

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LEBANON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful church, Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church had its beginning in 1869, when the congregation worshipped under a "brush arbor" with the Reverend David Adams serving as pastor and founder.

Realizing the need for a structure in which to worship, the pastor and members put forth every effort to design and construct the first church. The building was erected approximately 60 to 70 feet from the old church site.

As we look back over the 147-year history of Lebanon, we are reminded of the loyal devotion of the early pioneers and their steadfastness to the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We attribute any success or progress of this church to their loyalty.

The Reverend David Adams served faithfully as pastor until his death; and the Reverend Riley Russell accepted the call as pastor and served diligently until his death. Some of the early pastors were the Reverends: S.D. Smith, Joe Baskin, Dan Anderson, Connelly, and J. A. Johnson. Pleasant Fractions: Jimmy Mines; and J. Carter.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church is recognized as the oldest land grant church in this area. It has served as a torch shining forth "her" brilliant light in this community. This light of hope and compassion has compelled many to come to Christ.

No church can survive without the dedicated cooperation of its members. The long, successful history of Lebanon is due to the dedicated, cooperative efforts of the many pastors, deacons, church mothers, and general congregation.

Some of the early deacons were: Brothers Joe Hodges; Pink Roseby; Ben Friar; C. H. Benson; R. B. Roseby; Richard Epps; Michael C. Smith; George Friar; and Tom Randle.

In 1912, the first church was destroyed by a violent storm. The force of the storm served as the epitome for the rebuilding of the second church, and its completion was the epoch of the old church site.

Some of the pioneer members of the Mothers Board were: Sisters Ophelia Anderson; Mary Benson; Sara Smith; Mary Anderson; Lucy Hunter; Hassie Montgomery; Harriet Craighead; Mattie L. Benson; Martha Ross Benson; and Sallie Epps.

Still moving forward, the Reverend A. W. Jones accepted the call as pastor. He served well until his accepting the call of another church. Following Reverend Jones, the Reverends: C. D. Brown; C. L. Clark; George Harper; Aaron Barron; and Melvin Lewis served as pastor of Lebanon.

Deacons serving under these administrations were: Brothers West Benson; Eddie

Donelson; Leslie Hodges; Edgar Waddell; Pinkney Benson; Daniel Mickey; Daniel Kimbrough; Ira Blake; Mack Friar; O. W. Hodges; Mack McKennie; Samuel Friar; Charles Quincy Spurlin; Jessie Harmon; L. B. Hathorn; Alphonso Wright; Jacob J. McClain; and Charlie Benson.

The Mothers Board consisted of: Sisters Harriet Friar, Hallie Donelson, Elmira Horton, Minnie Hodges, Lyda Friar, Mary V. Hodges, Rebecca Kimbrough, Bessie Green, Roberta Blake, Priscilla Benson, Lillie Waddell, Mamie McKennie, Mary L. Friar, Mattie L. Hodges, Paralee McClain, Frankie Hodges, Eula Spurlin, Callie McKennie, Willie Mae Meeks, Ollie Harmon, and Olivia Garnett.

The edifice of the old church underwent many changes such as: lowering the ceilings; modern light fixtures; paneling of the sanctuary; bricking; and the construction of a kitchen and fellowship hall. Sanctuary pews, a communion table, and new pulpit furniture were purchased to enhance the decor of the church. These ventures of improvement were all completed under the leadership of the Reverend Aaron Barron.

Reverend Barron served as pastor for 27 consecutive years. He was a faithful and dynamic minister of the Gospel. During his administration, many souls realized the need for peace in their lives—that peace that surpassed all understanding—and accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Reverend Aaron Barron exchanged mortality for immortality and entered unto eternity in October 1983, while serving as pastor of Lebanon.

In January 1984, the Reverend Melvin B. Lewis accepted the call and served as pastor until 1987. Under the leadership of Reverend Lewis, a pastor's study was constructed, central heat and air conditioning was installed, and an organ was purchased for the sanctuary.

In June 1987, the Reverend J.W. Redmond accepted the call to serve as pastor of Lebanon. The church was blessed with many members, an Inspirational Choir, and Evangelist Quinzola McKennie.

