

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL WAR DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Civil War Defenses of Washington National Historical Park Act, which would recognize and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington located in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. The Defenses of Washington, including forts, unarmed batteries and rifle trenches, created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War.

This bill would redesignate the 22 Defenses of Washington currently under National Park Service jurisdiction as a national historical park, and allow other sites associated with the Defenses of Washington that are owned by D.C. or a unit of a state government to be affiliated with the national historical park through cooperative agreements. This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the history of the Civil War, including the history of the Defenses of Washington and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, being assembled, arrayed and conveyed for the benefit of the public for the knowledge, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Defenses of Washington were constructed at the beginning of the war as a ring of protection for the nation's capital and for President Abraham Lincoln. By the end of the war, the Defenses of Washington included 68 forts, 93 unarmed batteries, 807 mounted cannons, 13 miles of rifle trenches and 32 miles of military roads. The major test of the Defenses of Washington was the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, when Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early, directed by Confederate General Robert E. Lee, sought to attack the nation's capital from the north, causing Union forces threatening to attack Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, to be withdrawn. General Early was delayed by Union Major General Lew Wallace at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, and was stopped at the northern edge of Washington at the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11–12, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley Campaign ended when Union Lieutenant General Philip Sheridan defeated General Early at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 19, 1864.

Nearly all the individual forts in the Defenses of Washington—on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers—were involved in stopping General Early's attack, and the Battle of Fort Stevens was the second and last attempt by the Confederate Army to attack Washington.

Taken together, these battles were pivotal to the outcome of the war and the freedom and democracy that the war represented for this country. It is therefore fitting to recognize the Defenses of Washington by redesignating them as a national historical park.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN MADISON COUNTY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Madison County, Virginia, as our Nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of America's independence.

Madison County sits at the intersection of some of the most historically significant sites of American history critical to the foundation of our country. Chartered in 1772, its story stretches back more than 11,000 years, from the earliest Paleo-Indians to the colonial frontier and the founding of the Republic. Located near our Nation's Capital and the home to several Founding Fathers, Madison County shares a close connection to President James Madison, whose estate, Montpelier, is in neighboring Orange County. The county also witnessed pivotal moments in American history, including Civil War campaigns. In 1775 the Culpeper Minutemen, a well-known Revolutionary War militia of about 250 men organized from a broad district that included Culpeper, Orange, Fauquier, and what is now Madison County, reflecting the region's early role in Virginia's fight for independence.

Today, more than 13,000 people call Madison County home. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, the county is known for its scenic beauty, local businesses, outdoor recreation, and communities that reflect the best of rural Virginia.

Madison County's history continues to be preserved by dedicated local organizations. The Madison County Historical Society operates the historic Kemper Residence and the Mountain Museum in Criglersville, where the Blue Ridge Heritage Project honors families who were forcibly displaced from the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Madison County African American Historical Association preserves and shares the county's Black history through its museum in the former Odd Fellows Lodge Hall, ensuring these important stories are remembered for generations to come.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, Madison County reminds us that our Nation's history was built by communities across the country and by generations of Americans whose hard work, sacrifice, and courage made our freedoms possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Madison County, Virginia, for its remarkable contributions to our Nation's history and in celebrating its role in this milestone anniversary of American independence.

RECOGNIZING THE TRENTON TIGERS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of young women from Florida's 3rd Congressional District, the Trenton Tigers softball team, on capturing their third consecutive FHSA Rural State Championship.

This championship wasn't handed to them. It was earned through countless early mornings, late night practices, discipline, and a commitment to one another that defines what being a champion is all about.

The Trenton Tigers softball team has represented their school and Florida's 3rd District with grit, resilience, and determination. Through relentless work, unwavering discipline, and an unbreakable bond as teammates, they have shown that the heart of a champion isn't measured by the size of a school or a town, but by the determination to outwork and dominate every challenge placed before them.

I also want to give special recognition to Addison Allaire, who was recently named 2026 Florida Gatorade Player of the Year. This prestigious honor reflects her leadership, work ethic, and commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the field. Addison's accomplishments embody the very best of Florida student-athletes, and this recognition is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, I want to congratulate Addison and the Trenton Tigers softball team on another outstanding season. She has inspired young female athletes across our district by showing what hard work and heart can build. Go Tigers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO FENCING AT LAFAYETTE SQUARE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the No Fencing at Lafayette Square Act, which would prohibit the installation of permanent fencing around Lafayette Square. This bill would help ensure that one of our nation's most important public spaces remains open and accessible to the public.

According to press reports, the Trump administration plans to install permanent fencing around Lafayette Square, a federal park next to the White House.

While I understand the importance of protecting the White House, which is already surrounded by a 13-foot-high fence, we can and must maintain our commitment to security without sacrificing public access by using the least restrictive means necessary to address security.

