

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS EARL
CLAYTON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas Earl Clayton who passed away on April 8, 2026, just one month shy of his 89th birthday.

Mr. Clayton was born on May 9, 1937, in the town of Montrose, Mississippi. Tom spent his early years growing up on a farm between Montrose and Raleigh, under the guidance of his grandmother, Mattie Tatum, where he learned the value of hard work, discipline, and resilience. At around sixteen, Tom relocated to Joliet, Illinois, to live with his father, embarking upon a new chapter in his life. From there he enlisted into the United States Air Force where he proudly served for four years. He returned home, got himself a GED, enrolled in Kennedy King College, and earned a degree in nursing.

The rest is history. In 1991, he united in Holy Matrimony with Cerra Lang Taylor Smith, and, together, they built a strong partnership which has lasted for almost fifty-five years. He joined Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of his father-in-law, Reverend Jessie Taylor, and, in 1986, was a Charter Member of the Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church where he has served faithfully in several leadership roles, Chairman of the Deacon Board and of the Joint Board.

It has been my personal joy to know of Mr. Clayton's great life, wonderful works, and just how much he, his family, and church connections have meant to our community. I thank Mr. Clayton and now may he rest in peace.

HONORING MUSICIAN CHRIS
REDDING

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Chris Redding, a Grammy-nominated recording artist, innovator, and advocate, and recognize his groundbreaking work in advancing inclusion through music, neuroscience, and neurodiversity awareness.

Alongside his wife, Serena Redding, and their son, Christian Saint Ellis Redding, Chris has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advocacy through the Saint Ellis Foundation—an organization dedicated to expanding access to music, educational resources, and inclusive opportunities for individuals with autism, ADHD, and other neurodivergent experiences, as well as their families. While Christian is non-verbal, he has always been able to connect to his family through music. With this in mind, Chris and Christian recorded “The

Colors in My Mind,” a Grammy-nominated album that made history as the first project of its kind to feature a non-speaking individual.

Through this pioneering body of work and ongoing advocacy initiatives, Chris and his family have worked to remove barriers to accessibility, ensuring that creative expression, education, and therapeutic resources are available to individuals with autism, ADHD, and diverse neurological profiles. His innovative use of sound frequencies and principles rooted in neuroscience has demonstrated the potential of music as a form of therapeutic expression, promoting mental wellness, emotional regulation, and human-centered design. Chris has emerged as a leader in the evolving field of NeuroArts, championing the concept of “music as medicine” and inspiring new pathways for research, education, and creative expression that support neurodivergent communities. His advocacy work continues to foster greater awareness, acceptance, and celebration of neurodiversity, encouraging communities, institutions, and industries to embrace inclusive practices and expand access for individuals with autism, ADHD, and beyond.

As Chris continues pioneering innovation and advocacy in the industry, I rise today to honor his outstanding contributions to the arts—alongside his family—and their unwavering commitment to promoting love, inclusion, accessibility, and acceptance through music.

Please join me in thanking Chris Redding and his family for their extraordinary contributions to the field and wishing them every success as they continue their journey.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM
BARRY WHITLEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart bowed in sorrow and yet uplifted by gratitude to honor the life of Mayor William Barry Whitley—a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, gifted craftsman, faithful public servant, and a man whose quiet goodness left an imprint on Butler, Taylor County, and all who knew him. Sadly, Mayor Whitley passed away on April 18, 2026. A funeral service to celebrate his life will be held today, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in Butler, Georgia.

Mayor Whitley lived loudly in the small, sacred ways that truly matter. In a humble workshop where the scent of oak and polish mingled with patient hands, he restored more than furniture—he restored memories. As the proprietor of Whitley Furniture Clinic from 1995 until his final days, Mayor Whitley gave back to countless families the heirlooms of lives lived: a table that held generations of meals, a chair that rocked a newborn to sleep, a dresser that carried a lifetime of stories. His skill was not only craftsmanship but care.

Mayor Whitley's life of service reached far beyond the workbench. He served his hometown with steady devotion—on city council, the development authority, the board of health, municipal associations, and as mayor. In every role he carried the same easy smile, the same unhurried kindness, the same instinct to put others first. Leadership for him was not a platform for praise but a quiet obligation to make his city and community better. He made decisions not for recognition but because people mattered.

Mayor Whitley's journey was also one of education and service. A graduate of Georgia Southwestern in Americus with a degree in business, he later earned his degree in mortuary science from Gupton-Jones College—a life that combined practical skill, compassion, and the solemn dignity of caring for families at their most fragile moments. In both professions he restored beauty and honored persons with tenderness and respect.

There is a line from President John F. Kennedy that seems to sit gently beside Mayor Whitley's life: “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” Barry's efforts were constant; his courage was quiet; his purpose—to serve, to give, to love—was clear as day. He showed up for his family and for his community with direction rooted in faith and humility. He loved his family fiercely—Cindi, his children, and his grandchildren were his greatest joy and the center of his life.

We grieve the empty chair at the workbench, the silence in the arena, the mornings without his smile. Yet we give thanks for the mercy that he left this life surrounded by family, moments after laughter and love, and for the legacy of care he planted in his city and in hearts. In Philipppians we are reminded to press on toward the goal—and Mayor Whitley ran that race with joy; eyes fixed on a truer horizon (Philipppians 3:12–14).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and I in offering our deepest condolences to the Whitley family, to the people of Butler and Taylor County, and to everyone who was blessed by Mayor Whitley's gentle service. May we honor him by living with the same generous hands, steady courage, and loving purpose that marked his days. May his memory be a comfort and his example a guiding light.

RECOGNIZING THE HAMILTON COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY NCAA DIII NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN W. MANNION

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Hamilton College Men's Ice Hockey NCAA DIII National Champions. The Continentals brought home their first ever national championship title with a 2–

• 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.

1 overtime victory over the three-time defending champions, Hobart Statesman. I commend these young men for their sportsmanship and dedication to their craft. I congratulate the team, coaches, families, and entire Hamilton community for a great season and an outstanding performance en route to victory. I include in the RECORD the names of the coaches and players from this National Championship winning team:

Head Coach Rob Haberbusch, Assistant Coach Stephen Castriota, Goaltending Coach Casey Boone, Aksel Reid, Garrison Schultz, Noah Leibl, Connor Thue, John Wojciechowski, Ryan Sordillo, Thomas Beaudoin, Sebastian Hamming, Brendan Waivada, Devon de Vries, Clarence Beltz, Cameron Miranda, Trey Williams, Zach Walsh, Alex Danis, Max Bulwaka, Curtiss Sturgeon, Michael Gallary, Carson Hall, Ben Zimmerman, Liam Varmecky, Jackson Krock, Luke Tchor, Justin Biraben, Joey Luvullo, Tyler Bloomfield, Josh Nadler, Lucas Constantine, Vincent Gould, and Jacob Ierfino.

RECOGNIZING TRAC GLOBAL GROUP

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize TRAC Global Group for its commitment to economic development, international partnership, and cultural exchange, and to commend its growing investment in North Texas. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in recognition of it:

Whereas, TRAC Global Group is a global developer and investor headquartered in South Korea with a strong record of success in international real estate and infrastructure development, and is expanding its presence in North Texas; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Chairman Chong Mun, a distinguished Korean American entrepreneur, TRAC Global Group has demonstrated visionary leadership and has played a meaningful role in strengthening economic and cultural ties between the United States and South Korea; and

Whereas, the company has successfully collaborated with global partners, financial institutions, and public entities on major residential and commercial developments, showcasing its ability to execute transformative, large-scale projects; and

Whereas, TRAC Global Group has proposed the K-Wave Cluster Project as a multi-phase development in the Dallas-Fort Worth region, designed to serve as a hub for Korean lifestyle, integrating food, beauty, entertainment, culture, and technology into one destination; and

Whereas, this project is expected to generate significant economic impact by creating jobs, supporting small businesses, encouraging workforce development, and contributing to long-term regional growth; and

Whereas, the project will further position North Texas as a center for innovation, international collaboration, and cultural exchange, strengthening the relationship between local communities and global partners; and

Whereas, TRAC Global Group's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and economic vitality reflects a shared vision for continued growth and opportunity in the region; and

Now, therefore, I recognize TRAC Global Group for its contributions to economic development, cultural exchange, and international partnership, and commend its leadership for its investment in the North Texas community. I extend my best wishes for continued success in its future endeavors and for the positive impact it will bring to the region and beyond.