Brothers: Coy Henderson; Leslie McKennie; Charlie Wright; Larry McKennie; and Paul Gilmore were installed as deacons. Installed on the Mothers Board were Sisters: Ola Mae Bailey, Priscilla Anderson, Grace Kimbrough, Rose Gibson, and as Deaconess were Sisters: Minnie McKennie, Sharon Wright, and Annie Gilmore.

Under the leadership of Reverend Redmond, a new roof was installed on the church, the choir stand was elevated and carpeted, floral arrangements and doors were added to the sanctuary. Following the leadership of the pastor, the Lebanon Inspirational Choir dedicated to the church some choir robes, and added mirrors and double doors to the sanctuary, remodeled and refurbished the pastor's study. The Friar and Montgomery families dedicated chandeliers to enhance the entrance of the church.

Reverend Redmond exchanged mortality for immortality and entered unto eternity in Janu-

ary 2000, while serving as pastor of Lebanon Church.

After the death of Reverend Redmond, the Reverend Walter Eskridge, Jr. accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church in October 2000.

Under the leadership of Reverend Eskridge, the church has been blessed with many new members and rededications. A new church building was erected on land given to the church by Sis. Earsalean McClain's family, and the doors were opened for the first service on July 4, 2004; new choir robes were purchased for LSC, LIC, and LYC; a television and VCR were purchased through the aid of the Home Mission Society; Discipleship and New Members classes were started; the Fellowship Hall has been named the Earsalean McClain Fellowship Hall in memory of Sis. Earsalean McClain; the Educational Wing has been named the Martha Ross Benson Educational Wing in memory of Sis. Martha Ross Benson; each classroom has been named in memory of: Class No. 1—Deacon Samuel Friar; Class No. 2—Mother Elmira Horton; Class No. 3—Mother Lillie Waddell; Nursery—Mothers Callie McKennie and Roberta Blake; Choir Room—Sister Levirda Dixon and Bro. Eric Friar; and the Business Office in honor of Deacon Jessie Harmon; and the church is growing through his ministry. A new roof "The Red Top" was installed on the church. On June 7, 2015 Bro. Andrew Lee Brown was crowned as Deacon.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church's current Deacons and Trustees Board members are Brothers: Jessie Harmon; Coy Henderson; Lawrence McKennie; Andrew Brown; and Sisters: Lula Friar; Lillie Benson Green and Earline Wright Hart.

The present Mothers Board members are Sisters: Ollie Harmon and Deaconess, Sister Annie Gilmore.

Through these many years of service to God and mankind, the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church has survived many trials and tribulations, but are determined that forces of evil will not hinder them nor separate them from the love of God.

The torch carried by the pioneer members of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church, cast rays of light across their pathway. This light gives the church hope of a brighter future for the church. Those following will raise that torch high and keep the light burning bright. They will trim their lamps, put on the whole armor of God, and continue to hold up the blood stained banner.

It is with this same spirit as soldiers going forth to war, accented with Christian love, devotion and dedication to the cause of the Kingdom, which the history of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church continues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING GILFIELD MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gilfield M.B. Church in Doddsville, Mississippi. The church was founded and built by slaves on the banks on the Sunflower River located on the plantation of United States Senator James O. Eastland in 1894.

The history of the church spans 122 years with records showing three structures as its home, each with its own fascinating and remarkable journey. Early records of the church were recalled and passed down by word of mouth from slaves down to the members of the church who were also relatives. The earliest written record of the church was around the 1980s. Many of the elders and other members were still attending the church, so Ms. Hattie Jordan, a member of the church, volunteered to be the church historian and keeper of the records. She gathered documents, recorded oral stories, researched "leads" of where she could get more information or someone who could corroborate the findings. One source of information she relied on were two cornerstones located on the existing churchfront in Doddsville. One of the cornerstones was once the original place of the church in 1894, and transferred thereafter to structures one and two.

In 1894 the location of the first church was strategically planned to exist near water. It is believed but not recorded that the location was chosen because the river could be used to secretly baptize members—a practice not openly approved of by plantation owners. Ms. Jordan told the story of how she was baptized in the Sunflower River behind Gilfield M.B. Church in 1953 by Rev. McGee. Gilfield M.B. Church was allowed to exist only because Senator Eastland gave the slaves his approval.

