

HONORING REVEREND CARLTON GARRETT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Carlton Garrett, a lifelong Dallas resident and founding pastor of The Lord's Missionary Baptist Church on Bexar Street. Reverend Garrett was a devoted pastor for more than 37 years before he passed away at the age of 82.

Reverend Garrett was highly respected and well known throughout the South Dallas community. His selfless contributions to those around him and his unwavering dedication to his faith and congregation empowered him to become a dynamic community leader. Even before his passing, people of South Dallas reflected on his seemingly limitless passion for helping others.

Reverend Garrett loved all and served all in his community. Through the Church, he created programs to help the homeless and feed the hungry, provided financial assistance to the poor, funded scholarships for underprivileged youth, and spearheaded initiatives to care for the elderly and the disabled. During Hurricane Katrina, Reverend Garrett assisted with relocating thousands of evacuees, extending his contributions far beyond the Dallas area.

In recognition of his years of service, the community came together last year to petition for the renaming of Bexar Street in Reverend Garrett's honor. With overwhelming support from the community and the Dallas City Council, the street will be named in honor of Reverend Carlton Garrett. It is a fitting tribute to someone who served the South Dallas community and beyond for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to lose such an integral member of the Dallas community. Reverend Garrett is part of a distinguished group of people who have always put the needs of others ahead of their own, and made invaluable contributions to the world. While the Dallas community will surely miss Reverend Garrett, his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all whom he has inspired throughout his life, and through the good deeds and service that touched so many lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I was out of town due to a death in my family and was not present for rollcall votes numbered 21–30 on Thursday, February 2, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted in this manner: rollcall vote No. 21—Previous Question on H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 22—On Agreeing to H. Res. 534: “no,” rollcall vote No. 23—Motion to Instruct Conferees—Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 24—Peters (MI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 25—Connolly (VA) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No.

26—Fudge (OH) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 27—Jackson Lee (TX) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 28—Cicilline (RI) Amendment: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 29—Motion to Recommit H.R. 3582: “yes,” rollcall vote No. 30—Final Passage of H.R. 3582: “no.”

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the unspeakable violence that the Government of Syria has committed—and continues to commit—against its own citizens. For the past eleven months, the Syrian people have engaged in peaceful demonstrations to demand their basic, universal human rights. These demonstrations have been met with unrelenting bloodshed and torture. Thousands of Syrian men, women, and children have been slaughtered. There can be no question: President Bashar al-Assad must step down, or be removed from power.

Last week, the United States, the Arab League, and a growing international coalition together called for a United Nations Security Council resolution that would end the crisis and begin a transition to democracy in Syria. I am appalled that Russia and China have chosen to veto this measure, and stand with a brutal dictator rather than the Syrian people. This veto is an outrage, and serves only to endorse President Assad's ongoing massacre. On February 4th, the day of the U.N. Security Council vote, the Syrian military launched a devastating attack on the city of Homs that continues today. Hundreds of unarmed civilians have been killed.

I strongly support President Obama's efforts to work with America's western and Arab allies to stop the bloodshed. Though China and Russia have chosen to stand with Assad, the world will not. Already, nations across the Middle East and throughout the world are expelling Syrian diplomats, tightening sanctions, and ratcheting up pressure on the Syrian government. The time has come for President Assad to step down, and for the Syrian people to determine their own future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, an unavoidable conflict required that I miss rollcall No. 46, which was final passage of H.R. 3521, the Expedited Legislative Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this bill.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LINDA WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime Mississippi resident, dedicated health care professional and a remarkable woman, Mrs. Linda Williams. Mrs. Williams has been a nurse practitioner in my district since 1991. She is a very valued member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community and serves on several of the local area boards. She is married to Frederick Williams and to that union they have two children, James and Samantha.

She is a graduate of the Holmes Community College School of Nursing in Goodman, Mississippi. After graduating, she served as a registered nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center hospital assisting on the general medical and surgical floors. While there, she aided patients through high risk pregnancies and post partum pregnancy recoveries as well as normal labor and delivery birth. In 1991, Mrs. Williams began specializing in endocrinology and infertility nursing with Women's Health Care and Reproductive services. Currently, she is a Physician Assistant specialist in reproductive medicine and surgery.

Mrs. Williams is a very active member of the Lee County, Mississippi, community. She serves on the Lee County Alliance of Legal professionals and the Lee County Medical Society Alliance. Mrs. Williams has also been very active in trying to minimize adolescent driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Linda Williams for her commitment to the healthcare services of women and children as well as advocacy against impaired teenage driving.

HONORING LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND UNION ADVOCATE: MRS. LEORA HILL

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. Leora Hill, who passed away on New Year's Day, 2012, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Wayne Hill; her daughter, Tonii Nichole Brady; her six grandchildren and great-grandchild; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Leora was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for working families, a dedicated public servant and a tireless advocate for her community in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. A fighter for her fellow California residents, Leora spent hundreds of hours attending community meetings, lobbying elected officials and volunteering on dozens of political and public service campaigns.

Leora's dedication to her fellow Californians led her to a 23-year career as a tax technician

for the State Board of Equalization, where she helped thousands of entrepreneurs and small business owners navigate the state tax process, file the necessary paperwork to start their businesses and helping entrepreneurs to create jobs and become viable and productive members of the business community.

Her passion for ensuring fair rights and decent wages for California's working families kicked off a longtime tenure as an activist in her union, SEIU Local 1000, where she became chair of the Committee on Political Education, COPE, for Southern California. She

also served as President of Local 1000's District Labor Council 723, where she was the labor leader for state employees in south Los Angeles County.

Leora was a true fighter for the underdog. When state employees were threatened with major reductions in wages and furloughed by the governor, she made numerous media appearances, speaking out forcefully in favor of working families.

Leora's tireless efforts on behalf of working families were recognized by then-SEIU International President Andy Stern with a special recognition in 2008.

Leora was also dedicated to increasing political awareness and civic involvement among her fellow residents. Her recruitment of friends, neighbors, and co-workers for political campaigns and other efforts to improve her community truly made a difference in the lives of countless Californians.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Leora Hill for her record of civic leadership, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable service and contributions to her community and to our Nation.