

HONORING MS. HATTIE R. JORDAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Hattie R. Jordan, the daughter of slaves who was reared on various plantations and the last one being owned by the late State of Mississippi Senator James O. Eastland. Her goal was not continue to chop and pick cotton for the rest of her life. Her goal was to get herself and her family off the plantation for a better way of life. Seven months after receiving her degree in Social Studies from Mississippi Valley State University she was able to build a house in Ruleville, Mississippi, and moved her surviving relatives, her father and sister from the plantation.

Ms. Jordan's dedication to other blacks in the Mississippi Delta to have a better life propelled her to become the first black educator to work at Rosedale High School in Rosedale, Mississippi, and be involved in the Civil Rights Movement. She joined the NAACP where she still has membership. She entered political office in 1993 as an Alderwoman for the City of Ruleville and served four terms ending in 2009.

She was and is instrumental in keeping the legacy of Ms. Fannie Lou Hamer alive. Ms. Jordan raised \$115,000 to construct the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Garden. Her commitment to her community has developed into sponsoring the Ruleville Scholarship fundraiser, Ruleville Employees, and Senior Citizen's Dinner, organizing Annual Back-to-School Rallies, Annual Christmas give-away for the youth of Ruleville, sponsoring Student Council Debating Teams, Senior Class sponsor, and volunteering with numerous community organizations which enhance citizens' lives.

Ms. Jordan lives by the motto: "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthen me".

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Hattie Jordan's dedication to education and the civil rights of others. Her life has touched the lives of people both young and old.

HONORING JONAS D. BUFF FOR HIS SERVICE TO McDOWELL COUNTY

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community leader, Jonas D. Buff. For ten years Mr. Buff served on the Board of Commissioners for McDowell County while also serving as its chairman in 1994. His dedication and commitment have brought growth and progress to McDowell County.

Mr. Buffs work to strengthen his county has included securing the location and grants to oversee the purchase of the McDowell County Industrial Park which is now home to three industries that are currently providing jobs to residents and economic development to the area. Mr. Buff also sought to recruit the State Prison facility to the county which now employs close to 400 individuals.

A strong proponent for the Nebo community owning its own water supply, Mr. Buff's advocacy helped bring about the "Nebo Community Water System." Water lines and waste management are now extended to include a greater area, servicing more residents and laying a foundation for future growth.

In addition to aiding in the county's infrastructure growth, Mr. Buff was a strong supporter of volunteer and emergency services. During his tenure, the county implemented E-911 and Emergency Medical Dispatch and two EMS Base Stations were constructed.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the dedication that Mr. Buff has demonstrated in creating positive change for his county. His legacy highlights the lasting impact each hardworking person can impart to their community.

HONORING JOAN RICHARDSON, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

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Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Richardson a long-time community activist in the Mississippi Delta, one of America's poorest regions, who has given tirelessly and selflessly to improving the lives of many who are in greatest need.

She lifts up her community not only through her generous volunteerism but through her business. Her grant writing and small-business assistance company has raised hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and government contracts to benefit the Delta region. Her company, Richardson's Writing Service in Darling, Miss., has for 20 years helped community, faith-based and other nonprofit organizations obtain grants for programs that benefit children, the elderly and others in need. She knows economic development is essential to improving life in Quitman County, where she lives, and the rest of the Delta, and works with small businesses to develop business plans and win contracts to boost the region's economy.

She is the publisher of By U Magazine, a magazine that highlights the good deeds of people in the Delta and calls on them to help their neighbors who are in need. She serves on the board of Delta Missions Outreach Ministries. She dismisses praise about her community service, saying she is only answering God's call and whatever contributions she makes is through Him.

She lives in Sledge, Miss., with her husband, Victor a GED instructor at Northwest Community College and in the Quitman County School District. Her daughter, Latricia, teaches fifth grade in the school district. She has four grandchildren: Imani, Anaiah, Akeria, and India, a goddaughter, Monisha Wade and godson, Gerard Burt.

Mrs. Richardson exemplifies how people in the Delta are building up their communities to improve life for everyone, especially those who need an extra lift up.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF SISTER ELLEN LEDDY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sr. Ellen Leddy of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Below is a brief biography of Sr. Leddy and a history of her accomplishments.

