

CONDEMNING REMARKS MADE BY FORMER MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my disappointment in Former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour's offensive remarks regarding President Barack Obama. On a post-election conference call Barbour referred to President Obama's policies as "tar baby."

Although some may feel as though Barbour's remarks were a "slip of the tongue" or not offensive I, as an African American who has been the recipient of such references find such remarks reprehensible.

As the former governor of a state such as Mississippi, Barbour's remarks were particularly degrading to those citizens who still remember being raised in an era of extreme racial criticism and hatred. Remarks such as these demonstrate a lack of racial sensitivity and foster a culture of prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I am highly offended by Barbour's comments and am offended by his insensitivity.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPIRIT OF SPRINGFIELD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Spirit of Springfield. Since incorporated on December 21, 1989, the Spirit of Springfield has entertained approximately eight million area residents and visitors with events that bring the community together in celebration and provide community vitality. These events currently include the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, Spirit of Springfield Golf Classic, MassMutual Star Spangled Springfield, Tower Square Parade of the Big Balloons, City of Bright Nights Ball, Bright Nights at Forest Park and annual free holiday concert by the 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

Bright Nights at Forest Park is the largest event the Spirit of Springfield presents and it is in conjunction with the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management. The three-mile drive through magnificent lighting displays has been honored by the American Bus Association as one of the Top 100 Attractions in North America for multiple years. 2014 marks the event's 20th season.

The Spirit of Springfield is also pleased to provide event services to the City of Springfield for events that include the mayoral inaugurations, building dedications, swearing-in ceremonies, police academy graduations and September 11th Remembrance Ceremony.

To produce the events, the non-profit organization, which is governed by a Board of Directors and employs three-full time employees, raises approximately \$450,000 in corporate contributions and an additional \$450,000 in

donated goods and services. The magic is all made by three full-time employees, college interns, volunteers and a dedicated board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime supporter of the Spirit of Springfield, I am very proud to congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and wish them many more years of success with their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FORT BEND COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMISSIONER FOR RECEIVING AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fort Bend County Road and Bridge Commissioner Marc Grant for receiving the first ever Road Administrator of the Year Award from the Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators.

This award recognizes the technical and professional contributions of those who ensure the safety of Texas's critical infrastructure. For 14 years, Grant has admirably served the county by managing the maintenance and safety of Fort Bend County's roads and bridges. Strong leadership ensures that this infrastructure allows all of us to safely commute in a highly congested area.

I thank Marc Grant for his exemplary public service. Through his position, he has supported the growth of our county and has expanded opportunity for so many businesses and families in our community. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we again congratulate Marc Grant for receiving the 2014 Road Administrator of the Year Award.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LANE EVANS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last week we lost a dear friend and a distinguished former Member of this House.

Lane Evans ably served the people of Illinois's 17th District for 24 years. He had been a public interest lawyer and a Marine veteran when he took office in 1983, and he got right to work fighting for his constituents by standing up for workers' rights, pushing for better care and benefits for those who had served in uniform, and advocating for greater opportunities for middle class families.

Lane was known as a champion of constituent services, helping northwestern Illinoisans get the help they needed from federal agencies and ensuring that casework was processed quickly and effectively. And America's veterans will always remember him for his work on behalf of those suffering from exposure to Agent Orange and those disfigured by land mines. When the Rock Island Arsenal faced cuts and closure 10 years ago, he fought with tenacity and determination to keep it open and save jobs across his district.

Lane was a self-described populist, someone who always put his fight for the common men and women of America first. He always kept faith with those he served, even after receiving the difficult diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 1995. While his Parkinson's grew worse, Lane only grew more determined to achieve a better future for his constituents and his country. All of us who served with him were awed by his strength in body and in character as he faced that challenge with grace and resolve.

I join with the many whose lives he touched and made better throughout Illinois and across the country in paying tribute to Lane Evans and his legacy. I want to thank Representative CHERI BUSTOS for organizing this special order in Lane's memory and for carrying his work forward in Illinois's 17th District.

The people of Illinois and the United States—and the Members of this House—will not forget Lane Evans, his work, and his unwavering commitment to serving the country and community he so loved.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 20th Anniversary of Behavioral Health Response. BHR is a nonprofit organization, established in 1994, that provides free 24-hour access to behavioral health services for the citizens of the Eastern Region of Missouri by equipped mental health professionals. BHR continues to play a crucial role in Missouri's behavioral healthcare system.

BHR serves as a prominent asset to the behavioral health community through its cooperation with hospitals, community mental health centers, police officers, and other community organizations. They also provide prompt and constant accessibility by means of private telephone counseling and mobile outreach services. In addition, BHR uses a strategic system of careful administrative work, compassionate calls, and courteous follow-up calls to ensure respect and high-performance for the citizens. BHR complements the efficient and effective deliverance of high-quality healthcare services and largely contributes to the well-being of the residents of Missouri.

For the critical contributions Behavioral Health Response has made to the behavioral healthcare system in Missouri, it is my pleasure to recognize the 20th Anniversary of Behavioral Health Response in the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE ALTUVE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the millions of Astros fans in Houston and Texas and throughout the

world to recognize the historic performance of our all-star second baseman and Venezuelan native, Jose Altuve, during the 2014 Major League Baseball season.

Jose finished the 2014 season with 225 hits and a .341 batting average, the best in all of baseball, along with 56 stolen bases, tops in the American League. Jose is just the second player since 1945 to lead the AL in all three categories.

