

A native of Natchez, Mississippi, Mr. Boxley has spent decades championing the recognition and preservation of African American history, particularly focusing on the lives and stories of those whose voices have been silenced in our historical narrative. His advocacy for the preservation of Forks of the Road, one of the Nation's largest slave markets, has ensured that this significant site stands as a solemn reminder of our Nation's history and a source of education for future generations.

Through his passionate work, Mr. Boxley has shed light on the resilience and humanity of those who endured the atrocities of slavery, ensuring that their stories are not forgotten but honored and remembered. His efforts have helped foster understanding, dialogue, and healing within communities as we confront the realities of our shared past.

In addition to his preservation work, Mr. Boxley is a tireless educator and advocate. He has dedicated himself to raising awareness of African American history through lectures, public events, and community engagement. His commitment to truth and justice has inspired countless individuals to take an active role in ensuring that the lessons of history guide us toward a more equitable future.

As we commemorate Black History Month, it is only fitting to recognize Mr. Boxley's enduring contributions to the preservation of African American history. His work serves as a beacon of hope and a powerful reminder that understanding our past is essential to building a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Ser Boxley for his incredible dedication to preserving history, his unwavering commitment to justice, and his lasting contributions to the state of Mississippi and beyond.

HONORING A TRUE HOMETOWN HERO: DOUG TURNER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doug Turner, a remarkable constituent from our Bucks County community and this week's Hometown Hero.

At 87 years old, Doug Turner has spent his life in service—to his country as a United States Army Veteran, to our land as a 30-year United States Forest Service worker, and to our community as an artist, storyteller, and neighbor. Along with his late wife Susan—who served as Newtown Borough Council President—Doug dedicated himself to the town they called home, whether teaching students at Goodnoe Elementary about the importance of trees or helping organize Newtown's annual Arbor Day celebration.

In 2022, when Doug lost Susan, he found a way to keep their shared spirit of giving alive—by bringing people together. He started hosting an annual winter party, a simple gathering meant to combat the isolation of winter and rekindle the warmth of true neighborly connection. No guest list, no expectations. Just an open door and one request: "Bring only a smile."

This year, however, something remarkable happened. A simple act—an old-fashioned, handwritten, hand-delivered invitation—did not just bring together a neighborhood; it brought together the world. Doug's invitation scribbled on a paper snowflake with his signature humor, "From 4 p.m. to whenever the cops come," captured hearts from Alaska to Australia. Inspired by Doug, people everywhere started throwing their own neighborhood parties, making a conscious effort to reach out to those around them. What Doug started in his corner of Newtown rippled throughout the world, proving that one person can ignite a movement of kindness—one, in this case, that went viral.

So today, we celebrate Doug—not for a viral party, but for showing us that in a world often divided, there is still more that unites us than separates us. For reminding us that we are not just individuals living side by side but neighbors—meant to share in life's joys, lift each other in hardship, and find strength in one another.

I thank Doug for showing us that community is built through kindness, strengthened by connection, and made whole when we come together.

HONORING THE QUAKER SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave volunteer firefighters and first responders that work with the Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Department in the Town of Saratoga, New York.

Originally formed as an all-volunteer force in 1947, the Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. was formally incorporated in May 1948. The Company served the Town of Saratoga as well as the broader community, traversing the rural countryside between Saratoga Lake and the Hudson River. The Company's founding Board of Fire Commissioners was composed of local residents Schuyler Peck (Chairman), E. Raymond Smith (Treasurer), James Burke, Charles Carden, Arthur Ellis, Charles Haas, and Maynard Kirkpatrick, who served as the Company's first fire chief. In 1950, the Company was officially renamed the Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

In the Department's early days, the Quaker Springs volunteers would rush out in F-493, a 1942 International Four-Wheel Drive fire truck equipped with a 400-gallon water tank and high-pressure pump. This truck was acquired from U.S. military surplus at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and became an integral piece of equipment for the Department, remaining in service for six decades.

Today, the Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Department boasts nearly fifty volunteers among its ranks, answering approximately 120 emergency calls every year. The Department is equipped with a fully-automatic alert system to notify those on duty of public emergencies within its 50.2 square mile service area. The

Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Department also maintains mutual aid agreements with neighboring Arvin Hart, David Nevins, and Schuyler Hose, fire departments in Saratoga County that stand ready to assist at a moment's notice.

While the Department has modernized over seventy-eight years, the essence of neighborly service and rural resilience has not diminished. As of 2025, the Quaker Springs Volunteer Fire Department counts among its membership descendants and relatives of the founding roster, including volunteers from the Bodnar, Burke, Peck, and Wood families, continuing a tradition of brave and selfless service.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the generations of brave men and women with the Quaker Springs Fire Department. These extraordinary individuals have sacrificed their time and wellbeing to protect our upstate communities and deserve our gratitude and remembrance.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LOUISE "WEESIE" WHITMIRE POOLE

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life and legacy of Louise "Weesie" Whitmire Poole, a devoted servant of her community, a champion of conservative values, and a steadfast advocate for South Carolina families.

Born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, Weesie lived a life of faith, service, and unwavering dedication to the principles that make our Nation great. A true patriot, she was actively involved in causes that strengthened her community and upheld the conservative ideals of limited government, personal responsibility, and family values.

Weesie played a pivotal role in advancing these principles through her leadership in the Upstate Republican Women's Club, where she served as Chaplain. Through this work, she helped mobilize and inspire conservative women, reinforcing the importance of civic engagement, grassroots activism, and support for Republican candidates. Her presence in this organization was a guiding force, always leading with integrity and a deep love for her country.