Sr. Ellen Leddy, the historian of the Sisters of Providence Congregation, is the daughter of the late Edmund and Margaret (Golden) Leddy. She entered the SPs from Harvard, MA. Formerly Sister Marie de Lourdes, she served as the SPs' historical librarian in Horan Library at Providence Mother House, Holyoke, from 1982 until its closure in 1999. She was also an invaluable consultant for *Seeds of Hope: The History of the Sisters of Providence*, published in 1999.

She first ministered for 22 years as a registered medical technologist in laboratories at Mercy Hospital, Springfield, Providence Hospital, Holyoke, and St. Luke's Hospital, Pittsfield. She then served as local superior for Sisters attending Boston College and followed that service with nine years as director of formation for the Community's newest members.

She entered the social service and pastoral counseling fields in the late 1960s, first serving at the Municipal Home and Holyoke Day Nursery, and then at Mount Saint Vincent Nursing Home, all in Holyoke. Additional ministries included service as sacristan at Mount Saint Vincent Nursing Home, and both assistant coordinator and coordinator at Providence Mother House. She also served as a Minister of the Eucharist and Mount Saint Vincent Nursing Home and Blessed Sacrament Church, also in Holyoke.

Sister Ellen attended schools in Harvard, graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy in Brighton and attended Fitchburg Normal School. She holds a master of arts degree in religious education from Providence College in Rhode Island and a master of education and bachelor of science in education degrees from Boston College.

She is a former member of the Catholic Theology Society, the Society of Catholic College Teachers of Sacred Doctrine, the Social Workers of Nursing Homes and Hospitals Organization in Massachusetts, and Community Workers Association of Holyoke.

She is only the second Sister of Providence of record to reach her 80th Jubilee, and lives an active lifestyle at Providence Place in Holyoke.

HONORING ANNIE PEARL SPEARS NICHOLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Pearl Spears Nichols, a lifelong resident of Canton, Mississippi. Born November 20, 1944, Annie Pearl Spears Nichols attended school in the

Canton area and later received her Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Hinds Community College in 1972. Mrs. Nichols has spent a great majority of her lifetime actively participating in the Civil Rights struggle. She began her involvement in 1965 when she became an intricate voice in the Voter Education/Registration Movement in Canton. Many local mentors, such as the late Ms. Annie Devine, taught her pivotal information on organizing movements towards the integration of public facilities and schools. Her efforts were rewarded in the establishment of Freedom Schools and the successful organization of boycotts and civil rights demonstration in the area.

In 1968, Annie married Attorney John Andrews Nichols, who was Canton's first Black attorney and first Black to run for Mayor for the City of Canton. Mrs. Nichols gave birth to four (4) children: Andrea, April, Alexis, and Adam. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols both pursued positions in public office; unfortunately, they were both defeated. Despite much opposition from the whites in the community, she and her husband continued their quest for equality and civil rights by participating in the March to Washington, DC and voicing concerns for continued funding of the Head Start Program. Through her struggles, she was afforded the opportunity to work alongside legendary figures of the Civil Rights Era, including James Meredith and Fannie Lou Hamer.

Her community outreach expands to a number of civic organizations in which she is involved, such as Founder of the "Let's Talk Cancer" support group of Canton, commissioner of the Canton Housing Authority, President of the Eastside Neighborhood Watch Association, and a member of the Women for Progress. Mrs. Nichols has been honored with Excellence in Leadership Awards and continues to be a model for hard work and dedication in her community through volunteering with the Triple C and the Canton PTSA.

HONORING DR. REGINALD RODGES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

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Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life of Dr. Reginald Rodges who in 1997 was the youngest African American to graduate with a doctorate from Parker College of Chiropractic.

In 1998 he obtained his license to practice and opened the Mid-Delta Chiropractic Clinic. During that same year he was severely injured in an automobile accident where he sustained a broken neck and severe damage to his right hand and legs and underwent rehab for a year. He refused to give in to his disability and be a burden on society and in 1998 resumed practicing chiropractic.

