

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEE
ADAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a loving husband, dedicated father, trailblazing agricultural icon, dedicated community servant, dedicated man of God and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. James Lee Adams, Jr. Sadly, James Lee passed away on October 1, 2025. He leaves behind a legacy of service and commitment that will serve as an example for generations yet to come. His life will be remembered at a home-going service at the Camilla United Methodist Church in Camilla, Georgia on October 3, 2025, at 11:00 am.

Born on January 2, 1943, in Camilla, Georgia to the union of James Lee Adams, Sr. and Ruth Borland Adams, James Lee was a proud 1965 graduate of Georgia Tech where he earned a B.S. in Management. In 1966 he earned his master's degree in Business Administration from Auburn University where he also taught undergraduate courses in Economics and Statistics. His professional career began at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation where he served in various capacities in administration.

James returned to his roots in Camilla, where he joined his father in their farming operation. He embraced an array of advancements in agricultural technology, becoming a leader in precision agriculture and sustainable farming. His ingenuity set many records, including being the first in Georgia to achieve remarkable yields in corn and wheat. His influence reached far beyond our local community as he served in several national leadership roles, including as President of the American Soybean Association.

Throughout his illustrious career, James Lee received numerous accolades, including being named one of the 100 most influential people in agriculture in the 20th century by Alpha Zeta and in 1992 the "Man of the Year in Service to Southeastern Agriculture" award from Progressive Farmer magazine. He was a true advocate for farmers, contributing significantly to policy and agricultural reforms at both the state and national levels. He assisted in writing several farm bills, including conservation, crop insurance and general commodity titles. He was twice selected as Farmer of the Year for Georgia, in 1992 and 2000. In 2000, he was also selected as the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year—the first Georgia farmer to be honored with this award.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on his earth." James Lee Adams paid his rent, and he paid it well. He was beloved not just for his accomplishments in agriculture but for his unwavering commitment to service. He was actively involved in local organizations, to

include serving as President of the Camilla Rotary Club and twice leading the Chamber of Commerce. For more than 50 years, James Lee taught Sunday School and served as Chairman of the Deacons at First Baptist Church and Chairman of the Board at Camilla United Methodist Church, exemplifying his deep faith and service to God.

His contributions to education, agriculture, and community service were immeasurable. He was a firm believer in the power of education and community engagement, taking an active role in founding Westwood Schools and serving on numerous other boards and committees.

James Lee was united in marriage, first to Sue Martin, and their marriage lasted for 52 years. Together they had three beautiful daughters. James Lee found love again in his subsequent marriage to Barbara Ford Latham where he received Barbara's children into his life, accepting them as his own.

On a personal note, I have known James Lee Adams since 1992 during my first run for Congress. He became my dear friend and supporter. In public life it is hard to find friends, and it is even harder to keep them. I can truly say that when I met James Lee Adams, I found a friend and I was blessed to keep him as my friend. He never told me what I wanted to hear but always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. James Lee Adams, Jr. and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. Moreover, we pray that they all will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE NORTH, EAST,
WEST, SOUTH (N.E.W.S.) QUEENS
AND VICE QUEENS OF MICHIGAN
COUNCIL, RED HAT SOCIETY

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors The North, East, West, South (N.E.W.S.) Queens and Vice Queens of Michigan Council, chapter of the Red Hat Society. As the Red Hat Society and CEO Mrs. Debra Granich celebrate 27 wonderful years, we would like to recognize the inspirational fellowship, community, and work of all its members. We commend Mrs. Granich for bringing together women 50 and over for sisterhood and friendship.

In 1998, the Red Hat Society was founded to encourage women to make the most of

their lives. We honor their support for women in the pursuit of five goals: fun, friendship, freedom, fitness, and the fulfillment of lifelong dreams. The Red Hat Society is truly a unique international group for women, spreading joy to every woman involved. Through their work, Mrs. Granich and local chapters have been committed to supporting small, local, and growing businesses and empowering women business owners. The Red Hat Society's powerful stories have worked to reshape the view of women in today's culture.

The 12th Congressional District extends our deepest gratitude to not only the Red Hat Society, but to Mrs. Granich and our region's chapters, ambassadors, and leaders. Our community is forever inspired by their work and advocacy for women. We wish them all prosperity, health, and happiness and thank them for their impact in changing many women's lives for the better.

CELEBRATING SERGIO'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of one of South Florida's most iconic institutions, Sergio's Cuban American Kitchen.

For half a century, Sergio's has been more than a restaurant, it has become a cultural landmark and a gathering place for generations of families across Miami-Dade. Founded in 1975, this family-owned business has proudly embodied the values of faith, family, hard work, and community service that define the Cuban-American community.

From its humble beginnings in Westchester, Sergio's has grown into a household name with multiple locations across South Florida, serving traditional Cuban comfort food that brings our community together.

Sergio's is also a proud local employer, providing opportunities to hundreds of South Floridians.

Throughout hurricanes and economic challenges, Sergio's family has remained steadfast in serving the community, supporting first responders, and helping neighbors in need.

I am honored to celebrate this milestone and to thank the entire Sergio's family for 50 years of tradition, resilience, and hospitality.

I congratulate Sergio's Cuban Restaurant on its 50th anniversary and their extraordinary contributions to the cultural fabric and economic vitality of South Florida and the Cuban-American community.

• 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 AND LEGACY
OF H. E. CHRISTIAN “CHRIS”
PEEPLS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of H. E. Christian “Chris” Peeples, a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for public transit whose decades of service improved the lives of countless residents in the East Bay and beyond.