Weesie's love for South Carolina and its institutions was evident in her service to Clemson University, where she was an active member of the Parent's Council and the Board of Visitors. Her engagement reflected her belief in the importance of higher education that upholds traditional American values and prepares young leaders for the future.

Her devotion to faith, family, and conservative ideals leaves an enduring legacy in South Carolina. She was a woman of grace and conviction who never wavered in her dedication to the causes she believed in. As we honor her memory, may we be inspired by her tireless efforts to serve others and uphold the values that define our great Nation.

HONORING ANGELA G. HUTCHINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins—a trailblazer, servant leader, and beacon of hope—whose extraordinary contributions have forever changed the landscape of Adams County and the state of Mississippi.

Mrs. Hutchins made history as the first Black female to serve as a supervisor in Adams County, representing District 3 with distinction and purpose. Her groundbreaking election shattered barriers and inspired countless individuals to believe in the power of representation and progress. Her legacy as a history-maker exemplifies the strides our communities continue to make toward greater inclusivity and equity.

Throughout her life and career, Mrs. Hutchins has dedicated herself to uplifting others. From her beginnings as an administrative assistant to her historic role as Supervisor for District 3, she has led with vision, unwavering resolve, and a profound sense of duty. Her leadership has addressed critical challenges, fostered meaningful community engagement, and earned her widespread respect and admiration of those she serves.

Mrs. Hutchins's influence extends far beyond Adams County. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors and the Mississippi Minority Caucus. In addition, she has been a Commissioner for the Local Workforce Board, a Liaison for Mississippi Action in Progress (MAP), and a member of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Planning and Development District. Her service also includes leadership roles with the National Organization of Black County Officials, the National Association of County Officials, and her membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

As we commemorate Black History Month, it is essential to recognize leaders like Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins. Her historic achievements and unwavering dedication serve as a profound source of inspiration. Her resilience gives us hope, her advocacy motivates us to act, and her leadership assures us of a brighter future for Adams County, Mississippi, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins for her outstanding contributions to her community, her state, and her country. She has etched her name in history, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF NORMA GONSALVES**HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Norma Gonsalves, who passed away on February 4, 2025, at the age of 90. A beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Norma's legacy of service to her community is a testament to her lifelong passion for helping others.

Born in Brooklyn in 1934, Norma spent 25 years as an educator in the New York City school system, where she devoted herself to introducing her students to classic literature and the performing arts. After moving to East Meadow with her husband John, Norma immersed herself in community engagement through her work with civic and volunteer groups, and founded the Council of East Meadow Community Organizations. In 1998, Norma was elected to the Nassau County Legislature, where she represented Legislative District 13, including East Meadow, Salisbury, and parts of surrounding communities. During her nearly 20 years of service, Norma prioritized a bipartisan approach to public service and became the legislature's presiding officer in 2011. She championed initiatives to address drug addiction, support veterans, and reach out to the Hispanic community.

Norma's unwavering passion for teaching and commitment to the well-being of her community have left an immeasurably positive impact on those she served. Norma's legacy will live on in the community she helped build, the countless lives she touched with her work, and in her family. Norma is survived by her three children, Gregg, Dana, and Carin, and four grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 10, 2025, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 63 due to unavoidable circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF EDWARD JOHNSON**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Johnson, a distinguished World War II Army combat veteran and cherished member of our Bedford community, who recently passed away at the age of 98.

Like so many others, Edward answered the call to serve our Nation during one of the most pivotal times in history. He was part of the Greatest Generation—a generation of patriotic Americans who put service above self every day. Through bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication, Edward contributed to the defense of democracy and fought for the freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

For one year, three months, and sixteen days Edward operated in the European Theater of Operations during WWII. During his service to this country, Edward earned the World War II Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Medal and Germany Clasp, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. In January 2025, I had the distinct honor to present Edward with the Battle Participation Star also known as the Bronze Battle Star,

which was awarded to him in May, 1945 but never received.

Following his military service, Edward continued a life of service to his family, community, and country. Through a blind date, he met his wife, Mildred, who blessed him with six children. Edward lived and worked on the family farm where he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren riding in the Case tractor and building fences, served as a founding member of the Gravity Legion where he helped build the Legion Hall, and volunteered with the Gravity Community Fire Department.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to Edward and all those of the Greatest Generation who sacrificed so much to secure the freedoms we cherish today. Let us ensure that their legacy endures, and their contributions are never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Edward's family and loved ones. May we forever honor Edward's service and memory.

HONORING OFFICER COLE
McGINNIS**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Cole McGinnis, a dedicated public servant and Yazoo City native, who was recently recognized with the prestigious Stephen Siller Follow the Footsteps Award for his exemplary service in law enforcement.

Officer McGinnis has demonstrated unwavering commitment to his community and to the safety of his fellow citizens. A proud graduate of Yazoo City High School and Holmes Community College, he began his law enforcement career in 2005 as a reserve deputy under Sheriff James T. Williams. His dedication led him to become a certified law enforcement officer in 2011 under Sheriff Tommy Vaughn, marking the beginning of a distinguished career.

In addition to his work in Yazoo County, Officer McGinnis served as a part-time deputy for Humphreys County under Sheriff J.D. Roseman from July 2011 to 2018. His commitment to public safety extended to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, where he worked as an inspector until November 2022. Following that, Officer McGinnis joined the Madison Police Department, where he continues to serve with distinction and was recently named "Top Cop" for his outstanding performance. Officer McGinnis is not only a dedicated professional but also a proud family man.

He is the son of Myron and Bernice McGinnis, the husband of Esther Coates McGinnis, and the father of Bryson McGinnis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Officer Cole McGinnis for his continued service and dedication. His contributions to the state of Mississippi and his commitment to upholding the values of public safety are truly commendable.