

skier onto his back, positioned the head to open the airway, and immediately initiated chest compressions.

Members of the Nub's Nob Ski Patrol arrived shortly after with an automated external defibrillator, administering two shocks. CPR continued following the defibrillation once it was deemed safe to do so, and oxygen was delivered using a bag-valve mask. Sergeant Wagner assisted ski patrol in securing the skier onto a toboggan for transport down the trail.

Upon arrival at the ski patrol room, Emmet County Emergency Medical Services assumed care and transported the skier to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital, where he is expected to make a full recovery. Medical staff later confirmed that the rapid response, early CPR, and timely use of an AED were critical to saving the skier's life.

Mr. Speaker, let us join together in recognizing Sergeant Dennis Wagner for his life-saving and selfless actions. I thank him for his continued dedication to the people of Michigan through his service with the Michigan State Police, and I commend him for embodying the very best of public service.

IN MEMORY OF SHERIFF JOHN
BOWENS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sorrow but also with deep gratitude to pay tribute to a man whose life was a testament to faith, service, and love—Sheriff John Bowens of Terrell County, Georgia. A funeral service to celebrate his remarkable and purposeful life was held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, in Dawson, Georgia. Born August 17, 1946, in Dawson, Georgia, John Bowens grew from humble beginnings into a leader whose steady hands and steady heart guided a community for more than three decades.

I have had the honor of representing many remarkable public servants, but few have combined humility, resolve, and compassion the way Sheriff Bowens did. His story is the American story—a son of Terrell County who worked hard, raised a devoted family, held fast to faith, and answered the call to protect his neighbors. After graduating from Carver High School in 1965, Sheriff Bowens rolled up his sleeves and worked wherever his community needed him: as a bus driver, ensuring children arrived at school safe and ready to learn; as a mechanic at Dawson Motor Company, tending to the machines that helped his neighbors make a living; and later in the ranks of public safety—with the Dawson Fire Department, the Dawson and Dougherty County police departments, and ultimately the Terrell County Sheriffs Department. Each step in his career was a step closer to a life of service, each job a small promise kept to his fellow citizens.

In 1992, the people of Terrell County placed their trust in John Bowens and elected him, Sheriff. That trust was repaid every day, for 32 years. He served longer than any sheriff in the county's history and became the longest-serving African American sheriff elected in the State of Georgia. But these distinctions tell

only part of the story. What mattered most to those who knew him was not the record on a plaque, but the quiet, constant ways he showed up: walking neighborhoods, listening to concerns with patience, mentoring young people who might otherwise have lost their way, and standing at the bedside of a grieving family or the side of a frightened child until calm returned.

Sheriff Bowens' leadership flowed from a bedrock of faith. Introduced to Christ early, he first joined Pleasant Hill Missionary Church in Herod and later made Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Dawson his spiritual home. For more than thirty years, he served as a Deacon and as Chairman of the Deacon Board—roles he carried not as honors but as responsibilities. In the church he found purpose; in the Lord he found the guiding light that shaped his decisions, his care for others, and the moral courage that marked his long career.

His life was also defined by a love that endured: in 1966 he married Janice Williams Bowens, his partner, confidante, and anchor. Together they raised four children—Darrell, Brenda, Marcus, and Pamela—and built a family that mirrored the values they lived: faith, perseverance, and tenderness. John took pride in his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; he celebrated their milestones as if they were his own, and they drew strength from his example. Family, for Sheriff Bowens, was not a private matter—it was the wellspring of his public service, the place where he learned to care for others before caring for self.

Sheriff Bowens was a man of convictions. He was outspoken when injustice threatened the vulnerable, and he was steady when storms—literal and figurative—tested Terrell County. People could depend upon him. When difficult choices had to be made, neighbors sought his counsel because they knew his word was his bond. He earned the respect of fellow law enforcement officers across counties, and he carried himself with a dignity that reflected both his personal faith and his commitment to the rule of law.

Those who served beside him remember a leader who mentored rather than commanded, who cultivated loyalty not by fear but by example. He was a Mason at St. Mark Lodge 59 and a friend to many. He celebrated community life and helped weave the social fabric of Dawson and Terrell County so that when tragedy came, people had one another to lean on.

