

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ANITA NANEZ MARTINEZ

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Anita Nanez Martinez, a trailblazer whose leadership and dedication transformed the Dallas community and inspired Mexican-American generations.

Born in 1925 and raised in Little Mexico, Anita Martinez demonstrated a passion for service from a very early age, leading grassroots efforts in her community as a teenager. Over the course of over six decades, she remained committed to uplifting others and strengthening her community.

She founded the Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico to instill pride and confidence in Hispanic youth through cultural education and the performing arts. Through this work, she empowered generations to embrace their heritage and pursue educational success, earning recognition at every level.

In 1969 Ms. Martinez made history as the first Hispanic elected to the Dallas City Council and the first Hispanic woman elected to the city council of a major U.S. city. Her leadership brought meaningful change to underserved communities and advanced equity across Dallas.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Anita Nanez Martinez for her extraordinary contributions. Her legacy of leadership, cultural pride, and everything that she has done inspire all of us.

COAST GUARD MARATHON

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the energy was extremely high at the annual U.S. Coast Guard marathon with around 2,000 dedicated runners and chair athletes in Elizabeth City. The streets were filled with excitement and determination.

It was an honor to celebrate the vital bond between our U.S. Coast Guard and the Elizabeth City community, recognizing the sacrifices of our Active Duty personnel, resilient civilians, dedicated volunteers, and the incredible Coast Guard Foundation.

Before ringing the bell, we paid special tribute to the selfless service of individuals like Petty Officer Tyler Jagers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the commandant for ensuring this year's marathon took place. It was so uplifting, and it provided everyone in the community with the boost we all needed and strengthened our sense of unity.

WELCOMING BABY SODARO

(Mr. AMO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the newest addition to Team Amo, Fay Elliot Sodaro. Fay was born on May 13 and is a congressional baby through and through.

She was welcomed by her parents, Dylan and Paige. Dylan serves as my Chief of Staff, and Paige serves as Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT's legislative director.

Least to say, we anticipate she will soon surpass us all in knowledge of how Congress works.

Fay is named after her great-grandmother and her great-grandfather. She is keeping her parents busy, and we can't wait for her to make an appearance on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dylan and Paige, and I welcome Fay to Team Amo.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF THE REVEREND
JESSE LOUIS JACKSON, SR.

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the Speaker for allowing the Congressional Black Caucus to use this first Special Order hour to commemorate the life and legacy of my mentor, my leader, and my friend, the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.

I was a student with humble beginnings. There were nine siblings. My dad passed when I was 5 years old, so I was raised by a single parent. Given my circumstances, I was a young man caught between hope and expectations. I had hope to do a lot of things, but my expectations were not high.

□ 2010

I first had a chance to hear Reverend Jackson speak in 1978, some 48 years ago. I was a sophomore at McKinley Senior High School. All the kids in East Baton Rouge Parish were shuttled by bus to the Baton Rouge River Center to hear Reverend Jesse Jackson.

After listening to Reverend Jackson's "I Am Somebody" speech, I connected the reality that I really was somebody. I didn't just have to hope to be, I could expect to be.

Reverend Jackson's impact on my life at that time gave me hope and the audacity to believe. I believed that I was somebody. He made me dream beyond my circumstances. He changed what I thought and what was possible, and it was at that time that I came out of my shell.

The next year, I became president of the Key Club, and then vice president of my senior class, all because of the "I Am Somebody" speech that impacted my life.

After my time at McKinley, I went on to attend Southern University, where I continued to chase dreams. I

went on to become the freshman class president, and then student body president in 1984, all because of the impact of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson.

Forty-two years ago, my student body vice president, Michael Hurst, who was from Chicago, called me one day and said: The Reverend Jesse Jackson is coming to town, would you like me to introduce you to him?

Obviously, I said: Yes, of course. Meeting the man who had made such an impression on me as a kid was extremely important. This was the same man that I saw speak as a 10th grader, who inspired me to believe that I was somebody. Now, I had an opportunity to meet him and talk to him one on one.

That is when he made me his college coordinator, in 1984, for his Presidential campaign. I remember we were traveling the country. We were in Michigan, registering people to vote, and I got discouraged.

I said to Reverend Jackson: These voters are just apathetic. He said: Cleo, there is no such thing as an apathetic voter. They are only uninspired, and it is our job to inspire every last one of them.

