

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT REPRESSION OF MUSICIANS

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the violent repression of musicians. As Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Musicians' Caucus, I express my profound concern regarding reports that Iranian singer Parastoo Ahmadi has been sentenced by that nation to public flogging for appearing in a musical performance without adhering to government-imposed dress requirements. Reports indicate that her offense was not violence, incitement, but rather the act of artistic expression itself.

The Congressional Musicians' Caucus was established to recognize the vital role that music and musicians play in enriching societies, strengthening cultures, and advancing mutual understanding. While members of Congress may hold differing views on many international issues, we can stand together in support of the principle that creators should never face physical punishment, imprisonment, or violence for creating and sharing their artistic works.

History offers far too many examples of governments seeking to silence musicians, songwriters, composers, and poets whose voices resonate with the public. Authoritarian regimes have often viewed artists as threats precisely because music and creative expression have the unique power to inspire, unite, and give voice to the aspirations of ordinary people. Efforts to intimidate artists through violence are not merely attacks on individuals; they are attacks on cultural expression itself.

From the persecution of Chilean songwriter Victor Jara during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, to the denunciation and censorship of Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich under the Soviet regime, to the repeated imprisonment and violent targeting of Nigerian musician Fela Kuti for criticizing military rule, history demonstrates that the suppression of artistic voices is often an early warning sign of broader assaults on fundamental freedoms. The international community should never become indifferent to such actions.

I recognize and appreciate the efforts of organizations such as the National Music Council of the United States, the Songwriters Guild of America, the Society of Composers & Lyricists, and others that continue to draw attention to cases in which musicians and music creators face persecution because of their artistic work. Bringing these incidents into public view helps ensure that such abuses do not occur unnoticed.

I affirm my support for the freedom of artistic expression and my opposition to the use of violence, intimidation, or physical punishment against musicians, composers, songwriters, poets, and other creators. Regardless of nationality, ideology, religion, or political viewpoint, artists should be free to create and perform without fear of physical retaliation from their governments.

I stand in solidarity with artists everywhere whose non-violent, creative voices are threatened by repression and in the hope that cultural expression may continue to serve as a bridge between peoples rather than a basis for punishment.

RECOGNIZING PAUL LAU'S RE- TIREMENT FROM SMUD FOL- LOWING A 44-YEAR LONG CA- REER OF SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Lau on his retirement as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), capping an extraordinary 44 years of service to our region.

Paul's remarkable journey at SMUD began in 1982 as an electrical engineering student at California State University, Sacramento. After graduating in 1984, he returned as an assistant electrical engineer and steadily rose through the organization. He joined SMUD's executive leadership team in 2008, served as chief grid strategy and operations officer, and was appointed CEO and General Manager in October 2020. Paul never saw SMUD as simply a utility. He saw the way it could improve people's lives. He approached every challenge with curiosity, humility, and a profound commitment to the community.

Under Paul's leadership, SMUD became a national model for innovation, reliability, affordability, and community partnership. Its rates remain among the lowest in California, saving customers more than \$1.9 billion each year. Paul also led SMUD to become the first publicly owned utility in California to join the Western Energy Imbalance Market, an initiative saving customers more than \$350 million. Long before many utilities were seriously confronting the challenges of decarbonization, grid resilience, and electrification, Paul demonstrated how those goals could be achieved without losing sight of reliability or affordability. Through initiatives like the Neighborhood Electrification Program, he also worked to ensure that underserved communities could share fully in the benefits of our clean energy future.

Paul's service extended far beyond SMUD. He helped strengthen the Sacramento region through his work with the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Valley Vision, and the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. He also shaped the national energy conversation through his service with the Smart Electric Power Alliance, the American Public Power Association, and the Large Public Power Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Lau for his 44 years of dedicated service to SMUD, his visionary leadership in advancing clean energy and economic opportunity across the Sacramento region, and his lifelong commitment to the 1.5 million people SMUD proudly serves.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THALES CARLTON ROBBINS

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who an-

swered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Thales Carlton Robbins. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Born and raised in Houston County, Mr. Thales Carlton Robbins, known warmly throughout his community as "Carlton," graduated from Erin High School in 1948 before answering the call to serve. He enlisted in the United States Navy on December 27, 1950, and honorably served until October 20, 1954, as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman (HM-8404-77).

During the Korean War, Mr. Robbins served with the 7th Marine Regiment in 1952 and the 1st Marine Division in 1953. Navy Corpsmen assigned to Marine combat units earned a legendary reputation for courage, repeatedly risking their own lives to render lifesaving medical care to wounded Marines under direct enemy fire. Mr. Robbins upheld that proud tradition through his service in some of the most demanding combat conditions of the Korean War.

