

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LOUISIANA'S LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Louisiana, my home state, as one of the first states in the country to officially partner with the Administration for Children and Families in their worthy initiative, "A Home for Every Child."

According to Louisiana's Department of Children and Family Services' (LA DCFS) Secretary Rebecca Harris, Louisiana has a ratio of only 48 homes to every 100 foster children—an unsustainable gap that requires every effort to balance. We hear too many stories of good people who want to foster but are slowed or stopped in their certification process due to bureaucratic hurdles. Under the leadership of Governor Jeff Landry and Secretary Harris, Louisiana joined with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to cut red tape, increase the amount of foster care homes in our state, and ensure every foster child has a safe place to live. I am proud to say that LA DCFS has committed to certify 1,100 new foster homes and reactivate 200 foster homes by the end of this year to help fill the gap. Louisiana is committed to protecting vulnerable children and ensuring they have access to safe, stable, and supportive home environments.

Louisiana's action builds upon the initiatives and leadership of President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, whose "Fostering the Future" Executive Order catalyzed a renewed national focus on foster care and permanent placement of children into loving homes. The Executive Order laid the groundwork for the "A Home for Every Child" program and has encouraged many states to take these necessary, meaningful, and measurable steps to improve outcomes for children and families.

Too many children across the Nation continue to wait for placement in permanent homes. When family unification is not possible either temporarily or permanently, expanding the pool of qualified foster families and strengthening support systems is essential to ensuring that every child is under the love and care of a stable home. As ACF Assistant Secretary Alex Adams has stated as a vital mission, we too look forward to a day when families ready to foster are waiting for a child rather than a child waiting for a home.

Louisiana's leadership joining "A Home for Every Child" sets a strong example for other states. Continued collaboration among federal, state, community and faith-based partners will be critical to advancing our shared goal of ensuring every child has a place to call home.

HONORING THE CAREER OF FAUNE RIGGIN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Faune Riffin, one of Southeast Missouri's most beloved voices and a fixture in Cape Girardeau for 25 years.

Hosting "Real Talk with Riffin" on KZIM KSIM from downtown Cape Girardeau, Ms. Riffin has spoken on issues affecting our community, state, and the entire Nation for the last quarter century, inspiring listeners from the heart of downtown St. Louis down to the Arkansas border.

Ms. Riffin's 25-year career on the airwaves has earned her numerous accolades, including multiple Missouri Broadcasters Association awards for Best News Feature, Best News Series, and Best Newscast—a testament to the quality and integrity she brought to every broadcast.

Her impact, however, extended well beyond the broadcast studio. She was named Media Person of the Year by Special Olympics Missouri, recognizing her long-standing role as the local voice for Special Olympics Southeast Missouri, a cause she championed with heart and dedication year after year. She also received the prestigious Mary Phelan Chiefs of Police Award for her steadfast support of law enforcement, a reflection of the trust and respect she earned from those who protect our communities. As she steps away from the microphone, she leaves behind a legacy of commitment to her community, and I have no doubt that she will continue her advocacy for local heroes, even off the air.

Ms. Riffin's last broadcast on June 26, 2026, is the capstone of her inspirational career, one of steadfast character and unflinching honesty. Ms. Riffin is a conservative fighter and an exemplary reflection of the values of Southeast Missouri—much like legendary talk show host Rush Limbaugh—proving that Cape Girardeau has a way of producing voices that will leave a mark long after the mic turns off.

It is my privilege to recognize Ms. Faune Riffin for her wonderful career, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Riffin on a remarkable career spent speaking directly to the issues Missourians care about most.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAUL ROBERTS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Paul

Roberts, a dedicated public servant, environmental advocate, policy expert, musician and proud resident of Everett, Washington. Sadly, Paul passed away on June 24, 2026 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Paul Roberts was instrumental in making Everett the city it is today. His legacy can be seen in the fabric of everyday life in Everett—in its environmental plans, transportation investments, schools, arts and music scene and in its future light rail system. Whether as a city planner, policy consultant, representative for regional boards or as a long-time member of the Everett City Council, Paul used his extraordinary talents to serve the people of Everett and the greater Puget Sound region.

From a deep passion for protecting our cherished environment, to his foresight on bringing the naval base to Everett, Paul was the embodiment of what a lifelong public servant is. Even after leaving the City Council, he continued his work in public service for my office, ensuring that local communities benefited from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. His knowledge of local government and unwavering focus on delivering results helped Northwest Washington communities access critical resources to build a cleaner, greener, safer and more accessible transportation network.

Paul was one of the kindest, most dedicated and hardworking people I have ever known. He was an amazing mentor and inspiration for the members of my staff that were lucky enough to work with him. He had a real gift for bringing people together to seek common ground and solve tough problems.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Roberts' impact on Everett and Northwest Washington is immeasurable. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable service, celebrating his legacy, and extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Marianne, their family and all who were fortunate to know and work alongside him.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENNETT-WELLS AMERICAN LEGION POST 1780

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780's 80th Anniversary. This historic milestone is a testament to the enduring strength, spirit, and service of African American Veterans throughout our nation.

Founded on June 2, 1946, in honor of Private James Bennett and Lieutenant Johnson C. Wells, the first two African American soldiers from Buffalo, New York, whose lives were lost in the line of duty during WWII. The Post was organized to meet the needs of African American Veterans throughout Western New York who didn't have a place to gather.

• 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.

Over the decades, the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780 has served as more than a veterans organization—it has been a cornerstone of fellowship, advocacy, and community service for generations of veterans and their families. The Post has remained committed to honoring the sacrifices of African American servicemen and women, while creating opportunities for mentorship, civic engagement, and support throughout the Western New York community.

