

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS.
DOROTHY WRIGHT EDWARDS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Mrs. Dorothy Wright Edwards, a beloved and well-respected educator, mentor, a trail blazer and pioneer for women in the field of Physical Education, and a lifelong community servant. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Edwards is receiving one of the highest honors bestowed in the renaming of the student services area at Miami Northwestern Senior High School to the Dorothy Edwards Student Services Center;

Whereas, during her tenure with Miami-Dade Northwestern Senior High School, Mrs. Edwards was a business teacher, all-girls dean and later became the school's assistant principal from 1955 until her retirement in 1971;

Whereas, Mrs. Edwards was the second female physical education teacher hired by the Miami-Dade County Public School System and was also a teacher, counselor and administrator for students at Booker T. Washington High and Dorsey Elementary Schools;

Whereas, Mrs. Edwards, an advocate for education and physical fitness, is recognized in Who's Who in American Education, and received the Florida State Teacher Award from the Florida State Chamber of Commerce in 1966 and 1977;

Whereas, Mrs. Edwards, a graduate of Florida A&M College (now University), was inducted into the university's Sports Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards from various organizations; 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, am proud to pay tribute to Mrs. Dorothy Wright Edwards for her dedication to education and physical fitness, for her commitment to our students, for her contributions to Miami Northwestern Senior High School and to the Miami-Dade County Public School District and for life-long service to our community.

HONORING MAJOR ALEXANDER
"SMO" DAVIS

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of Major Alexander "SMO" Davis. I include in the RECORD the following obituary:

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Major Alexander "SMO" Davis, 34, of Lancaster, California—formerly of Goldsboro, North Carolina—on

Monday, June 15, 2026. Major Davis made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country when the B-52 Stratofortress he was serving aboard crashed at Edwards Air Force Base, claiming the lives of all eight crewmembers on board.

Alexander Wesley Davis was born on February 10, 1992, in Hartford, Connecticut, to Douglas and Karen Davis. In 1994, his family moved to Goldsboro, North Carolina, the city he considered his hometown. He attended Saint Mary School in Goldsboro from the age of three through eighth grade. He went on to graduate from Charles B. Aycock High School, where he played football as a lineman, competed on the track and field team as a shot-putter, and excelled academically, earning induction into the National Honor Society. His leadership and drive were evident in his youth, as he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009. Upon graduation, he answered the call to serve his nation through an Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship to North Carolina State University. Alex graduated in 2015 with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, and earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. While in the Air Force, Alex continued his studies, earning a Master of Science in Space Studies from American Military University and a Master of Science in Flight Test Engineering from the United States Air Force Test Pilot School.

Throughout his distinguished career, Alex served as a Weapon Systems Officer with the 69th Bomber Squadron at Minot Air Force Base and, most recently, the 419th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base. He trained as a Combat Systems Officer at Pensacola Naval Air Station and as a Weapon Systems Officer on the B-52 at Barksdale Air Force Base before deploying to Al Udeid, Qatar, where he flew combat missions. He later deployed to Andersen Air Force Base on Guam and Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia. In 2022, Alex was selected for the United States Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, joining the 22A class. Upon completing Test Pilot School, he served with the 419th Flight Test Squadron in support of the B-52 Stratofortress modernization program. He was promoted to Major in April 2025.

Alex earned numerous decorations and awards throughout his career, including the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He was deeply respected by colleagues and senior officers alike for his dedication, leadership, professionalism, and expertise. He lived by the Air Force core values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.

HONORING THE LATE GREGORY
"COACH" BLATCH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor the late Gregory Blatch,

a dedicated, well respected and beloved teacher with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, who was affectionately called "Coach."

Coach Blatch was employed with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 34 years. He spent thirty-three of those years teaching at Ojus Elementary School, where he was an institution.

In addition to being an exceptional instructor, Coach Blatch was also a mentor, a motivator and a friend to his students, whom he often referred to as "my children away from home."

Coach Blatch participated in and sponsored numerous activities which included student government, the annual Washington D.C. trip, the safety patrol program, Drug Awareness and Resistance Education, and student physical fitness. He was staunch advocate for students' health and safety.

Coach Blatch was also heavily involved in the Parent Teacher Association at Ojus Elementary. He donated a great deal of his time orchestrating and participating in fund raisers from carnivals and talent shows to community outreach programs to support the school.

Coach Blatch was a graduate of Florida A&M University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He received his Master of Science degree from Nova Southeastern University. Coach Blatch was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and a thirty-four-year member of the United Teachers of Dade.

Please join me in honoring the late Gregory "Coach" Blatch for his dedication to education, to our children and to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 283.

COMMENDING SERGEANT MAJOR
ARTHUR WELLS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Arthur Wells who has been named South Florida Federal Employee of the Year, for his selfless service to our veterans and their families. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells is assistant chief of Prosthetics Service at the Bruce W.

• 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.

