

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PASSING THE FIX OUR FORESTS ACT

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, across the United States, severe wildfires continue to place tremendous pressure on surrounding communities, wildlife, and some of our Nation's most treasured public lands. Just this past month we have witnessed the devastating human cost as firefighters gave their lives protecting others from these catastrophic fires. Their sacrifice shows just how urgent wildfire prevention is. This is not a future concern; it is an innate responsibility. Additionally, the 250th celebration of America serves as an opportunity for reflection, not just on the previous 250 years but also for the next 250 years yet to come.

Congress has acted in the bipartisan legislation, that is the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA). FOFA recognizes the need for healthy forests in order to mitigate wildfire risks, damage to our ecosystems, and climate change. This legislation is key to active forest management, which is why Congress must act to pass this influential reform. We owe it to our firefighters and communities to move beyond discussion and take meaningful action through the passage of this legislation.

HONORING MARY L. AURTREY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of Mary L. Aurtrey—a distinguished U.S. Army veteran, retired Sergeant Major, community leader, and tireless advocate whose lifetime of service reflects the very best of our Nation and the Hoosier state.

I established the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award to recognize extraordinary women veterans whose dedication and leadership have strengthened our communities and inspired future generations. It is my honor to recognize Mary Aurtrey for her exceptional service.

Mary served our country with distinction in the United States Army, rising to the rank of Sergeant Major. Following her military career, Mary continued her mission of service by supporting veterans, empowering women, and strengthening the organizations that serve our communities.

Throughout her years of civic engagement, Mary has been a steadfast advocate and mentor through her involvement with organizations including Women in Networking Indianapolis, American Legion Women's Post 438, Woman's Life Chapter 703, the National Council of Negro Women—Indianapolis Section, Sister

Soldier Network, AMVETS Post 99, the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame, the Indiana Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, the Community Advisory Board for IU Memory University, and the Veterans History Project through the Library of Congress. Through these efforts, Mary has preserved the stories of veterans, supported families, and uplifted those around her. She represents the strength, resilience, and dedication of Hoosier women veterans who continue serving their communities long after their military careers conclude.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mary L. Aurtrey for her outstanding military service and her unwavering dedication to her fellow veterans and community. I thank her for making Indiana a stronger, more compassionate place through her lifetime of diligent service.

HONORING THE WORK OF BROWARD COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS DURING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Broward Community and Family Health Centers, known as BCOM, during National Health Center Week, as well as the leadership of Rosalyn Frazier, BCOM's devoted CEO. For 27 years, BCOM has been a lifeline in the heart of Broward County, opening its doors to families who have nowhere else to turn.

Working with Rosalyn Frazier and her incredible team of compassionate and devoted healthcare professionals, I was proud to secure funding for BCOM's Promise Fund to begin a breast cancer screening program, so this deadly disease is caught earlier and more treatment options are available.

Walk into any of BCOM's five health center sites, including a facility dedicated entirely to dental care, and you find something remarkable: a team that treats every patient with dignity, regardless of what they can pay or what language they speak. BCOM's staff brings unmatched clinical expertise across internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, women's health, and psychiatry. More than 100 staff members speak English, Spanish, Creole, French, Cantonese, and Tagalog, so no patient ever must be left to explain their pain through a language barrier.

In 2025 alone, BCOM served more than 11,000 patients in Broward County. 99 percent live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. 62 percent had no insurance at all or relied on Medicaid to survive. These are not just numbers—they are mothers seeking prenatal care, children needing their first dental check-up, and neighbors fighting to stay healthy with everything stacked against them.

BCOM meets them every single time. Today I ask this body to join me in honoring BCOM's tireless commitment to the people of Broward County and to the simple, powerful idea that quality healthcare belongs to everyone.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING CARIBBEAN AMERICANS AND AFFILIATES

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as a descendant of Caribbeans, to recognize National Caribbean American Heritage Month and the countless contributions made to South Florida by Caribbeans and their descendants.

