

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JOHNNIE JOHNSON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose life was a testament to courage, faith, and selfless service: Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. An event to celebrate his courage and remarkable life is being held today, Monday, April 20, 2026, at Crew Quarters in Albany, Georgia.

Born May 28, 1940, in Albany, Georgia, the eldest of nine children, Johnnie Johnson learned early the value of work, family, and faith. He joined Bethel A.M.E. Church as a boy, married the love of his life, Thelma Champion, in 1958, and raised five children. Yet it was his willingness to stand, even when standing cost him everything, which marks his life as extraordinary.

In 1972, Reverend Johnson became the primary plaintiff in a class action suit against the City of Albany and its officials to challenge entrenched, unjust employment practices that denied Black men and women the dignity of equal work and fair wages. He did not bring that fight for glory or gain. He brought it because he believed—with every fiber of his being—that every person deserves to be judged by their ability, not the color of their skin; that fairness is the birthright of a free people.

He led a courageous walkout of some 260 Black city employees, demanding what was rightfully theirs. The court found in favor of the plaintiffs, and the decision opened doors that had long been locked. But the victory was bitter-sweet. Reverend Johnson paid a steep personal price. He was not rehired by the city. He faced economic hardship, rumors meant to shame him, and the pain of displacement that comes when a community you love turns its back on you for doing right.

For a time, he sought work and refuge in Charleston, South Carolina, where he found only temporary solace and short-term employment. Yet the news of his stand in Albany followed him, and the pull of home—and the cause he served—drew him back. Reverend Johnson mustered the courage to return to Albany despite the risks to his reputation and employability, choosing fidelity to his family and community over the easier path of exile.

His return marked a new chapter of resilience. He became a barber and earned master barber certification. He transformed a barber's chair into a sanctuary of counsel, dignity, and hope. Countless customers were touched by him, and many young barbers learned their trade and their character under his tutelage.

Answering a divine call in 1996, he was licensed to preach on June 10, 1996, blending

his roles as barber, reverend, and civil rights champion without a trace of bitterness. As the late Congressman John Lewis counseled those who move the Nation forward, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." Reverend Johnson's life embodied that counsel—he made the necessary trouble to open doors for others, and he bore the consequences with dignity.

On January 11, 2000, Albany lost a beloved son, but his legacy lives on through those that he touched by his one act of courage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and I, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life of Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. His life reminds us that the work of justice is often carried forward by ordinary people who do extraordinary things. He taught us that sacrifice for the common good is never in vain and that dignity can never be taken from a man who refuses to let hatred define him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Johnson's memory—a memory that calls us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals he lived: courage in the face of intimidation, compassion in the face of suffering, and an unflinching belief in the worth of every human being. May God bless his legacy and may we all strive to walk in his footsteps.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of American Liver Foundation.

For half a century, American Liver Foundation has been at the forefront of liver health. Established in 1976, American Liver Foundation is the largest patient advocacy organization for people with all types of liver disease. They remain dedicated to helping people improve their liver health. American Liver Foundation provides guidance and life-saving resources, they are a beacon for the 100 million Americans affected by liver disease. They prioritize educating patients, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, advocating for patient rights, funding medical research, and promoting public awareness campaigns about liver health.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor American Liver Foundation for their unwavering commitment to those living with liver disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating American Liver Foundation on 50 years of supporting patients with liver disease. I look

forward to seeing all that American Liver Foundation achieves in the next 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LINDSAY ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and to commend its century of dedicated service to community improvement, support for local youth, and the promotion of education.

Since its founding on April 5, 1926, the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has worked tirelessly to strengthen the community through service, leadership, and fellowship. From physicians and medical providers to farmers and retail workers, members from every part of the Lindsay community came together with the goal of inspiring residents to engage in service above self. From the beginning, the club has played a vital role in enriching the lives of local children by sponsoring and organizing events such as horse shows, Boy Scout meetings, youth sports, and community entertainment. Beyond its local impact, the club has extended its reach internationally, partnering with charitable groups to provide financial aid, scholarships, and livestock to children in need. Shortly after, local Kiwanians helped establish the Lindsay-Ono Sister City Program, offering students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in Japan's rich culture and traditions.

In the 1990s, Ellen Hendricks-Blumer made history as the club's first female member and, just four years later, was elected club president. During this time, the club also supported efforts to refurbish the Lindsay Memorial Building and helped bring back the iconic "Giant Olive," which now stands proudly near the Olive Tree Inn along Highway 65.

The Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has remained steadfast in its commitment to education, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and scholarships to high school students from Lindsay and Strathmore. Its dedication to service is equally evident in its ongoing efforts, including community cleanups, food distribution, family events, and city improvement projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay on 100 years of outstanding service. Through its unwavering commitment to youth, education, and community, the club continues to help shape the next generation of leaders in the Central Valley and across our Nation.

• 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 ROCKWALL AND BRIN
CHURCH OF CHRIST'S 130TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 130th anniversary of Rockwall and Brin Church of Christ in my hometown of Terrell, Texas—a congregation that has been a meaningful part of my life since childhood. With humble beginnings in a town of cotton farmers, this congregation has been a faithful fixture in Terrell since 1896, when a small group of Christians gathered in homes and the Odd Fellows Hall on Nash Street to worship.

In 1900, Peter Breeden donated land and built a small structure on College Street to serve the growing congregation. Over the years, the church has remained on that property, expanding and rebuilding after a fire in the spring of 1994. On February 12, 1995, construction began on the building that still stands today at Rockwall and Brin. For more than a century, this congregation has faithfully served both near and far—through local outreach, mission work abroad, and partnerships with the Terrell Share Center and Boles Home for Children.