The first pastors of Gilfield M.B. Church at its initial location were: Rev. C.C. Edwards, Rev. Hester, Rev. Hobbs, and Rev. Mose Watson. No written records were kept by slaves. The only source for handing down information was by word of mouth to the younger generation.

The second Gilfield M.B. Church was built a mile down from the first site on the banks of the Sunflower River on the Eastland Plantation. Rev. Mose Watson was the pastor. He continued to lead the church as he did while pastoring at the first location. After Rev. Watson, the church installed Rev. Issac as the new pastor until his death in 1947. Following Rev. Issac the church was led by Rev. Latson from 1947 to 1952. Rev. Latson left the church to move to Chicago, IL. Immediately afterwards, Rev. McGee became the pastor in 1952 but separated from the church in 1953. There was a short lapse in pastors because Rev. Fleming did not begin pastoring the church until 1954. Records indicate he was the last pastor of the second structure listed as the home of Gilfield M.B. Church.

Rev. Fleming moved with the church to their third home beside the site of the second home, on the banks of the Sunflower River located on the Eastland Plantation. The sanc-

tuary section of the second site was demolished, leaving the backside section to be used for church gatherings, which still stands today. The pastors of the third site location in order of leadership were: Rev. Fleming, Rev. John H. Williams, Rev. Clarence Tolbert, and the current pastor is Rev. Theatry Winters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Gilfield M.B. Church of Doddsville, MS located in Sunflower County inside of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

HONORING SYKES CHAPEL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Lambert, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was founded in the 1900s by the share cropping plantation families: the Sykes family, the Noble family, the Cox family, and the McCray family. For years, there was no building for worship service. Therefore, the families went from house to house worshipping and praising God. The plantation was first-owned by Mr. Yeager who later gave it to his relative, Mr. E. H. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a God-fearing man who would often stand in the back of worship service.

The Sykes family was the oldest and first family on the plantation. Therefore, the families gathered together and sold cakes to raise a little money. Afterwards, they asked Mr. Anderson to allow them to have a spot to build a church. Mr. Anderson allowed them to build a one-room shot gun building and allowed the men on the plantation to provide the labor. There was one wood heater and no air, but the families continued to praise God.

The members along with Mr. Anderson agreed to name the church Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Minister Richardson was the first pastor selected. He served for a while, and later God called him home. In addition to the church, Mr. Anderson provided them with burial ground, and they called it the Sykes Chapel Cemetery. Some of the members are actually buried there.

Later, the church was destroyed twice—first by storm and later by fire. With the assistance of Mr. Anderson and loyal families, the church was rebuilt twice. After rebuilding the church, they had worship service once a month. The church has been under the leadership of several pastors: Rev. Harry Benimon, Rev. Rollie Lee, Rev. Arthur Lee, Rev. Lloyd Johnson, and Rev. Robert Griffin.

Pastor Lloyd Johnson enjoyed praising God. He encouraged members to attend church every Sunday, and the membership increased. He later had a vision to build a larger sanctuary. In the process of preparing to build a larger church, no deed was found. Several deacons, including Deacon Albert Emerson, Deacon James Lee McCray, Deacon Ollie McCray, and Deacon Eddie Moore went to Mr. Anderson to inquire about the deed, and he sold the land to Sykes Chapel Missionary

Baptist Church for \$1.00. In addition to the new sanctuary, a bus and van were purchased; outreach ministries and abstinence programs were started. Pastor Johnson served as pastor for seventeen years, until God called him home.

God sent Pastor Robert Griffin, who served for approximately four years. Under his leadership, the church continued to praise God. The youth ministry flourished, and the church was paid off in one and a half years.

Currently, Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is under the leadership of Pastor Derell Wiley. He believes that we can truly move mountains through prayer and faith. His established mission for Sykes Chapel is: "Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints, and Evangelizing the Sinner." In his vision, souls are saved, minds are renewed, hearts are cleansed, and members are rejuvenated. He emphasizes that the atmosphere will be shifted and a change will occur when we work together and embrace others with love, for God is love.

They are a little country church, but they serve an awesome God, who is able to transform minds, spirits, and lives. Under Pastor Wiley's leadership, they are growing physically and spiritually—studying and standing on the word of God. The following ministries have been started: Youth Ministry, Jail Ministry and Counseling, and the Convalescent Home Ministry.

