

shoot down than I did, but it's a once-in-a-life-time experience that instantly bonds you with fellow survivors. I will always recall the day that I said goodbye to him on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base as he left Washington when President Clinton took office. I still hang the note that he wrote me thanking me for being there in my office. He's just that kind of personable guy who not only thinks of the little things that helps people feel great, he makes time for them.

To commemorate the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, I would like to submit a poem, the Man the Lord Pulled from the Sea, written by Albert Caswell.

Congratulations, President Bush. You're an outstanding American and a great patriot. God bless you, and I salute you.

THE MAN THE LORD PULLED FROM THE SEA

A patriot's plane was shot from the sky . . . Would this brave heart live or die?

What was to be?

With his two comrades gone . . .

As their fine souls rose up to Heaven, with our Lord living on, eternally . . .

And from the heavens up above, our Lord God in his love . . . reached down and pulled this Hero, this Man From The Sea!

Our 41st President . . . born,

George Herbert Walker Bush in Milton Massachusetts . . . on June 12th, 1924 . . .

Score a lifetime of public service, to his Nation so great be assured!

As none other in history, have so equaled so before!

When all is said and done, his records are the ones . . .

The historians will contend, are one of the greatest Presidents I'm sure!

Born of wealth, power, social prestige and such fame . . .

How so easily, he could have so made . . . his life just a game!

Instead, he chose public service . . .

As had too, his most distinguished Father Prescott Bush . . . all of Senate fame! With a lifetime of public service, he can now so claim . . .

Has so given even greater honor, to that already prestigious family name!

Just out of Phillips Academy, at 18 as he knew he had to be . . .

Off to war for this his country 'Tis A Thee . . . ready to die!

With, The World To Be Saved, and a war to be won!

This hero flew off, to that land of the rising sun, up in the sky . . .

Not hiding behind social position, as the world lie in such a horrid condition!

All because, patriot's never ask why!

Leaving, he was barely a man . . .

But returning home, as before us now so stood a hero so grand . . .

One of America's Best, no one denies!

As once again, in 1944 he was so blessed . . .

As he wed his true love and wonderful wife, Barbara Pierce no less . . .

And still, to this very day . . .

Their great love story and wonderful family they consider, of their life's greatest of all success!

Returning home, as straight to Yale . . .

As his heart would so roam, eager to grow at Andover he had been ready to learn . . .

Captain of a championship baseball team, even then the word Bush meant lead!

As great respect as a Leader, he had so earned . . .

For athletics and exercise, he truly yearns . . .

For within his heart, this great passion and way of life has ever so burned!

As a cowboy at heart, as so soon he drove off westward ho . . . out of town . . .

As to Texas as an oilman, he was so surely bound . . .

Then, giving up his company he had built from the ground . . .

As when inside his great heart, so came a calling sound!

So soon he discovered, it was public service that he was in love with . . .

Where his future and heart, and life's work were so to be found . . .

Following his respected Dad, Prescott foot-steps into Congress for two terms . . .

And as the head of the CIA, as all of those commies he so burned . . .

Ever striving to improve, growing and learning, as The Man On The Move, as for great challenges his heart ever yearned!

With it becoming clear, that "The White House" was ever near, and all of the World.... The Name of Bush would so soon learn . . ."

Serving as Vice President . . . for two terms . . .

As no higher respect . . . in this that office has so since been so returned!

As Timber Wolf, was the "Go To Guy"!

Among world leaders, his respect was so very high!

That's something, that which must be so earned!

Then The President in 88, no more accomplished resume has ever been so great!

As has had The Electoral College so confirmed!

As history one day . . . shall so forever say . . .

No more productive 12 years of Executive service, has ever come her way!

Because in 12 years . . . such incredible events!

As a real future for our children, had so commenced . . .

As the records will say . . .

Bush and respect, and World leadership, are now one in the same . . .

As communism fell, do you remember that magnificent day?

Our Lord so remembers, your great fight and devotion doing right . . .

To save that most sacred gift of life, "The Unborn Child!"

As now, high above you he so stands so proud . . .

With tears in his eyes, as all across the heavens with great smile . . .

For each and every life, is so precious and so dear . . .

For it's our Lord's greatest gift which so blesses us, as Robin your sweet child so clear!

While, all of the others questioned . . . it was you who so drew that line in the sand! "This aggression shall not stand!"

Mr. President, your plan saved the Mid East! Bringing together each, Jewish and Arab, woman and Man . . .

For you had seen Hitler, and the evils that men do . . .

As you all in your lifetime, had so lived through . . . "No Never Again!"

