

Envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa, which will be vital to addressing the enduring regional security crisis emanating from eastern DRC.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in condemning the ethnic violence in the DRC.

REMEMBERING IRMADINE CARSON

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Irmadine “Irma” Carson of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on January 9, 2026, after a lifetime of service to our community in the Central Valley.

Born on June 24, 1935, to Booker T. Jenkins, Sr., and Benny Mae Jenkins, Ms. Carson moved with her family from St. Louis, Missouri, to Bakersfield in 1953. In 1955, she married Earnest Carson, and together they raised three daughters: Sharon, Karen (Patty), and Camille. Years later, she also became the grandmother of Chris, Jason, and Leslie, taking great pride in her growing family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ms. Carson dedicated her life to being a public servant and made a distinguished career as a trailblazer who supported her community. In 1959, Ms. Carson became the first Black woman employed at Bakersfield City Hall. She later joined the Bakersfield Police Department as its first Black female officer and went on to become the department’s first Black female detective and a patrol sergeant until her retirement in 1989.

While working, Ms. Carson earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from California State University, Bakersfield, in 1978. The next year, she was elected to the Bakersfield City School District Board of Education, where she served for 15 years and focused on strengthening educational outcomes for local students.

In 1994, Ms. Carson was elected to the Bakersfield City Council, becoming the first Black woman to serve in that role. For 16 years, she represented Ward 1 in southeast Bakersfield, concentrating on housing, neighborhood development, youth services, and economic stability.

After retiring from law enforcement, Ms. Carson continued her work as Executive Director of the Ebony Counseling Center, expanding programs addressing addiction recovery, public health education, and family support throughout Kern County.

Ms. Carson is remembered as a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and mentor whose influence continues through the people and institutions she served. She is survived by her sisters, Cecile Chavis and Dolores Chavis, as well as extended family and longtime friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Irmadine Carson and her lasting contributions to Bakersfield and the Central Valley.

CONGRATULATING JOHN W. RAUBER, JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 25 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AT JOHN DEERE & COMPANY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize John W. Rauber, Jr., and congratulate him on his retirement after 25 years of distinguished service at John Deere. Joining Deere in 2000, John played an instrumental role in John Deere’s U.S. and International Government Affairs and International Finance Teams, serving most recently as Regional Director & Counsel for Government Relations, and led the global Government Affairs organization.

At John Deere, John helped strengthen business opportunities for dealers globally, develop innovative solutions for Deere customers, and build public affairs operations in Europe, Asia, and South America. John was instrumental in developing sound public policy to support the agriculture community in Illinois, the Midwest, and throughout the United States—advocating for key provisions in the Farm Bill and prioritizing broadband connectivity for precision agriculture.

Throughout his career, John has been known in Washington and around Capitol Hill for his effective advocacy, dedication, and leadership. He’s been a trusted colleague and friend—well respected by Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and his peers in Washington. A consummate professional, John was a reliable resource to those who sought advice or counsel. No matter one’s role, John treated those around him fairly and with respect, providing mentorship and guidance to those in need.

As native of Bethesda, Maryland, John’s roots run deep in the greater Washington, D.C., area. Graduating from Georgetown University and George Washington University Law School, John has committed his life to serving his community and giving back to those who helped him along the way. Above all else, I know what John enjoys most is being a loving husband to his wife Diane, and an incredible father to their four sons, John, David, Michael, and Andrew. In retirement, John will continue to serve his community, enjoy his summers at the beach, and complete his 10th Boston Marathon.

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to John for his distinguished career and significant contributions to John Deere—which will leave an indelible mark on a great American and Illinois manufacturer. I wish John, and his wife Diane, all the best as he enters the next chapter in his life.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF NELDA OLIVO

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Nelda Olivo

for over 30 years of public service to the City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi.

Ms. Olivo has dedicated her life to public service and, in doing so, has facilitated the growth of our Coastal Bend Region. She started her career in public service in the City of Corpus Christi’s Housing and Community Development Department, where she worked tirelessly to improve housing and infrastructure for her community.

In 1993, she began her work in one of the most important ports in Texas, the Port of Corpus Christi. She has served there as a hard-working liaison between the port and several local, state, and federal governments.

Her work goes far beyond Corpus Christi. She currently serves on the American Association of Port Authorities Government Relations Committee, the Texas Port Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, the Gulf Ports Association of the Americas Government Affairs Committee, Port Industries of Corpus Christi, and the Coastal Bend Council of Governments.