Chris Peeples was first appointed to the AC Transit Board of Directors in November 1997 to fill one of the District’s two At-Large Board positions. He went on to earn the trust of voters time and again, being elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. Over the course of his distinguished tenure, he represented Ward 1—including Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond, San Pablo, and the surrounding unincorporated communities—with energy, vision, and compassion.

A longtime champion for transit riders, Director Peeples was deeply engaged in the AC Bus Riders Union, Alliance for AC Transit, Regional Alliance for Transit, Alliance for Sensible Transit, and the Coalition for a One Stop Terminal, among many other groups. His commitment extended beyond the Bay Area, as he actively participated in the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies and the American Public Transportation Association, where he elevated local priorities to national and international conversations.

Director Peeples was especially devoted to advancing clean transportation and was a strong proponent of AC Transit’s groundbreaking zero-emission fuel cell bus program. He spoke at and moderated panels across the country and abroad, promoting hydrogen and zero-emission transit as solutions to climate change and air pollution.

Chris was also a pillar of civic life, serving on the Oakland Ethics Commission and numerous community and political bodies. A graduate of Crown College, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Hastings College of the Law, he combined his intellectual rigor with a passion for equity and sustainability.

Christian Peeples leaves behind a legacy of advocacy, innovation, and public service that will endure for generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary life and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the community he served so faithfully.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SAINT GEORGE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th anniversary of the founding of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church.

For over a century, St. George has been at the heart of New Hampshire’s Greek Orthodox

community and has served as a spiritual and cultural hub for generations of New Hampshire families. St. George has witnessed every season of life for its parishioners and has remained a constant presence for generations.

My own family has been part of this community and this parish for years. I am grateful for those who have taught me so much about my Greek heritage and culture. These are lessons that I carry with me each and every day.

Consecrated as a cathedral in 1970, St. George took on a new role within the Greek Orthodox faith, and it continues to serve as a vital connection to the larger Orthodox community. In addition to serving the spiritual needs of parishioners, St. George has been dedicated to enriching the lives of so many in the Greater Manchester area through youth programs, community events, Sunday and Greek School, basketball, and more.

For much of its history, St. George has opened its doors for festivals like Glendi and welcomed thousands of visitors of all faiths and backgrounds to enjoy authentic Greek food, culture, and history. The Anagenesis Ladies Society also remains devoted to taking on religious, cultural, and humanitarian efforts that are at the heart of the Church.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I congratulate the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church on achieving this incredible milestone. I thank them for the work done by so many to make Manchester and New Hampshire a better place.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN DETROIT CENTER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly celebrates a significant achievement: the 20th anniversary of the University of Michigan Detroit Center on Woodward Avenue, right in the heart of Detroit.

For two decades, this space has become a hub for grassroots community organizing and education. Programs like “Semester in Detroit” have created a mutually beneficial relationship, allowing my office to mentor talented young college students while also gaining valuable support from their work as interns. By supporting education and leadership in Detroit, these programs help build stronger, more inclusive, and thriving communities.

As we celebrate 20 years, I look forward to many more years of partnership and progress together.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SHIRLEY KNOX
BENTON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of Mrs. Shirley Knox Benton, a pioneering educator whose leadership and vision broke barriers as the first female principal in her community.

Throughout her distinguished career, Mrs. Benton dedicated herself to creating opportunities for young people, ensuring that every student had access not only to quality education but also to the encouragement and support needed to succeed. Her historic appointment as the first woman to lead a school as principal paved the way for generations of women to follow in her footsteps, serving as a beacon of progress and possibility.

Mrs. Benton’s leadership extended beyond the classroom. She championed innovation in education, built meaningful partnerships with families and communities, and instilled in her students a lasting sense of discipline, perseverance, and hope. Her contributions have had a profound and enduring impact, shaping not only the schools she led but also the countless lives she touched.

Today, we celebrate Mrs. Shirley Knox Benton not only for her historic achievement but also for her unwavering devotion to education and the advancement of future generations. Her example continues to inspire, reminding us of all of the power of determination, service, and trailblazing leadership.

I congratulate Mrs. Benton on a legacy that she will endure for many more years through the lives of those she guided and inspired.

RECOGNIZING ANNISSA FRAGOSO

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anissa Fragoso, Director of the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for her service and accomplishments as she retires after a decade of service to the MCHCC.

Anissa Fragoso was born and raised in the City of Tracy and moved to the community of Merced in 1995 where she has resided for 30 years. She earned her Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Merced Community College in 2012. Ms. Fragoso has owned the Farmers Insurance Agency in downtown Merced, with more than 20 years of insurance expertise.

During her tenure at the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Fragoso helped secure an ARPA grant as part of the Re-open Merced Businesses initiative. She was instrumental in another grant for the Arts Community to host 2 Art Corners, where local artists participate and are paid. Under her watch, the MCHCC launched Vamanos Magazine which showcased Merced’s agricultural landscape, small businesses, and local activities.

In 2022 and 2023, Ms. Fragoso’s work allowed the MCHCC to partner with Mayor Matthew Serratto to host an annual Mayor’s Ball that would raise over \$50,000 distributed to local non-profits within the City of Merced.

She was a co-collaborator of the Mercado Night Market with the City of Merced, designed and created by Gil Cordon. This post-pandemic creation assists the small business community and Arts Community who suffered during the economic challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The MCHCC assisted in 150 micro-businesses, artisans and brick and mortar stores getting the licensing needed to do