

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.

## 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. ELOISIE RICHARDSON PASCHAL

**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