Lafayette Square has long welcomed First Amendment demonstrations, vigils and public gatherings. It serves as a place where Americans can peacefully assemble within sight of the White House and engage directly in a democratic tradition. The openness of Lafayette Square and our democracy is our strength, not a security weakness that needs to be fenced off. Permanent fencing at Lafayette Square would send the wrong message to the nation and the world by continuing to transform our democracy from one that is accessible and of the people to one that is exclusive and fearful of its own citizens.

Fencing is an incredibly imprecise security tool. It is more likely to keep out tourists, residents, students, and peaceful demonstrators than those determined to do harm. In many

respects, it is another form of security theater, where it makes a place look secure while masking the need for more effective and modern security measures.

Furthermore, Lafayette Square is in a mixed-use neighborhood. The park is used every day by D.C. residents and visitors from across the country and around the world.

The distance between government and the people has grown, with trust in government at an all-time low. We should not increase that distance by placing intimidating barriers between public servants and the people they serve, especially when such barriers are not necessary.

Security is not only about reducing risk. It is also about safeguarding the freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. Public property should be open to the public. We should not leave citizens peering at their democracy from behind permanent fences.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING JERIS DEON DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jeris Deon Davis of Shaw, Mississippi, and to recognize his dedicated service to the citizens of Mississippi through his distinguished career with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation.

Throughout his career in law enforcement, Mr. Davis demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to justice. As a member of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, he played a vital role in protecting communities, supporting criminal investigations, and upholding the laws of our state. Through hard work, dedication, and exemplary leadership, he rose through the ranks, serving as a Lieutenant before being promoted to Branch Director at the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation. His commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Mississippi's citizens earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues, community leaders, and residents alike.

A native of Shaw, Mississippi, Mr. Davis exemplified the values of hard work, service, and leadership. His career reflected a steadfast commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others and strengthening the communities he served. Through his dedication and sacrifice, he helped make Mississippi a safer place for countless families.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Davis served as a role model for young people throughout the Mississippi Delta, demonstrating the importance of discipline, responsibility, and public service. His contributions left a lasting impact on both the law enforcement community and the citizens of Mississippi.

Although he is no longer with us, the legacy of Jeris Deon Davis lives on through the lives he touched, the communities he served, and the example he set for future generations. His commitment to justice, service, and excellence will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Jeris Deon Davis for his outstanding service, dedication, and contributions to the State of Mississippi. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and all who mourn his passing. May they find comfort in knowing that his life was one of purpose, service, and lasting impact.

His legacy of leadership, integrity, and commitment to justice will continue to inspire all who knew him and those who follow in his footsteps.

RECOGNIZING JOE CIRULLI

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary leader from our Gainesville Community, Joe Cirulli, on his induction into the Health and Fitness Association Hall of Fame.

For decades, Joe has been a pioneer in the health and fitness industry, demonstrating that true leadership extends far beyond the walls of a gym. As the founder of Gainesville Health & Fitness, he has built more than a successful business. He has cultivated a culture that inspires people to live healthier, stronger, and more connected lives.

Joe's expertise, vision, and servant leadership have transformed the way countless individuals think about health and wellness. His commitment to investing in people, strengthening communities, and leading by example has left a lasting impact on Gainesville and the Nation.

This well-deserved honor recognizes a lifetime of innovation, dedication, and service. Joe has shown that when you lead with purpose and put people first, you can influence lives for generations.

Congratulations to Joe on this remarkable achievement. Florida's 3rd District is proud to

call him one of our own, and we thank him for his continued commitment to making our communities healthier and stronger.

HONORING KYLE BUSCH

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 6, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of an extraordinary American, my friend Mr. Kyle Busch.

Kyle passed away on May 21, 2026, in Charlotte, North Carolina after being hospitalized with a severe illness. He was 41 years old.

A motorsports legend, Kyle was known for his fierce competitiveness and fearless driving. Throughout his 25-year career he amassed countless achievements, including rookie of the year honors in both the Busch and Cup series, the most all-time wins in the top three NASCAR series and two NASCAR Cup Series Championships.

Kyle made many visits to Capitol Hill to promote the motorsports community alongside the Motorsports Caucus. His determination to fight for the industry he loved transcended the racetrack. Kyle's commitment to the motor-sport's community both on and off the track will be sorely missed.

Kyle also fought for families struggling with infertility through the Samantha and Kyle Busch Bundle of Joy Fund. The Bundle of Joy Fund is a foundation dedicated to helping families battling infertility to achieve their dreams by providing access to in-vitro fertilization care. The Bundle of Joy Fund has awarded over 150 grants valued at more than \$2 million, helping bring over 100 babies into the world.

In addition to his triumphant career and prosperous foundation, Kyle always provided for those closest to him. I enjoyed watching Kyle grow from a young driver into a committed husband and loving father, showcasing his maturity along the way.

Kyle leaves behind a lasting legacy in NASCAR, in the fight against infertility and in the lives of his family. He is survived by his wife, Samantha; children Brexton and Lennix; parents; and brother.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Kyle Busch and the remarkable contributions he made to the NASCAR community throughout his 41 years of life.