

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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

HONORING CLINTON A. MYKE

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Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a remarkable son of the Bronx, Mr. Clinton A. Myke.

Born and raised here in Community Board 12, educated in our neighborhood schools, and now raising his own family in the same street he loves, Clinton is a Bronxite in every sense of the word.

For 25 years he served with honor and distinction in the Department of Correction, rising to the rank of captain through sheer integrity, discipline, and unwavering commitment to public service.

But retirement never dimmed his passion. Instead, he turned his energy toward his community, joining Bronx Community Board 12 and devoting the past decade to making it better. Today, as proud chair of that board, he amplifies local voices, strengthens participation, and fights every day so that our neighborhoods thrive.

Clinton Myke embodies selfless leadership. Because of him, the Bronx is stronger, more connected, and more hopeful. It is my honor to recognize this true public servant. I thank Clinton, and may he continue to lead us forward.

HONORING TOMAS RAMOS

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true son of the Bronx, Tomas Ramos, a first generation Dominican American whose life embodies resilience, justice, and an unbreakable community spirit.

Born in Washington Heights amid the crack epidemic, Tomas faced displacement, poverty, and the devastating grip of mass incarceration and the war on drugs. Yet he transformed personal hardship into powerful purpose. He has dedicated himself to uplifting our youth, championing small businesses, advancing restorative justice, and expanding access to healthcare, food security, and real opportunity for all.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and too many were left behind, Tomas acted without hesitation. He mobilized donations to expand ICU capacity, delivered critical PPE to overburdened hospitals, and stood firmly for the Bronx when it needed him most.

From that crisis emerged the Oyate Group, a nonprofit powerhouse he founded to educate, resource, and build sustainable solutions that break cycles of generational poverty. Through innovative programs in youth development, gun violence prevention, and community empowerment, Tomas has become a blessing and a beacon for the underserved neighborhoods of the Bronx and beyond.

Because of Tomas Ramos, our community stands stronger, more connected, and more hopeful. He reminds us every day that dignity is not a privilege, it is a fundamental right. I thank Tomas for his tireless leadership and his heart for the people of the Bronx. We in the Bronx are proud to call him one of our own.

RECOGNIZING CHAUNCY YOUNG

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, for more than 20 years, Chauncy Young has poured his heart into our Bronx, building bridges between education, justice, and environmental equity.

He began in Highbridge, empowering neighbors through mindfulness, meditation, and self-care at the Community Collaborative. Since 2016, as the director of the New Settlement Parent Action Committee, he has led the Healing-Centered Schools Working Group, bringing trauma-informed, healing approaches into classrooms so that our students and teachers can thrive, not simply survive.

Yet Chauncy's vision stretches beyond school walls. Since founding the Harlem River Coalition in 2009, he has coordinated tireless efforts alongside residents, organizations, and officials to reclaim our waterfront, clean our river, and weave an interconnected greenway system that will one day let every Bronx family walk, bike, and breathe beside the water.

A proud Highbridge resident, devoted husband, and father, Chauncy doesn't just advocate for green spaces. He explores them with his own family, turning his work into lived joy.

Because of Chauncy Young, our borough is greener, healthier, and more hopeful for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chauncy for his unwavering devotion to the Bronx we all call home.

CELEBRATING REVEREND JOHN UDO-OKON

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate a true beacon of hope in the south Bronx, Reverend John Udo-Okon.

In one of our Nation's toughest neighborhoods, marked by deep poverty, hunger, and hardship, Reverend Udo-Okon has turned faith into action. As senior pastor of Word of Life Christian Fellowship International, he leads one of the Bronx's largest food pantries, serving thousands every month.

Through weekly distributions, hot meals, and unwavering support, he ensures seniors, veterans, working families, and children never go hungry or feel forgotten.

During the darkest days of COVID-19, when fear gripped our communities, he opened his church doors as a lifeline, distributing food, promoting vaccinations, and standing strong even after his own family battled the virus.

His compassion extends further: advocating for justice, offering guidance to those drowning in debt, and fighting for the right to help those who need it most.