In 2002 J&R Chiropractic was created to implement his innovative ideas and philosophies which laid the foundation for the opening of Chiro/Elite Natural Pain and Health Center. This facility specializes in three unique areas of service; herniated disc in the cervical and lumbar spine; fitness/gym; and nutritional weight loss center.

Dr. Rodges realized there was a void in the black community relative to fitness and weight loss in the Mississippi Delta. Through his inno-

vative health practices he has enhanced the health and lives of his patients, and the first in the Mississippi Delta to address issues with the morbidly obese and obese.

His facility caters to a diverse population with varied socio-economic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Reginald Rodges and his dedication to the Mississippi Delta citizens in his health endeavors. His career has touched and is touching the lives of people both youthful and aged.

H.R. 359, TO REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE DEFICIT BY TERMINATING TAXPAYER FINANCING OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND PARTY CONVENTIONS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of H.R. 359, House Republicans voted today to give corporations and other special interests even more power to influence America's elections. I strongly oppose this legislation and will continue working to restore transparency and balance to our country's broken campaign finance system.

H.R. 359 terminates the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, which was created in response to the campaign corruption exposed by the Watergate Scandal. The voluntary PEF allows taxpayers to set aside \$3.00 of their federal taxes so that eligible candidates spend less time fundraising from special interests. H.R. 359 eliminates an important option citizens now have to support fair federal elections and takes another, worrisome toward corporate control of U.S. elections.

Many non-partisan organizations strongly oppose H.R. 359 and are raising alarm about the consequences of its passage. The League of Women Voters said the Presidential Election Campaign Fund "has substantially reduced corruption and the appearance of corruption in the executive branch" since its creation, and "has given average citizens and small donors a critically important role to play in funding presidential campaigns and provided more meaningful choices to voters." Minnesotans agree. My home state has one of the most successful public campaign finance models in the nation, one that has provided real incentives toward limiting campaign spending. The bill before us today is a direct contradiction of Minnesota values, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

H.R. 359 is the second major assault on free and fair elections in the past year. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission declared corporations have the same free speech protections granted to individuals. I completely disagree with the Court's decision, but the result of this decision is now clear—the floodgates are open to waves of special interest money in federal elections. The few protections that existed in law have been removed. In response, Democrats in Congress introduced the DISCLOSE Act to ensure Americans knew who was paying to influence their vote and to prevent foreign corporations

and governments from funding U.S. elections. I voted for the DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 5175) when it passed the Democratic-led House in 2010. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Senate blocked the DISCLOSE Act from passage.

America's elections are for the American people. Unregulated corporate spending and new barriers to citizen-contributions will lead to more of the negative campaign ads and less citizen inspired democracy. I strongly disagree with the drive to corporatize America's elections which is an obvious priority for my Republican colleagues. It is fundamentally anti-democratic to fight to protect corporations' right to free speech while voting to prevent citizens from making their voices heard in the political process.

CONGRATULATING CALLIE M. COFFMAN ON HER 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my Chief of Staff, Callie M. Coffman. Twenty years ago today, I made one of the best decisions of my career by hiring a young, intelligent and ambitious intern to join my staff. I was so impressed by her work that after she graduated from the University of Michigan I asked her to join my permanent staff. Over the years, Callie worked her way up from interning to running my entire office. On the wall next to Callie's desk, she still has the original letter I sent to her offering her an internship.

It is not often that we get to celebrate a staffer's 20th anniversary on the Hill, especially in the same office. Over the years, I have seen many talented staff come and go. Today, I am thankful that Callie decided to stay and dedicate the last 20 years working for the people of mid-Michigan. Over the years Callie has put her mark on almost every legislative issue in my office. She has been instrumental in accomplishments such as welfare reform, reauthorization of Child Nutrition programs, the Higher Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the reauthorization of Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

It is a testament to her character and ability that she rose to become Chief of Staff. It is not only important to find staff with a good head, but also a good heart and Callie is blessed to have both. I am fortunate to have had Callie on my staff for the last 20 years. Today, I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for her service, friendship and loyalty.

OPPOSING FAILURE TO EXTEND TAA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lament the expiration of the improved Trade Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act enacted in 2009. By refusing to extend this, the