

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA  
JEAN CALDWELL "SANDY" DAVIS

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Ms. Sandra Jean Caldwell "Sandy" Davis, who passed away on March 17, 2026, at the age of 79.

Ms. Davis was born on August 9, 1946, in Radford, Virginia. Her upbringing in rural Virginia included graduating from nearby Floyd County High School.

After graduation, Ms. Davis pursued lengthy careers in Southwest Virginia. Her first career path focused on the Commonwealth of Virginia's Health Department. This line of work provided her the opportunity to serve the public health needs of communities in the New River Valley, primarily in Radford and nearby Giles County.

In addition to addressing local health care challenges, Ms. Davis developed a reputable career in banking and finance. She rose to senior vice president at the Bank of Christiansburg, the first woman in Southwest Virginia to achieve that position.

Together with her first husband, Patrick C. Cupp, Ms. Davis founded BCR Real Estate and Property Management. Their company would be foundational in supplying housing to college students seeking to attend two of Southwest Virginia's premier academic institutions, Virginia Tech and Radford University.

Moreover, Ms. Davis dedicated significant attention and resources to higher education and athletics at these institutions. She served on the Board of Visitors for Radford University and Virginia Tech. Ms. Davis also devoted time to the Board of Directors for the New River Community College in Pulaski County, Virginia.

More scholarship opportunities are available to students and student-athletes thanks to Ms. Davis' contributions. In 2018, she and her second husband, Jack Davis, a renowned author and historian, made a landmark \$8 million donation to Radford, which was one of the largest gifts in the school's history. Additionally, Radford University's Athletic Director credits Ms. Davis' impact on Radford Athletics, saying she helped create opportunities for student-athletes to pursue excellence and represent Radford with pride.

New River Valley communities and schools recognized Ms. Davis for her excellent work and profound charity. Among her highly esteemed accolades, both the Blacksburg Rotary Club and Montgomery County Chamber awarded her Citizen of the Year. In 2022, Ms. Davis was inducted into the Southwest Virginia Business Hall of Fame.

Besides her husband of 23 years, Jack, Ms. Davis is survived by her sister, Mildred Weddle; two stepchildren; and more than a dozen nieces and nephews.

I join the New River Valley in mourning the loss of a philanthropic titan, education advo-

cate, and community leader. Throughout her career of service and business, Southwest Virginia communities received support. Ms. Davis will continue to be remembered for her significant impact on our region.

HONORING DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY'S BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a moment of profound historical significance in the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi—the unveiling of a Mississippi Freedom Trail marker at Delta State University on March 10, 2026, commemorating the 1969 Black Student Organization Student Sit-In. This event marks a pivotal chapter in the university's history and in the broader Civil Rights Movement in the Mississippi Delta.

During an era when desegregation efforts were unfolding across the South—often met with resistance—Black students at Delta State University courageously organized to confront inequality and injustice on their campus. While the story of James Meredith is widely known, the experiences of students at smaller regional institutions like Delta State are equally deserving of recognition.

Despite the university's legal integration, Black students endured discrimination in classrooms, social spaces, and campus life. They faced unfair grading practices, racial hostility, and exclusion from full participation in the academic community. In response, these students formed the Black Student Organization (BSO) in 1969, uniting to advocate for equity, dignity, and representation.

The BSO presented university leadership with a list of ten demands, including the hiring of Black faculty and counselors, fair grading policies, an end to racial slurs, and greater academic and cultural inclusion.

When their concerns were dismissed, students organized peacefully—meeting, marching, and ultimately staging a sit-in at Kethley Hall on March 10, 1969. On that day, more than fifty students were arrested after refusing to leave the administration building. They were transported to the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, where they were held overnight. Their courage in the face of intimidation and injustice became one of the most significant civil rights moments in Delta State's history and student's bravery. Though met with resistance, their actions brought meaningful change. The university began to address inequities, including hiring more Black faculty and improving fairness in academic practices. More importantly, these students helped lay the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable campus environment for future generations.