In these many roles, she has exemplified leadership, and integrity. I am proud to represent constituents like Ms. Olivo every day in Congress, who are pillars in our community and cleared the path for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of South Texas, I wish to honor Ms. Nelda Olivo on her retirement and for her service to the people of South Texas.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP DR. FREDERICK WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sorrow and deep thanksgiving to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Dr. Frederick Williams, Sr.—a faithful servant of God, an apostolic visionary, a devoted husband and father, and a tireless advocate for justice, healing, and transformation. His transition from labor to reward marks the close of a life lived in humble service and bold leadership, and his memory will continue to inspire generations to come. A funeral service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at The Gethsemane Worship Center International in Albany, Georgia.

Bishop Williams was born in Dougherty County, Albany, Georgia, to the late Roosevelt Williams and Evangelist Katie Mae Anderson. The youngest of seven children—Johnny Bell, Patricia, Gloria Jean, Roosevelt, Jr., Larry, and Barbara—he was reared in a home firmly rooted in faith, discipline, and service. Those foundational values shaped a life that bore fruit in ministry, civic engagement, and community building.

At an early age, Bishop Williams accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church under Pastor R.B. Smith. Under the pastoral leadership of Reverend George Daniels, he exercised his gifts faithfully—serving as church clerk, armor-bearer, organizer of the first Pastor’s Aide Board, leader in the music ministry, and deacon board member—early signs of a servant’s heart and a shepherd’s calling. He

formed The Voices of Tabernacle and served as minister of music for churches across southwest Georgia, gathering and guiding people in worship.

In 1991 Bishop Williams answered a divine call to preach the gospel. He pursued nonprofit and leadership training at Clark Atlanta University and, in 1992, launched Gethsemane Worship Center International in Albany from a small building on Baldwin Street leased by then-Mayor Paul Keenan. With only nine members, that congregation grew into a thriving interdenominational ministry impacting lives locally and globally. He also served as Pastor of New Zion Hill Baptist Church and later organized Divine Covenant International Fellowship, providing apostolic covering and mentoring more than 100 ministers, preachers, and leaders—many in Liberia—under his apostolic anointing.

Bishop Williams was united in holy matrimony on May 7, 1988, to Felicia Jones, and together they raised a loving family: Victoria, Vanessa, Frederick, Jr., Fredesha, Lawanna, Natasha, and Nazarelle—children who were a constant source of joy and pride.

A lifelong learner, Bishop Williams was a proud graduate of Dougherty Comprehensive High School (Class of 1980) and Albany Technical College. His studies continued at Georgetown College, Regents Park College at the University of Oxford, The Interdenominational Theological Center of Morehouse College, and culminated with a Doctorate in Theology from North Carolina University Wilmington, where he was recognized as a distinguished member of the President's Club.

Before full-time ministry, Bishop Williams worked at McGregor Golf for eleven years and later served the community as a bus driver for the Dougherty County School System and as a dispatcher with the Albany-Dougherty 911 Communication Center. An entrepreneur, he owned The Gentlemen Shop, G & W His & Hers Accessories, and the Albany Christian Book & Gift Store.

His ministry and mission were global in scope—Bishop Williams traveled extensively to Haiti, Africa, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Belize, Jamaica, Honduras, Mexico, and beyond, and he established two ministries in Liberia. He served as Bishop Ordinary for the Diocese of St. James the Just in Florida, was consecrated to the office of the bishopric in 2016, served as State Bishop of Georgia, and in 2025 joined Lifted Reformation as State Bishop of Georgia.

Bishop Williams' public service and civic leadership were exemplary. He founded and led Stop the Violence initiatives, co-chaired Albany-Dougherty Community-Oriented Policing, served on the Easter Seals Southern District Board, and led civic and ministerial coalitions that bridged faith, law enforcement, education, and the legal community in pursuit of collective healing and progress. At the time of his passing, he faithfully served as Chairman of the Board of the Albany-Dougherty County Board of Elections.

His life of service earned numerous honors: the NAACP Religious Award; Outstanding Georgia Citizen Award presented by then-Secretary of State Cathy Cox; Excellence in Community Award from the NAACP; the Trailblazer Award from 100 Black Men of Albany; Citizen of the Year from Omega Psi Phi—Eta Omicron Chapter; the Liberty Bell Award from the Dougherty County Bar Association; a Certifi-

cate of Special Congressional Record from yours truly for his leadership in Stop the Violence initiatives; eight Mayoral Proclamations; Albany's STRIDE Award; and many additional commendations recognizing his humanitarian and civic contributions.

