

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
ANNIE WILCOX BOYAJIAN

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Annie Wilcox Boyajian, President of Freedom House, for more than a decade of tireless dedication and exemplary service in advancing the cause of global democracy, particularly during the most recent disruptions in the freedom and democracy landscape globally and within the United States.

In an era marked by profound challenges to democratic institutions, Ms. Boyajian has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and resolve. Relentlessly, alongside the entire leadership team and staff of Freedom House, she has protected dissidents from harm around the world, leveraging her extensive network and strong, trusted relationships to safeguard those who stand against oppression and tyranny. Her efforts have provided critical support to vulnerable individuals and communities, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights defended amid rising threats.

Furthermore, with great determination, Ms. Boyajian has transitioned Freedom House with dignity and care for its staff and partners, while incredibly navigating the volatile worldwide of democratic backsliding, resulting from years of unchecked authoritarian rule. Under her guidance, the organization has adapted to these turbulent times while maintaining its core mission, emerging stronger and more resilient in its commitment to human rights, freedom of expression, and the rule of law.

Freedom House, founded in 1941 by Eleanor Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie, remains a cornerstone of American leadership in the global fight for freedom and democracy. Ms. Boyajian's stewardship has upheld and enhanced this legacy, positioning the institution as an indispensable force in countering authoritarianism and fostering democratic renewal worldwide.

Her leadership and commitment will be missed greatly at Freedom House, as her mark of excellence will be recorded in the historical annals and remembered by all who have witnessed her profound impact. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, we wish her continued success and look forward to her enduring leadership in the continuous struggle for a world where all are free.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Annie Wilcox Boyajian's extraordinary service and the enduring legacy of Freedom House—a legacy that continues to inspire hope and action in the pursuit of freedom for all.

HONORING MS. PAMELA MOODY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Ms. Pamela Moody, an extraordinary music educator whose dedication, leadership, and impact on young people have strengthened not only Jackson Public Schools, but the broader cultural and educational fabric of Mississippi.

Ms. Moody, the choral director at Jim Hill High School, has been named a 2025 to 2026 Outstanding Music Educator for Section 3 (Mississippi) by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). This prestigious national honor places her among a select group of educators across the United States recognized for excellence, leadership, and sustained contributions to the performing arts. For the 2025–26 school year, only eight high school music educators nationwide received section-level recognition, and Ms. Moody proudly represents the State of Mississippi.

With a career spanning more than two decades in Jackson Public Schools, Ms. Moody has consistently demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and passion. Beginning her service at Siwell Middle School and continuing at Jim Hill High School, her choral ensembles have earned superior ratings at district, state, and national competitions, reflecting her high standards, intentional instruction, and unwavering belief in her scholars' potential.

Ms. Moody's influence extends far beyond her own classroom. She currently serves as High School Choral Division Chair for Jackson Public Schools and District VI Chair for the Mississippi Music Educators Association. In these roles, she mentors future educators, conducts honor choirs, and leads professional development workshops for choral directors across Mississippi—scaling excellence and building capacity across the state.

Holding advanced degrees in music education and educational leadership, Ms. Moody was also named Mississippi Music Educator of the Year in 2025. Her professionalism, artistry, and service-driven leadership continue to elevate music education while creating inclusive spaces where scholars are challenged, supported, and inspired to find and use their voices.

As Ms. Moody has stated, "I teach music because it is my passion and I love my scholars, believe in their potential, and know that our community is stronger when their voices are heard." Her career is a living testament to that belief.

This national recognition reflects not only Ms. Moody's personal excellence, but also the strength and promise of arts education within Jackson Public Schools. Her leadership reminds us that when excellence is paired with purpose, its impact resonates far beyond the

stage—shaping lives, strengthening communities, and investing in the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize Pamela Moody and commend her for her outstanding service to Mississippi's scholars, educators, and communities.

