinez News-Gazette and served on the Martinez City Council, the city's planning commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission.

She was an active member of our community, a part of the Boys and Girls Club, the Soptimist Club, the Martinez Education Association, Kiwanis, the Lyons Club, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and more. Additionally, she was the first woman to serve as board president for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Contra Costa. Harriett's leadership in the community has had a profound impact on countless lives and has paved the way for future generations.

Sadly, Harriett recently passed away at the age of 85. She will be remembered for her indelible impact in Martinez and beyond and for her intellect, warmth, and kindness. Please join me in recognizing Harriett Burt for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING CARROLL LEE  
ASHBURN

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carroll Lee Ashburn for his community service and civic leadership to the Northern Neck. The influence Carroll has shown on his community over the years has cemented his legacy as a legendary softball coach, manager, sports broadcaster, and local historian.

Carroll Ashburn served his country in the United States Coast Guard, was a softball coach of the legendary Texaco's Fast Ball Pitch Softball team, managed the girls fast pitch softball team, and started the Girl's Little League Softball program in Kilmarnock at Lancaster's Youth Park. Mr. Ashburn later became a broadcaster for High School Radio Sports on WKWI Radio, now Bay FM 101.7, where he served as the voice of high school basketball in the Northern Neck for over 25 years.

In 2007, Carroll Ashburn became the President of the Kilmarnock Museum, a position he still holds. Carroll has promoted and help produce several documentaries highlighting the history of the Northern Neck, including Kilmarnock, Virginia Living History; The Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay; Historic Churches of Virginia's Northern Neck; Rear Admiral Bert Chase—A Dream of Flight, and A Fish Story. Mr. Ashburn, a born-and-raised Northern Neck, brings a wealth of knowledge about the valuable history of the region. If one wants to know how the Chesapeake Bay built the Northern Neck or how the Northern Neck built the Chesapeake Bay, go no further than Carroll Lee Ashburn.

Today at 93, Carroll remains busy by hosting trips to Tangier Island from Hummel

Field in Topping with his favorite pilot, Davy Nichols, in a 1970 Cessna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carroll Lee Ashburn for his extraordinary contributions to the Northern Neck Community and in expressing our deepest appreciation for his lasting impact on our unique community.

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SUMMER  
INTERN CLASS FOR THEIR SERV-  
ICE TO CALIFORNIA'S 20TH DIS-  
TRICT

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and celebrate the exceptional interns who have devoted their summer to serving the people of California's 20th Congressional District. From my offices in Washington, D.C., and Bakersfield, California these students have exhibited maturity well beyond their years, offering their time, talents, and energy to support my work in meaningful ways. Their contributions have been a powerful reminder of the potential and promise embodied by the next generation. At a time when many young Americans are contemplating their role in civic life, these interns chose to engage directly with purpose and passion.

As all the summer Congressional internships come to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Nikhil Bawa for his contributions to my Washington, D.C. office. His hard work has been instrumental to my team's efforts, and I am confident that the experiences and lessons he has gained will guide him toward continued success in his future endeavors in public service. I look forward to seeing where his path leads, and I hope that path includes a continued dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY  
LIFE AND LEGACY OF BISHOP  
CALVIN WOODS, SR.

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 26, 2025*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a Civil Rights icon and community leader, Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr., who passed away on August 16, 2025, at the age of 91.

A native of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, Bishop Woods was born on September 13, 1933, in Birmingham, Alabama, to the late Maggie Rosa Lee Wallace Woods and Abraham Lincoln Woods, Sr.

Bishop Woods received his Bachelor of Arts from Miles College before continuing his education at Birmingham Baptist College. He went on to complete multiple degrees at the Universal Bible Institute, Union Baptist Seminary, and the School of Truth. Woods is also a graduate of the Urban Training Center for Christian Missions and obtained a certificate for police communications from Samford University.