Bishop Williams was also an author and creative minister—writing Order in the House and The Church Under Siege, producing the gospel recording Zion Is Calling, and hosting the podcast Plug In With Bishop—platforms through which he taught, encouraged, and lifted up his community during seasons of trial and renewal.

In 2009, following the tragic loss of his sister, Bishop Williams convened leaders at Albany State University and asked, "What can we do?" Out of that conversation grew a sustained, collaborative response to violence and community pain—an enduring testament to his capacity to turn grief into constructive action.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Dr. Frederick Williams, Sr., was a man who married conviction with compassion, preaching comfort while organizing for justice. He answered calls to both prayer and practice, building institutions, mentoring leaders, and offering pastoral care to countless families. He bore witness to a faith that moved beyond sanctuary walls into streets, schools, and global mission fields.

I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Bishop Dr. Frederick Williams, Sr.—a pastor, a prophet, a builder, and a beloved servant whose life of faith, intellect, and action made our communities stronger and kinder. We mourn his passing, we celebrate his harvest, and we pledge to carry forward his work of healing, justice, and spiritual formation.

May his memory be for a blessing. May his family find comfort in the countless lives he touched. And may his legacy continue to light the way for leaders who follow in the Holy work of service.

RECOGNIZING PHILLIP BARRIER

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip Barrier for his 27 years of dedicated public service to Avery County, North Carolina, as County Manager.

Phillip's career reflects a lifetime commitment to serving his community with integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering sense of responsibility. He began his career as Avery County's Tax Administrator, a role he held for 19 years, earning the respect of colleagues and residents alike through his steady leadership and deep knowledge of county operations. In March 2017, Phillip was appointed Avery County Manager, where he continued to demonstrate exceptional dedication to the people he served.

Most notably, Phillip's leadership during and after Hurricane Helene stands as a defining chapter of his tenure. At a time of immense pressure and uncertainty, he played a critical role in coordinating local response efforts and guiding recovery planning. His ability to bring people together, communicate clearly, and keep the public informed helped Avery County navigate hardship with resilience and unity.

Phillip's service has been widely recognized for his leadership and impact. In 2017, he was named Mayland Community College's Distinguished Citizen of the Year for Avery County, and in 2021, he was honored as Businessperson of the Year by the Avery County Chamber of Commerce.

Beyond his professional career, Phillip has devoted countless hours to his community through volunteer service. He has served as Treasurer of the Avery County Education Foundation, Chairman of Avery County Impact, a member of the First Baptist Church Crossnore Youth Team, Chair of the Ingalls Precinct Republican Party, and an active member of the Avery County Schools Improvement Team. These roles reflect his deep commitment to education, civic engagement, faith, and the future of Avery County's youth.

On behalf of the people of North Carolina's 11th Congressional District, I extend my sincere gratitude to Phillip Barrier for his decades of service and leadership. Avery County is stronger because of his dedication, and his legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. I wish Phillip and his family the very best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING DONNA STAGEMAN
ROBERTS

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2026

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation marks the 250th anniversary of American independence, I rise to recognize a remarkable Montanan whose life story reflects both the resilience of this Nation during World War II and the enduring spirit of service that defines the Treasure State.

Today I honor Donna Stageman Roberts, born January 1, 1926, in Randolph, Nebraska, and now a resident of Swan Lake, Montana. On New Year's Day, Donna celebrated her 100th birthday, a milestone befitting a life that spans a century of change and achievement.

Donna's life is interwoven with one of the most extraordinary chapters in American sports history and our home front effort during World War II. In 1946, at the age of 20 and living in Billings, she read about tryouts for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, a professional league created in 1943 to sustain America's pastime while many major league players served overseas during the war.

After submitting her application and being selected from hundreds of hopefuls, Donna earned a contract with the Peoria Redwings, joining their inaugural 1946 season as a shortstop and outfielder. During that era, these teams kept baseball alive in communities across the Midwest, giving Americans a source of normalcy and pride as so many families worried about loved ones on distant battlefields. While her professional career with Peoria was brief, the experience marked a rare and historic contribution to both the sport and the wartime cultural landscape of the United States.

Upon returning to Montana, Donna invested her earnings in her education at Eastern Montana College, later dedicating 35 years as an elementary school teacher in Helena, shaping