HONORING DAN DOLEMAN, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a grateful heart to honor a man whose life reads like a prayer answered in service—my dear friend Dan Doleman, Jr. Mr. Doleman will be honored at a Black History Month Celebration with the Living Legend Award at Holsey Monumental CME Church on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

Born in Columbus Georgia in 1941 to Dan Doleman, Sr. and Maggie Jackson. Dan's story began in a home that taught responsibility and love. A 1960 graduate of William H. Spencer High School, he answered his country's call in the United States Air Force, continuing his studies at American University and the University of Maryland while in uniform. After his honorable discharge he pursued higher learning at Savannah State and, in 1970, earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University at Buffalo—the start of a 56-year career spent healing bodies and restoring hope.

Mr. Doleman's hands have steadied countless lives—from Meyer Memorial Hospital in Buffalo to Pine/Oak Manor Rehab Center, to home health agencies across Georgia and Alabama, to the Cerebral Palsy Center and Easter Seals. In 1990 he opened Rivertown Rehab, Inc., the first African American rehabilitation service in Columbus—not for fame or fortune, but to fill a need and answer a calling. Patients left his care steadier in body and lighter in spirit because he treated every person as if they were family.

His faith has been the compass of his life. For eight decades at Holsey Chapel C.M.E. Church he served in the music ministry, as a lay leader, and now as chairman of the steward board. The scripture he held close—Colossians 3:23—became more than words: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." That verse was not merely a guide for Dan; it was the pulse of his days.

Dan's professional and civic life reads like a ledger of quiet courage: appointment by Governor George Busbee as the first African American member of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; decades of teaching and supervising students at Tuskegee University and Georgia State; leadership on the Health Systems Agency of Central Georgia; service on boards from Synovus to the YMCA to the Historic Liberty Foundation; and serving on the Muscogee County School Board. Honors followed—Citizen of the Year, humanitarian

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

awards, leadership citations—but he wore them softly, like well-earned shoes that carried him back to the work.

Through every title and every plaque, Dan Doleman remained first and always a family man. For 60 years he and Deloris Porter Doleman built a marriage rooted in prayer and perseverance. They raised two daughters, Danita and Donna, and reveled in grandchildren—Shane, Shawna, A.J., Braylon, and Alexandria, now resting in God's care. As the eldest of seven, he learned early what it means to lead with tenderness.

If one line could capture Dan's life—the steady covenant of his hands and heart—it would be this: "Live to mend what is broken, and in doing so, heal the world a little at a time." That sentence was his quiet credo; his practice made it true. He taught us that healing is never only clinical—it is patience, listening, the willingness to stand in pain with another until they can stand alone.

On a personal note, I have known Dan and Deloris Doleman for many years, and they have been close friends and confidantes. I will be forever grateful for their fidelity and support over the years.

Mr. Speaker, there are people who make noise, and there are people who make a home of service. Dan Doleman, Jr. made the latter. When you needed someone to listen, to steady, to fight quietly for dignity and care, Dan was there. His life is a testament to humble excellence and abiding love.

I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Dan Doleman, Jr.—a healer, a leader, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend whose hands and heart made Columbus stronger. May we carry forward his lesson: to labor with our whole hearts, to repair what is broken, and to love without counting the cost.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CATALINO "TITE" CURET  
ALONSO

**HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Catalino "Tite" Curet Alonso, one of Puerto Rico's most influential cultural figures and one of the most prolific composers in the history of Latin music. Today marks the centennial of his birth.

Born on February 12, 1926, in Guayama, Puerto Rico, Tite Curet Alonso rose from modest beginnings to become a defining voice of Puerto Rican and Afro-Caribbean identity. Over the course of his career, he composed more than 2,000 songs that helped shape the sound, language, and social consciousness of Latin music, particularly within the genre of salsa.

Often referred to as El Poeta del Pueblo, Tite Curet Alonso used his lyrics to reflect the lived experiences of working-class communities, to confront social injustice, and to affirm the dignity and cultural heritage of Afro-Caribbean peoples. His work resonated far beyond Puerto Rico, reaching audiences throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, and leaving a lasting mark on the cultural landscape of the hemisphere.

