

Whereas, UGASF has had an impact on South Florida's diverse community and will commemorate Ghana's independence with an elegant evening of authentic Ghanaian Culture, exquisite dining of traditional food, drumming and dancing; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FredERICA S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the United Ghanaians Association of South Florida for its commitment and dedication to equality, and racial and cultural diversity in South Florida.

HONORING MICHAEL CHERRY ON HIS JOINING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Cherry, a constituent from Springfield, Virginia, upon joining the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, widely regarded as one of the most celebrated dance companies in the world.

Founded on March 30, 1958, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was established by choreographer, dancer, and visionary Alvin Ailey to uplift the African American experience while transcending the boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Recognized as a vital American Cultural Ambassador to the World, the company has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents.

With a repertoire that boasts close to 300 works by more than 100 choreographers, it stands today as the largest modern dance company in the United States. To join this company is among the highest honors a dancer can achieve, and it is an honor that Michael Cherry has earned through years of exceptional dedication, training, and artistry.

Michael is a graduate of George Mason University, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance with a minor in Arts Management. George Mason has long been a launchpad for professional artists, and Michael's career is a testament to the quality of training and mentorship he received there.

Michael's path to Ailey has been one of extraordinary rigor and breadth. During his training and early career, he had the opportunity to perform in works created or set by an impressive roster of renowned choreographers, including Rafael Bonachela, Camille A. Brown, Rena Butler, Alejandro Cerrudo, and Doug Varone, among others.

He further honed his craft at highly competitive national programs, including the Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive, the Complexions Summer and Winter Intensives, and the LINES Ballet Summer Program.

Prior to joining Ailey, Michael danced for two seasons with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, where he continued to grow as a versatile and technically sophisticated performer.

Behind every great artist stands a community of love and support, and Michael is no exception. I want to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt recognition to his mother, Susan Cherry, whose steadfast love, sacrifice, and encouragement have been a constant source

of strength throughout Michael's life and career. Equally deserving of recognition is Michael's brother, Brandon Cherry, whose steadfast support and brotherly encouragement have meant the world to Michael throughout this journey.

Mr. Speaker, Virginia's 11th Congressional District is home to remarkable individuals who reflect the very best of who we are as a Nation. Michael Cherry is one of those individuals.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Cherry on this tremendous achievement, and in wishing Michael a career filled with brilliance, purpose, and joy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote because of a health emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Joseph's School for the Deaf in the Bronx, an institution rooted in faith, resilience, and excellence since 1869.

For over 150 years, this school has empowered deaf and hard-of-hearing students through a bilingual education in American Sign Language and English, fostering critical thinking, independence, and strong leadership qualities.

Under the leadership of Mark Patrick, the faculty ensures that every student receives the attention and resources they need to thrive academically and socially. As a neighbor in the Bronx, I have witnessed firsthand the vital role St. Joseph's plays—not just as a school, but as a community pillar whose mission enriches families and uplifts our borough.

Today, we celebrate St. Joseph's dedication to unlocking the potential of every child, building confident learners, and advancing inclusive education for generations. I thank the faculty, staff, families, and students for their tireless commitment and extraordinary spirit.

Please join me in recognizing St. Joseph's School for the Deaf for its service to our community and in supporting its future success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO NEW FENCING AT THE WHITE HOUSE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the No New Fencing at the White House

Act, which would prohibit the installation of new permanent fencing at the White House complex, including Lafayette Square and the Ellipse. This bill would help ensure that one of our Nation's most important public spaces remains open and accessible to the public. The Trump administration has proposed installing permanent fencing at the ends of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House and around Lafayette Square.

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.

The White House complex has long served as a place where Americans can peacefully assemble. The openness of areas around the White House is a strength of our democracy, not a security weakness that needs to be fenced off. More fencing around this public space 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 District of Columbia residents, tourists, and peaceful demonstrators than those determined to do harm. The areas around the White House complex are used every day by D.C. residents and tourists 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 unnecessary.

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. Americans should not be peering at their democracy from behind fences.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 61st anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed these essential programs into law, guaranteeing that seniors, children, and families would no longer have to face a health crisis alone.

Today, across the Nation, over 140 million Americans depend on Medicare and Medicaid for their fundamental health care needs. In our state, over 2.4 million Illinoisans—nearly 18 percent of our state—rely on Medicare. Roughly 3 million—about one in four Illinoisans—depend on Medicaid. Medicaid pays for approximately half of all births in Illinois and covers 68 percent of all nursing home

days in our state. These numbers are not theoretical abstractions. These numbers are Illinoisans who rely on Medicare and Medicaid to thrive. These numbers are the doctor's visits, nursing home beds, and prescriptions that keep our neighbors alive.

I am alarmed that, just 61 years later, the federal guarantee of health care for the elderly and needy is under greater threat than at any point since their establishment—especially for those who rely on Medicaid. Medicaid provides life-saving health insurance to low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. Yet last year, President Trump and Congressional Republicans passed the Big Ugly Bill, ripping over \$1 trillion out of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act to bankroll tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. Nationally, 8 million Americans already have lost their health coverage, and 15 million more are projected to lose coverage by 2034. More than 1,000 hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes across the country are closing, cutting services, or at risk of doing so.

