

HONORING MRS. LOVYE
WILLIAMSON COCHRAN ON THE
OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman whose life has spanned a century of American history, and who has spent nearly every year of it giving something away—knowledge, kindness, service, and love. Today, July 21, 2026, Mrs. Lovye Williamson Cochran of Albany, Georgia, celebrates her 100th birthday.

She was born on July 21, 1926, in Reidsville, North Carolina, the firstborn daughter of Weldon and Hessie Williamson, and the eldest of four girls. She was raised in a home where education was not a luxury but an inheritance, and she took that inheritance seriously. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Reidsville, then went on to Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina—that historic institution which has been turning out Bennett Belles of uncommon dignity and backbone for generations. She later earned her master's degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, also in Greensboro. In an era when this Nation placed obstacle after obstacle in the path of a young Black woman seeking to be educated, Lovye Williamson simply kept walking.

In 1950, she married Mr. Benjamin Franklin Cochran, Jr., and together they made their life in Albany, Georgia. Mr. Cochran became Albany's first Black professional photographer. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to understand what that meant. In those years, a Black family's wedding, a Black child's graduation, a Black church's anniversary, a Black mother's Sunday best—these were not events the wider world considered worth preserving. Benjamin Cochran preserved them anyway. He spent his life making sure that our community could see itself, and see itself beautiful. And while he was capturing the faces, his wife was in the classroom shaping the very children whose portraits he took. He kept the pictures. She helped make the people in them.

Mrs. Cochran is a retired educator, and in Southwest Georgia that title carries a particular weight. There are grown men and women in Albany today—parents, deacons, business owners, public servants—who first learned to believe in themselves in her classroom. A teacher's monument is not made of stone. It walks around, and it talks back, and it raises its own children the way she taught it to.

She and Mr. Cochran raised three children—Beverly, Juanita, and Benjamin, III—and she is the proud grandmother of Anthony. For decades she has lived on Lily Pond Road in Albany, which the older residents still remember as Westbrook Road. Mrs. Cochran is the longest surviving resident of that street. She has watched the road change its name, watched the houses change hands, watched the city change around her—and through all of it, she never changed who she was.

Her service did not end at the schoolhouse door. Mrs. Cochran has given her time and her judgment to the community's institutions,

serving on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs and with the Albany ARC, known today as the Arc of Southwest Georgia. Mr. Speaker, those two commitments say something about the shape of her heart. She gave herself to children who needed somewhere safe to go after the last bell, and she gave herself to citizens with developmental disabilities—neighbors whom too much of the world has been content to overlook. She never overlooked anybody.

Mrs. Cochran is a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and remains active in the sorority at 100 years of age. She holds the honored designation of Delta Dear.

Mr. Speaker, among Mrs. Cochran's sorors in Delta Sigma Theta was the late Honorable Shirley Chisholm of New York, the first Black woman elected to this body and the first to seek the presidential nomination of a major party. Congresswoman Chisholm gave us a definition of a life well spent that has never been improved upon: "Service is the rent that you pay for the space that you occupy here on this earth." By that measure, Mr. Speaker, Lovye Williamson Cochran does not owe this world one thin dime. She paid her rent in full—in classrooms and in church pews, in board rooms and in her sorority and on her street, in the raising of three children and in a hundred years of quiet, faithful, unglamorous good. She paid it early, she paid it often, and she is paying it still.

This evening, more than 200 Deltas of the Albany community are gathering at the Galleria on Dawson Road to celebrate her. They have made only one request of those who come: bring flowers. Not gifts. Flowers—in her own words, so that she can smell them, while she is living.

Mr. Speaker, there is a whole sermon in that sentence. Too often in this country we save our finest words for funerals. We wait until a woman can no longer hear us to say what she has meant to us. We send the roses to the graveside when we could have set them on the kitchen table. Mrs. Lovye Cochran, at 100 years old, has taught this community one final lesson, and it may be the most important one she has ever given: love people out loud, and do it while they are here to enjoy it.

