

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on June 30, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 232 on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 108, Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in Lebanon.

REMEMBERING MR. NATHANIEL
FOUNTAIN, SR.**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 honor the life of the late Mr. Nathaniel Fountain, Sr., a man whose influence can be seen and felt throughout our Western New York community and beyond.

Mr. Fountain, Sr. was born on September 6, 1940, in Gosport, Alabama to Mr. Robert Fountain and Ms. Lucy Thomas. Throughout his life, Nathaniel Fountain, Sr. inspired others with his strength, integrity, and compassion. His greatest joy was his role as a devoted husband to his wife, Mrs. Gwendolyn Fountain and father to Mr. Darold Fountain, Nathaniel Fountain Jr., Yolanda Turner, Quinisha Carter, Comanisha Slade, and "bonus son" Alphonse Patton. He was later blessed to have numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, nurturing them with the same kindness and care he gave to everyone in his life.

Mr. Fountain, Sr. was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. He excelled academically, and upon completion of high school, he later enlisted in the United States Army. His service was marked by extraordinary dedication, and he was honorably discharged after completing his commitment to the United States. The discipline, leadership, and resilience he developed during his time in the military would go on to shape his professional approach and contribute significantly to his careers later in life. He had a deep love and compassion for others, which he expressed through his role as a devoted community member, and owner of Phoenix Windows, and Northland Hardware.

Mr. Nathaniel Fountain, Sr. lived a life of devotion to his family and community. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Fountain, Sr. was a man who believed in the importance of family, and community above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and warmth will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: family, respect, and above all, love.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE
ORIGINAL FLORIDA HALL OF
FAME HIGHWAYMEN**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 the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen. They are a group of 26 named and listed landscape artists who have been called "The Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th Century." These self-taught and self-mentoring African American Artists were able to define themselves against the many racial and cultural barriers of the time in which they painted, and created a body of work of over two hundred thousand paintings.

The Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, from Fort Pierce, Florida, began painting in the early 1950's and created large numbers of relatively inexpensive landscape paintings, which were done using construction materials rather than art supplies. As no galleries would accept their works, they sold them in towns and cities and along roadsides throughout Florida, often still wet, out of the trunks of their cars.

Following the death of one of their members in 1970, the remaining members created fewer works and productivity waned. However, after being re-discovered in the 1990's, they have become celebrated for their idyllic landscapes of natural settings in Florida.

In 2004, the 26 Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen were inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. In addition to becoming part of Florida's culture and history; they have also received international recognition.

Eight of the original members are now deceased, but the remaining members, most now into their 70's and 80's, continue to paint to this day. Despite racial barriers and obstacles, their success and longevity are remarkable.

Please join me in honoring the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, for their dedication to their craft and their contributions to art in the state of Florida and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE TOLEDO MUSEUM
OF ART'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Toledo Museum of Art as we in Ohio's 9th Congressional District commemorate its 125th anniversary of serving our community and the many visitors from across the globe that visit the museum each year.

Located in Toledo's Old West End, our art museum was founded in 1901 by benefactor Edward Drummond Libbey. Libbey is often considered the father of the glass industry here in Toledo, having opened the Libbey Glass Company, paving the way for Toledo's "Glass City" moniker, which we still hold

today. His generous endowment continues to fund art purchases and operations, contributing to his wish that our museum be a global leader in the museum field.

The endowment is currently helping to fund a large reinstallation project, adding new galleries and renovating existing ones. It is a lens through which I think we can all view the evolution of our country. By both preserving the history of what has been and reimagining what is to come, our Toledo Museum of Art remembers what is important and seeks to better itself for the generations to come.

Our museum also invites its visitors to view life differently through art as they strive to integrate art into people's everyday lives. This mission has led to a USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice award of Best Art Museum in the USA, furthermore cementing our museum as one of the best in the world. Its 37-acre campus is home to more than 30,000 works of art, from famed impressionist Vincent van Gogh and passionate Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens to American artists Andy Warhol and Thomas Cole. In its dedication to the people of Northwest Ohio, our museum also showcases local artists and has an expansive exhibit on Toledo's glass industry.

What a tremendous milestone for our city and The Toledo Museum of Art to reach in the same year that our Nation celebrates her 250th anniversary. Institutions like The Toledo Museum of Art play such a pivotal role in the development and culture of the United States of America. Art museums allow us to preserve our own history while also giving us glimpses into the lives of others and an opportunity to dream of our future.

On this concurrent occasion of the museum's 125th anniversary and our Nation's 250th anniversary, let us remember Mr. Libbey's words during the museum's dedication—that it be a "memory of the past," an "understanding of the . . . present," and a means of "increasing understanding" for the future.

That wish has certainly taken hold with the hard work of its leadership team and the ever-green support of our Northwest Ohio community. I commend this remarkable achievement and look forward to the future of one of our region's and Nation's finest cultural institutions.

HONORING MEL TONASKET

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Representative MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER and Representative KIM SCHRIER to join many in the Pacific Northwest community and Indian country to honor Mel Tonasket, a leader and member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Mel is retiring this week after more than 55 years of service to his tribe, community, and country.

After serving the Nation in the U.S. Navy, Mel worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for eight years before being elected in 1970 to the Colville Business Council, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Mel would continue to serve on the Colville Business Council as a representative of the district serving Omak, Washington, at

various times for the next 55 years, which concludes with his well-earned retirement.

Mel helped lead the Colville Tribes and Indian country during one of the most consequential periods in modern tribal history. He was part of the generation of Native leaders who sought to reverse the federal policy of termination and fought to preserve the rights and future of tribal communities. That work helped protect the sovereignty of the Colville Tribes and contributed to a broader movement that reshaped federal Indian policy.