Reverend Udo-Okon embodies the power of service, resilience, and love. The Bronx is stronger, more connected, and more resilient because of him.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor this extraordinary leader today.

HONORING SHIRLEY FEARON

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true daugh-

ter of the Bronx, a leader whose life has lifted generations: Shirley Fearon.

Born and raised right here in our borough, Shirley embodies the heart and resilience of the northeast Bronx.

A lifelong educator, she dedicated her career to our children, teaching in general and special education, believing deeply that every young person deserves the chance to succeed.

Her passion for learning didn't stop at the classroom door. It spread throughout our neighborhoods, inspiring countless lives.

Shirley's commitment to service runs deep. As president of her NAACP chapter, a dedicated district leader for the 83rd Assembly District, and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she has championed justice, empowerment, and civic engagement for decades.

Perhaps her most transformative legacy is the state-of-the-art Northeast Bronx YMCA, a facility she fought for tirelessly over many years as the co-chair of the Northeast Bronx Community Coalition. When it opened in 2021, it became a vital beacon, a place for youth programs, fitness, community gatherings, and hope.

After 70 years without such a resource in her neighborhood, Shirley helped make it a reality. Guided by faith, family, and the timeless truth that to whom much is given, much is required, she has strengthened our community as a devoted parishioner, mother, and grandmother.

Shirley Fearon's unwavering dedication reminds us what true leadership looks like: persistent, compassionate, and rooted in service. Because of her, the Bronx is stronger, brighter, and more united.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Shirley for showing us the way. The northeast Bronx and all of us are forever grateful.

HONORING REVEREND DR. GLORIA BRADSHAW-BRANNIGAN

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable public servant whose life exemplifies faith, dedication, and selfless service: Reverend Dr. Gloria Bradshaw-Brannigan.

A Bronx native and the youngest daughter of the late Reverend Robert Bradshaw and Mrs. Janie Bradshaw, Reverend Bradshaw carries forward a powerful family legacy of ministry. As senior pastor of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, she leads a congregation with deep roots, serving Harlem's community for 84 years before relocating in 2015 to continue its vital outreach in the Bronx.

Under her guidance, the church remains a beacon of hope, providing spiritual guidance, practical support, and unwavering love to countless residents.

Yet, her calling knows no borders. Reverend Dr. Bradshaw has carried the Gospel internationally, preaching at the Exodus Christian center in Uganda, touching lives far beyond our borough.

Her credentials reflect a lifetime of disciplined study and commitment: a

master's degree in Biblical studies from Alliance Theological Seminary, completion of a CBI doctoral program, and ordination since February 1995.

These accomplishments are not mere titles. They fuel her passionate vision for God's kingdom and for the flourishing of every person she serves.

Mr. Speaker, in Reverend Dr. Gloria Bradshaw-Brannigan, we see what true community leadership looks like: rooted in faith, driven by compassion, and tireless in action.

The Bronx is stronger, more hopeful, and more faith-driven because of her work. She stands as an inspiring example for anyone who aspires to serve both their neighbors and their God.

Let us celebrate and emulate her extraordinary contributions. The future is brighter because of leaders like her.

HONORING ALONZO DE CASTRO

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Alonzo de Castro, a true pillar of the Bronx and a devoted public servant who has embodied the very best of American ideals.

Born in 1926 on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, 1 of 13 children, Mr. de Castro arrived in New York City in 1946 after serving honorably in the United States Army.

Like countless immigrants before and since, he arrived with determination and built a life of dignity through hard work and service. He began his career at the Veterans Administration and rose through the ranks of the U.S. Postal Service, eventually becoming a director of 13 postal stations in Manhattan, a testament to his reliability, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

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Mr. Speaker, in 1965 he chose the Bronx as his home and poured his heart into its civic life. He served as a State committeeman, district leader, and dedicated staff member to a former assemblyman.

He helped found the East of Laconia Community Association, which has proudly awarded over 200 scholarships to deserving Bronx students, opening doors to brighter futures.

Through St. Luke's Episcopal Church, he raised vital funds for education and community needs, always putting people first.

