

Inara Ella Cornelius; three sisters, Ivoria Terry (Robert), Carrie Windbush (Sylvester), Fannie Williams Bacon; two brothers, Morgan (Minda) and Don Williams; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

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HONORING MRS. JUANITA BROWN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 13, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mrs. Juanita Brown.

Mrs. Brown was born on November 1, 1935, and has served as a goodwill ambassador through her presence in and throughout the Town of Meadville, spreading goodwill to visitors and citizens of the town.

Mrs. Brown was an educator for over forty years, and has served many years on the Board of Trustees for the Franklin County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Brown always exhibited integrity, knowledge, and concern, which earned her the respect of the Board of Trustees and others with whom she worked; Juanita has remained a pillar of service in her community.

Mrs. Brown has worked numerous elections at the polls and has been of immense service to the Office of the Mayor of the Town of Meadville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Juanita Brown for her actions and achievements in the Meadville, Mississippi, community.

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CONGRATULATING CHIEF JEFF TATE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 13, 2026*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Chief Jeff Tate, on his retirement after 28 years with the Shakopee Police Department. Chief Tate is a dedicated public servant and model for community first policing.

Under his leadership, the Shakopee PD launched Minnesota's first-ever police recov-

ery assistance program in 2015. The Shakopee Police Recovery Assistance Program (RAP) provides people in active addiction with scholarship money to seek treatment and has served dozens of Minnesotans since its inception.

Chief Tate's work to address the addiction crisis extends well beyond Minnesota. In 2023, he became one of eleven officers to join the Public Safety Council for the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI), helping spread the importance of this work across the country. Last year, he received recognition from PAARI and was presented with the "Leadership Award for Advocacy and Community".

I first met Chief Tate after becoming the Congresswoman for Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District in 2019. Over the years, I've sought guidance from Chief Tate, especially on topics related to law enforcement, community policing, mental health and addiction. I have also had the honor of working with him through my Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council, where his insights have been invaluable.

Chief Tate's compassionate approach to policing is respected and recognized by his peers. He has won numerous awards including the MN Chiefs of Police Association "President's Award" and the MN Department of Public Safety's "Distinguished Public Leadership Award". Last year, Mothers Against Drunk Driving awarded Chief Tate and the Shakopee PD their "Outstanding Law Enforcement Agency Award".

I am grateful for Chief Tate's public service and share his love of country music—especially Garth Brooks. His impact in Shakopee and across Minnesota will be felt for generations to come. I wish Chief Tate the best in retirement.

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VETERANS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2026*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 1383, the so-called SAVE America Act. This is yet another attempt from Republicans to nationalize elections and take

power away from local communities. I already voted against an earlier version of this bill and I will continue to oppose it whenever it comes to the floor.

This new version of the SAVE America Act is even more extreme. It would force every state to hand over their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security, so that Kristi Noem can purge voters at will. Just weeks ago, Attorney General Bondi attempted to blackmail the state of Minnesota with a similar proposition—hand over the voter rolls and the ICE surge would end. Now, Republicans in the House are aiming for the same federal seizure of local voter rolls in every state of our Nation.

This bill would also disenfranchise millions of women and other Americans through a federal takeover of state election administration. One out of four Americans—69 million women—would have to navigate barriers that should not be necessary to vote because they changed their last name after marriage. Republicans claim that this new version will "fix" this problem by adding in a provision about affidavits to prove identity. However, the bill remains vague, leaving the process up to the states. Regardless, millions of women would face additional burdensome steps to register to vote.

I want to be clear; this bill is not simply a voter ID bill and labelling it as such is a trick to convince Americans of its intent. It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections. Now, Republicans want to force every American to provide burdensome and expensive "documentary proof of citizenship"—similar to what Minnesotans already rejected—in order to exercise their right to vote.

Congress should be following Minnesota's lead and working to make it easier for Americans to vote, not putting up roadblocks. Congress should pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act that would reinstate many of the protections in the Civil Rights Act of 1965 that were undercut by the Supreme Court in their *Shelby County v. Holder* decision in 2013. The bill would expand automatic voter registration and allows for same day voter registration and protects against race-based discrimination at the ballot box. Democrats passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act through the House in 2021, but it was blocked by Republicans in the Senate. The House Republican majority in this Congress has continued to refuse to bring the bill back to the House Floor for a vote.