As you had stood in harms way once before! And you knew of the great cost to families in of war!

So you followed a code!

Giving to each and every hero, all that they would so need so!

So that they could so carry that load!

As you said, "if a hero must die valiantly in this honor's code"!

Then, to their loved ones . . . their true fine worth must be showed!

And no classier First Lady, or President have ever so graced our Heartland . . .

Reaching out to all, with but a warm hand . . .

The Old System, a Member of The Gold System . . . for which you so surely stand!

In your treatment, of the average woman and so man . . .

We come this way but only once, and how the big people treat us, so surely makes our world's of such . . .

All in our Lord's plans . . .

For in this Capitol Town, the words class are often found . . .

Whenever, the name of George Bush we so sound!

As his secret service tell of a man so renowned!

While, working for Timber Wolf in town . . . he's a guy they love to be around!

With his great sense of humor, as him and Dana roll on the ground . . .

And his buddy Arnold, never lets him down!

On your last days in office, how some people had forgotten what you had done . . . 'Oh, how it gives us such pain!

But, history shall be far kinder and remember your name . . .

And never forget your great record there, as always will remain . . .

As it's your words which so ring true, indeed it is what you do! "It's all about character" . . . Time and Time Again!

Now, listen ever closely . . .

From up in the Heavens up above . . .

As our Lord looks down upon you, on this earth in all of his love . . .

As he's been watching you, throughout all of these years . . .

As these words you may hear, on a gentle breeze from up above . . .

"George my Son, you've never let me down" . . .

I'm so glad that I pulled you, from the sea as I found . . . on the wings of a dove" . . .

—Albert Caswell

HONORING JOSEPH CLEOPHUS DAVIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Cleophus Davis, Sr., a long time resident of Port Gibson, Mississippi for 53 years. He was born June 5, 1934 in Claiborne County, Mississippi, to the union of Benjamin Davis, Jr. and Paris Smith, and he shares the June 5th birth date with his mother who celebrated her 102nd birthday on June 5, 2010. Joseph was reared by his paternal grandparents Abby & Benjamin Davis, Sr. and his father in Lorman, Mississippi. Mr. Joseph Davis attended the Jefferson County Schools before he enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18. He served his country for 3 years, being station at Ladd Air force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska; and at Fort McCullum Army Base in Anderson, Alabama, he served 6 months in the capacity of TDY/ Military Policeman. While serving in the Army Reserve in 1961 he was inducted back into active duty because of the Berlin Crisis. He received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Army in 1962.

Mr. Joseph Davis was employed with the Westin House Electric Company from August 1965 through April 1967. Mr. Joseph Davis

was sworn in as a Port Gibson City Policeman in April of 1967, taking this oath gave him permission to carry a weapon in the city, making him the first official black policeman for the City of Port Gibson. Later in life, he was afforded an employment opportunity at one of the great Historically Black University, Alcorn State University. He served in the capacity of Campus Police Officer for 8 years. His great leadership quality and abilities lead him to be offered the Chief of Campus Security position. Her served in this capacity for a total of 11½ years. He celebrated his retirement at the age of 58 in 1992. After a few months into his retirement he decided to become a Deputy for the Claiborne County Sheriff Department from 1993 to the present. He also works in his store F & J's (Faye & Joe); the store is a very special place for the children of his community.

Mr. Joseph Davis joined Christian Chapel Church in 1957 under the direction of Elder T. E. Harris. He has served the church as a junior deacon, a deacon, Chairman of the Board (two terms), Christian Men Fellowship (two terms) and has volunteered on many committees; he presently serves as an Elder.

Mr. Joseph Davis is a graduate of Alcorn State University with a BA in Sociology, a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, St. John's Lodge #4, a Charter Member of the NAACP, two time President of the Claiborne County Branch of the NAACP, a former member of the Board of Governors for the Claiborne County Family Health Center Community Health Center, and a former leader for Boy Scout Troop #253.

Mr. Joseph Davis has been married to Faye Vera (Holt) Davis for 52 years. They are the parents of four children: Belinda, Joseph, Jr., Myrtle and Patrick.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2011, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to illness. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 35—nay; rollcall No. 36—aye.

HONORING MATTIE KNIGHT WASHINGTON—EDUCATOR AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mattie Knight Washington. Ms. Washington, the sixth of fourteen children was born and raised in rural Yazoo County, Mississippi. Mrs. Mattie Knight Washington—an outstanding educator and community activist; first and foremost professes God to be her personal Savior. With the firm belief

that family is the most basic and important institution in society, Mrs. Washington proudly represents the adage “a Knight in shining armor”! She is a fine example of bravery, heroism, courtesy, and generosity. This celebrated woman is the epitome of courage, strength and love.

