

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

PUSH Coalition, long before there was any understanding or appreciation for diversity, equity, and inclusion. For all intents and purposes, Reverend Jackson made sure that the campaign that he headed included Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, Whites, women, LGBTQ, organized labor, and others. He brought together pastors, preachers, and multifaith leaders from all over the country. I recall his work and his outreach to small farmers in rural areas.

Jesse Jackson went into areas in rural America where those who did not know him hated him and thought, for some reason, that he could be of no use to them. Once he got into those communities and started to work with the rural farmers, many of them were having their farms foreclosed on at that time, and Reverend Jackson learned a lot about how to talk with bankers about loan modifications so that those farmers could stay in business. Even today, there are farmers and their families who remember what Reverend Jackson did for them in these rural communities. It was an amazing kind of development and association that he made.

He was responsible for cracking open the doors of America's corporate community and those in Silicon Valley. Reverend Jackson was also an international ambassador for peace. He used his tremendous influence to champion human rights.

I worked with him in the Free South Africa movement, where he helped free Nelson Mandela and bring an end to apartheid in South Africa. We had a wonderful experience of attending the inauguration when Nelson Mandela became President of South Africa.

Of course, Reverend Jackson helped to secure the release of U.S. hostages all around the world. The one that stands out to me is when he went to Syria and negotiated the release of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, Jr.

Reverend Jackson was an extraordinary human being and a true human rights advocate. I can recall when we went to public housing projects. In Los Angeles, he was at Nickerson Gardens housing projects, where the gangbangers and others met him for the first time.

When he went to Nickerson Gardens, they were not believers. They didn't know an awful lot, and so they challenged him to stay overnight in public housing at Nickerson Gardens, and he did.

Right now, when you go to Nickerson Gardens, some of those older members who remembered him from when he came to Nickerson Gardens will point to the unit where Reverend Jackson slept in Nickerson Gardens housing project, but that is not enough.

You saw Congressman CLEO FIELDS here tonight. I want you to know that when Katrina happened, Reverend Jackson organized me and some others. We went to New Orleans, where CLEO FIELDS rented a bus.

We got on that bus, and we traveled all over New Orleans. Why did we do that? It was because there were people who had been left on rooftops with no way to get down, and some of them were helped down by Reverend Jackson, CLEO FIELDS, and myself. Many of them had been dropped along the way-side, hoping that somebody would come and pick them up.

I can recall when we went to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, where there were people who were sitting there who had been dropped off because they had been helped to get off of a roof, but no one could help them any further. We put them in that bus, and we rode through all of New Orleans, particularly in the areas around Alexandria and other cities in the Louisiana area.

We took them to State houses. We took them to rescue places. We took them to wherever we could find a place for them to sleep.

Reverend Jackson was a huge political individual at that time, recognized all over the world for his advocacy for the least of these, helping to get people to understand that everybody was special and that everybody was important. He taught that message through his brilliant way of connecting: "I am somebody." He made little young boys and girls, who really didn't think they were somebody, think, now that they met Reverend Jesse Jackson, that they were somebody.

I want you to know that his humanitarianism was the likes of which I have never seen before. He truly cared about people. The Reverend Jesse Jackson was a religious man, and he prayed before meetings. He prayed after meetings. Even though, at the time that I started working with him, I did not know a lot about the power of prayer, but I learned that being on the road with him and how he cared about everybody, how he cared about the young and the old and the veterans and the imprisoned, on and on and on.

He was truly an unusual human being, married to an unusual woman. His wife was not only, in her own right, a civil rights activist and leader, but she supported him in every way that she possibly could. The two of them raised five brilliant children, one of which who served in this House. That was Jesse Jackson, Jr. Today, we have the brilliant, young JONATHAN JACKSON who is serving.

They come with the spirit of their daddy. I lived with the spirit of Reverend Jesse Jackson. It is in me, and so you can call it whatever you want to call it. You can call it progressive. You can call it liberal. You can call it whatever you want. In the final analysis, it is Reverend Jesse Jackson who changed so many lives, who helped people to understand that they did not stand alone, that he was there for them, speaking for them.