Today, more than fifty years later, the Mississippi Freedom Trail marker stands outside Kethley Hall as a lasting tribute to their bravery and determination. It serves as a reminder that progress is often born from sacrifice, and that the voices of determined individuals can shape institutions and communities for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the students of the 1969 Delta State Sit-In. Their legacy continues to inspire those who seek justice, equality, and opportunity for all.

CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUB OF MATAWAN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the General Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) of Matawan as it celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. Since its incorporation, GFWC of Matawan has provided a supportive social environment for women of Matawan to connect and take strides towards supporting their community.

Historically, the women involved in this organization were devoted to the betterment of their town, and Nation. During World War I, members volunteered to support schoolgirls at Camp Morgan and later, during World War II, members served as Air Wardens, Plane Spotters, Red Cross Volunteers, Rationing Board members and on all fund drives. Community volunteerism remains a core pillar of membership with this organization. Members have initiated the Public Health Association, and sponsored multiple meaningful organizations, including the local Parents Teacher League, YMCA, the first Girl Scout troop, and the creation of academic scholarships and cultural programs in town. The GFWC of Matawan has amplified their leadership, initiative, and generosity over many generations.

Around Matawan, it is revealing how significant of an impact GFWC of Matawan has had on the town. The club accomplished several projects for locals to benefit from including planting trees around Veterans Memorial Park, creating Veterans Memorial Park, building the steps and landing at Park Avenue on Lake Matawan, and planting shrubs and dogwood around Terhune Park to honor club members. Perhaps their most notable effort to support the continuation of civic betterment is the "Girl of the Year" award. Annually, one High School Senior is awarded recognition for their academic advancements and significant community volunteerism.

It is my privilege to honor the General Federation of Women's Club of Matawan as its members mark this historic 110th anniversary, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone. They are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

• 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 AVERY WISE FOR HIS  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO OUR  
COMMUNITY

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Avery Wise, a fearless 17-year-old leader from Woodbridge, Virginia, who has already committed his life to serving others.

At just 17 years old, EMT Wise volunteers weekly with the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton (OWL) Volunteer Fire Department, where he responds to 911 emergency calls, provides medical assistance to patients, and administers appropriate medical treatments.

Last year, his passion for service was put to the test in a profound and life-changing way. While in class learning about air management, EMT Wise was dispatched to an emergency involving a 73-year-old woman who had stopped breathing. Without a doubt, he went into action, performing an intubation procedure and attaching a ventilation device to restore her breathing. After successfully stabilizing the patient, he remained by her side during transport, carefully making sure her chest continued to rise adequately. Thanks to his quick actions and composure under pressure, the patient was released from the hospital in good health.

This experience did not deter him, instead it strengthened his commitment to public service and deepened his understanding of what it truly means to serve, no matter how big or small the call could be.

EMT Wise's dedication to serving his community doesn't stop when he is off the clock. He has been a member of the Trail Life USA scouting program for over 11 years, serving in multiple leadership roles, including First Officer and High School Chaplain, taking on the responsibility of assisting the Troop Master in troop management and communicating with the Committee Chair to discuss ways to improve the organization.

In addition, EMT Wise is an extraordinary varsity basketball player with the Northern Virginia Homeschool Athletic Association. He also earned the Passion for Public Service Scholarship from the National Society of High School Scholars.

In want to personally thank EMT Wise for his dedication to serving his community, and I wish him continued success as he works toward becoming a crew leader within his EMT team. Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing EMT Wise for his courage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
REPRESENTATIVE ELIOT ENGEL

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of my colleague, Representative Eliot Lance Engel of New York. Congressman Engel passed away on April 10, 2026, in New York City at the age of 79. My condolences are with his loved ones during this difficult time.

Prior to his political career, Congressman Engel worked as a teacher and guidance counselor in the Bronx. Eliot and I often shared stories over our similar experiences as teachers of social studies. After teaching, he was elected to the New York State Assembly representing the 81st District. During his tenure in the New York State Assembly, he concurrently pursued his Juris Doctor at the New York Law School.

