



# NEWS

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For Immediate Release

## **DOROTHY DRAPER & COMPANY'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY HONORED BY UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**WASHINGTON D.C. (May 21, 2025)** – United States Congresswoman Carol Miller of West Virginia honored Dorothy Draper & Company, Inc. with a speech on the House floor in honor of the company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Dorothy Draper & Co. President Sebastian Varney and Design Director Rudy Saunders were in attendance for the occasion at the United States Capitol. Congresswoman Miller's speech was as follows:

Mister Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Draper & Company on 100 years of business. Founded in 1925, it is the oldest continually operating interior design firm in America. Its founder and namesake, Dorothy Draper, was a trailblazer, starting her company at a time when most women did not seek employment. Her vision, love of color, chintz, and tendency towards the dramatic solidified her iconic style dubbed "the Draper Touch". Her protege, Carleton Varney, championed her work throughout his career, and the company flourished under his leadership, the creative genius and driving force that led the firm for 60 years. Mr. Varney went on to decorate the West Virginia Governor's mansion in the 1980s, further solidifying "the Draper Touch" into the state's culture and history.

The Dorothy Draper Company's work is especially important to my home state of West Virginia, where their most famous design is showcased, The Greenbrier Resort, affectionately called "America's Resort." Located in White Sulphur Springs, the Greenbrier's legacy took a unique turn when it was converted into a military hospital to meet the demands brought about during WWII. It was then returned to a hotel and transformed into the unique and bold getaway we recognize today. The Greenbrier has hosted presidents, royalty, celebrities, and countless West Virginians and Americans since 1778. Dorothy's use of color and pattern was so distinctly 'her' that her legacy lives on in her company and through those that she inspired.

Joined with us today are co-owner of the company Sebastian Varney, and Design Director Rudy Saunders. I am so delighted they were able to be with us today and so proud to recognize their company. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on a century of success and wish them many more to come.

### **ABOUT DOROTHY DRAPER & COMPANY:**

Founded in 1925 Dorothy Draper & Company is the oldest continually operating design firm in the United States creating interiors, furnishings, fabrics and accessories that excite and delight. Dorothy Draper was the first to professionalize interior design and her work continues to inspire today. She is the only interior designer to have had a major museum retrospective of her work, receiving over one million visitors in 2006 at the Museum of the City of New York. From 1966 until his death in 2022 Carleton Varney was president of Dorothy Draper & Company and is considered one of the best known and most accomplished designers in the U.S. He helped shape the way we see the world through his iconic hospitality designs, including The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV; Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island; and The Colony Hotel, Palm Beach. In 2022 Varney's son, Sebastian Varney, became President of

Dorothy Draper & Company. With projects globally and offices in New York, Palm Beach, White Sulphur Springs, and Mackinac Island, Dorothy Draper & Company celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

**ABOUT CONGRESSWOMAN CAROL MILLER (R-WV):**

Congresswoman Carol Miller represents West Virginia's First Congressional District. Miller serves on the Committee on Ways and Means. Miller's focus in Congress is creating jobs, diversifying the economy, investing in trade relations, protecting America's borders, and supporting West Virginia's energy industries like coal, oil, and gas. Prior to her election to Congress in 2018, Congresswoman Miller served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2006 to 2018 where she rose to become the first female Majority Whip. A mother of two and grandmother of seven, Carol Miller is married to her husband Matt, and lives in Huntington, where she owns and operates Swann Ridge Bison Farm and manages real estate. Miller was born in Columbus, Ohio and is the daughter of Congressman Samuel L. Devine and Betty Devine.

