

Ingrid Scott-Weekly transformed Grand Rapids by expanding equal opportunity in city government and helping build institutions that still protect fairness and inclusion today.

Reuben Smartt, one of the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps, went on to dedicate his life to mentoring young people as an educator, coach, and community leader.

Dr. Faite Mack broke barriers as a founding faculty member at Grand Valley State University, shaping generations of educators and extending his work globally to ensure children have access to education.

Roger Wilkins, a civil rights leader and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, led national conversations on justice and equality at the highest levels of government and media.

Helen Claytor advanced civil rights and opportunity for women and families helping establish institutions that continue to promote equity in Grand Rapids and beyond.

These leaders remind us that progress is driven by those willing to serve, to teach, and to lead. Their legacy lives on in west Michigan and across our great Nation. I am proud to honor these contributions during Black History Month.

HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we all know that right now the housing crisis is real for so many of our families across the country, and I know many of us in this Chamber, especially those on the left, have always said housing is a human right.

To address this crisis, we know that we need action at every level of government, but many local communities need additional assistance and capacity. That is why I am so incredibly grateful that the House passed the Housing Our Communities Act, part of the Housing for the 21st Century Act legislative package.

The Housing Our Communities Act directs the HUD Secretary to establish a competitive grant program to support a wide range of affordable housing planning and implementation activities.

For example, grants can support officials in crafting their housing plans, updating their zoning codes, or increasing capacity to conduct housing inspections so that new developments are completed faster and much more efficiently.

This bill provides civil servants and policymakers with the support they need to make affordable housing a reality for so many of our communities.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation immediately and begin to address the housing crisis that is devastating our country.

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Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the 40th anniversary of the Saka Nakodar massacre where four unarmed Sikh students, Ravinder Singh, Jhilman Singh, Harminder Singh, and Baldir Singh Multani, were shot and killed while peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred Scripture of Sikhs.

The killing, which took place in the Punjab region of India on February 4, 1986, was absolutely abhorrent, but the investigation was definitely deplorable.

The victims' bodies were disposed of in secret. No perpetrator was ever brought to justice, and reports, commissions, and other inquiries on the massacre received absolutely no action.

The Saka Nakodar massacre continues to be a dark day for Sikhs in Punjab but also for Sikhs right here in America.

That is why I recognize the Saka Nakodar massacre and the justice that awaits not just for the four students and their families but for the Sikh communities at home and abroad.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARON JOHNSON

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a son of eastern North Carolina, Aron Johnson. At just 30 years old, Aron was more than an organizer. He was a bridge builder who believed that our rural communities deserved a seat at every table.

He was a dreamer of big dreams and a fighter of hard fights who proved that we don't need a long life to make a big difference. While he left us far too soon, his legacy of empowerment lives on in many communities across our State.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his mother, Mary, and his family as we celebrate a young leader who gave his all to so many.

ENDING THE TRUMP TARIFF ON CANADA

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to join colleagues from both sides of the aisle this week in the House vote that was overwhelming in bipartisan fashion to end the damaging Trump tariff regime on Canada. The Senate had already taken the same action three times before the House measure was even brought up.

Canada is our neighbor, our ally, and our friend. They have fought at our side in every war for nearly two centuries.

Our Great Lakes region and its economy is the third largest in the world. It is like no other with its industrial and agricultural bounty, blessed for generations by the largest body of freshwater on Earth. Ours is the longest U.S. coastline with numerous ports, energy resources, cultural endowments, and unrivaled natural beauty.

The American and Canadian economies are totally intertwined. Robust supply chains on both sides of our northern border make, grow, and transport everything from autos to lumber to soil to energy to food and even to hockey teams.

This damaging trade war with Canada has caused prices to rise, led to more job losses, disrupted trade, and caused tourism to drop 31 percent. These are no victories.

Mr. Speaker, I just wish to say that I voted to end this upside-down trade mess today. Let's strengthen our economy and make life affordable again.

HONORING FORMER FORT WORTH COUNCIL MEMBER GYNA BIVENS

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, former Fort Worth city council member and mayor pro tem, Gyna Bivens, who was a beloved member of our community who lost her life on February 9 at the age of 71 to pancreatic cancer.

Gyna was born in Fort Worth, and she was a proud graduate of Dunbar High School and later went on to graduate from the University of North Texas. She majored in journalism and communications and did an amazing job.

Before she was on the city council, she had a background on some of our local radio stations and television stations. A lot of people in the community proudly remember her from Soul730 KKDA-AM. She will also be known for that amazing voice that she had.

Then God gave her a calling, and she decided that she wanted to be in politics. She ran for our city council, and she served with distinction from 2013 until 2025. She fought for housing. I know that she was very proud of her work along East Rosedale with Cavile Place and Hughes House. She worked very hard to make sure that we received funding for that. She also worked very hard in transportation and made lots of great improvements along a major corridor in District 5 which was along Lancaster Avenue.

She was a woman of deep, deep faith. Her father was a very prominent minister in the Fort Worth area.

Mr. Speaker, I want everyone to pray for her family. Her mom, her sisters, and her brother are still with us. Gyna is always going to be known for her hard work and just everything that she has done throughout her career and her brave battle against cancer.

We are going to keep that family lifted up in prayer. We will always remember Gyna for the amazing achievements that she made while she was here on Earth.

God bless her and her entire family.

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**RECOGNIZING ROSE TAULTON,
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

(Mrs. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary southern Arizonan, Rose Taulton, recently named Volunteer of the Year by Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association.