A trailblazer in the area of education, Mattie Bee (as she is affectionately called) learned her first lessons in a home where she was raised by God-fearing parents amid several siblings and members of her extended families. During her teen years she entered Jackson State College (JSU) where she worked very diligently to earn her General Education Diploma (GED). She pursued her goals and later earned a Bachelor of Science, making her first in her family to attend college. Being thirsty for knowledge she obtained a Masters of Science and Education Specialist degrees, all at her dear JSU. Although she has completed further studies at Delta State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi, Jackson State remains her “school of the heart.” She has served as president of the local chapter of the Jackson State University National Alumni Association.

Mrs. Washington has not only taught for over 32½ years, retiring in 2004, but she also displays her strong desires to give every child the opportunity to be educated and expand their experiences through sponsorship/coordination of many successful educational field trips for students in Yazoo County to various sites in Mississippi, as well as Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, New York, and the nation’s capital—Washington, DC. A lifetime member of the Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE) and the National Educators Association (NEA), Mrs. Washington takes pride in teaching children to find a love for education within them. She actively participates in educational enhancement programs and projects in the community, including the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, the Yazoo County Chamber of Commerce-Competitive Community, Adopt-A-School Programs, serves as a board member of the Historical Preservation Society, and is an Election Commissioner.

Reflecting on the biblical passage “The Lord loves a cheerful giver. (11 Corinthians 9:6–7), Mrs. Mattie K. Washington is a strong supporter of the church. Having served in various capacities, particularly in the organization of the Youth Choir, she was one of the first three members of King Solomon Missionary Baptist Church to make a sizeable monetary contribution to the renovation efforts of its fellowship hall. She also assists other community churches in their efforts.

Mattie believes in balance in her life, so she not only gives materialistically, but she also gives of herself through donation of her time and talents. She was the first African-American woman to have started a catering service in Yazoo County, and still enjoys cooking and baking for large numbers of people. One will still find this being displayed over the last 26 years as she honors the Mother Board of King Solomon’s Church with an elaborate tribute dinner, where her culinary prowess is demonstrated. She thoroughly enjoys lauding others for their good work so she often takes on sponsoring dinners for the Police Dept., the Mayor and Board of Alderman, as well as fam-

ily gatherings where city, state, and national officials come to break bread also. This year was her first year spearheading the “Make a Difference Day” event that was formally headed by nationally acclaimed local sponsor, Ms. Leola Dillard.

People from all walks of life, ages, and ethnic backgrounds have benefitted from Mattie’s contributions. Her philosophy of whether you are prince or pauper, queen or maid, you will find the same warm, friendly welcome to her home, heart, and life. (She is still educating through modeling!)

Mrs. Washington attributes her inspiration to be an educator from the following: her parents, Roosevelt and Minnie Vaughan Knight, who were not afforded the opportunity to obtain formal education; daughter, Debra Knight Howard, an educated business leader; Joseph G. Williams, a fellow educator, who all preceded her in death; supported by her loving husband, George Washington; daughter, Jennifer Washington; and grandchildren, Deidra, David B., Draven Howard, and A.J. Washington; along with her 13 siblings and countless other relatives, friends and associates.

Mrs. Mattie Knight Washington lives to “make a difference,” symbolizing courage, strength and love.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON CHANNEL BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this non-controversial bill, which the House passed by unanimous consent in the 111th Congress, will allow development at the Southwest Waterfront in the District of Columbia. This bill will benefit not only D.C. residents, but also regional residents, businesses and national and international visitors, by permitting the District to extend docks and increase recreation and maritime activity just an eyeshot from the U.S. Capitol. The District urgently needs this bill to finalize plans for the Southwest Waterfront, which it hopes to convert into an attractive location for residents and visitors alike.

In order for the District to make these improvements, the Federal Government must redesignate part of the water designated by the Federal Government as the Washington Channel, so that more and larger docks can be built by the District to accommodate increased boating and waterside activity. The original width of the Washington Channel was established in the early 1800s, prior to the construction of East Potomac Park, to accommodate industrial and maritime commerce at the Southwest Waterfront. Today, however, the Southwest Waterfront is no longer a major port and does not accommodate large vessels. In fact, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have agreed that this redesignation will not affect navigation interests or adversely affect navigation safety.

I ask Members to support this non-controversial change to reinvigorate the Southwest Waterfront for the city, region and visitors to enjoy.