Mel's impact extended well beyond his reservation. From 1973 to 1976, he served for four years as President of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest and oldest national tribal organization in the United States. While President, he helped mobilize national support for landmark legislation, including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Between breaks serving on the Colville Business Council, Mel worked for the Indian Health Service and retired from federal service as the CEO of the Colville Service Unit, which provides healthcare to citizens of the Colville Tribes.

Over the course of his career, Mel served in numerous leadership roles and has represented Tribal governments in national and international forums. Through that leadership, he strengthened the voice of tribal nations at the national level and helped secure protections and opportunities that continue to benefit Native families and communities today.

It is my honor to join the Colville Tribes, the people of Washington State, and all those throughout Indian Country in congratulating Mel Tonasket on this remarkable milestone. We wish Mel the best of luck in his retirement and hope he can create more memories in this next stage of his life.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARMINA WOOD DESIGN

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 the 25th anniversary of Carmina Wood Design. For the past quarter century, Carmina Wood Design has transformed the landscape of Western New York with remarkable projects that have enhanced our communities.

With a talented team of 40 associates across two offices, the firm has consistently delivered solutions for businesses throughout the region, helping to spur community development and growth. Guided by the principle that no two projects are alike, the firm tailors its approach to meet the unique needs and goals of every client.

Since its founding, Carmina Wood Design has transformed the landscape of Western New York with remarkable projects that have enhanced our communities. From the historic Hotel Lafayette to the redesigned Buffalo City Mission, and 43 North, Carmina Wood Design has continually set the standard for community development. Its developments have created thousands of jobs and revitalized neighbor-

hoods, ensuring that both businesses and communities thrive.

Carmina Wood Design has grown into one of the most successful and trusted architecture firms in our region, building a legacy of innovative design and transformative projects that enhance commercial and residential properties across Western New York while enriching the communities they serve.

I congratulate Steve Carmina, Christopher Wood, and the entire Carmina Wood Design team on this extraordinary 25 year journey. Their unwavering commitment to excellence and community enhancement has made a lasting impact on Western New York.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MARK C. TURNER, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Army National Guard Colonel and Chief of Intelligence and Security, Mark C. Turner, on his retirement after a remarkable 30-year career in service to his country.

A native of Rolla, Missouri, Colonel Turner graduated from Missouri State University in 1996 with a B.S. in Communications. Immediately after graduation, Colonel Turner accepted his first commission as an officer in the United States Army National Guard. Colonel Turner's educational aspirations didn't stop after his commission, and he would go on to earn an MBA from William Woods University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Colonel Turner's first deployment came in December of 2002, when he deployed with the 35th Infantry Division to Bosnia & Herzegovina where he served as the Analysis and Control Element Battle Captain. Colonel Turner had two further deployments in Iraq, where he served as a Tactical Intelligence Officer and as an Intelligence Trainer.

Throughout his military career, Colonel Turner held various leadership positions including Company Commander, Brigade Intelligence Officer, Intelligence Systems Branch Chief, Force Integration Chief, Intelligence Programs Division, Battalion Commander, ISR Division Chief and Senior Army National Guard Advisor to HQDA. Finally, since achieving the rank of Colonel in 2021, he has held the position of Chief of Intelligence and Security for the Army National Guard in Arlington, Virginia.

Throughout this long and illustrious career, Colonel Turner admirably served his Nation and proudly upheld the core American ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. In recognition of his heroic service, Colonel Turner received numerous commendations including a Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. He also received the distinguished 2022 Knowlton Award from the Military Intelligence Corps Association, recognizing him for his incredible integrity, moral character, professional competence, and leadership.

Colonel Turner's career is exemplary of the kind of service all Americans should aspire to.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize this great Missourian's sacrifice and heroism. I also recognize and thank Colonel Turner's wife, Carrie, and his daughters, Lauren and Sydney, for their bravery and sacrifice. The price of freedom is high, and no one knows this better than the families of our brave soldiers.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Turner on an exemplary and distinguished career and to wish him and his family the best in a very well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ELIJAH WELLS

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 congratulate 14-year-old Elijah Wells for his artistic contributions to Miami Dade County.

This year, Elijah Wells successfully submitted his first short film, "The Gift," to the American Black Film Festival Community Showcase. He wrote, casted, and directed "The Gift" on his own and his short film will be screened at the American Black Film Festival Community Showcase on June 24, 2012.

Aside from successfully completing his first short film, Mr. Wells has accomplished many other feats. In November 2011, he received "The Clint Eastwood Award." This award honored his achievements in acting and directing. Mr. Wells has also had the opportunity to hone his directing skills under the mentorship of film visionaries, like Reggie Scott and Steve Drayton.

Mr. Wells' artistic and directorial works, especially his film "The Gift," are not only personal accomplishment but one the entire community can be proud of. The American Black Film Festival Community Showcase is sponsored by the Southeast Overtown/Parkwest Community Redevelopment Agency, which fosters and displays the talents of our youth. Mr. Wells' accomplishments are a testament to the agency's importance in our community.

Mr. Wells' passion for taking pictures, which started at the age of ten, has developed into a defined career path that promises to take him to places and heights beyond his imagination.

Please join me in honoring Elijah Wells for his artistic accomplishment and his unwavering commitment to the advancement of the arts in the community of Miami Dade.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR POLICE OFFICER STEVEN SNYDER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Police Officer Steven Snyder on the occasion of his retirement from the Euless Police Department.

Officer Snyder has dedicated his life to service. Before beginning his career in law enforcement, he served our Nation as a Gunner