Baseball writers at the season's end noted that Jose's 2014 season will go down as one of the greatest performances by a second baseman in baseball history.

Most notably, Jose had more hits than any second baseman since Charlie Gehringer's 227 hits in 1936 and became only one of two players since the turn of the 20th century to record 220-plus hits, 55-plus extra-base hits, and 55-plus stolen bases in one season. The other is Ty Cobb.

But beyond the numbers, Jose shows baseball fans, young and old, that with tenacity and a commitment to be the best, anyone, no matter their background or size, can achieve greatness.

On the last day of the season, the Astros planned to keep Jose out of the line-up in order to secure his batting championship, a first for any player in an Astros uniform. Instead, Altuve convinced Coach Lawless to put him back in the line-up just minutes before the game started. Jose proved to all that he was the true batting champion, going 2-for-4 with a double.

I had the opportunity to meet Jose last April, when he, fellow Astro Jason Castro, and baseball great Nolan Ryan, came to Denver Harbor, a working class neighborhood in our congressional district in Houston, to celebrate the opening of the revitalized baseball fields at Denver Harbor Park and spend the morning with little leaguers from the area.

It was a pleasure to see Jose, Jason, and Nolan spend time with these wide-eyed little leaguers and inspire them to work hard and achieve their dreams.

On behalf of the Astros faithful, I would like to say "thank you" and anticipate that with Jose and our squad of talented young players, Houston will continue to be competitive in the American League.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 516. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 516.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RICHARD J. NOTTE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Mayor Richard J. Notte, who passed away on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 following a courageous

battle with pancreatic cancer. Richard Notte was a good friend and colleague in public service, and I am honored to pay tribute to him.

Mayor Notte was at the heart and soul of the City of Sterling Heights. He served his community with such active and vibrant devotion, and was considered to be a "working man's mayor." He was highly recognizable in his trademark fedora but he was less interested in the spotlight than representing the residents of Sterling Heights and improving the community he cherished.

Mayor Notte was first elected to city council in 1983 where he served for ten years before he was elected Mayor in 1993. He also enjoyed a lengthy and successful career working at Ford Motor Company for 45 years before retiring in 2004. He held several elected UAW positions including plant chairman, recording and financial secretary.

Mayor Notte's love for his city and the automotive industry combined when we needed the most. As a founding Mayor of the Mayors Automotive Caucus he was an articulate spokesperson nationally for the domestic auto industry and the U.S. manufacturing base. Locally his tenacious efforts helped to keep the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) open and when Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy, the company invested over \$1 billion to construct a new assembly facility and paint shop at SHAP. He was deeply proud of that effort and the resurgence of the auto industry in our state.

Mayor Notte's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. Through the years he was honored with dozens of prestigious awards. In October 2013 he was inducted into the Macomb Hall of Fame and was recognized for his outstanding contributions to improving the economic, family, and community life of Macomb County. He was also a strong advocate for the Sterling Heights Community Foundation and its mission to enhance cultural, educational and recreational opportunities for Sterling Heights residents. In 2010, he funded the "Richard J. Notte Scholarship for Public Service Endowment." Through this permanent endowment, impact on the community will live on in perpetuity, as the Foundation will annually present a college scholarship to a deserving student in his name.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am honored to have worked with Richard Notte during his career and to see up close how rooted he was in his community. I am pleased to join with his family, friends and the larger Macomb County community in mourning his loss, celebrating his life and honoring his accomplishments.

HONORING ANTHONY "STONEY" PARKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and community servant, Chief of Police, Anthony "Stoney" Parker. Chief Parker has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Anthony "Stoney" Parker was born in Montgomery, Alabama to the late Corrine and Lillian

Parker. Chief Parker graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Alabama in May 1974 where he received a scholarship in football to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Chief Parker is a 1979 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. After graduation he played one year of professional football for the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the Canadian Football League before being injured. He was later inducted into the University of Southern Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame for football in April of 1992.

Chief Parker is a member of the University of Southern Mississippi M-Club Board of Directors. He is a member of Seven Springs United Methodist Church in Raymond, Mississippi.

Chief Parker became a Mississippi State Trooper in December of 1982 and retired from the Mississippi Highway Patrol in June of 2009, as a Master Sergeant serving in the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation Division (MBI). While working in MBI, he was assigned to the DEA as a Task Force Officer for four years. Chief Parker was a founding member of the Mississippi Black Troopers Coalition and the National Black Troopers Coalition.

Chief Parker started working as a patrolman with the Crystal Springs Police Department after retiring from the Mississippi Highway Patrol. He served as a Sergeant and Lieutenant at the Crystal Springs Police Department before being appointed Chief of Police for the Crystal Springs Police Department in October, 2013. Chief Parker has thirty two years of combined law enforcement experience with the State and Local Government.

Chief Parker and his wife, Bettie, have been married for thirty three years and have two beautiful children: Christopher and Stefanie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Anthony "Stoney" Parker for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBORO

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro as it celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society has long been a central fixture in the Middleboro community. On June 29, 1889, after the new church first sought formal recognition, its members hired Unitarian minister Rev. William Ramsey of Salem to lead the church for its first year. Not long after, local member Enoch Pratt donated a lot on Pearl Street, where the group's first church was opened on October 26, 1890. While this was the original site of the modern-day building, it is not where the church can be found today, as in the early 1900s a more central and visible plot of land was gifted to the church by member David Pratt. The building was then cut into three pieces, led through the streets, and remounted in its current location.

While society changed drastically over the course of the next century, the First Unitarian