

HONORING THE LIFE OF RUSTY
LILYQUIST

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rusty Lilyquist, a beloved member of the Cass County community.

Known for his public service, Rusty served two terms as the District 3 County Commissioner of Cass County, as well as the county's Deputy Chair for a decade. He also was Chairman of the ISD 118 School Board, Deputy Chair of the Cass County BPOU, and First Vice Chair on the Congressional 8 Board.

Outside of his work for Cass County, Rusty also served the community as a National Wild Turkey Federation Vice Chair and President of the Longville Gun Club. Rusty continued to serve on local committees, where he fundraised and coordinated development of the new tennis courts, ice rink, playground, and pavilion in Longville. For over 30 years, Rusty was a realtor in the Longville area as the owner of Rusty's Up North Realty.

In his free time, Rusty spent countless hours fishing and boating. Whether it was guiding others, perfecting his craft, or enjoying a long day at the lake, Rusty made every moment on the water an unforgettable one.

Rusty passed away in Wisconsin, leaving behind family, friends, and countless loved ones who mourn his loss. His passion for the community, the outdoors, and public service will never be forgotten. May Rusty rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on February 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 57.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
MRS. ELOSIE RICHARDSON PAS-
CHAL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise with profound pride and deep emotion to honor Mrs. Eloise Richardson Paschal of Americus, Georgia, as she marks her 90th birthday—a milestone that asks us not merely to count years but to measure a life of service, sacrifice, and steadfast love. A celebration will be held Saturday, February 14, 2026, at the Georgia Southwestern State University Griffin Bell Conference Center in Americus.

Born in Hartsville, South Carolina, Eloise Paschal came of age when opportunities for young Black women were too often limited. Yet she refused to be defined by limitation. She earned a BA in Elementary Education

from Benedict College in 1958 and a master's in library science from Atlanta University in 1967. Those degrees were not ornaments but tools she used to open doors for generations of children and light the path for those who would follow. She believed, and taught, that "education is the passport to the future."

For more than 38 years Mrs. Paschal stood at the front of classrooms across Sumter County—at Lyons Elementary, Staley Junior High, and schools throughout Americus—teaching not only reading and arithmetic but dignity, perseverance, and hope. She stayed late for the child who needed extra help; she sat with frightened parents; she celebrated every small victory as if it were her own. Countless students who struggled in silence found in her classroom and her heart someone who believed in them fiercely. That belief changed lives, lifted careers, healed wounds, and set ripples into motion that touched families and communities.

Her honors—listings in Academic Who's Who of American Teachers and Who's Who Among Black Americans—recognize excellence but cannot capture the quiet, daily acts of love that defined her teaching: handwritten notes of encouragement, patient reteaching until understanding dawned, and the stern but kind firmness that taught children not only what to learn but how to live.

Mrs. Paschal's service extended beyond the classroom. As a charter and life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Americus Alumnae Chapter, she worked to uplift women and families. In 1995, she became one of the first two women elected to the Americus City Council—a historic milestone reflecting both her leadership and her community's trust. For 16 years she stewarded the public trust with humility and steady resolve, focusing on education, health, economic opportunity, and dignity for all.

Her civic footprint includes service on the Georgia Southwestern Foundation, Magnolia Manor Foundation, Sumter County Library Board, and the Board of Directors of Sumter Bank and Trust—roles where decisions shape institutions and neighbors' lives. As a deaconess and choir member at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, she nurtured the spiritual life of her community, living proof that faith without works is lifeless. In every role she led with compassion and acted with courage.

Behind every public life is a private heart. Mrs. Paschal was married for 55 years to Mr. Willie Paschal; her love sustained a family. She raised her son Stanley with tenderness and conviction and beams with pride at her grandchildren, Grant and Drew. Her family's accomplishments are a living testament to the values she instilled: integrity, hard work, faith, and the conviction that education secures human dignity.

Her life traces the arc of our Nation's struggle and progress. She lived through segregated schools and the long work of change; she taught during times of upheaval and hope; she served in local government as Georgia and the Nation strove toward a more perfect union. Through it all she remained constant: steady in faith, fierce in advocacy for children, and tender in care for neighbors. She sought no limelight; her rewards were the lives transformed—the shy child who found confidence, the parent eased by counsel, the community strengthened by steady hands.

On a personal note, Mrs. Paschal and her family have been dear friends and supporters

for many years. I will be forever grateful for their fidelity and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian, me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in recognizing Mrs. Eloise Richardson Paschal for her extraordinary lifetime of service. Let us thank her for lessons that go beyond any curriculum: perseverance, responsibility, and love. May we each carry forward her example: teach one more child, serve one more neighbor, and believe in the power of small acts to change the world.

On behalf of a grateful community and a grateful Nation, I congratulate Mrs. Paschal on her 90th birthday. May God bless her with continued health, comfort, and joy, and may her legacy inspire many more to walk the path of service she has so faithfully trod.

HONORING MS. PEGGY SIMPSON

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 honor Ms. Peggy Simpson, an extraordinary woman whose life of service exemplifies the spirit of compassion, generosity, and community uplift that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., so powerfully championed.

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Ms. Simpson, alongside a small group of dedicated volunteers, served lunch to nearly 100 individuals at the River City Rescue Mission in Vicksburg, Mississippi. This act was not merely a meal—it was a living tribute to Dr. King's legacy of service, dignity, and love for humanity. As Ms. Simpson so eloquently stated, she honors that legacy "by spreading kindness to those in need."

Originally from New York, Ms. Simpson has devoted her life to helping others. Since relocating to Vicksburg in 2014, she has volunteered five days a week at the Salvation Army, regularly serves meals at the River City Rescue Mission, and often provides assistance out of her own pocket. Whether serving her well-known spaghetti, organizing donations, or quietly meeting individual needs, Ms. Simpson serves without expectation of recognition.

Her commitment extends beyond organized volunteerism. Over the Christmas holiday, she sponsored fifteen children through the Angel Tree program and distributed blankets to individuals facing hardship. As winter temperatures drop below freezing, she continues to collect coats and plans to serve breakfast to those in need, demonstrating foresight, humility, and deep respect for the organizations and people she serves.

Ms. Simpson's service is rooted in profound personal strength. A mother of five, she has endured unimaginable loss, including the passing of two sons. Yet through grief, she continues to give, guided by faith, family, and an unwavering belief in human dignity. She reminds us that service is not about color, class, or circumstance—but about seeing people.

Her children, whom she describes as "blessed," often join her in serving others, ensuring that her legacy of compassion will carry forward to future generations.

Ms. Simpson's life is a powerful reminder that true leadership is found not in titles, but

in action. Her words—"Do whatever you can, because everybody needs help"—reflect the very best of our shared values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Peggy Simpson for her tireless service, her generous heart, and her enduring commitment to uplifting her community. Her example strengthens us all and honors the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.