

(NCAE) as a student at WSSU, serving as president of the campus affiliate of the organization. He later served as president of the Forsyth County chapter. In 2008, Mr. Ellis became vice president of NCAE, and in 2012 he was elected President.

As an advocate and a leader, Rodney Ellis was energetic and effective, reflecting a passion for ensuring access to education for all students. He defended public investments in our schools at a time when they were under threat, first from the Great Recession and then from hostile political leadership.

Mr. Ellis stepped down from the NCAE presidency in July after serving the maximum two two-year terms. He returned to Winston-Salem to spend more time with his family and teach middle school language arts to students of low-income families. He continued to be a committed educator of students of all socioeconomic backgrounds until the very end of his life.

Rodney Ellis leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment that saw North Carolina education through tough times. Both in the classroom and in statewide leadership, his work will benefit thousands of students for generations to come.

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#### D.C. STATEHOOD

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, D.C. statehood has just crossed another historic threshold. For the first time, the District of Columbia Republican Party now supports D.C. statehood, making D.C. statehood a bipartisan effort. Moreover, the upcoming "Statehood Yes" vote to put D.C. residents on the record on statehood is being led by a Republican resident, George Vradenburg, a retired AOL executive and philanthropist. D.C. Republicans have consistently supported equality for our citizens, including the bipartisan bill for a House vote and the recent budget autonomy referendum. It is now clear that D.C. statehood, including my bill, the New Columbia Admission Act, enjoys the support of D.C. residents, regardless of party.

On November 8 this year, D.C. residents will vote not only for a Member of Congress and Members of the D.C. Council, they will vote on whether they desire to become the 51st state, and, if so, on the constitution for the new state.

Making the District of Columbia our nation's 51st state would overcome the longest denial of democracy by our country to any of its citizens. Surely, 215 years of second-class status for the American citizens who live in the nation's capital can no longer be tolerated, especially today, when D.C. residents pay the highest federal taxes per capita in the United States.

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#### TRIBUTE TO JULIE WALTERS

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Wal-

ters of Villisca, Iowa, for being selected as a 2016 Women Impacting the Land award recipient.

The Women Impacting the Land award showcases Iowa women for their contributions to managing farmland and livestock. While serving as the Page County Clerk of Court for the last 31 years, Julie has also worked on her family's cattle farm with her husband Dave. She attributes some of her extensive knowledge of cattle farming to courses she participated in over the years, like Annie's Project and Women Managing Cattle. Julie is constantly fine-tuning her family's cattle operation and making changes to improve their farm's productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Julie for her hard work and dedication in improving and managing her family's farm. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Julie for her achievements and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

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#### RECOGNIZING JEANETTE JAMES

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Jeanette James, Professional Staffer for the House Armed Services Committee, on being awarded The Military Coalition's 2016 Freedom Award for her outstanding service and significant contributions to the military and veterans' community.

On September 22, 2016, The Military Coalition, an association of 32 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations, recognized her for over a decade of dedicated work with the House Committee on Armed Services. During her tenure with the committee, she has been a crucial part of crafting important legislation and an exceptional asset for the Military Personnel subcommittee now chaired by Congressman JOE HECK of Nevada. She was previously recognized as a Freedom Award recipient in 2012.

I am grateful for her admirable service and dedication to the committee and our servicemembers and military families. She has maintained the high standards of her predecessor, the late John Chapla.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on Saturday, September 24, 2016. I am so proud that over 110 of my colleagues

from both sides of the aisle have joined me as original cosponsors.

This weekend will mark an historic moment in our Nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of people will convene in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall to celebrate and welcome this historic institution which is dedicated to documenting African American life, history, art, and culture. Many people in this body, across the nation, and around the world shall celebrate this great day.

Tonight, I applaud Dr. Lonnie Bunch, III, the Founding Director, Kinshasha Holman Conwill, the Deputy Director, Cheryl Johnson, Chief of Staff, and the hundreds and thousands of people who worked so hard to make this dream a reality. For over 10 years, they have toiled day in and day out to prepare for the opening and operation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I know that the leadership and staff of the Museum have labored tirelessly for years and years—designing the building, raising funds, envisioning the exhibits, collecting artifacts, conducting research, and meeting with the many people across this country and around the world who are so excited about this historic moment. Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, determination, and dedication to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of African American History and Culture took over 100 years to evolve from a dream to a reality in the Nation's Capitol on the National Mall. The most recent congressional effort began with the late former Congressman Thomas "Mickey" Leland from Texas who revitalized the legislation in 1985. I was proud to continue his work and fought for 15 years for the bill to pass the House and Senate before finally being signed into law by President George W. Bush.

It was a long, hard, labor of love, and there were so many wonderful Members on both sides of the aisle and the dome, who helped accomplish this mission, which spanned generations, decades, and movements. In 1993, the late Senator Paul Martin Simon from Illinois introduced a companion to the House legislation. Beginning in 2001, former Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas, former Senator Max Cleland from Georgia, and former Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut joined the House coalition which included Representatives William "Bill" Clay from Missouri, J.C. Watts, Jr. from Oklahoma, and Jack Kingston from Georgia who helped take this bipartisan, bicameral effort across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also thank some of the former congressional staff who worked for so many years to pass the legislation which authorized the Museum—Tammy Boyd in my office; Kerri Watson with former Rep. J.C. Watts; LaRochelle Young with former Sen. Sam Brownback; and Donni Turner with former Sen. Max Cleland. They refused to give up; they refused to give in, and we thank them for their hard work and service.

On the eve of this long-awaited day, I join with more than 110 of my colleagues in congratulating Smithsonian Institution's family, the countless staff, and many volunteers of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on their persistence, their determination, and—very, very soon—on their success.

Tonight, we should all be proud, and each and every one of us must take the necessary