Rose is truly the heart of volunteerism in Tucson. In 2025 alone, she logged more than 1,000 hours of service, positively impacting over 5,000 people across our community.

There are few people I see more often at community events than Rose. Whether it is helping organize the annual Tucson Juneteenth Festival or volunteering at a neighborhood food bank, she is always there, quietly, consistently, and with joy.

From mentoring youth and distributing books to supporting families facing food insecurity, Rose shows us, not for recognition but because she believes in the power of community.

Southern Arizona is stronger because of people like Rose. Her determination, compassion, and service embody the very best of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rose for everything she does for Tucson. We are grateful beyond words. I congratulate her on her new grandbaby.

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**HONORING MR. HAJI DUKURAY, A
TRUE SON OF THE BRONX**

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. TORRES of New York was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true son of the Bronx and a shining example of the American Dream: Mr. Haji Dukuray.

In 1988, Haji arrived from The Gambia with little more than hope and determination. He built a life rooted in faith, family, and unwavering service. A devoted husband, father of four, proud grandfather, and tireless community advocate, he has served in leadership at the Bronx Islamic Cultural Center and dedicated decades to lifting others up. For him, serving the community has always been a sacred moral obligation.

Then came unimaginable tragedy. In January of 2022, the Twin Parks North West fire stole 17 lives, including five cherished members of Haji's own family. Yet in his darkest hour, Haji chose hope over despair. He united grieving families, clergy, and leaders to seek justice and foster healing.

Haji Dukuray embodies resilience. His life teaches us that even amid profound loss, community and service can mend broken hearts and strengthen us all.

The Bronx is stronger because of him. I thank Haji for his service.

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HONORING CHERYL MARIE DEWITT

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cheryl Marie DeWitt, known to all as Ms. Dee, a true Bronx treasure and champion of our children.

Born to a young, single mother and raised by loving foster parents, Ms. Dee learned early that caring adults can change a child's life forever. Inspired by that gift, she has dedicated her life to giving the same opportunity to others.

For more than 20 years, as executive director of the Williamsbridge NAACP Early Childhood Education Center, she has provided nurturing, high-quality care to Bronx families facing hardship, never wavering through every challenge.

A proud CSA member since 1994 and the Bronx borough chair for center-based directors, plus an active leader in the NAACP Williamsbridge branch, Ms. Dee fights tirelessly for early education, equity, and community strength.

Ms. Dee shows us that service starts with compassion. Her life proves the love we receive can become the love we give. I thank Ms. Dee. May her work continue shaping brighter futures for generations.

HONORING JOHNNIE GOFF

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Johnnie Ruth Goff, a tireless educator, visionary leader, and true pillar of the North Bronx community.

Born in Georgetown, South Carolina, Dr. Goff poured more than three decades of her life into our public schools as a teacher and administrator. She lived the conviction that education unlocks opportunity for every child, regardless of their ZIP Code or circumstance.

Beyond the classroom, her legacy shines through innovative programs like "Feed the Body, Feed the Mind," launched in 1998. With her beloved Food Ranger character, she taught generations that good nutrition fuels sharp minds and stronger futures.

As founder of the JADE Multi Family Circle Center and a dedicated activist, she created internships, mentoring, tutoring, and service opportunities that opened doors for our youth. Guided by faith and compassion, she turned concern into action, supporting families, serving on boards, and building solutions where others saw only challenges.

Dr. Goff reminds us that one person's unwavering dedication can transform a community and inspire generations.

I thank Dr. Johnnie Ruth Goff for her extraordinary service and enduring legacy.

HONORING NILKA MARTELL

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the Bronx, Nilka Martell.

A proud Puerto Rican daughter of our borough, Nilka turned her lifelong love for her community into action. Since 2011, as founder and director of Loving The Bronx, she has built a powerful grassroots movement that puts residents at the heart of the fight for justice—social, environmental, and economic.

She chairs the Bronx River Alliance, leads Friends of Pelham Bay Park, and serves on the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, always amplifying local voices in decisions that determine our air, our parks, and our health.

Nilka delivers real wins: Securing over \$10 million to rebuild Virginia Park and Hugh J. Grant Circle, and boldly leading the charge to cap the Cross Bronx Expressway—reducing deadly pollution, healing neighborhoods divided by Robert Moses, and creating new green spaces for our children.

Nilka Martell shows us what is possible when community leadership meets unwavering determination. She is building a healthier, more connected, more just Bronx for all of us. I thank Nilka.

HONORING BOB BENDER

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a true pillar of the Northwest Bronx, Bob Bender.

For more than 20 years, Bob has served with unwavering dedication on Community Board 8. For 13 of those years, he chaired the Parks Committee, turning vision into action. In 2007, when veterans raised the alarm about the crumbling Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park, Bob didn't hesitate. He secured the grant, rallied support, and restored it as a dignified place of remembrance.

But his work went deeper. He brought naturalists and schoolchildren together to study and safeguard the park's natural treasures. He championed the forgotten history of enslaved people who once labored on the Van Cortlandt estate, ensuring their story is now permanently honored and displayed in the Van Cortlandt Museum for generations to learn from.

Long before the board, Bob was always giving back—feeding and clothing the homeless, coaching Little League, showing up when the community needed him most. Today, he still volunteers in the park, week after week, and fights tirelessly for a Hudson River greenway.

A proud Bronx native, devoted husband, and loving father, Bob Bender reminds us that our borough is built and sustained by people who never stop giving. I thank Bob.