Whether he was talking to kings and queens, or he was talking to the man on the block, we could count on Rev-

erend Jesse Jackson. In the final analysis, Reverend Jackson more than earned his place in history. Rightfully so, his work will never be forgotten and will be taught in communities all over the world in places low and high, in our schools and universities.

I will live the rest of my life with the memories that I will cherish for the time, the effort, and the phenomenal work that I experienced with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr., Presidential candidate and civil rights leader.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be here this evening, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Reverend Jackson, as you know, is a global civil rights leader and a moral voice for our Nation. I am proud to have called the reverend a friend, a supporter, and most of all, my constituent.

No matter where the fight for justice took him, Reverend Jackson always returned home to the south side of Chicago. From being a leader alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to a two-time Presidential candidate, Reverend Jackson was already a giant in civil rights. He never forgot to leave the door open for Black people and, frankly, any people following in his footsteps.

In 2002, when I was challenging a tenure incumbent to become a State legislator, the first time I ever ran, Reverend Jackson supported me. He was a hero, a behemoth of a freedom fighter, and he decided to support a newbie, an underdog, someone who was counted out, like me.

Time and time again, Reverend Jackson showed his support. He was large on the global stage, but he never forgot us Southsiders. He founded Rainbow PUSH, which continues to empower countless people across Illinois and in my district, the Second District.

□ 2050

Reverend Jackson was a renowned world leader, but he never forgot how to be a friend. Over 2 years ago, when my husband died, he, even though he was not in good health, came to my husband's funeral. He also came to the burial. It meant the world to me, and I will never ever forget his kindness.

In turn, I so appreciate that his family allowed me to be at his bedside to visit him at the hospital 6 to 8 weeks before he died.

Even though Reverend Jackson is gone, his legacy is not. I stand on his shoulders alongside my colleagues who continue his fight for equality, justice, and freedom. We do have to remember that we are somebody and to keep hope alive.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this moment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING REVEREND JESSE JACKSON

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay homage to the late Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.

On Tuesday, February 14, 2026, I joined the Nation in mourning the passing of one of the most quintessential civil rights leaders: the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr.

Our relationship began as students at rival high schools in South Carolina—he at Sterling in Greenville and me at Mather Academy in Camden. Our schools played football and basketball against each other. Jesse was a star quarterback at Sterling, and I was a prolific benchwarmer at Mather Academy, but the rivalry was there and real. He could play, and I could yell.

That relationship was extended and intensified when he enrolled at North Carolina A&T, an 1890 Land Grant HBCU in Greensboro, North Carolina. I was already attending South Carolina State, the 1890 HBCU in our home State.

There was and still is an intense rivalry between those two iconic institutions. Then, independent of each other, we both pledged and became members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It was in that brotherhood and during our political activism, although not always in the same camp, that we developed a love and respect that lasted throughout the ages.

His mother, Helen, was one of my biggest political boosters and a valued friend. Jesse and I had a genuine friendship, in large measure because our mothers willed it to be. During my political visits to Greenville and the Piedmont area, his mother, Helen, and her good friend, Lottie Gibson, would make sure I had as much sustenance as their southern fried chicken could provide.

I shall never forget the night I kicked off my campaign for South Carolina's Secretary of State in Georgetown, every bit of a 4-hour drive from Greenville. Just as that rally began, I looked up, and who was walking through the door of that church? Helen Jackson and Lottie Gibson. They had driven all the way from Greenville down to Georgetown to help me in that effort.

I lost that race. As one can imagine, with that loss, came some anxieties about the future. As fate would have it, I was destined to serve here in Congress and eventually with two of Helen's grandsons: Jesse, Jr., and Jonathan, Jesse's sons. Today, some of our children have become friends. Ours was a friendship that spanned four generations.

Jesse was a son of Greenville, born to a mother who was just 16 years old at the time of his birth. His grandmother raised him until he was 13 when he then was adopted by his stepfather, Charles Jackson.