By faith, they are discovering their purposes and trusting God for His promises. As God leads and guides, the future ministries will be developed: family ministries, couple ministries, and single ministries, as we become spiritually and physically prepared for God's kingdom. By faith, mountains are being moved, sinners are seeking Christ, and Christians are being restored.

The Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, believes that the greatest privilege and responsibility is to create disciples for Christ. The members are therefore committed to fulfilling their purpose through worship, fellowship, ministry, and Christian education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for its dedication to serving our great community and country.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES NEWTON
AS HE IS HONORED BY THE
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE
NORTHTOWNS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Superintendent Dr. James Newton, who is being honored by the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns, also known as the Newman Club, with an award.

Dr. Newton spent 31 years working in public education; 19 of those were in the City of Tonawanda. He began his career as junior high principal in 1998. He was an integral part in passing the largest capital project in the history of the district. The project was over 25 million dollars in improvements to fund a new library media center and gymnasium, among other upgrades.

In 2009, he was appointed to middle/high school principal and in 2013 became the superintendent. Dr. Newton has dedicated his career in public education to creating a positive school environment, increasing the graduation rate, and allowing students to excel.

Dr. Newton serves his community outside of his job with a membership in the Exchange Club, Kiwanis Club, and as a Board member for the Northtowns Boys and Girls Club. He is also a dedicated husband to his wife Lisa, with whom he has a beloved daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the distinguished career of Dr. Newton as he retires from his position as superintendent. It is with great pride that I stand to recognize the leadership and accomplishments of Dr. James Newton and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING WANDERERS HOME
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wanderers Home Missionary Baptist Church, a remarkable house of worship in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

The Wanderers Home Missionary Baptist Church has a rich history, which is a legend within itself. At the turn of the twentieth century, a group of Christian leaders and laymen, some early settlers and others who migrated to the town of Mound Bayou, were led by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to come together to organize a church in the year of 1908. Some acquired land and others share-cropped farms outside of the town limit. There was no church in the near vicinity of their homes, and means of transportation was limited. There had been a yearning for a place to fellowship and worship, and to praise and give thanks unto the Almighty God for His goodness. Coming together in the home of early settlers Mr. and Mrs. Wash and Kerri Mosley, led to fruitful discussions and plans to lay the foundation for what was to become their own place of worship, the Wanderers Home Missionary Baptist Church.

Initially, the church was located on the north side of Township Road, but later relocated to the south side of the road where they purchased land and built a church. The land was sold and later rebuilt back on the north side, its present location.

The late Reverend W.M. Wilson was named the first pastor and began with a small group of faithful members under the most humble circumstances and with lots of faith in God. As the town of Mound Bayou became a major tourist attraction, with the growing population and industrial development, the membership at Wanderers Home grew rapidly.

The pulpit has been graced with some of the most remarkable preachers and ministers. The late Reverend Thornton, Reverend H.H. Humes, Reverend W.M. Stampley, Reverend W.M. Walden, Reverend Richardson, Reverend Zack Pittman, Reverend T.F. Hammond, Reverend C.H. Moreland, (who served as pastor for twenty-six years), Reverend Andrew Hawkins and Reverend Willie J. Jackson (the current pastor), was called as the leader of the congregation in 1991.

Under the leadership of Pastor Moreland, a fellowship hall was added to the church as the need for a place to extend their fellowship beyond the sanctuary. Under the leadership of Pastor Jackson, many accomplishments have taken place: Wanderers Home became the first church in Mound Bayou to have full-time worship services; incorporated 4th Sunday Broadcast Worship Service; started weekly bible class for adults and youths; and organized and increased Youth ministry activities.

The sanctuary was renovated with stained glass windows and new pews. Due to growth in membership the church purchased a van to transport elderly and youth parishioners.

Over the years, the church has reached beyond its walls to support the community, families, other communities throughout Bolivar and surrounding counties through its Missionary Ministry, as well as its Youth and Adult ministries.

Wanderers Home supported and been actively involved as a member of the Bolivar County Baptist Association since its organization, as well as a member of the State and National Congress of Christian Education. Many of its members have and continue to serve in leadership roles as leaders, teachers, and auxiliary heads in the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wanderers Home Missionary Baptist Church for their spiritual enhancements in Mound Bayou, the surrounding communities and the State of Mississippi.