That showed me that he wanted to see the best in everybody, and I chose to follow him because he was a light of hope.

When I first thought about running for public office, the first political figure I talked to was Reverend Jesse Jackson. I know a lot of folk in Baton Rouge, but I wanted to talk to someone about the idea of a 24-year-old running for the Louisiana State senate, and I called Reverend Jackson. I thought the answer would have been: Start at city council or start at the school board. No, Jesse Jackson said: If you don't run, you can't win, and I did.

Reverend Jackson ran for President again in 1988, 38 years ago. He called me, and he told me: I want you to serve as a youth coordinator for my 1988 campaign. I was traveling the country with him, campaigning for him. "Keep hope alive" was our slogan.

Right before the Democratic National Convention, out of the blue, I got a call from his campaign manager, Ron Brown. He called me and said: Reverend Jackson wants you to speak on no first use of nuclear weapons at the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. He put me on the national stage, a very young man. As a young elected official, I believed in him.

In 1993, 33 years ago, I was elected to Congress. I was just 29 years of age. Once again, Reverend Jackson was there, supporting me every single step of the way, encouraging me, making me believe that I was capable. It wasn't just me. He inspired young leaders across America. As a result of his 1984 race and 1988 race for President, he inspired all of us, specifically a group of young leaders right here in this Congress. I remember.

In 1994, Patrick Kennedy, at age 27, was elected to this Congress. I also had

the distinct opportunity to serve with his own son, Jesse Jackson, Jr., only 30 years old in 1995. I had a chance to serve with him. Don't forget, in 1996, a gentleman by the name of Harold Washington, Jr., was elected to this body, all inspired by Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Upon being reelected to Congress in 2025, I have had the opportunity to serve with one other Jackson, and that is Reverend Jackson's son as well, and that is JONATHAN JACKSON. Jesse Jackson has inspired us all.

Every time I ran for office, Reverend Jackson was there. Every office I have ever been elected to, he was there to support me. Without his early inspiration and guidance, I wouldn't be here on this floor speaking to you tonight.

There is not a single individual in this world, outside of my mother, who had more of an impact on my life than the man we are here to celebrate tonight. I thank him, and I thank you for gathering as we commemorate his wonderful life and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise today to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this Special Order hour and for honoring the life and legacy of the late, great Reverend Jackson, Sr., a man who truly taught us all how to keep hope alive.

Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., is not only a friend to the Congressional Black Caucus, but he was a friend of all of ours individually and collectively.

He had a very humble birth, born to a single mother, and started his political life by being arrested for protesting around not being admitted to a segregated library and became one of the storied Greenville Eight in that protest.

Of course, you will hear from others tonight about his association with the late, great Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. You will hear about his leadership at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, his founding of Rainbow PUSH, his negotiating the release of American hostages in various parts of the world, his running for the President of United States, both in 1984 and 1988.

I lived 90 miles from Chicago, and so I know the Reverend Jackson who would just show up at random, unknown people's grandmother's funeral. I knew the Reverend Jackson, who showed up in Milwaukee long before I was elected to anything, as I stand here in Congress today.

As I looked through all of my photographs, I saw pictures of Reverend Jackson in Milwaukee, working with local leadership and the NAACP around open housing in Milwaukee.

As I looked through those photos, I saw pictures of me as a State representative, a newly elected member to the Wisconsin Assembly as our city

went through the horror of Jeffrey Dahmer, a serial murderer who killed Black men in our community, and Reverend Jackson was there hugging family members of those victims, praying with them and offering them his clergy support.

□ 2020

As I looked through my pictures, I saw photos of Reverend Jackson coming to help us get out the vote, continuously, year after year, in our very purple State. I saw with my own eyes the Reverend Jackson comforting a victim of police brutality, the murder of Dontre Hamilton, and coming there to support us in the protest and to comfort the mother of this victim. An unarmed Black man, lying on a park bench, was found dead at the hands of a policeman.

One of the most remarkable things that I was able to experience was when he went to Kenosha, Wisconsin. Do you all remember Kyle Rittenhouse? Do you all remember how Kyle Rittenhouse was being lifted up as some sort of hero by White vigilantes, even some of those White vigilantes who are here serving as public figures in Washington, D.C.? I won't mention any names, Mr. Speaker.