In Congress, Congressman Engel was a dear colleague. I worked closely with him on issues related to foreign affairs, travelling around the world together from Iraq to India together. In his time in Congress, Congressman Engel played an instrumental role in passing key international development and humanitarian legislation such as the re-authorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which included his Stop Tuberculosis Now Act. He also championed efforts here in the United States and around the world to protect and expand LGBTQ+ rights. Congressman Engel was also a strong advocate for healthcare reform including the Affordable Care Act, and the Partnering to Improve Maternity Care Quality Act which improved maternity care both for mothers and newborns.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life and work of Congressman Eliot Engel.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BENJAMIN  
"BEN" COHEN

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay a special thank you to a truly exceptional American, and U.S. Army officer, Major Benjamin "Ben" Cohen.

Major Cohen served with distinction as a Defense Fellow in my office from January 2023 to December 2023 in which his professionalism, expertise, candor, and team-centric attitude was paramount to my staff's success in the FY24 Appropriations Cycle. His contributions during this time were instrumental in shaping budget and policy related discussions and advancing legislative priorities.

Following his tenure in my office, Ben served as a Congressional Budget Liaison in the Secretary of the Army's Financial Management and Comptroller's Budget Liaison (SAFMI-BUL) office, representing the Missile Procurement, Army (MiPA). Procurement of Army Ammunition (PAA), and Procurement of Wheeled Tracked Combat Vehicles (WTCV) appropriations portfolios. As a Liaison, Ben supported 25 staff delegation trips and 5 congressional delegation trips and expertly worked with the appropriations staff to ensure the United States Army's priorities were supported, cared for, and realized. His professionalism, dedication, and expertise have greatly benefited Members of Congress and their staff, leaving a lasting impression on all who have had the privilege of working with him.

Born and raised in Barnstable, Massachusetts, Major Cohen graduated from Norwich University in 2014 with a bachelor's in criminal justice and was commissioned Active Duty as a Field Artillery Officer.

Major Cohen began his military career with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, where he served as a Company Fire Support Officer, Maintenance Control Officer, Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Brigade Adjutant. After completing his Captains Career Course in 2018. Ben returned to Alaska—Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska, where he served as a Battalion Fire Support Officer for 3-509th Infantry (Airborne), Commander for HHC, 3-509th Infantry (Airborne), and Commander for B Battery, 2-377th PFAF. Upon completing his command time at JBER, Ben was accepted into the Army's Congressional Fellowship Program.

Major Cohen's academic achievements include earning a Master of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University in 2023, and a Master of Public Administration from Norwich University. Additionally, Ben is a graduate of United States Army's Ranger School, Jumpmaster Course, Basic Airborne Course, Air Assault School, and the Army's Cold Weather Leaders Course.

In addition to his military duties, Major Cohen volunteers his time as a Coach for youth sports (hockey) in the local area, providing development and mentorship opportunities to local youth athletes. This year, Ben's St. James Hockey Team won the Atlantic Hockey Federation's (AHF) 16U Lemieux Division in dominant fashion, culminating a massively successful season with an overall record of 34-18-5.

Major Cohen's exceptional career is a testament to his unwavering dedication, leadership, and commitment to selfless service and excellence. His contributions to the Army and our Nation are truly commendable.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending my good friend, Major Benjamin "Ben" Cohen for his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SECOND  
CHANCE MONTH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2026*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as Second Chance Month, a time to reflect on and celebrate the growth and successes that emerge from giving people with records new opportunities. Second chances help justice-involved individuals better themselves, reduce recidivism, make communities safer, and grow the economy.

As I prepare to retire at the end of 2026, I am deeply proud of my work to advance opportunities for people with records, be the reforms in the areas of criminal justice, health, tax, or education. Today, I wish to focus on how giving second chances by expanding access to higher education makes our country stronger. We know that education is one of the most effective ways to support reentry—strengthening communities, closing racial and economic equity gaps in postsecondary education and workforce participation, and disrupting the cycle of incarceration that continues to target and limit opportunity for people of color and those from low-income backgrounds.