Illinoisans are suffering. An estimated 193,000 Illinoisans have already lost their coverage, including 176,000 whom the Administration kicked off Medicaid and CHIP outright. Up to 528,000 more are projected to lose their health care in the years ahead. Illinois faces a \$57 billion cut in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade, and our hospitals alone are projected to lose nearly \$31.3 billion over that same period. Twenty-three rural Illinois hospitals lost money on patient services this past year. Sixteen are at risk of closing. Eight are at immediate risk.

In my own Congressional District, 24 percent of families and 30 percent of children under 18 live below the poverty line. A resident of the Loop can expect to live to 85; a resident of Garfield Park, just seven stops away on the CTA Blue Line, can expect to live only to age 69. That 16-year gap is not an accident. It is what happens when disinvestment meets need, and it is why Medicaid and Medicare matter more in my district than in almost any other in this country. Forecasters project my own district will have 40,000 more uninsured residents by 2034 because of this Administration's cuts. I have more hospital beds in my district than any other Member of Congress, and I have spent my career working to make sure the people who fill those beds can afford and access quality health care.

When my colleagues and I fought to enact the Affordable Care Act, we did so to ensure that no American would ever be denied the care needed to live out their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. My dedication to healthcare started long before I ever came to Washington, rooted deeply in my years working on the frontlines of Chicago's community health center movement. I saw firsthand that when you give a neighborhood a reliable clinic, you give them a fighting chance at a healthy life. Yet, instead of building on that foundation, this Administration's reckless cuts are pushing our local institutions directly to the brink.

Health care is a right, not a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Many philosophers and leaders have emphasized that we should judge a society by how it cares for its young, its elderly, and its vulnerable. I have spent my 30 years in Congress fighting to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid, and I will

not stop now—not while my constituents are losing their coverage, not while our hospitals are closing their doors, and not while this Administration chooses billionaires over the people who built this country.

As we mark 61 years of Medicare and Medicaid, I renew my commitment to defend these programs and to fight for the day when every American, regardless of zip code or income, can get the care they need.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SUMMIT COUNTY AS OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Summit County as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

This recognition honors its 40th anniversary of creating affordable housing in the community.

Under the longstanding leadership of CEO Rochelle Sibbio, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County has devoted four decades to advocating for affordable housing and supporting sustainable development for families across the community.

Driven by a commitment to long-term solutions, Habitat has completed nearly 250 new homes and 400 home repairs and community projects.

Habitat homes are built on 30-year, zero-interest mortgages for each partner family and require the families to complete 250 "sweat equity" hours per adult before moving into their new home.

Families partner with Habitat to achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build a better future. This anniversary is a testament to the dedicated people in our community.

Organizations like Habitat for Humanity of Summit County are what make our district the "Birthplace of Champions."

RECOGNIZING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Florida Department of Children and Families' efforts to promote healthy eating habits and increased activity for the children of Florida. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has proclaimed June 26, 2012, as "DCF-Make Healthy Happen Miami Day."

Under the leadership of its program called Communities Putting Prevention to Work, DCF is dedicated to increasing health awareness in Miami Dade County. DCF is particularly focused on the health of Miami's young people. The Department of Health of Miami-Dade County was awarded 14.7 million dollars in

order to fund the Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program (CPPW). The CPPW initiative seeks to boost our youth's health by instituting regulatory policies over certain foods and by encouraging more exercise.

DCF pursues its goals for Miami's children through a series of activities. Through its CPPW program, the Department of Children and Families formed a partnership with institutions, like Publix, Home Depot, Short Chef, and Johnson and Wales. Together with these institutions, the CPPW was able to provide children with hands-on experiences with healthy foods. These experiences provided these children with a realistic way of approaching healthy eating.

A community that encourages healthy lifestyles ultimately produces healthy and active citizens. Now more than ever, it is important that we provide our citizens with the resources they need to help increase their health. The DCF's "Make Healthy Happen Miami Dade" draws attention to initiatives taken by the CPPW and other groups to make healthy happen for Miami.

Please join me in recognizing the Department of Children and Families for its commitment to our children and increasing health in Miami Dade County.

RECOGNIZING MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH'S YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DAY AND THE CLASS OF 2026

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Centreville as it celebrates its annual Youth and Young Adult Day and honors the graduates of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Youth and Young Adult Day is a meaningful tradition that recognizes students who have reached important academic milestones while encouraging younger generations to pursue their own educational goals. This year's celebration honors graduates from high schools, colleges, and graduate programs across Northern Virginia and beyond.

I include in the RECORD the names of this year's graduates in recognition of their achievements:

High School Graduates: Dylan Cherry, Prince William County, Gainesville High School; Faith Afolabi, Prince William County, Battlefield High School; Laila Jones, Prince William County, Patriot High School; Wayne Henderson, III, Manassas City, Osbourn High School; Xavier Williams, Fairfax County, George C. Marshall High School; and Zachariah Teague, Loudoun County, John Champe High School.

College and Post-Graduate Graduates: Tristan Marcellus Anderson, Fairfax County, Frostburg State University, Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Exercise and Sport Science; Jaelen Elizabeth Barker, Prince William County, Temple University, Bachelor of Arts in Cinematography; Nia Michelle Bradley, Fairfax County, William & Mary, Bachelor of Arts in Government; Jarrett Dalton Carolina, Prince William County, Virginia State University, Master of Business Administration; Yuri Crenshaw, Prince William County, Spelman College, Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Minor