So tonight the flowers will come. And she will hold them, and she will smell them, and she will know—beyond any possibility of doubt—exactly how much she is loved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, on behalf of the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in extending our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Lovye Williamson Cochran on the occasion of her 100th birthday. We thank her for a century of faith, family, teaching, and service. We salute her children, her grandson, her sorors, and her neighbors. We pray God's continued blessing upon her in the years yet to come.

**RECOGNIZING TOMMY NAGLE AS
THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tommy Nagle of Patton,

Cambria County, as the new President of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The 10th president in the history of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Tommy owns and operates an incredible farm that includes Angus beef cattle and acres dedicated to corn and soybeans.

Tommy has held several leadership positions within the Farm Bureau over the past decade. He served on the Cambria County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, including a stint as county president, and later spent three years on the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau State Board before being elected vice president.

Tommy possesses a wealth of knowledge, professional experience, and public service leadership that will enhance his impact as a passionate advocate and vital resource for agricultural producers throughout Pennsylvania.

On behalf of constituents throughout Cambria County and the entire 13th Congressional District, I express best wishes to Tommy for success in fulfilling his strategic vision for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and thank him for his leadership and service.

**HONORING REVEREND AND MAYOR
ERIC H. JONES, JR.**

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend and Mayor Eric H. Jones, Jr., a true man of God and his community, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Reverend Eric H. Jones, Jr., is the founder and Senior Pastor of Koinonia Worship Center and Village, which started with six members and has grown to a congregation of 6,000;

Whereas, Reverend Jones has committed his life to spreading the Word of God and built a ministry that meets the spiritual, physical, and social needs of the community;

Whereas, Reverend Jones has reached beyond the sanctuary of Koinonia to nourish souls, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and uplift the poor and underserved through the church's outreach ministries;

Whereas, Reverend Jones has established Youth ministries that prove guidance and mentorship to our most vulnerable and at-risk youth, and produce more college-bound students;

Whereas, Reverend Jones' focus on economic empowerment is building stronger and thriving neighborhoods;

Whereas, Reverend Jones was elected the first Mayor of West Park and serving his third term as Mayor of Broward County's 31st city;

Whereas, Reverend Jones has received numerous award and accolades for his humanitarianism and public service work which included: the MLK Celebration Committee's Martin Luther King Faith Leadership Award, the Urban League of Broward County's Thurgood Marshall Advocacy Award, the NAACP's Criminal Justice Image Award, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Volunteer Recognition Award, a Certificate of Recognition from the Broward Sheriffs Office's Feed the Needy Program, the 2006 Man of the Year recognition by the Broward County Business and Professional Women's Network; 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 Reverend and Mayor Eric H. Jones, Jr., for his unwavering commitment to God, his family and his church, and for his selfless dedication as a public servant to improving the quality of life for all.

**HONORING MIKE TODD FOR FOUR
DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE
TO HIS COMMUNITY**

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Todd for more than four decades of service to the City of Mill Creek and the people of Snohomish County. From his earliest days as a community volunteer to his service as a Mill Creek City Councilmember, Mayor, and Director of Public Works, Mike has dedicated himself to strengthening the community he has proudly called home since 1983.

Throughout his career, Mike has embodied true civic leadership. Long before holding public office, he volunteered countless hours at local schools, youth programs, and parks, helping enrich the lives of young people and families throughout the region. During his more than fifteen years on the Mill Creek City Council, including two terms as Mayor, he earned a reputation for his thoughtful, pragmatic approach to helping the city grow while preserving the qualities that make it a special place to work, live, and raise a family.

His impact extends well beyond Mill Creek. Through his service with Community Transit, the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Snohomish County Cities Group, and other regional organizations, Mike strengthened regional partnerships and advanced policies that continue to serve our communities today. In 2020, Mike also stepped into the role of Director of Public Works & Development Services during the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing steady leadership during an extraordinarily challenging time.