Through its programs and community outreach, the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780 has continued to provide critical support services such as veteran assistance, youth mentorship initiatives, and remembrance ceremonies honoring fallen service members. Community members throughout Western New York cherish the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780's resilience and unwavering dedication to preserving local history, and ensuring that the contributions of African American veterans are recognized and passed down to future generations. The Post's continuous drive to support both the African American community and the wider Western New York community has allowed the organization to strengthen ties while upholding its founding mission of honoring service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780's 80th anniversary, may we all take pride in its history, leadership, and service, and may we look forward with hope to all that it will continue to be. On behalf of a grateful community, we thank the Bennett-Wells American Legion Post 1780 for its leadership, inclusivity, and example. Its extraordinary contribution to Buffalo's rich tapestry of cultures has served as a beacon of light and we are all better because of it.

HONORING SENATOR LARCENIA J.
BULLARD OF FLORIDA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Florida's most respected and heralded political leaders, Senator Larcenia J. Bullard, as she and her family celebrate her influential political career as a member of both the Florida State House of Representatives and the Florida State Senate.

Senator Larcenia J. Bullard began her career as a Floridian policymaker in 1992. Upon her election to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992, she became the first woman ever to be elected as a Representative for District 118. After serving as a Representative for eight years, she was elected to the Florida Senate by District 39 in 2002. She was re-elected in 2004 and in 2008.

As a member of the Florida Senate, Senator Bullard has demonstrated her dedication to her District through a series of legislative initiatives. As a Senator, she successfully passed important legislation, like the Magic City Children's Zone, the Good Samaritan Act, and the State Facilities/Emergency Shelters Bill. Additionally, the Senator has served as the Vice Chair of the Agricultural and Transportation committees.

Senator Larcenia J. Bullard was born and raised in Allendale, South Carolina. The Sen-

ator relocated to Florida in 1980. While in Florida, she obtained her Master's Degree from Nova Southeastern University and began to work as a teacher in the Miami-Dade Public School System. She is married to Former State Representative Edward B. Bullard, who also represented District 118. The family tradition of service continues with their son State Representative Dwight Bullard, who was elected as District 118's representative in 2008. Senator Bullard and her husband have two other children; Vincent and Edwina. They have three grandchildren.

I am pleased to honor Senator Larcenia J. Bullard of Florida District 39, for her unwavering dedication and commitment to her constituents, her community and her state.

HIGHLIGHTING AMBASSADOR
CINDY MCCAIN AND THE WORLD
FOOD PROGRAMME

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Cindy McCain who retired earlier this month as Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

Since 2023, Ambassador McCain has guided the World Food Programme through periods of international need and provided support to countless men, women, and children.

During her three years at the helm of the U.N. Agency, she helped strengthen the organization's ability to respond to global crises and ensure life-saving assistance reached our most vulnerable communities.

Ambassador McCain reinforced the program's role as one of the front-runners in humanitarian food assistance.

As we recognize the extraordinary contributions of the World Food Programme, it is important to underscore that its work is not only vital to global food security but has helped support American agriculture.

The World Food Programme's mission and American agriculture have had a longstanding partnership. Ambassador McCain understood the importance of this relationship and strengthened that connection, ensuring global humanitarian efforts remain closely linked to our Nation's agriculture industry. American farmers and producers play a vital role in helping feed the world, and food assistance programs supported by the World Food Programme help deliver American-grown commodities to communities facing hunger and instability.

Through programs like Food for Peace, American-grown commodities such as wheat, rice, beans, and vegetable oil are purchased from U.S. producers and delivered to those in need.

This partnership not only sustains lives abroad but also supports rural economies here at home. This collaboration between the World Food Programme and American farmers provides a reliable and consistent market for our Nation's producers, helping stabilize commodity prices and support livelihoods across the country. In doing so, it strengthens individual farm operations as well as the broader rural economies that depend on agriculture.

Beyond food assistance relief, these efforts build global relationships and open international markets. Our farmers who deliver high-quality American products to communities worldwide, help lay the foundation for future trade, establishing economic partnerships that will benefit U.S. agriculture for years to come.

In partnership with the World Food Programme, American farmers work tirelessly to feed not only their neighbors but those in need across the world. Our farmers strengthen our economy while helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ambassador McCain for her commitment to addressing global hunger and helping support American farmers. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Ambassador McCain for her leadership. May God Bless her and may God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE WALKER-
CRAWFORD

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding leader from Florida's 3rd Congressional District, Michelle Walker-Crawford, on her well-deserved induction into the Florida FFA Hall of Fame.

This prestigious honor reflects a lifetime of dedication to agricultural education, student leadership, and the values that make our rural communities so strong. Through her unwavering commitment to the Florida FFA, Michelle has helped shape generations of young leaders, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and character to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Her passion for education and her steadfast belief in the next generation have left an enduring mark on Florida FFA. The countless students she has mentored and inspired will carry her legacy forward for years to come.

Michelle's impact extends far beyond any one chapter or classroom. Through her unwavering service and dedication to investing in the next generation of agricultural leaders, she is a shining example of what it means to lead with purpose.

I congratulate Michelle on this well-deserved achievement. I thank her for her years of dedicated service, her steadfast commitment to Florida's students, and for making Florida's Third District proud.

CELEBRATING CITI GLOBAL
COMMUNITY DAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Citi Global Community Day, an annual event held throughout the globe, where Citi workers and volunteers come together to support and give back to the neighborhoods and communities where they live and work.

For more than two centuries, Citi has shown up for those in need. Citi colleagues, alumni,