I congratulate the elders—Wynne Breeden, Ty Burnes, and Steve Rogers—on this milestone. This congregation will continue to be a source of faith, service, and strength for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE NEHEMIAH AL-
LIANCE NATIONAL 52-DAY RE-
BUILD INITIATIVE

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Nehemiah Alliance for launching the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative, calling the people of the United States to an extended time of unified prayer, fasting, and repentance for the purpose of rebuilding the spiritual walls of blessing and protection around our fifty states and our Nation.

From its founding, the United States of America has been shaped by enduring Judeo-Christian principles of faith, liberty, and justice, and has long understood itself to be One Nation under God. Throughout history, Americans have turned to these principles in moments of challenge to seek renewal, unity, and moral clarity.

From the earliest days of the Republic, our leaders have issued calls to prayer and humility, reflecting a longstanding historical precedent of seeking divine guidance during significant moments in the life of our Nation. The founding ideals of the United States affirm principles of faith, liberty, justice, accountability, and the dignity of the human person, values that continue to inspire citizens across generations.

This initiative emphasizes personal responsibility, civic virtue, reconciliation, and service, encouraging individuals to strengthen their homes, neighbors, and communities through

prayerful engagement. The Nehemiah Alliance draws inspiration from the biblical account of Nehemiah, who rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem in fifty-two days, and in that same spirit, during America's two hundred fiftieth Anniversary, this Initiative calls Americans to recognize that the moral, cultural, and spiritual foundations of our society require our attention and action.

Indiana, known as The Crossroads of America, has long stood at the intersection of commerce, community, and faith, and throughout its history Hoosiers have valued prayer, personal responsibility, and service to neighbors as essential foundations for a flourishing society. Citizens of Indiana have historically participated in national seasons of prayer and reflection, recognizing that the strength of a Nation is rooted not only in its institutions but also in the character, humility, and faith of its people.

Beginning at sundown on September 10, 2026, and concluding at sundown on All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, this Initiative invites people across our Nation to humble themselves before Almighty God through prayer, repentance, and periods of fasting as each person is individually led.

The purpose is to rebuild our walls, restore our homes, revive our hearts, and renew liberty and justice for all, reunifying us as One Nation under God. The mission of the Nehemiah Alliance is grounded in the call of Scripture, including the promise recorded in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that as His people pray and repent, He will hear from Heaven and heal our land.

Participants are encouraged to serve as modern-day gatekeepers, interceding for their families, neighbors, schools, churches, businesses, and leaders in authority. During the fifty-two days, focused prayers will be made for spheres of culture, the fifty states and territories, the Nation's Capital, Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, and the consequential midterm elections.

On October 31, 2026, and All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, people of faith will gather online and in person, including in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall, in sacred assembly to pray and stand.

I commend the Nehemiah Alliance for its leadership in advancing the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative and I encourage the citizens of the State of Indiana to participate in this national call to prayer, fasting, repentance, and spiritual renewal.

RECOGNIZING SARAH AGUILAR AS
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the honor of recognizing women on the Central Coast whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community through the Women of the Year Award. This year, it is my pleasure to recognize Sarah Aguilar of Oak View, for her outstanding contributions to animal welfare, public service, and community engagement.

Sarah Aguilar became Director of Santa Barbara County Animal Services in September

2022 and has since transformed the agency through innovative leadership, transparency, and collaboration. With a background in business and prior leadership roles in animal welfare organizations across the country, she brought a collaborative approach to an agency that had long faced significant challenges. Under her stewardship, the care of more than 6,000 animals at county's three shelters annually has been reimaged through programs that prioritize humane outcomes, community partnership, and transparency, helping change the atmosphere for volunteers and staff in a positive way.

Among her most notable achievements is the creation of the "Dog Day Fostering" program, an initiative that has enabled more than 2,000 community members to provide shelter dogs with enrichment, socialization, and exposure to potential adopters. This has reduced stress on animals, increased adoption rates, and strengthened community investment in the wellbeing of shelter pets.

Ms. Aguilar has also demonstrated leadership through securing a \$200,000 grant from the UC Davis Koretz School of Shelter Medicine to establish a "Pawsitive Care Coordinator." This bridges the gap between human social services and animal care, ensuring that individuals facing hardships are not forced to surrender beloved pets due to lack of resources.

Her dedication extends beyond policy and program development to direct, hands-on action. In one instance, Ms. Aguilar personally intervened to rehabilitate and transport a high-risk shelter dog to a safe, permanent home hours away. An act of courage and compassion that not only saved that animal's life but inspired ongoing rescue efforts for others in need.

In a field often challenged by limited resources and complex public demands, Ms. Aguilar has remained steadfast, advocating for sustainable funding, developing fundraising strategies, and maintaining a solutions-oriented approach in the face of fiscal uncertainty.

I am proud to recognize Sarah Aguilar as a Woman of the Year for her inspiring leadership, her deep commitment to both people and animals, and the lasting difference she continues to make in the Santa Barbara County community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOIS
BRUINOOGUE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent and pay special tribute to Lois Bruinooge, who retires from The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) this month after 20 years of dedicated service to the organization. TLGV is a non-profit organization connecting residents to the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, a landscape of farmland and forest spanning 35 towns across Eastern Connecticut and South-central Massachusetts. As TLGV transitions to new leadership under Ms. Francesca Kefalas, I would like to recognize Ms. Lois Bruinooge for her dedication to protecting the Last Green Valley.