

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BOB ISRAEL

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Bob Israel, whose remarkable photography has captured the beauty, character, and spirit of Minnesota and whose work will now help preserve a moment in our state's history for generations to come.

As part of Congress's celebration of America's 250th anniversary, each state's congressional delegation selected items for a time capsule that will remain sealed in the United States Capitol until July 4, 2276. After inviting constituents to submit pieces representing Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District, I selected one of Bob's images, a striking photograph of a loon family gliding across a Minnesota lake, to represent the district. The photo reflects our state's natural beauty, outdoor heritage, and enduring commitment to conservation.

For decades, Bob has explored Minnesota with his camera, documenting the landscapes, wildlife and quiet moments that define life in our state. His photographs invite viewers to slow down, appreciate the world around them, and see familiar places with fresh eyes. Whether capturing the vibrant colors of a sunrise over Lake Minnetonka, the quiet stillness of a winter landscape, or the graceful flight of Minnesota's wildlife, his work reflects a deep appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds us. His work has been featured in galleries, publications, and community projects celebrating Minnesota's landscapes and wildlife.

Bob's photograph will remain sealed inside the United States Capitol for the next 250 years before being opened by future generations on our Nation's 500th anniversary. It is a fitting tribute not only to Minnesota's remarkable natural heritage, but also to the artists and storytellers who help preserve it.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District, I thank Bob for sharing his extraordinary talent and for helping tell Minnesota's story through his lens. His work will ensure that when Americans look back on this moment in history centuries from now, they will see not only the beauty of our state, but the values of stewardship, community, and wonder that continue to define it.

HONORING COLONEL JOHN D. SAMPLES UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John D. Samples, Garrison

Commander of United States Army Garrison Fort Buchanan, as he concludes his distinguished military career and transitions to a well-deserved retirement. It is both a privilege and an honor to recognize a leader whose service has left an indelible mark on our island, our military community, and the broader Caribbean region.

Puerto Rico has a deep and proud military tradition. Our sons and daughters have served in every major conflict in American history, and the bonds between the people of Puerto Rico and the United States Armed Forces run generations deep. Fort Buchanan, Sentinel of the Caribbean and the Army's only installation in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, stands as a symbol of that enduring relationship, and Colonel Samples understood that responsibility from the moment he assumed command.

What distinguished Colonel Samples was not simply his rank or his record, impressive as both are. It was his genuine investment in the people and the place entrusted to his care. He approached his command not as a temporary assignment, but as a calling. He walked into communities, built relationships, and worked to ensure that the men and women under his charge, and the veterans and military families who depend on Fort Buchanan, were seen, heard, and supported. In a role that could have been administrative, he chose to be present.

Under his leadership, Fort Buchanan grew stronger as an installation and deeper in its ties to the communities surrounding it. He recognized that the strength of an installation is inseparable from the strength of its relationships: with local government, with civic organizations, with veterans' groups, and with the families who sacrifice alongside those who serve. He nurtured those relationships with consistency and with purpose.

Colonel Samples also understood the unique strategic significance of Fort Buchanan. As the Army's stronghold in the Caribbean, the installation serves not only the people of Puerto Rico, but also those of the United States Virgin Islands and the broader region. He stewarded that mission with seriousness and vision, ensuring Fort Buchanan remained a place of readiness, resilience, and genuine service.

For all of this, the people of Puerto Rico are grateful. We are grateful for the years Colonel Samples devoted to this island, for his professionalism, his steadiness, and his care. We are grateful to his family, who shared in the sacrifices that military life demands and who made their home among us. Their presence here has been a gift, and their departure leaves a void that speaks to their level of devotion.

Mr. Speaker, when we speak of public service at its finest, we speak of people like Colonel John D. Samples, individuals who give more than is asked, lead with more than authority, and leave every place better than they found it. Fort Buchanan is better because of his command. Puerto Rico is better because of his presence.

As the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and on behalf of the people of our island, I offer Colonel Samples our deepest gratitude, our highest respect, and our warmest wishes for his next remarkable chapter.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP HOUSING SERVICES

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services (NPHS) as it celebrates its 35th anniversary.

NPHS was founded in 1991 by a group of community members who came together in Montclair, California, with a simple shared belief: strong neighborhoods begin with empowered residents. The organization's mission is to build resilient, thriving communities through innovative housing and financial solutions. By elevating the well-being of underserved individuals and families, revitalizing economically distressed neighborhoods, and strengthening local economic opportunity, NPHS continues to improve the lives of hard-working individuals across the Inland Empire.

For the past 35 years, the founders, sponsors, and volunteers of NPHS have supported communities across the Inland Empire with \$4.5 billion in direct investment, helping expand access to housing and providing individuals and families with a place to call home.

The organization has empowered thousands of families through homeownership education and counseling, assisting more than 10,000 first-time homeowners, and providing millions of dollars in down-payment assistance for working families across the Inland Empire. By combining housing, financial education, and neighborhood revitalization, NPHS has created lasting pathways to stability and prosperity for residents of California's 35th Congressional District and surrounding communities.

NPHS has strengthened neighborhoods by promoting financial literacy, supporting community revitalization, and increasing access to affordable housing. Through these initiatives, the organization has helped families build long-term financial security while fostering healthier, more economically resilient communities throughout the Inland Empire.

Since its founding, NPHS has grown from a grassroots community organization into one of the Inland Empire's leading community development organizations. Through its commitment to expanding access to affordable housing, promoting financial empowerment, and investing in underserved neighborhoods, NPHS continues to strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for families across Southern California.

As the Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services celebrates its 35th anniversary, it is my privilege to honor an organization that

• 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.

plays a transformative role for families across California's 35th District. Its impact on the Inland Empire and beyond is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.
CHACE ANDERSON

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Chace Anderson for his extraordinary career in public education and his dedicated service to the students, families, and educators of Minnesota.