Jesse began his activism in the summer of 1960, as a student seeking to desegregate the Greenville Public Library. Jesse recounted how painful it was to not be allowed access to the books in that library. After being denied that privilege, Jesse vowed to return that summer to advocate for the library's desegregation. He became a leader in the sit-in movement.

Jesse led seven Black high school students into the Whites-only Greenville Public Library. They were arrested for sitting down in that library and became known as the Greenville Eight.

Interestingly, around that same time, I became one of the leaders of a sit-in in Orangeburg, and some referred to us as the Orangeburg Seven.

It was interesting how all of this happened during that time. There was the Greensboro Four up in North Carolina and the Friendship Nine in Rock Hill. I don't know why they gave us those kind of monikers, but we wore them with pride.

The Greenville Eight ultimately won the right to have access to that library. Today, the Greenville Public Library serves all people, and that episode launched what would become for Jesse a life of civil rights and political activism.

He became director of Operation Breadbasket and the founder of the venerable Rainbow PUSH Coalition, an intergenerational movement to uplift the voiceless and downtrodden.

His passion to bring together people of all colors and creeds is a testament to his vision of unity and oneness, as proclaimed by our Nation's motto: "E Pluribus Unum"; "out of many, one."

Operation PUSH became renowned for using direct action, selective buying, and creative negotiations to encourage major corporations to be more inclusive, hire more Black executives, and support and contract with Black-owned businesses and corporations.

□ 2100

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition was and still is about dignity, fairness, justice, and hope. Jesse worked to make the greatness of this country accessible and affordable for all.

Jesse's historic Presidential runs in 1984 and 1988 were reflective of his strong will, guiding faith, and belief in possibilities. Those two Presidential campaigns came up short, but that didn't stop him.

Because of Jesse's efforts, an end was brought to the winner-take-all distribution of delegates, a creative device comparable to those that were prevalent post-Reconstruction.

Where is the fairness when the candidate who gets 51 percent of the votes receives 100 percent of the delegates?

Despite what may be said to the contrary, it is a fact that this change allowed underdogs and nonwealthy candidates to compete, increased voter diversity, and paved the way for future candidates.

Were it not for the proportional voting in our primaries made possible because of Jesse's efforts, Barack Obama would not have received our party's nomination and would not have been elected our 44th President of these United States of America. Jesse's efforts were not in vain.

A life lived defying odds, Reverend Jackson showed us that if we remain focused, work hard, and unite in our purpose, we can continue bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice and continue our pursuit of a more perfect Union.

Operation Breadbasket, anti-apartheid activism, voter registration, and corporate diversity were among just a few of his initiatives that advanced opportunity and equality for Black Americans.

It should not be lost on any of us that the impact that Jesse had on the Nation and the world was great. His visionary leadership is his legacy, and his orations continue to inspire all of us as we continue our pursuit of justice and equality.

In 3 months, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of this country's existence. I quote from Thomas Paine's famous writing, "The American Crisis," published in 1776, during the American Revolution.

Paine wrote: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

Jesse Louis Jackson was not a summer soldier. He was not a sunshine patriot. He stood with the times. Because of his efforts, many of us can stand where we stand today.

Jesse endured setbacks, losses, and the scrutiny of those who did not believe in him. But still, Jesse taught us to renew our faith in what is possible.

My favorite Old Testament Scripture is Micah 6:8: For he has shown thee, O man, that which is required—to do justly, be merciful, and walk humbly.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, when this country grew weary of justice, it was Jesse who led us to keep walking humbly and maintaining hope. Jesse believed and internalized the admonition found in James 2, "Faith without works is dead."

Jesse's voice calls on each of us to keep that faith as enunciated in Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."

Jesse understood that we must find the strength to fight for a more perfect Union and find the compassion to make it universal.

On March 2, 2026, the late Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson returned home to South Carolina to lie in state in the South Carolina State Capitol. I had the