On a personal note, Sheriff Bowens was my friend. We established a bond as we were both elected in 1992. He never told me what I wanted to hear, but he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his fidelity and his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues 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 Sheriff John Bowens. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to Sheriff Bowens' family, friends, loved ones and all those who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

May the life of Sheriff John Bowens be a beacon to those who follow: a call to serve without expectation of fame, to lead with humility, and to love without reservation. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING JOHNNY QUINESSO, SR.
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Johnny Quinesso, Sr. On Thursday, February 5, 2026, family, friends, and members of the community gathered on the USS *New Jersey* in the City of Camden, New Jersey to celebrate the 100th birthday of Navy Veteran Johnny Quinesso, Sr.

Born and raised in Vineland, New Jersey, Johnny served his country as a radioman for the United States Navy on the LSM-302, where he was the radioman on duty as the message was received that the Japanese had surrendered, and that World War II had ended.

Following his time in the war, Johnny was a dedicated government employee with the Internal Revenue Service for 43 years, meanwhile continuing to dedicate his time volunteering on the Battleship *New Jersey*, shaping the lives of visitors through stories of his service.

While living in Vineland, New Jersey, Johnny Quinesso, Sr. has remained a symbol of strength and his willingness to teach others about history, has made a powerful example of what it means to be a leader, and friend, supporting others for the entirety of his life.

We celebrate Johnny Quinesso, Sr.'s 100 years of life and look forward to many more years as a constant source of heroism, dedication, and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Johnny Quinesso, Sr., a citizen dedicated to both his country and community, and who has thoroughly served them both to the best of their ability.

CONDEMNING THE SENTENCING OF
JIMMY LAI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as myself, the son of a Flying Tiger of World War II serving in Kunming, Xi'an, and Chengdu, developing a warm affection for the people of China, I am especially disappointed with the outrageous sentencing of Chinese patriot Jimmy Lai. The National Review, in the tradition of William F. Buckley, Jr., has always been a bulwark for freedom, successfully promoting democracy to be victorious over totalitarian communism, liberating tens of millions across the world. I include in the RECORD the following article from the National Review by Camden Mulder:

PRO-DEMOCRACY MEDIA MOGUL JIMMY LAI
SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN CHINESE PRISON

Pro-democracy Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai was sentenced to 20 years in prison following the end of his long-awaited trial in December, when he was convicted of violating Chinese national security laws.

Lai's sentence is the harshest ever handed down for a violation of this specific Chinese

security law, which has been used in the country to quell any criticism of the Chinese Communist Party. Lai, 78, is a prominent pro-democracy activist and founder of the newspaper Apple Daily, which championed the cause of freedom for Hong Kong.

In December, Lai was convicted of conspiracy to collude with a foreign country to endanger national security and conspiracy to publish seditious publications. Lai had previously pleaded not guilty. The maximum punishment for this conviction is life in prison.

Lai's co-defendants, six of whom were former employees of Apple Daily, received sentences of up to ten years in prison. The other two co-defendants were activists.

Lai was previously arrested in August 2020 after Chinese authorities raided Apple Daily. He then spent five years in Chinese custody in solitary confinement.

Three Chinese judges determined that Lai's work, as well as his meetings with U.S. government officials, were in violation of national security law. Lai did not have a jury present at his trial. The trial lasted 156 days, during which Lai represented himself. It was delayed multiple times because of Lai's health.

The verdict alleges that Lai consistently and unwaveringly worked to take down the Chinese Communist Party via his work at his pro-democracy news publications.

President Donald Trump is set to visit China in April and has urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to consider Lai's release. Trump said he feels 'very badly' about the verdict.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper said the trial was 'politically motivated,' with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer calling for Lai's release. Lai is a British citizen.

Lai grew up very poor but worked his way up from factory worker to billionaire, in part by starting his own retail chain. At the time of Lai's arrest, he was worth \$1.2 billion. After beginning much of his pro-democracy activism through his newspapers, Next Magazine and Apple Daily, he converted to Catholicism in 1997.

Chairman John Moolenaar of the Select Committee on China said he will 'lead efforts to sanction those responsible for the repression of Lai and his colleagues.'

'The sentencing of Jimmy Lai is the latest stain on the human rights record of the Chinese Communist Party and the farce of its promise to uphold one country, two systems,' Moolenaar said. 'Lai and his Apple Daily colleagues are being punished for exposing the truth about the CCP's attacks on the rights of Hong Kongers.'

Lai's daughter, Claire Lai, said her father's sentence is 'heartbreakingly cruel.' 'If this sentence is carried out, he will die a martyr behind bars,' Claire said.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JASON COKER AND REVEREND JENELL COKER AS MY DECEMBER 2025 CO-CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rev. Jason Coker and Rev. Jenell Coker as my December 2025 Co-Constituents of the Month.