His vision and persistence helped lay the foundation for the Northeast Bronx YMCA, a transformative community resource dedicated in 2021.

As co-chair of the Northeast Bronx Community Coalition, he championed this long-awaited center, ensuring generations of residents would have access to programs that built strength, opportunity, and connection.

Mr. Speaker, Alonzo de Castro, affectionately known as Uncle Al, symbolizes the promise of America: Service, sacrifice, perseverance, and unbreakable community spirit. His legacy lives on in every young person who earned a

scholarship, every family strengthened by the YMCA, and every corridor of the northeast Bronx lifted by his tireless efforts.

The Bronx is forever grateful for this remarkable man who has shown us what it means to give back. May we all strive to follow his inspiring footsteps.

HONORING JULIO PABON

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julio Pabon, a visionary, a fighter, and the heartbeat of the South Bronx for over five decades.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in our resilient borough, Julio never waited for change. He built it. He founded the Coalition in Defense of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Rights, the South Bronx Community Association, the South Bronx Congress, and Discovery for Justice, turning voices into power.

A pioneer in bilingual media, he launched "La Hora Deportiva," one of the first Spanish-English sports talk shows. He created Latino Sports, establishing the prestigious LatinoMVP award, now embraced by Major League Baseball, to celebrate Latino excellence when it was far too often overlooked.

In a place too often defined by struggle, Julio chose to define the South Bronx by its potential. His legacy of vision, perseverance, and fierce cultural pride will inspire us always, and we thank him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF DERRICK BONHAM

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to honor Derrick Bonham of the Weakley County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office, who was tragically killed in the line of duty.

On January 30, just after 3 a.m., Deputy Bonham responded to a shots-fired call in Martin, Tennessee. This is nothing new. Derrick Bonham had always answered these calls without hesitation and whenever he was needed.

When Deputy Bonham arrived on the scene to assess the situation, he was violently ambushed and fatally wounded. Indeed, Derrick Bonham's death has been felt across Weakley County and across West Tennessee, in fact, the entire State of Tennessee.

In the days that followed, thousands lined the streets in a sea of blue to honor his sacrifice. Law enforcement officers from across the region stood alongside families and neighbors in West Tennessee to show their respect and support for a brave man and a brave family.

That tribute reflected the trust that Derrick Bonham earned and also the impact that he had among his law enforcement comrades.

After the shooting, Mr. Speaker, I spoke with Weakley County Sheriff, Terry McDade. Sheriff McDade told me Deputy Bonham—and I am going to read this exactly the way he told me: "Deputy Bonham was the guy that all sheriffs want to hire. He was a good, even-keeled law enforcement officer who lived his life in a Godly way."

Mr. Speaker, Derrick Bonham lived a life defined by devotion to service. He took pride in his work and in what it meant to wear that uniform.

We all know that law enforcement in our Nation is a dangerous profession. Every time an officer reports for duty, they put their lives on the line for all of us. We are deeply grateful for the men and women in law enforcement who put that uniform on each and every day to serve their neighbors, often without recognition.

Deputy Bonham was a loving husband to his wife, Nicole; and a devoted father to three children: Harper, Hayden, and Hudson.

He was an Army veteran who served our Nation and later became a deputy who served his country and his neighbors. Indeed, Derrick Bonham understood that public service is a calling, one that demands courage and a willingness to put others first.

Roberta and I continue to keep the Bonham family and the Weakley County Sheriff's Office in our prayers. Deputy Derrick Bonham's legacy will live on through the lives that he touched, the men and women with whom he worked, and the example that he set for the Weakley County community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### MATH IS SUCH AN ANATHEMA

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, give me a moment here to get set up. Sometimes, we are just scrambling because we had a whole speech lined up. We were going to do something just simple and pleasant for everyone. We were going to walk through Medicare financing for a while, and they wouldn't give me 3 hours or 4 hours to do it, so you are stuck with me for a half an hour.

Then, earlier today, CBO actually did their update. Okay. Let's see if I can make this make sense.

When I come behind these microphones, I am trying to explain sort of a unified theory that, so often, the political class behind these microphones say: We can do this.