Reverend Jackson was sitting there, plotting and planning with the clergy in Kenosha, with community-based organizations, to form an alternative activity: to provide COVID tests to people; to organize a festive atmosphere with balloons for the children and food vendors, all in response to the counter-programming that was intended to rile up the Black community.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., I got a chance to just witness, up close and personal, the behind-the-scenes brilliance. I had seen the upfront brilliance, but this was the behind-the-scenes brilliance that I was able to see.

Reverend Jackson implored us to believe in the mantra that "I am somebody" and urged us to keep hope alive.

Let me just say in closing, Mr. Speaker, that Reverend Jackson probably understood better than any of us that the mission is enduring and that no one life could be the be-all.

He has passed the baton now. He is the one who carried it with dignity and strength, with determination and doggedness.

I want to close with the Scripture from the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 4:7. As he saw the end of his life approaching, and carried on by the Holy Spirit, he wrote these words: I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

Reverend Jackson, Jesse, you have fought the good fight; you finished the race; and you kept the faith.

Mr. Speaker, may we all carry forth this legacy, and may we continue to keep hope alive, not just in word but in action, for the healing of our very troubled but beloved Nation at this time.

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), who is from the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FIELDS for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour dedicated to extolling the virtues of the late Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.

Today, I rise to honor a giant of American history, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. He was a man whose life was a testament to courage, conviction, and an unshakable faith in justice.

Reverend Jackson did not merely witness history. He made history. He shaped history. He stood in the trenches of the civil rights movement, marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and devoted his life to expanding opportunity for those too often pushed to the margins of this Nation.

For so many of us, Reverend Jackson was more than that leader. He was a trailblazer. He showed generations of Black elected officials, activists, clergy, and public servants that our voices, our communities, and our fight for justice matter.

Yes, I am somebody. His life and work helped make the very spaces we now occupy possible. Because of his leadership, sacrifice, and moral clarity, many of us found the courage to step forward in service to mankind. His impact was not only national and international; his impact was deeply personal.

He was a handsome man, the embodiment of youth with a great big, full afro and mutton-chop sideburns, wearing a dashiki proudly, and courageously proclaiming: "I am somebody."

He challenged us to believe that we are somebody, that our people are worthy, and that progress requires both faith and action. He challenged us to keep hope alive. That message has shaped lives, careers, and callings across this country, including my own.

Reverend Jesse Jackson leaves behind more than a legacy. He leaves behind a charge to keep marching, keep speaking, keep organizing, and keep believing in the promise of America, even when America falls short.

Mr. Speaker, may we honor him not only with our words, but with our work. Our hearts remain with his loved ones, including our colleague Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON.

May he rest in peace, and may his legacy live on forever in every person he inspired. Keep hope alive. Keep hope alive. Keep hope alive. Thank you, Jesse.

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for those words.

I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a giant of the civil rights movement, Reverend Jesse Jackson. He is a man who understood that the success of any individual or community is

interwoven like threads in a rainbow quilt. He was a man who dedicated his life to lifting up the least among us and a man who reminded us that our Nation is only as strong as its promise to every child, every family, and every community.

From walking alongside Dr. King to his time in public service and the enduring legacy of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Reverend Jackson showed us that racial justice and economic justice are inseparable and that true equality requires both.

He believed that hope is not a sentiment but a call to action. He knew that the work of building a more just and inclusive America is never finished.

As a college student, I remember watching his '88 convention speech and being moved by seeing an image of someone who looked like me on the highest stage, saying that the feeling of this Nation could be compelled by action and driven by hope.

□ 2030

That message to keep hope alive is why I am standing here right now. The feeling of hope, which also happens to be the motto of the great State of Rhode Island, is something that has been the center of my service, and I am so honored to be recognizing someone who inspired it.

Now it is on us to carry forward his legacy, to ensure that the Rainbow Coalition can continue, and that we keep the promise of America for every child no matter their race, their ZIP Code, or where their family is from.

Mr. Speaker, I am so honored that I get to serve with a big part of Reverend Jackson's legacy, his son, JONATHAN, my dear colleague.

Reverend Jackson, you are deeply missed. Your mission lives on, however, in each one of us, and we will carry it forward with courage, with justice, and yes, of course, hope. Rest in power.