HONORING SWEET CANAAN
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic church, Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ. It has shown what can be done through the years of dedication of a progressive church.

The historic Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ is the second oldest Church of God in Christ in the World and is located at 1946 Bellbottom Road in Lexington, MS 39095.

"The first church added to the number professing sanctification was located in Carroll (Holmes) County sixteen or seventeen miles north of Lexington, Mississippi." This statement is from the book: "Fifty Years Achievement from 1906–1956 A PERIOD IN HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST." The Editorial note stated: The Historic Sweet Canaan church is located near the Carroll County line, but it is actually in northern Holmes County just south of Carroll County.

Sweet Canaan began as a little prayer mission in a wayside house of Professor Allen Taylor. Allen Taylor's property was located on Bell Bottom Road which is located about ten to fifteen miles north of Lexington. During those days Elder Morgan Williams was in charge of the small congregation. In the year 1909, the prayer mission decided to organize itself and the name Sweet Canaan was chosen. Prior to selecting the name Sweet Canaan, the church was known as the "Colored Sanctified Church." It was through continuous fervent prayer that other community people soon joined the early saints.

The present site of Sweet Canaan was once the spot where cattle of Professor Taylor grazed. Professor Taylor donated the land to the church for the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00); a legal formality.

Although the small congregation did not have seats, the community was blessed. Mr. Isaac Randle was given a few dollars to bring some sweet gum logs to be used as seats in the prayer mission. Recognizing the small congregation's perseverance, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, Founder of the Church Of God In Christ, appointed Elder Jeffery A. Lewis as their first pastor. He was also appointed the first Overseer of the State of Mississippi. At that time, the whole state was under one jurisdiction.

Sweet Canaan is blessed to have had its first three pastors to serve as state overseers; they were Elder Jeffery Lewis, Elder Stephen Rice, and Elder James Henderson. Sweet Canaan is also blessed to have had the jurisdictional supervisor of women for northern Mississippi, Mother Sarah Ann Braggs Gaston, as a member during her youth. Bishop Timothy Titus, Prelate of Northern Mississippi Jurisdiction, preached at Historic Sweet Canaan during his early years as a young preacher. The late Bishop Louis Henry Ford, former Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, often talked about his experience when he preached at Sweet Canaan, when he was a child and a student at Saint Academy and College in Lexington.

The first State Holy Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ was held at Historic Sweet Canaan.

Former Pastors of Sweet Canaan were: Elder J.A. Lewis, Elder Stephen Rice, Elder Fred Winans, Elder W.B. Hedges, Elder D.R. Curry, Elder James Lee, Elder James Henderson, Elder D. Pitchford, Elder J.L. Pleas, Superintendent Fred Wade, and currently Elder Dr. Percy Washington, Sr.

The first deacons of Sweet Canaan were Brother Phillip Blake, Brother Louis Brooks and Brother Charlie Randle. Mother Abbie Banks was the church mother.

Some of the early saints of Sweet Canaan were: Professor Allen Taylor, Brother Louis Brooks, Brother Willis Randle, Brother Frank Blake, Brother Jessie Banks, Brother Frank Hoover, Brother Ben Simmons, Mother Sara Booker, Mother Ina Jenkins, Mother Ida Wilson, Mother Abbie Banks, Mother Ella Taylor, Mother Emma Brooks, and Deacon Payton Smith.

The present pastor, Elder Dr. Percy Louis Washington, was appointed to serve on May 18, 2003 by Bishop T.T. Scott. Pastor Washington and his lovely wife, Glenda, have five sons and nine grandchildren.

He and the Sweet Canaan congregation have worked hard together to preserve the history of Sweet Canaan by enclosing the whole building inside the Dr. Tyree and Mary Carr Multipurpose Building. The beautiful Carr Multipurpose Building houses not only the entire historic church, but it houses the fellowship hall, residential quarters, office, and classroom space.

On July 18, 2013, Bishop Charles Edward Blake, the Pastor of West Angeles Cathedral in Los Angeles, California, and the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., visited Historic Sweet Canaan. They were joined at Sweet Canaan by General Board Members, Bishop Brandon Porter of Memphis,

Tennessee, and Bishop Wooten of St. Louis, Missouri. Also joining Bishop Blake were several other bishops and more than half of the Trustee Board of the Church of God in Christ.