Mike's legacy is reflected not only in the projects he led and positions he held, but in the many lives he touched through his generosity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mike Todd for his remarkable contributions to the people of Washington. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement, thank him for his decades of service, and wish him and his family the very best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on the legislation being

considered under suspension of the rules on July 20, 2026, due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 250, H.R. 4541, and YEA on Roll Call No. 251, H.R. 8823.

**RECOGNIZING VALLEY GROVE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church for 50 years of service to the City of Miami, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in its honor:

Whereas, Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1963 and has been a leader in our community spreading the Word of God;

Whereas, Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church's outreach ministries have for decades extended a helping hand to those in need, restoring hope and dignity in their darkest hour;

Whereas, Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church's commitment to empowering people has provided the community with an enriching place of worship for anyone seeking spiritual edification;

Whereas, Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church is rich in tradition and history, and has played a major role in shaping and fostering relationships between the church, the community and local government;

Whereas, Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church continues to be a beacon of light, hope and faith in South Florida; 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 Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Elder Johnnie L. Robinson, for 50 years of service, dedication and commitment, to our community.

**RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE OF
FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS**

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage of Falun Gong practitioners, who for more than two decades have faced severe persecution in China because of their beliefs—beliefs centered on the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, and on a desire to revive traditional Chinese culture and values.

According to documentation compiled by Minghui.org, at least 5,910 Falun Gong practitioners have died as a result of repression by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP has also subjected Falun Gong practitioners to arbitrary detention, torture, and forced organ harvesting—an atrocity that shocks the conscience.

I also rise to recognize the Tuidang Movement—translated as the “Quitting the CCP

Movement”—and to commend the Global Service Center for Quitting the Chinese Communist Party, known as the Tuidang Center, for its work in support of freedom of conscience and human dignity.

In December 2004, The Epoch Times published a report titled Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party, an account of the Party's history. According to that report, the CCP has been responsible since 1949 for the unnatural deaths of 60 to 80 million Chinese people, and by now likely more. It also highlighted the hundreds of millions of abortions committed under China's coercive population control regimes, and in 2013, China's own health ministry corroborated this when it released data showing that more than 300 million abortions had been performed since 1971.

Over the following two decades, according to organizers, millions of copies of the Nine Commentaries were reproduced and distributed within China by Falun Gong practitioners, often at great personal risk. That effort helped give rise to the Tuidang Movement, through which individuals can renounce their affiliation with the CCP, the Communist Youth League, and the Young Pioneers, frequently using pseudonyms to protect their safety.

The Tuidang Center, based in New York, collects these withdrawal statements through volunteer networks and tracks the movement's growth. Its volunteers outside China also reach Chinese citizens by phone, message, and email to share information about withdrawing from the CCP and its affiliated organizations. In recent years, Chinese immigrants have publicly announced their withdrawals at Tuidang rallies in Flushing, New York, receiving certificates memorializing their decisions.

According to the Tuidang Center's records, as of July 2026, more than 464 million people have submitted statements dissociating themselves from the CCP or its affiliated organizations. This movement of nonviolent resistance to totalitarianism represents an awakening of conscience, grounded in a desire to reclaim China's cultural and moral heritage. Such resistance helps lay the moral foundation for a future of greater freedom and justice in China, while also standing against the spread of communist ideology worldwide. The witness of those who participate in this movement should also remind Americans of the continuing dangers posed by communist ideology.

The CCP has a well-documented history of transnational repression, and the Tuidang Center states that its own work has faced intimidation and disruption here in the United States. According to the Center, it received eight threatening letters between April 20 and 28, 2025, and its public booths in Flushing were vandalized on April 29, 2025. Transnational repression targeting advocates on American soil is a serious matter, and such conduct has no place in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the right to hold and peacefully express one's beliefs, and to associate or disassociate freely, is a fundamental human right. I honor the courage of Falun Gong practitioners and the volunteers of the Tuidang Movement, and I commend the Global Service Center for Quitting the Chinese Communist Party for its work on behalf of freedom of conscience. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with all who peacefully advocate for human dignity and the freedom to believe.