Rev. Jason and Rev. Jenell Coker are being recognized for their extraordinary leadership,

vision, and longstanding commitment to community transformation. Together, they have grown The Oceanside Sanctuary into a thriving, historic congregation that serves as a hub for inclusive, justice-centered ministry in North County San Diego.

Their work extends far beyond the church walls through ecumenical and interfaith collaboration, nonprofit leadership, education, and community organizing, and is grounded in a fully LGBTQ-affirming faith that prioritizes dignity, equity, and belonging. Through decades of service, the Cokers have demonstrated how thoughtful, courageous leadership can strengthen institutions, empower communities, and create lasting positive change.

They are immensely deserving of this recognition and our district is better off because of their work.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
WILLIAM SAXE EPPS

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life of Reverend Dr. William Saxe Epps which began on June 3, 1945.

Reverend Dr. Epps of Rochester, New York, lived by the principle that "service is the price you pay for the space you occupy." His unwavering commitment to serving the people of Los Angeles and our Nation reminds us that privilege demands responsibility—and that faith requires action.

His pastoral journey was deeply rooted in the Black freedom tradition, carrying forward a legacy of faith-driven activism and moral leadership. He served some of the most historic Black churches in America, including First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, Calvary Baptist Church in Massachusetts, and most recently, Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles here in my congressional district.

Under his visionary leadership as senior pastor for more than 35 years, Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles became both a spiritual anchor and a powerful civic force, advancing justice, education, and community empowerment for my constituents and beyond.

Beyond ministry, Reverend Dr. Epps was a tireless champion of education. He worked for former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and later became the longest-serving Commissioner on the Affordable Housing Commission where he helped ensure that every Angeleno had a home.

Reverend Dr. Epps found deep joy and meaning in art, music, literature, and culture, believing these to be essential tools for healing and human connection.

With his transition on January 12, 2026, alongside his loving wife of 48 years, we have lost not only a giant in the faith and civil rights movement, but also a devoted husband, caring grandfather, and cherished friend.

His legacy of service, justice, and love will endure as we continue to practice what he so powerfully preached.

May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" K. WESLEY ON SIX YEARS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2026

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Christopher "Chris" K. Wesley, my constituent and the Senior Pastor of Antioch Fellowship Church of Dallas. This month marks six years of dedicated leadership as pastor of this historic and impactful church—a church I am proud to represent and one that is truly on the move. These six years have been marked by servant leadership, the faithful teaching of God's Word, and a steadfast commitment to being a beacon of hope—not only for the Antioch congregation, but for communities throughout Dallas and beyond.

Under Pastor Wesley's leadership, Antioch Fellowship Church has experienced significant growth and expanded its reach in meaningful ways. The church continues to engage new generations for Christ while remaining rooted and grounded in the strong foundation and values upon which Antioch was built.

Pastor Chris is not only a preacher, but also a gifted worship leader, singer, and songwriter. He leads Chris Wesley and Undignified Praise, a collective of young adults who have served as featured artists at events nationwide. Their debut album, Redeemed, was released in 2012, followed by Encounter in November 2019. The group has received numerous nominations and honors, including KHVN's Home Grown Gospel Honors and the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards as Group of the Year. In 2022, they received Ensemble of the Year at the Avidity Awards in Memphis, Tennessee. Their third project, 8:28: Live in Dallas, was released in January 2023 and features the single "Til It's Good," written by Pastor Wesley. Their most recent live recording, 14:14, inspired by Exodus 14:14, was released in 2025.

In addition to his leadership at Antioch and Undignified Praise, Pastor Chris serves as Director of EMERGE, the Next Generation Department of the National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated, under the leadership of Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert. He also serves in various community leadership and service roles, including work with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and other organizations committed to faith, advocacy, and civic engagement.

At the age of 15, Pastor Chris accepted his call to the preaching ministry and delivered his first sermon. Since that time, he has ministered through preaching and song across the country. Known for his passionate delivery and his ability to interpret Scripture in ways that are both accessible and applicable, he has a deep love for teaching the Word of God to people of all ages and backgrounds. Additionally, Pastor Chris has committed his life not only to serving within the walls of Antioch Fellowship Church, but also to standing up for those without a voice and advocating for justice, faith, and community uplift.

Again, I extend my sincere congratulations to Pastor Christopher K. Wesley on six years of faithful leadership. I thank him for continued service to our community and his unwavering commitment to teaching God's Word. I know