

## **Ohio House of Representatives TESTIMONY**

**Good afternoon to the Speaker of the House, Members of the Ohio House, Friends and Supporters ...**

**I am honored to speak before such an esteemed body on behalf of James Buster Douglas to urge this body of legislators to enact a special dispensation in his honor statewide.**

**I'm a former athlete on the high school & college levels and a semi-retired broadcast journalist and producer professionally currently working as a media consultant for the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Mr. Douglas' World Championship achievement.**

**I covered the championship locally for the Call and Post newspaper when I was the Managing Editor under the mentorship of the "God Father" of African American Media statewide at the time ... the Late Amos Lynch.**

**As a single parent of my son Jason who is now 37, I took him to the City-wide Celebration to meet Buster and shake the hand of an Undisputed Heavyweight Boxing Champion.**

**But prior to the championship ... I actually met Buster while working out at the time at the Columbus North Athletic Club on 161 in 1989. We had several opportunities to speak in-between reps while exercising or while sitting in the sauna chillin'. He introduced himself as James. I could tell he was an athlete. James was quiet and focused. When we spoke, he never said he was a boxer in training. Time went forward, then after a few more weeks, I realized the brother stopped coming to the gym. I'm watching television and heard the report of the coming championship fight, saw the footage and said to myself ... that's the guy I had worked out with at the club. It all came into focus from that point!**

**New we celebrate our own hometown icon hero, celebrity, role model ... a World Heavyweight Boxing Champion ... one of baddest men to ever walk the planet ... The Man who knocked out Mike Tyson convincingly for all the world to see and know!**

**I urge ... No ... I strongly urge this body to declare February 11, 2020 James Buster Douglas Day in the State of Ohio ... Thank You!**