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will begin by talking about what it meant to be Black in America before Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.

The message this country sent to Black children, whether they grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, or in St. Louis was simple: You are not enough. Not enough to lead. Not enough to run. Certainly not enough to win.

Jesse Jackson spent his entire life dismantling that lie.

That message didn't start with any one person. It was written into the founding documents of this country. It survived the Civil War. It survived Reconstruction. By the time the civil rights movement had finally forced America to live up to its own words on paper—the right to vote, the right to sit anywhere in this country, the right to walk through the front door—there

was still something left untouched. It was something deeper, the belief, planted in generation after generation of Black children, that the rooms behind those doors weren't really meant for them.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., walked into that breach, and he didn't just march. He ran.

In 1984, kids across this country—I was one of them—were watching a Black man on television, not appealing to anyone's conscience, not asking for inclusion, but running for President of the United States, winning delegates, walking into that convention floor, and demanding to be taken seriously.

Jesse Jackson, Sr., understood something that a lot of people still haven't caught up to: The vote and the dollar have to move together. You cannot march your way to dignity if the political system keeps finding new ways to lock you out. He didn't wait for the party to make room. He built the room for himself, ran twice for the highest office in the land, and forced a reckoning with whom this democracy was actually supposed to serve.

You cannot draw a straight line to Barack Obama, to Kamala Harris, or even to me without acknowledging the impact and legacy of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

We are standing in this Chamber today because of that work, every single one of us.

The question he leaves us with isn't: How do we remember him? It is whether we are still building what he started. Because the work, as any of us in this room can plainly see, is not finished.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude with this: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his comments about Reverend Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MENEFE), a newly elected Member of this House.

Mr. MENEFE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FIELDS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a freedom fighter, a legend in this country, my Omega brother, the late Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.

He was an icon who marched with Dr. King, who helped lead the Poor People's Campaign for economic justice, and to end an unjust war. He was an icon who ran for President and changed what this country believed was possible. He registered millions of voters who had never seen themselves in this democracy that we also hold dear.

He built the Rainbow PUSH Coalition to prove that our differences are our strength. Black, Brown, White, indigenous, immigrant, he believed we rise together or we do not rise at all.

Reverend Jackson was a truth teller, and the ills that he spoke to still demand an answer today.

Courts still to this day strike down voting laws that target Black Americans with what one Federal court

called "almost surgical precision." Black women still to this day die in childbirth at rates that shame this Nation. The racial wealth gap still to this day robs entire communities of the opportunity that the late Reverend Jackson fought his entire life to deliver.

Those battles are not behind us. They are right here. They are in this Chamber. They are in our districts. They are in the choices that we make every single day that we serve. We carry Reverend Jackson's legacy forward by engaging in those battles, by being a voice for those who have been made to feel like they are voiceless.

We are going to be all right, but not by accident and not without work. Reverend Jackson did that work for six decades. Now it is on us.

Rest in peace, Brother Jackson. It is the honor of my life to follow in your footsteps of fighting every single day alongside your son, my colleague, JONATHAN JACKSON. Rest in peace, brother.

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his comments, and I thank all the members of the CBC for their participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, SR.

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. WATERS of California was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the very Reverend Jesse Jackson Presidential candidate and civil rights leader was not only my close friend and confidant, he was my longtime political ally and mentor.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., was my idol and spiritual and political leader. He was a brilliant, gifted, and courageous civil rights leader who inspired millions. He registered millions to vote and challenged and changed the Democratic Party.

Just a little bit about his background. I want you to know that Reverend Jackson at 30 years old was one of the youngest followers of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Reverend Jackson spent his life continuing to protect and save the gains that were made during the civil rights movement.

Now, I became a dedicated and committed follower of Jesse Jackson. I worked with Reverend Jackson in both the 1984 and the 1988 Presidential campaigns. I was a top adviser on the national campaign and was appointed by Reverend Jackson to chair and lead the California campaign.

□ 2040

Mr. Speaker, I hear a lot said about Reverend Jackson. Most people knew him from television, radio, and his public speeches, but I was a close-up witness to Reverend Jackson's brilliant campaign strategies and developments.

He used his voice and his organizing skills to create the beautiful Rainbow