

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. MARKESSA V.
HUGHES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Markessa V. Hughes, a distinguished scholar, urban planner, and native of Clinton, Mississippi.

A proud graduate of Clinton High School, Dr. Hughes earned a Bachelor's of Social Work from Jackson State University, a Master's of Policy and Administration from Belhaven University, and a Doctor of Philos-

ophy in Urban Planning with a concentration in Urban Design. She credits her family's love and prayers for the foundation of her success.

With over fifteen years of professional experience, Dr. Hughes is a recognized expert in strategic planning, policy research, database design, team leadership, and coaching. Her work has helped strengthen communities, revitalize urban spaces, and improve quality of life across Mississippi and beyond.

As an Urban Design Planner, she emphasizes the importance of spatial qualities, public open spaces, and parks in promoting community health and well-being. Currently, Dr. Hughes serves as Project Coordinator and Post-Doctoral Researcher in the Department of Urban Planning at Jackson State University

(JSU). Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Luckett and in partnership with Princeton University, she is advancing the newly funded project to enhance and refine the historic Margaret Walker Center.

A proud JSU alumna, Dr. Hughes continues to contribute to scholarship, community empowerment, and the preservation of culturally significant spaces. Her ongoing research and forthcoming publications reflect her dedication to equity, urban planning, and the betterment of communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me to celebrate Dr. Markessa V. Hughes for her exceptional accomplishments and enduring impact on our state and Nation.

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