I commemorate Dr. Anderson as he concludes a remarkable 43-year career in education, including 18 years as Superintendent of Wayzata Public Schools. Over the course of his career, he served as a teacher, coach, principal, administrator, and superintendent, bringing a deep understanding of education and an unwavering commitment to student success.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Anderson began his career in 1983 as a middle school science teacher, football coach, and track coach. He carried the lessons of those early experiences throughout his career, always approaching educational leadership with the mindset of a teacher and mentor.

Following his appointment as Superintendent in 2008, Dr. Anderson guided Wayzata Public Schools through a period of significant growth and change. Under his leadership, enrollment grew from approximately 9,500 students to over 13,000 students, prompting the construction of two new elementary schools, major additions to Wayzata High School, and facility improvements to meet the needs of the growing community. Through collaboration with teachers, staff, families, and community leaders, Dr. Anderson strengthened academic opportunities and supported student success across the district.

Dr. Anderson dedicated himself to improving students' day-to-day educational experience. He championed changes to school start times that better aligned with student learning needs, advanced initiatives supporting student health and well-being, and provided decisive leadership during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout every challenge, he uplifted students, families, and educators while ensuring stability across the district.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Anderson is a devoted husband and father. He and his wife raised two children who graduated from Wayzata Public Schools, giving him the unique perspective of serving as superintendent, parent, and community member.

Dr. Anderson's legacy will endure through the thousands of students whose lives have been shaped by the schools he helped lead and strengthen. On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I extend my sincere gratitude for his decades of service and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE BRISTOL
BOROUGH POST OFFICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic Bristol Borough Post Office in Bristol, Pennsylvania, one of the original post offices established at the founding of our Nation's postal system, and to honor its enduring legacy of public service spanning more than two and a half centuries.

Established in 1775 under the authority of the Second Continental Congress, the Bristol Post Office traces its origins to the creation of the United States Postal Service by our Nation's Founders. With Benjamin Franklin serving as the first Postmaster General, Bristol was selected as one of the original post offices because of its strategic location along the vital postal route connecting Philadelphia and New York. At a time when reliable communication was essential to the cause of American independence, Bristol played an important role in carrying correspondence, military intelligence, and news that helped unite the Colonies during the Revolutionary era.

For more than 250 years the Bristol Post Office has continuously served the people of Bucks County through every chapter of our Nation's history. While its physical location has changed over the centuries, its mission has remained constant: delivering communication, fostering commerce, and serving the American people with dedication and reliability.

The story of the Bristol Post Office is inseparable from the story of Bristol Borough itself. As one of Pennsylvania's oldest riverfront communities and a thriving center of commerce along the Delaware River, Bristol has long embodied the industrious spirit that helped build our Commonwealth and our Nation. The continued operation of this historic post office reflects the resilience, patriotism, and civic pride that have defined generations of Bristol residents.

Today, as we recognize the extraordinary history of the Bristol Borough Post Office, we also pay tribute to the generations of postal workers whose commitment to public service has strengthened our communities and upheld one of the federal government's most trusted institutions. Their dedication has ensured that, for more than two centuries, the promise of connection has reached every doorstep.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I proudly recognize the Bristol Borough Post Office for its remarkable place in American history and its enduring service to the people of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District. May its legacy continue to remind us of the enduring values of service, community, and the unity that has bound our Nation together since its earliest days.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. MARY ROSS CUNNINGHAM

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 2, 2026

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a remarkable

community leader and a dear personal friend, Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham.

Mary was a force of nature—larger than life, with the biggest of hearts and the most indomitable spirit. For more than two decades in her hometown of Waukegan, Illinois, and across Lake County, she served her community with dignity and grace, fiercely advocating for those she represented.

Born on November 19, 1945, in rural Alabama, Mary Ross was one of 22 children. She later moved to Chicago and then to Waukegan with her husband, Samuel Davis Cunningham, to build a life and raise their family.

Following the tragic murder of her husband in 1968, Mary became the sole provider for their four children—Emerson, Sam, Jackie, and the late Alvin. Through determination, faith, and perseverance, she instilled in her family the values of education, service, and respect. Her own experiences shaped a lifelong commitment to helping others overcome hardship with dignity and hope.

Before entering elected office, Dr. Cunningham devoted nearly three decades to serving veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in North Chicago. She also worked extensively with the Waukegan Housing Authority, Community Action Partnership, and PADS Lake County, becoming a tireless advocate for affordable housing, economic opportunity, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

In 2002, Dr. Cunningham was elected to represent District 9 on the Lake County Board, serving portions of Waukegan and North Chicago. In 2018, she made history as the first Black woman to serve in Board leadership when she was elected Vice Chair, a position she held with distinction until her untimely passing.

Throughout her tenure, Mary championed equitable access to county services, public health, veterans services, workforce development, and criminal justice initiatives. She was instrumental in establishing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a fixed county holiday for employees and worked to expand opportunities for residents through numerous county and national leadership roles.

As a member of the Lake County Forest Preserves Board, Dr. Cunningham believed that everyone should feel welcome in the county's natural spaces. She was especially devoted to the annual Gospelfest celebration, helping it grow into a beloved tradition that brought people together through music.

Mary never lost sight of the people she served. She encouraged others to remember why they sought public office. Beyond her public accomplishments, she was known for her warmth, generosity, elegant style, and vibrant spirit. Above all, she took great pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, whose accomplishments reflected the values she worked to instill.

Dr. Mary Ross Cunningham leaves behind an extraordinary legacy. I will miss her as a colleague and as a mentor, but most of all as a friend. I send my deepest condolences to the entire Cunningham family and to the community mourning this great loss. May her memory forever be a blessing.