For his faithful and courageous service, Mr. Robbins received the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze service stars, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Fleet Marine Force Insignia. His distinguished service brought great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the people of Houston County. Mr. Robbins currently resides in the Clarksville-Montgomery County area.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to South Florida and the Nation through the arts and humanities, business, science and engineering, activism, and military leadership as we celebrate the 8th anniversary of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in honor of National Caribbean Heritage Month:

Whereas, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, has issued the annual proclamation in 2013 recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month;

Whereas, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month recognizes the significance

of Caribbean people in U.S. history, and the influence of Caribbean people and their descendants on American culture;

Whereas, South Florida is home to many Caribbean-Americans who make up a large percent of the population;

Whereas, Caribbean-Americans have played a major and notable role in the growth and development of South Florida, from holding public office, prominent positions in education and religion, to owning successful businesses and being vocal community activists; and now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, and who also has Caribbean roots, am proud to recognize the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to South Florida and to our country. I encourage all residents to celebrate the rich culture of the Caribbean during National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

CHANGING OF COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAIG A. BONHAM, II, USA

HON. ANALILIA MEJIA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Bonham, II. Lieutenant Colonel Bonham has served as Garrison Commander of Picatinny Arsenal since June 2024. Today, he ends his service with Picatinny as he transfers leadership to Lieutenant Colonel John A. Meier. I am proud to honor a dedicated Army officer whose service has strengthened New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, the State of New Jersey, and the United States as a whole.

As Garrison Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bonham led with excellence as he and his team supported the installation's more than 6,000 Soldiers, civilians, and contractors. The Picatinny community benefited from his responsibly executed commitment to their mission and to their morale, welfare, and professional development. Under his supervision of Garrison operations, Picatinny Arsenal continued to serve as a cornerstone of defense innovation and an engine of economic strength for the region.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Lieutenant Colonel Bonham's first assignments were as an Assistant Battalion Logistics Officer and Launcher Platoon Leader for the 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense Regiment at Fort Hood. He was selected for the Civil Affairs Corps in 2009. His career includes numerous roles in Civil Affairs Leadership in and support of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe and Africa, including two deployments to Africa. He has acted in key leadership roles, including as a Military Planner for NATO Allied Land Command and most recently as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

Lieutenant Colonel Bonham's many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal and Army Achievement Medal. These awards reflect a career of excellence and selfless service to his country. Above all, he is supported by his wife Tutku and their two daughters, whose sacrifice

and commitment have been essential to his success.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Bonham and his family for their service to our country. I wish him best of luck and continued success in his next role for our military.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JEAN PULSCHER

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Laura Jean Pulscher, of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, a devoted wife, mother, accomplished musician, educator, woman of faith, and courageous advocate whose extraordinary life touched countless people across her community and beyond. My thoughts are with her family as they recognize the first anniversary of her passing.

Laura passed away on July 10, 2025, after a nine-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a devastating and fatal neurodegenerative disease.

Laura met every challenge in her life with determination, grace, and unwavering faith. A gifted musician, writer, and leader, she dedicated her talents to serving others through ministry, education, and community engagement. Whether leading worship, mentoring young people, homeschooling her children, or encouraging others facing adversity, Laura consistently put the needs of others before her own.

Even as ALS progressively stole her ability to speak and move, it never diminished her determination to serve others. Laura continued to organize family activities, support her children's education, write and publish a book about her faith journey, maintain connections with friends and family, and offer encouragement to others facing hardship. Her resilience stands as a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit and the profound difference one person can make in the lives of others.

Laura's life is a powerful reminder of both the extraordinary courage of people living with ALS and the urgent need to advance research and care for those affected by this devastating disease.

We extend our deepest condolences to her husband, Toby; her children, Malcolm, Oliver, and Mercedes; her parents, Jay and Sharon Brosius; and all her family and friends who mourn her loss while celebrating a life exceptionally well lived.

May Laura Jean Pulscher's legacy of faith, service, courage, and love continue to inspire all who have the privilege of hearing her story, and may her memory forever be a blessing.

COMMENDING MR. CLARANCE "PAT" PATTERSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida,

I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mr. Clarence "Pat" Patterson, a devoted public servant, union representative, husband, father, and friend, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Mr. Patterson's career as a Waste Management expert, City Manager and Union Representative spanned sixty years;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson held the position of Superintendent of the Department of Solid Waste for Metropolitan Dade County, was appointed the first Black director for the City of Miami's Solid Waste Department and held the position of Assistant Manager for the city of Miami;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson also served as City Manager for the cities of North Miami and Opa locka; Assistant City Manager of Miami Springs, Director of Solid Waste and Public Works; and Director of Solid Waste and Public Works for the city of South Miami;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson was an advocate for city, county and state employees and served as an international staff representative for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO) for seven years;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson was a faithful and active member of the King of Hearts and the Kiwanis Club, Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Universal Truth Center; and now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Mr. Clarence "Pat" Patterson for his unwavering commitment and dedication to his family, his church, and our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. AL ADREVENO

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Al Adreveno, who passed away on May 18, 2026, in Half Moon Bay, California, at the age of 102. A lifelong farmer, a World War II veteran, and a civic leader on the Coastside for more than three decades, Adreveno shaped the Coastside into a better community for all.

Born on July 17, 1923, in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood, Adreveno grew up in Colma, California, where his Italian family worked on a produce ranch.

In 1943, Adreveno joined the United States Army Corps of Engineers and served on an elite team in the Pacific Theater that participated in the liberation of Okinawa. After the Japanese surrender, he served in Korea until coming home to San Francisco in 1946.

He returned to his job at the flower nursery where he had worked before the war. There, he met Eda, and the couple married in 1947. A few years later, they purchased a ranch in Half Moon Bay, founding Daylight Nursery in 1954, where they grew field flowers, including irises, daffodils, and daisies. Nestled among the hills of the Coastside, the property provided the home and livelihood for their wider family for more than fifty years.

In addition to his agricultural work, Adreveno dedicated more than three decades to public service across the Coastside.

On the Half Moon Bay School Board, he helped lead a successful bond campaign to