Pastor Washington has said many times, "When I went to Sweet Canaan, on my way to the church I saw many cows. When I got to the church, I saw a honey bee hive in the back of the church. I knew I was in the right place. For I was in the Land of Milk and Honey—in the land of Canaan—Sweet Canaan."

Sweet Canaan often times invites many to praise and worship with them every Sunday. Their Prayer service begins at 9:00 a.m., Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday Worship Service starts at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ.

HONORING JAYLIN RODGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet COL Jaylin Rodgers of Lanier High School, recipient of the 2016 Jackson Public Schools Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet of the Year.

Cadet COL Rodgers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Tamarrus Rodgers, serves as the Battalion Commander for Lanier's 1st Battalion Mighty Bulldogs. He holds a 3.33 GPA and has earned a score of 25 on the ACT. He has taken advanced level courses throughout high school, such as Accelerated English I and II, Accelerated Geometry, and Advanced Placement U.S. History.

A member of the school's National Honor Society, Cadet COL Rodgers is also the recipient of JROTC's Scholastic Excellence Award and was a Leadership Education and Training, Level One top cadet.

Cadet COL Rodgers served on Lanier High School's Battalion staff for three years as the Human Resources Officer, Executive Officer, and now the Battalion Commander. Cadet Rodgers has attended the LeaderSTATE Leadership and STEM Camp and Boys State at Mississippi State University and the Junior Cadet Leadership Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His plans are to attend Jackson State University, major in Electrical Engineering, and attain a commission into the Army as a second lieutenant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet COL Jaylin Rodgers.

HONORING MR. JAMES MALLETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community servant, Mr. James Mallett. Mr. Mallett has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

James Mallett was born in the Carter community to Edward and Ethel Mallett. James' family lived on a plantation called Clark and Cato. He grew up in a small church called Mt. Salem. He learned many life lessons from working on the family farm.

James graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1983. James attended Jackson State University, but returned home to take a job with Yazoo Industries, where he remained for ten years.

In 1990 Chief BJ Wright offered James a job at the Yazoo City Fire Department. Through the years, James also had the opportunity to work under Charles Moore, Mike Woodard, Roy Wilson and Terry Harber.

James credits his wife, Alma, for supporting him as he worked for the Yazoo City Fire Department for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. James Mallett for his dedication and loyalty to Yazoo City.

HONORING RICK OATES AS HE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE CITY OF TONAWANDA COMMON COUNCIL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career and accomplishments of a distinguished public servant, Richard Oates, as he is recognized by the City of Tonawanda Common Council. Officer Oates is a fire police officer and Associate Chaplain of the Tonawanda Fire Department, as well as the Exchange Club Fire Fighter of the Year Recipient of 2017.

Officer Oates entered the Volunteer Division of the Tonawanda Fire Department in 2007 and received his New York State Peace Officer status. He has also been an integral member of the Chaplain Corps, made up of lay chaplains who serve as both first responders and chaplains. This position shows Officer Oates' commitment to helping people of his community.

Officer Oates has been critically helpful in many emergency situations, not just as a responder but as a community asset to those affected by the emergency. There are countless stories of Officer Oates going beyond the call of duty to serve. One such story is when Officer Oates comforted the daughter of a victim receiving CPR by first responders.

An extremely devoted citizen, Officer Oates is dedicated to giving back to his community past his volunteer service. Oates leads the organization of regular Red Cross Blood Drives at the fire hall, even starting the bi-monthly free meals for donors to incentivize community members to give. Recently, he has organized two very successful blood drives in memory of Jed Woomer, a local cancer victim.

Beyond his service, Oates is a very dedicated husband, father, and son. He is married to Rhoda Oates and they have seven children together: Annabeth, Christa Mae, Rebecca, Charlotte, Jenna, Andrew, and the newest addition, Louie. He is also very committed to his faith and lives his life in a devoted manner through his work.

Mr. Speaker, I honor a hard-working, tireless public servant who has spent his life helping the people of Tonawanda. The Tonawanda community and I are thankful for Officer Oates' many years of service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIE "SATELLITE" TOTTEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie Totten, who is a former professional football player and current college football coach. Totten played his high school football at J.Z. George High School in North Carrollton, Mississippi. Totten was a four-year starter quarterback at Mississippi Valley State University from 1981 to 1985. Totten set more than 50 Division I-AA passing records.