His compositions were performed by some of the most renowned artists in Latin music, including Celia Cruz, Héctor Lavoe, Cheo Feliciano, and Willie Colón. Through these collaborations, his music became both a chronicle of its time and a lasting expression of identity, resilience, and pride.

In addition to his artistic contributions, Tite Curet Alonso was a journalist, radio producer, and public servant, dedicating more than 30 years of service to the United States Postal Service. Throughout his lifetime, he received numerous recognitions honoring his contributions to music and culture.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe Black History Month, it is especially fitting to recall that through his music, Tite Curet Alonso affirmed the beauty, dignity, and humanity of Black people across Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and the African diaspora. In words that continue to resonate, he reminded us of "the pretty faces of my Black people—las caras lindas de mi gente negra"—a powerful affirmation of identity and pride. It is in that spirit that we honor his legacy today—one that continues to enrich the cultural fabric of the United States and Puerto Rico.

HONORING IMPACTFUL BLACK  
LEADERS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

**HON. MAXWELL FROST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Black History Month and celebrate the leaders who have dedicated their time and effort to making a difference throughout my home state and city, Orlando, The City Beautiful. I stand to honor them for their achievements, which have had a significant impact on the community. These leaders are devoted to action and advocacy across many areas of Central Florida and, more importantly, to the lives of those who call Orlando home. I include in the RECORD the following names of impactful Black leaders in Central Florida:

Admiral David Brewer; Alvin J. Cowans; Jennifer Desir Hilaire; Chet Glover and the Central Florida Association of Black Journalists; Florida Supreme Court Justice James Perry; Anne Piervil; Lisa Williams; State Senator Geraldine Thompson; and Eatonville Mayor Eddie Cole.

Among the leaders who are being honored today, are passionate youth advocates and mentors, former devoted public servants, spirited writers and journalists, those who have proudly served our Nation, those who have fought for and are continuing the fight for justice, and those who are holding the torch that represents the next generation of trail blazers in our Nation.

I am proud to stand alongside the leaders being honored today. As the work towards a better community, city, and Nation continues, it is important to highlight the efforts of those who dedicate their lives to this pursuit.

Today and always, we celebrate their achievements and continue to honor Black excellence.

HONORING RUBEN ESPARZA

**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my long-time friend Ruben Esparza, Modesto City Fire Captain and Modesto City Firefighters Association President, for his service and accomplishments as he retires after three decades of public service.

Captain Esparza began his fire service career as a Fire Explorer with the City of Modesto in January, 1996. After gaining experience with CAL FIRE and the city of Newark Fire Department, he was hired as a Modesto Firefighter in 2003.

In 2007, Captain Esparza became actively involved in labor representation when he joined the Modesto City Firefighters Association (MCFFA) Political Action Committee. In two years, he was appointed PAC Director which led to his election as MCFFA Secretary in 2010, as Vice President twice and, ultimately, as President of the Association.

Under his watchful eye, Captain Esparza helped unite all City of Modesto labor organizations in a collaborative effort to successfully pass Measure H—a voter-approved one-cent sales tax increase, which generated about \$48 million annually for public safety, road repair, homelessness initiatives and park maintenance with strict financial oversight by a citizens' board. It was the first time all city labor unions worked together toward a common goal for the betterment of the City of Modesto.

Captain Esparza also worked to establish union policies that promote greater accountability and transparency for the membership. He was a fierce advocate for the Firefighter Peer Support Program and was the handler for their first facility dog, Hudson, who plays an integral role in peer support efforts. He nurtured future firefighters and MCFFA leaders and advocated for all firefighters who serve the communities of Modesto, Oakdale, Knights Ferry, Ceres, and Salida.

With dedication and professionalism, Captain Esparza served the City of Modesto and the firefighters of MCFFA by focusing on building strong relationships, fostering collaborative partnerships and strengthening regional cooperation.

It is my privilege to recognize my dear friend Ruben who has changed countless lives through his selfless public service. Please join me in honoring Captain Ruben Esparza for more than 30 years of his dedication, diligence and devotion to the people of the City of Modesto.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2026*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 57, and YEA on Roll Call No. 58.