National Caribbean American Heritage Month reminds us of the diversity of the people and cultures that make South Florida great and like no other community in the world.

Let us remember the early Caribbean immigrants who helped build and settle South Florida.

Let us pay tribute to the Caribbean Americans in South Florida who helped shape the American dream and continue to work to make it accessible to all who seek it and its promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Let us be proud of the contributions made by Caribbean Americans to education, business, the arts and politics.

Let us mark National Caribbean American Heritage Month by supporting individuals and organizations that continue to build upon the foundation of economic inclusion and equal rights.

While there are countless shining examples of groups and organizations working to improve the quality of life for all South Floridians, I include in the RECORD the Caribbean organizations listed below for their commitment and dedication to making a difference in our community:

Association of Caribbean Law Students, Caribbean Bar Association, Caribbean Students Association (FIU), Caribbean Today, and Caribbean-American Visual Cultural Preservation.

MAIN STREET CAPITAL ACCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6955, the Main Street Capital Access Act.

At a time when families are struggling with the cost of living, this bill could make it even

• 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.

worse. H.R. 6955 loosens guardrails on Wall Street banks that are already posting record profits. The bill would further weaken the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the agency Congress built to protect consumers from junk fees, medical debt abuses, and unfair debt collection, at the very moment financial scams are costing Americans tens of billions of dollars. And on top of that, it weakens community reinvestment and anti-discrimination protections.

This package bundles 24 Republican bills with just 2 Democratic ones, and it is loaded with poison pills. One provision would even let Wells Fargo delay enforcement action against future harm. We can and must do better to protect our constituents, and the small banks that work to reinvest in our communities.

Let me be clear, while I oppose this bill, I remain a strong supporter of our community banks and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) and their ability to compete fairly with the Wall Street megabanks. That is why I supported real, bipartisan community bank reforms in the 21st Century Road to Housing Act. This bill is not that, nor is it the reform that our community banks and CDFIs need to better help our community. Instead, H.R. 6955 is dressed up as help for community banks, when it will mostly benefit Wall Street.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to bring real reforms to the community banks that anchor our main streets. I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 6955.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MR. JOHNNY E. MOSS, JR.

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life, legacy, and service of Mr. Johnny E. Moss, Jr., who passed away on July 17, 2026, at the age of 83.

Mr. Moss was born on October 25, 1942, to the late Johnny Moss, Sr., and Ollie Mae Moss and was raised in a Christian home by his grandmother, Berta Moss, in Selma, Alabama.

Mr. Moss began his educational journey in the Segregated Selma City School System. Following his graduation, he joined the United States Navy where he served his country for four years on the Kitty Hawk. He later matriculated at Nashville School of Business, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dedicated to giving back to the community that nurtured him, Mr. Moss began his career of service to the Selma and Dallas County community as the Director of the Don Bosco Neighborhood Service Center. After his departure from the Selma Dallas Economic Opportunity Board, Mr. Moss became the first Black Director of the Selma Housing Authority, where he served for more than thirty years.

Before his retirement in 2005, Mr. Moss's tenure as Director of the Selma Housing Authority was marked by his efforts to improve the lives of residents both inside and outside the home through youth programming and adult resident training. His contributions were recognized when the Moss Court housing for seniors was named in his honor.

Outside of his career, Mr. Moss was a mentor, teacher, and community leader who served as the City of Selma Planning Commission Chairperson and the Dallas-Selma Community Action Agency President, and was a member of the Wallace Community Foundation, George Evans Special Needs Foundation, Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Preservation Society Inc., Head Start Board, Rotary Club, 12 High Club, Chesterfield Club, and others.

A committed servant of God, Mr. Moss confessed Christ at an early age and joined the Ebenezer Baptist Church. After his marriage to Jeanette Eileen Martin in 1968, he and his wife became members of Brown Chapel AME Church, where he remained a devoted member until his passing.