HONORING SENATOR DARRYL ROUSON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and contributions of Senator Darryl Rouson, who is a fierce leader and public servant. He has continued to save the Tampa Bay area and State of Florida with such devotion and invaluable contributions. Having weathered personal adversity, Senator Rouson's experiences have shaped his long-standing advocacy and legislative priorities for addiction treatment and mental health services. Today, on behalf of our neighbors, I congratulate and thank Senator Rouson for his continued impact on the Tampa Bay community.

Darryl Rouson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 20, 1955, and moved to St. Petersburg at the age of three. He lived in Cromwell Heights and attended Bishop Barry High School, later known as St. Petersburg Catholic High School. He returned to New Orleans to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree from Xavier University in 1977. In 1980, Rouson earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Spessard Holland Law Center.

After finishing his education, Rouson returned to St. Petersburg and began working at Gulfcoast Legal Services before opening his own practice. He went on to become an active leader in the community as chairman of the St. Petersburg Area Black Chamber of Commerce and served on St. Petersburg's Charter Review Commission. Rouson has been recognized as a pioneer for civil rights, health care access, and addiction recovery and social services. He has continuously supported a substance abuse ministry at Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. Rouson continued his advocacy efforts as the first African American prosecutor in Pinellas County and later served as President of the St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP for five years.

Beginning his legislative service, Senator Rouson was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2008 and served until his election to the Florida Senate in 2016. In the Senate, Rouson currently serves as vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, one of the chamber's most influential panels responsible for shaping the state budget. He also serves on several committees, including Agriculture, Appropriations on Health and Human Services, Children, Families and Elder Affairs, Ethics and Elections, Finance and Tax and Rules, along with the Joint Legislative Budget Commission. He was a commissioner on both the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission in 2007 as gubernatorial appointee and the Constitutional Revision Commission in 2017 as an appointee of the Speaker of the Florida House. He will leave the Flor-

ida legislature as not only one of the most effective and powerful voices in the chamber, but as a beacon of knowledge and passion.

Senator Rouson's extreme personal hardships and experiences have molded his continued advocacy and legislative priorities for addiction treatment and mental health services. In 2025, the University of South Florida named its substance abuse research institute in Rouson's honor. His courage and total commitment to improving the lives of all of us have helped not only the Tampa community, but the State of Florida as well. Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo commented that, "there are moments in this chamber that are a reminder that our work is not merely the crafting of our policy but the expression of our shared humanity. Today we bid farewell to a man who embodies that truth more fully than perhaps anyone who has served among us."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the neighbors of our Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor my friend Senator Rouson for his time serving the Tampa Bay area, and thank his wife, Angela, for her support. Senator Rouson's knowledge, passion and leadership made him a trusted public servant who knew how to get things done for his state and his neighbors.

HONORING MIGUEL ALVARADO AND THE GUADALUPE CAR SHOW

HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary community leader, Miguel Alvarado, of Guadalupe, Arizona. For decades, Miguel has exemplified what it means to serve others, not for recognition, but out of a deep and abiding commitment to his neighbors. His work reflects the very best of community leadership: consistent, compassionate, and rooted in bringing people together.

For 25 years, Miguel has led the Guadalupe Car Show, an event that has become a cherished tradition and a source of pride for the community. Beyond celebrating culture and craftsmanship, the event has served as a unifying force, bringing together families, local organizations, and residents from all walks of life. Through this work, Miguel has helped strengthen the social fabric of Guadalupe year after year.

Miguel's commitment extends far beyond a single event. For over 15 years, he has organized a Back to School event providing free food, haircuts, backpacks, and entertainment to families preparing for the school year. He has also dedicated more than 15 years to hosting a Christmas celebration for local families, ensuring children experience the joy of the holiday season through gifts, meals, and community connection. Additionally, for over a decade, Miguel has helped provide more than 50 turkeys annually to families in need during the Thanksgiving season, ensuring that no neighbor is left behind.

None of this work happens alone. Miguel's leadership has inspired a network of support throughout Guadalupe, including his car club, The Intimidations, and countless community members who rally behind his efforts. His impact is measured not only in years of service,