Carter, Miami VA Healthcare Systems in Miami, Florida, where he has been a compassionate, dedicated and devoted employee for 25 years;

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells has proven himself to be a leader and an advocate for all veterans and has effectively and tirelessly used his expertise to assist many veterans to obtain prosthetic limbs and devices such as electric wheelchairs, scooters, patient lifts and many other instruments to ease any vet's daily task;

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells is the president of two non-profit organizations, the South Florida Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) and the Army National Guard Family Support Foundation, which assists deployed soldiers' families with funds to pay bills while the soldier is overseas;

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells has received numerous accolades and awards for outstanding community service which includes helping the elderly, raising money for back-to-school supplies and college scholarships and building homes in Miami's Liberty City and Overtown neighborhoods with Habitat for Humanity;

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells is a decorated, U.S. veteran who served in numerous U.S. operations and conflicts, including the Vietnam Conflict and Operation Iraqi Freedom before his retirement in 2007 which ended 39 years of military service; 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 Sergeant Major Arthur Wells for his service to our country and for his dedication and commitment to our veterans, their families and to our community.

CELEBRATING KATHIE EASTMAN TELL'S RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Kathie Eastman Tell, who is retiring after a cumulative twenty years of service in the United States House of Representatives.

Her public service stretched from the sandy beaches of Hawaii's 1st Congressional District to the rugged coast of Oregon's 4th Congressional District, to the vibrant urban core of Portland in Oregon's 3rd Congressional District.

Always strategic, efficient, and effective, Kathie served in almost every role of a House office operation, in both the D.C. and district offices. The handful of positions she never occupied were by her choice—much to the quiet dismay of offices that would have trusted her with all of them.

In 1993, she began as a Legislative Correspondent for Representative Neil Abercrombie. She then joined Representative Peter DeFazio in 1998 as a Senior Legislative Assistant, where she was especially active on issues related to transportation and infrastructure investments—a dedication that carried her onward as DeFazio's Legislative Director, and later his District Director. That same commitment to keeping our communities moving continued in Representative Earl Blumenauer's office, where she served as Press Secretary until 2006. Kathie then prioritized raising her two young children, McKenzie and Ben, in

Portland, Oregon, with her spouse Jason Tell. Never far from the Oregon delegation and public policy, she took on part-time roles and projects during this time. She returned to Blumenauer's office in 2019, as a favorite Caseworker among constituents and prized Scheduler to the Member. Oregon was lucky to have DeFazio and Blumenauer invested in transportation and infrastructure. They were luckier to have Kathie embrace this legislative portfolio. Most recently, in the office of Representative MAXINE DEXTER, Kathie efficiently helped build a brand-new district office from the ground up as the Operations Director.

Much can be said about Kathie's intellect and work ethic, but not enough can be said about her infectious sense of humor. One colleague recounted that while he learned many things from Kathie, most of them should not go in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A child of Berkeley, California, who dedicated her career to the people of Hawaii and Oregon, it is fitting Kathie will retire to Southwest Washington, claiming her final Pacific Rim state, in a life spent leaving every person and place she touched wiser, with a bit more grit, and better than she found them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PASTOR JEFFREY HAMILTON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize the late Pastor Jeffrey N. Hamilton, a faithful-servant of God, an advocate for education, community activist, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, in 1991, as a member of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Jeffrey Hamilton was called into the ministry. After moving his membership to Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, he was ordained to teach the word of God and went on to serve as the youth minister at Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church. In 2006, he was called to pastor at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church and then went on to establish his own church, the New Life Christian Worship Center Family in Miami's Liberty City;

Whereas, Pastor Hamilton was considered a beacon of light by his congregation and his community, and was affectionately called "Coach Ham" by the thousands of children he worked with through numerous community organizations, including the Children of Inmates and The Drug Free Coalition, the Miami Dade County School Board, the Healthy Mind Healthy Heart Program, the Hosanna Community Baptist Church Foundation, and the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project;

Whereas, Pastor Hamilton believed that education is an essential building block to success and, as a strong believer in the expression "practice what you preach," went back to school to farther his education and pursued a master's degree in divinity and special education from St. Thomas University and from Nova University;

Whereas, Pastor Hamilton's passion for students was unmatched and he touched the lives of elementary, middle and high school students across Miami-Dade; 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, am honored to pay tribute to the late Pastor Jeffrey Hamilton, for his passion and devotion to God, his church, to our students and community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AURORA FASTPRINT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aurora Fastprint as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, marking half a century as a family-owned staple of the Aurora community.

Founded in 1976 by Tom Bartlett, Aurora Fastprint has provided high-quality, full-service printing services to businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, and residents throughout the Fox River Valley. Whether showcasing the work of a local poet in its storefront windows during Poetry Month or sponsoring a holiday food drive for the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, Aurora Fastprint has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the community. Its storefront in Aurora's historic downtown district has become home to a notable and respected local business.

Over the last 50 years, Aurora Fastprint has demonstrated remarkable resilience and innovation. As technology and the needs of the community have evolved, Aurora Fastprint has adapted and evolved too. By expanding beyond traditional printing services to offer graphic design, digital printing, and Every Door Direct Mail service, the company has adapted to the changing needs of its clients. Now, in its second generation of ownership under Bartlett's daughter Kim Woodin, Aurora Fastprint has grown alongside and supported the community it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Aurora Fastprint calls my district home. Its remarkable 50-year history is a testament to the company's enduring commitment to service, reliability, innovation, and the Aurora community. I am confident that Aurora Fastprint will continue to thrive for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. LEOME SCAVELLA CULMER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize the late Mrs. Leome Scavella Culmer, a faithful servant of God, a community, and a beloved mother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Leome Scavella Culmer, a native Miamian and product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1944 and later received a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and English from Bethune Cookman College in 1949;

Whereas, Mrs. Culmer was the widow of the Venerable Father John E. Culmer, the rector