

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE WORLD'S OLDEST PURPOSE-BUILT MOVIE THEATER

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2026

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Plaza 1907 located in Ottawa, Kansas, in the district I have the honor of representing. Plaza 1907 is celebrating its 119th anniversary, opening its current doors on May 22, 1907, as the oldest purpose-built movie theater in the world. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Plaza 1907 is a critical part of the lifeblood of the Ottawa and Franklin County communities.

In the early 1900s, Ottawa citizens saw their first moving picture—the ten-minute film *The Great Train Robbery* from 1903—at a local street fair. This inspired the founding of Plaza 1907 as the Bijou Theater, where patrons watched early silent films from France like *Bad Mother* and *A Voyage Around a Star*. When it first opened, the two-screen theater played 12 shows each day and tickets cost patrons five cents each. In those early days, the theater offered live music alongside these silent films before the first talking picture in 1927.

Today, Plaza 1907 remains an important piece of Kansas and American history. Kansans and visitors alike can enjoy new films and Classic Movie Mondays along with a memorabilia museum amongst the charm of Ottawa, Kansas.

RECOGNIZING RITA FORRESTER, A HEART STONE OF OUR CULTURE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Carter Family descendant, Ms. Rita Forrester, who worked for years in Southwest Virginia to preserve the storied legacy of an American country music icon, the Carter Family. Therefore, I include in the RECORD a proclamation in their honor:

Whereas, The Original Carter Family, A.P., Sara, and Maybelle, changed Country Music history, and helped establish the fabric of American Country Music, beginning in 1927, with their first recordings during what Johnny Cash referred to as the “Big Bang of Country Music.” Over succeeding decades, they introduced hundreds of songs that became the canon of “songs everybody knows,” including “Wildwood Flower,” “Keep on the

Sunny Side,” “Will the Circle Be Unbroken,” and “The Wabash Cannonball;”

Whereas, Janette Carter, daughter of A.P. and Sara, fulfilled a deathbed promise to her father to “carry the music forward.” drew on her legacy, her faith, and on the strength and inspiration of family and friends, and founded “The Carter Family Fold,” weekly live traditional Country Music program in the valley, at the homeplace of the Carter Family. Thus, the Carter Family Fold became a vital part of our contemporary cultural story;

Whereas, Janette’s daughter, Rita Forrester assisted her mother in producing and running the weekly show and travelling to events regionally, nationally, and internationally, to receive accolades and awards, at one point, meeting British Prime Minister, Margret Thatcher;

Whereas, Rita persevered, helping to maintain consistent quality, authentic experience for all who came regularly from every state in the nation and many countries around the world to experience authentic traditional Country Music, even when tragedies struck, such as the week her house burned taking the life of her beloved husband;

Whereas, Rita Forrester, on the event of her mother’s passing, assumed duties as the director, steadfastly ensuring that this important part of our cultural heritage would continue, performing tasks including scheduling, hosting and introducing the performances, personally making homemade chili for the audience, and travelling to represent the Carter Family Fold and the family;

Whereas, Rita’s humble, gentle manner belies her powerful influence. In days when social media and artificial intelligence replace cultural heritage that has sustained our families for generations, those who nurture our traditional arts become the heroes of our society; and

Therefore, in the old style of building a home, there was a foundational hearthstone, or “heart stone” as it was called by some ancient Scots. Such is the power of Rita Forrester’s devotion, commitment, and steadfast faith that they are inextricably woven into the legacy of the Carter Family. Rita Forrester is recognized as a vital part of the foundation of the Carter Family Fold, and a Heart Stone of our culture.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE- WORKS TRAFFICKING AND MONEY LAUNDERING PREVEN- TION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Fireworks Trafficking and Money Laundering Prevention Act, co-introduced with

my colleague from Hawaii, Representative JILL TOKUDA.

Our legislation addresses a growing criminal enterprise that threatens public safety, fuels illicit financial activity and has devastated communities in Hawaii and across the country. Illegal fireworks trafficking is far more than a minor regulatory violation. It is a sophisticated interstate operation involving the unlawful transportation, distribution and sale of explosive materials in violation of federal and state law. These highly profitable black-market networks often operate for years, moving illegal fireworks across state lines and generating substantial criminal proceeds.

Investigations have repeatedly shown that traffickers frequently engage in related financial crimes, including money laundering, concealing profits and evading law enforcement. Yet despite the serious risks involved, the current maximum federal penalty for unlawful interstate fireworks trafficking is only one year of imprisonment, an insufficient deterrent when compared to the enormous financial incentives these criminal enterprises enjoy.

The consequences are severe. Illegal fireworks have caused catastrophic explosions, serious injuries, mass casualty incidents and fatalities nationwide. These incidents place enormous strain on firefighters, emergency responders and hospitals, while endangering families and neighborhoods. Because illegal fireworks are often manufactured, transported and stored without proper safety standards, they carry a heightened risk of fires and deadly explosions.

These dangers are especially acute in Hawaii, where illegal aerial fireworks are regularly smuggled into our islands through shipping containers and underground distribution networks. Communities across our state have experienced tragic losses, significant property damage and serious injuries tied to illegal fireworks. In densely populated neighborhoods, a single explosion can threaten entire communities and overwhelm emergency response systems.

This legislation would strengthen law enforcement’s ability to combat these criminal networks by designating illegal interstate fireworks trafficking as a specified unlawful activity under federal money laundering statutes. Doing so would provide investigators and prosecutors with stronger tools to follow illicit proceeds, dismantle trafficking operations and hold offenders accountable with penalties that better reflect the seriousness of these crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure to strengthen public safety, combat organized criminal activity and help prevent future tragedies in Hawaii and across the Nation.

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