The Delta Devils averaged 59 points a game during the 1984 season, with Totten throwing for a record 58 touchdowns and leading the Delta Devils to the Division I-AA playoffs in 1984. Archie Cooley, who was the head coach at MVSU from 1980 to 1986, was the architect of the pass-oriented offense that utilized the skills of Totten.

Totten played professionally in the Canadian Football League (CFL) with the BC Lions (and Toronto Argonauts before moving on to the National Football League (NFL), as a replacement player for the Buffalo Bills during the strike-shortened 1987 NFL season. Totten played in the Arena Football League for the Chicago Bruisers, Pittsburgh Gladiators and the New Orleans Night.

Totten earned his master's degree at Grambling State University, and was a graduate assistant on the coaching staff for head football coach Eddie Robinson. Totten returned to his alma mater and served as quarterbacks coach and running back coach during the 1990s before moving on to coach at the high school level for two years. He returned to the MVSU coaching staff in 2000, and was elevated to head coach in 2001. Totten brought pride back to Mississippi Valley State, as he led the Delta Devils to back-to-back winning seasons in 2005 and 2006. Totten resigned after the 2009 season, and took an administrative position at MVSU in 2010. In 2013, Totten became quarterbacks coach at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia for one season before accepting the quarterback coaching position at Alabama A&M University under new head football coach James Spady.

Totten is one of a few college football coaches ever to coach in a stadium named after him. The Delta Devils football team plays in Rice-Totten Field, named for Totten and wide receiver Jerry Rice. He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. Totten is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Willie "Satellite" Totten, a professor football player and educator, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

HONORING DONESHIA JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Doneshia Johnson.

Ms. Johnson is a Leland High School graduate from Leland, Mississippi whose outstanding academic performance resulted in her being recognized on both her Superintendent's and Principal's List for high achievers. After graduating, Ms. Johnson began her academic career at Jackson State University in the fall of 2016, where she currently studies Human Resources and Mass Communications.

Ms. Johnson is a member of the following organizations: DECA, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, MS Tech Masters, and is a MS Scholar. She also volunteers for the Habitat for Humanity, and is a loyal blood donor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Doneshia Johnson for her

dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING NEW TOWN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Town Missionary Baptist Church in Charleston, MS inside of Tallahatchie County.

New Town Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1805. Like so many Black rural churches the history of New Town Missionary Baptist Church was passed down by word of mouth from members who were slaves. The church was built under the guidance of Spring Hill Baptist Church which was an all-white congregation. However, New Town Missionary Baptist Church, an all-black congregation, was pastored by a white minister, Rev. Porter, until the church was successful in finding a Black minister who could lead. The Rev. Hampton Clemmons was the first Black pastor of the church.

The first building was a one room structure located where the Old New Town Cemetery is now. The following ministers have served as pastor of the church: Rev. Matthew Black, Rev. Neison Harris, Rev. William West, Rev. Willie Penn, Rev. Charlie Johnson, Rev. William Booker, Rev. P.R. Gipson, Rev. J.T. Brown, Rev. H.C. Jones, Rev. L.J. Jordan, Rev. R.S. Phamphlet, Rev. David B. Curry, and Rev. Derrick Williams, Sr. Some of the deacon members of the church were: Bro. James H. Reed, Bro. Burel Reed, Bro. James H. Bellamy, Bro. Robert E. Pollard, Bro. Nathan Metcalf, Bro. Richard Gray, Bro. Ben Thompson, Bro. Green Hudson, Bro. James Bellamy, Jr., Bro. Charlie Simmons, Bro. B.L. Reed, Bro. John H. Gray, Bro. Barney Willis, Bro. N.A. Bocclair, Bro. Charlie Anderson, Bro. Jessie Terry, Bro. Minon Reed, Bro. S.N. Drake, Bro. Grafton Gray, Bro. John Winford, Bro. George Fair, Bro. James Frost, Bro. Roberson Jennings, Bro. Eckles Simmons, Bro. Frank Diltz, and Bro. Erwin Maynew.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the New Town Missionary Baptist Church in Charleston, MS in Tallahatchie County inside of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.