Mr. Johnny E. Moss, Jr., is preceded in death by his parents, Johnny Moss, II, and Ollie Mae Moss; and his grandmother, Berta Moss. He is survived by his loving wife, Jeanette Moss; his sons, Johnny Moss, III (Sharonoa), and Jarvis Moss; his grandchildren, Jarvis Moss, Jr., Keriana Moore, Jada Moss, Evan Moss, Jackson Moss, Jace Riddle, and Jacelyn Riddle; his siblings, Odesa Brown (Tommy), Lewis Moss, Jeffery Moss, Broderick Moss, Lois Moss, and Glenda Williams; his sisters-in-law, Mabel Reddick, Rosalyn (Clarence) Hatcher, Doris Rush; his god daughters, Jatavi Reddick-Hardy, Tamela Glover, Danielle Smith, Ayannah Joi Cleary, Ashlyn "Kam" Goodwin; those he had deepest gratitude and appreciation to, Coren Wilson (Nephew and Caregiver) and Velton Moss (Nephew); and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

On a personal note, Mr. Moss was more than a distinguished public servant, he was a cherished family friend. The Moss and Sewell families have long shared a close bond rooted in our love for Selma and our shared commitment to serving others. Mr. Moss dedicated his life to making our community stronger.

Whether leading the Selma Housing Authority, mentoring young people, serving his church, or lending his wisdom to countless civic organizations, Mr. Moss never sought recognition, only opportunities to serve. My heart is with his beloved wife, Jeanette, his sons, Mayor Johnny Moss, III, and Jarvis Moss, Sr., and the entire Moss family. May they find comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on not only in the institutions he helped build, but in the countless lives he touched.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life, legacy, and service of Mr. Johnny E. Moss, Jr.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. FATIMA SOARES

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Fatima Soares, who passed away on June 14, 2026. For more than four decades, Soares dedicated her career to Coastside Hope, where she served with kindness, generosity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to the community. She rooted her leadership in compassion,

service, and a deep belief in the dignity of every person.

Born on April 2, 1954, in the Azores, Soares immigrated from Portugal to the United States in 1969. Her family first settled on her aunt's farm in Brentwood, California, before moving to Half Moon Bay. Soares graduated from Half Moon Bay High School and later attended San Francisco State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work.

Soares began her career at the Coastside Opportunity Center as a secretary and then as a social worker. She eventually became the organization's executive director, playing an integral role in its transition from the Coastside Opportunity Center to Coastside Hope. During some of the organization's most difficult financial times, Soares made courageous and thoughtful decisions, carrying the organization through hardship without sacrificing its mission to "enhance the quality of life for all of our neighbors." Even after long workdays, Soares volunteered at the local RotaCare Clinic, helping ensure that community members without insurance could access the health care they needed.

Those who knew Soares remember her as soft-spoken, thoughtful, and deeply attentive. She was a leader who listened with patience, and responded with wisdom, not judgment. She gave with a heart that asked for nothing in return. Because of her, Coastside Hope is stronger and the community is kinder.

While Soares' professional accomplishments were remarkable, she also found joy in reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. Whether sharing coffee with her sisters or cheering with her great-nieces and great-nephews at sporting events, Soares treasured the simple moments spent with the people she loved most.

Soares is survived by her sisters, Rosa Avila and Orlanda Soares; her nephew, James Avila; her nieces, Cassie Avila-Rotondo and Jessica Avila; her great-nieces, Abigail and Sadie Sullivan; and her great-nephew, Walker Sullivan. She was preceded in death by her parents, Antonio and Leontina Soares, and her brother, Tony Soares.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Fatima Soares, whose life's work remains woven into the heart of the Coastside community. May her generosity, kindness, and courage remind us that leadership can be both strong and tender.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed one vote on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 259.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR NIGEL LEON LOVELL-MARTIN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida,