

IN HONOR OF JIM JONTZ

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Congressman James Prather "Jim" Jontz, who passed away on April 14, 2007 after a long battle with colon cancer. Jim dedicated his life to public service and environmental protection.

In 1974, at the age of 22, he was one of the youngest people ever to be elected to the Indiana General Assembly. After 10 years in the General Assembly and 2 in the Indiana Senate, Jontz ran for the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 5th District. He went on to serve three terms in the House where he fought for government accountability and preservation of the environment. After leaving Congress, Jontz moved to Oregon where he continued his advocacy for environmental causes.

Jim Jontz was the kind of man that got into politics for the right reason: he saw a problem in his community and decided he could make a difference. He will be remembered for his strong conviction, his populist spirit, and his unwavering commitment to protecting the environment. I want to send my condolences to his family. He was a great public servant to the State of Indiana and our Nation.

## REVEREND DOCTOR WILLIE RAY DAVIS FOR HIS INSTALLATION AS PASTOR OF PROGRESSIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Willie Ray Davis on his installation as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church. On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to extend to him my warmest congratulations on the commemoration of his Official Installation as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church. As former pastor of Greater St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, his presence in Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States, and before the enthusiastic new members of the Progressive Baptist Church assembled today, serves as a testimony of his renowned commitment to excellence and eminence as one of Houston's foremost religious and community figures.

How do you describe a man who is known as a pastor, spiritual leader, and extraordinary community leader? You can do so by simply calling him Pastor Willie Ray Davis. Pastor Davis's commitment to serving his community is exemplified by the many committees that he is involved in and his ability to put the needs of others before his own. Consequently, I would like to join his family, friends and church members in congratulating him on your Installation as Pastor of the Progressive Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Houston and Greater St. Paul's Baptist Church has lost one of its beloved treasures, but I am confident that Pastor Willie Ray Davis

through some of the most influential events of the twentieth century.

I applaud the students of Charles R. Drew Middle School who have participated in this program, as well as their advisor Mr. Keith George, for their commitment to learning and service. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's attention to these accomplished individuals today.

**TRIBUTE TO COACH FISHER DEBERRY****HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fisher DeBerry, former head coach of the United States Air Force Academy football team. During his twenty three years as head coach at the Academy, Mr. DeBerry led seventeen teams to winning seasons and twelve to bowl games; his career record of 169–107–1 is the best in Academy history. Off the field, Mr. DeBerry has made tremendous contributions to his community through the Fisher DeBerry Foundation, an organization dedicated supporting single mothers and their children by providing mentoring and after school programs and funding academic scholarships.

A high school and college athlete, Mr. DeBerry began his coaching career in 1969 as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 1971 he joined the coaching staff at Appalachian State. As a result of his success at these two institutions, Mr. DeBerry was hired as offensive coordinator and quarterback coach by the Air Force Academy in 1980 and moved on to the head coach position four years later. Dominating the Commander in Chiefs Trophy Series since its inception in 1972, Mr. DeBerry holds, against the Naval and Military Academies, a combined record of 34–8 and is the winningest coach in the history of the service academies.

Mr. DeBerry, a member of the South Carolina and Colorado Springs Sports Halls of Fame, holds numerous other awards and distinctions including three-time WAC Coach of the Year, the 1985 Paul "Bear" Bryant award as NCAA College Football Coach of the Year and the 2001 State Farm Coach of Distinction.

A man of deep Christian faith and profound humility, Mr. DeBerry has participated in fund-raising efforts for worthy causes including March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, and the American Heart Association. I wish to recognize Mr. DeBerry today not only for his impressive coaching career which has brought tremendous pride to the Air Force Academy and Colorado Springs, but also for his strength of character and community service.

**A TRIBUTE TO ODELLE WHITEHEAD BARNES****HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute

to Mrs. Odelle Whitehead Barnes, a native and longtime resident of Wilson, North Carolina. This wonderful individual is a family friend and a former teacher at my alma mater, The Charles H. Darden High School. For many years, Mrs. Barnes dedicated her life to educating and serving the people of Wilson, North Carolina. She is being honored this week upon her designation as a Diamond Soror in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and for her years of service to the community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Barnes committed 39 years of her life as both a teacher and speech therapist, and many more as a beacon of positive light to the community. She should be lauded even greater for her success in overcoming the racial and gender prejudices of her time. Mrs. Odelle Barnes was born in Wilson, North Carolina, as one of 12 children to Henry and Victoria Whitehead. She faced numerous challenges growing up in the Jim Crow South during the Depression, but excelled nonetheless, graduating from high school at age 16. Mrs. Barnes attended North Carolina College at Durham, today North Carolina Central University, and graduated with high honors in both English and French. Although the college environment during the Depression was unfriendly, nevertheless she persevered with the help of her family, the determination of her own character and her faith in Almighty God.

Mrs. Barnes taught for many years at both Elm City Elementary and Darden High School, before earning her Masters in Speech Therapy with the University of Michigan. In a time when integration still ruled North Carolina, Mrs. Barnes provided an invaluable service to the African-American community of Wilson County with her work as a Speech Therapist in the school system. In 1977, Darden High School named her "Alumna of the Year," and in 1981 she was honored by the Wilson Human Relations Commission with its "Citizen Award."

Madam Speaker, Odelle Whitehead Barnes is very proud of her distinction of being "Charter Member" of two chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Alpha Chi Chapter in 1932 and of the Gamma Beta Omega Chapter in 1940. She is now a Diamond Soror and has spent 75 years as an AKA member. Mrs. Barnes is a lifelong member of the Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served as the president of the Missionary Circle and co-founder of the Fellowship Club, and has twice been named church "Woman of the Year." Additionally, she served as board member for the Department of Social Services, the Wilson Historic Properties Commission, and Wilson County Mental Health Board. She volunteered at the Wilson Crisis Center, the Hospital Visitation Program and the Wilson County Board of Elections.

Mrs. Barnes, who was married to Edward Morrison Barnes for 65 years, presently resides in Detroit, Michigan, with her daughter, Carolyn, her two grandsons and five great-grandchildren. Madame Speaker, in honor and recognition of Mrs. Odelle Whitehead Barnes' diligent service as an educator, therapist, and leader, I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

will exhibit the same profound preeminence that he exhibited in Houston in Illinois to the members of the Progressive Baptist Church. My wish is that on this momentous occasion, Pastor Davis will look at what a blessing his

life has been to others and that he will continue on with his good work blessing his community, congregation, family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pastor Willie Ray Davis as he celebrates this wonderful occasion with his family, church

members and friends. He has been a pillar of faith in his community and I extend my heartfelt wishes and prayers for a wonderful tenure as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church.