

Rev. Dr. Morgan M. Days, Jr. His early life of service included appointments as a junior trustee, deacon and usher board president. He later relocated to Buffalo and attended Canisius College, majoring in Pre-Law with a minor in Religious Studies. His educational pursuit also included a major in Police Services while attending Erie Community College.

Led by his family to Zion Missionary Baptist Church, this determined and dedicated man continued to embrace a life of service through his work on the Deacon Board, as Youth Pastor and then Interim Pastor. His impressive engagement with Church leadership and civic and community involvement includes membership with the Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo, NY and Vicinity, Delegate to the National Baptist Convention, Chaplain at Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health System, member of the Board of Directors for Teens In Progress (TIP) Youth Organization, Regional Committee for the New York State Department of Health AIDS/HIV Institute and Say Yes to Education Buffalo Clergy Task Force. Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September 1960 by the late Rev. Anthony Benson, Sr. Their congregation has continued to grow for more than fifty years and through the guidance of several pastors. Under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Robert E. Baines Jr., valuable programs were started at the church including the Women's Ministry, the Senior Citizens Ministry and the Drug Abuse Program. Mount Moriah moved to its current location on Northampton Street in Buffalo in 1994 where fellowship flows to this day.

Since accepting this leadership position, Rev. Chambliss's ministry has added new members and appointed two deacons. His many gifts and ability to bring his practical experience to serve the needs of people in the Church as well as the community will continue to yield growth, goodwill and guidance to his congregation and the City of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit of service, that I rise with great pride today to extend deepest congratulations and best wishes for success to Rev. Jeffrey C. Chambliss, his wife Clarisse and their daughter, Camille, and all who join with them on December 12th to witness his installation as Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

#### HONORING MRS. MARY LEE TAYLOR

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former educator and longtime community activist from Tallahatchie County, MS, Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor is 101 years old. She was born January 17, 1913 in Paynes, MS. Her years have been long and her mind is full of many stories her eyes have seen. I am talking about trying times, historical eras, blue skies, and personal achievements.

Mrs. Taylor is a 1936 graduate of the Tallahatchie County Training School. She went on to continue her education at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS and at the Mississippi Vocational College (now referred to as

Mississippi Valley State University) in Itta Bena, MS. There she received her Bachelor of Science Degree.

Her age has not had an effect on her memory which brings smiles to her face. One of her personal achievements is that Mrs. Taylor is the only person in her family who received an education, according to her son, Mervyn Leon Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor taught 1st grade and adult education classes. Another achievement of Mrs. Taylor is that she was one of the original pioneers who lead the effort to bring the Head Start program to Charleston and across Tallahatchie County. Her list of fighting for the citizens of Tallahatchie County and surrounding communities goes on to include road improvements in the Black community, and bringing electricity and telephone service to the Black communities.

Her son, Mervyn, said his mother wasn't just active locally but also overseas. She traveled to poverty stricken areas on mission trips. Mrs. Taylor was also an active member in her church, St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church. She served as president of the local missionary, president of the Northern District Episcopal faith domination, and missionary president of the northern and southern Mississippi C.M.E. conferences.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of the late Mr. Jimmy M. Taylor. She now lives in the Blue Cane Community, right outside of Charleston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor a pioneer in her community who has helped to pave the way for others, like you and me, to come along.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING THE ASSOCIATION FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT (ATD)

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Association for Talent Development (ATD) as the largest association dedicated to the talent development profession and recognize them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held from December 1st through the 5th, 2014.

Members of ATD come from more than 100 countries and connect locally with 125 U.S. chapters, international strategic partners, and global networks. They work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and as suppliers.

Established in 1943 as the American Society for Training Directors, ATD is now a global leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 1st through December 5th, 2014, as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to

developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

#### JAMES M. CARTER AND JUDITH N. KEEP UNITED STATES COURT-HOUSE

##### SPEECH OF

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1378, to designate the new courthouse at 333 West Broadway Street in San Diego as the James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse.

The bipartisan bill before us today has been a long time coming. I'm particularly grateful for SCOTT PETERS's hard work to bring interested parties together and craft a bill that all San Diegans can be proud of.

When we first reached out to the community, San Diego's leaders made it clear that there are no two figures more deserving of this honor than Judges Carter and Keep. The support was overwhelming.

Judges Carter and Keep were truly trailblazers in their field, and worked tirelessly both on and off the bench to better the San Diego community.

Judge Carter was the driving force behind the creation of the Southern California District, allowing the people of San Diego access to the federal court system.

Fittingly, once the Southern California District Court was established, Carter became its first Chief Judge.

Judge Carter also founded the Federal Defenders of San Diego and was instrumental in the creation of the University of San Diego Law School.

He is remembered by those who knew him as a giant of his time, a man whose service was an example for all those who followed in his footsteps.

For her part, Judge Keep was instrumental in opening up the San Diego legal field to women.

She graduated valedictorian at San Diego Law School at a time when only 5% of lawyers were women!

Judge Keep began her career as a public defender, and went on to serve as the Southern California District Court's first female Chief Judge.

Judith worked closely with the San Diego Community Foundation and the Armed Forces YMCA, and both she and James served as role models and mentors to countless young attorneys and judges in San Diego.

In addition to honoring Judges Carter and Keep, this bill will rename the Federal Judicial Center after the late Judge John Rhoades. Judge Rhoades spent over 20 years as a distinguished U.S. District Judge in San Diego. It is only fitting that the judicial center bear his name.

Judges Carter, Keep, and Rhoades were instrumental in shaping the San Diego legal community into what it is today. I can think of no better tribute to their service than to name this courthouse and judicial center in their honor.

## HONORING LANDON MONTGOMERY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Landon Montgomery. Landon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Landon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Landon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Landon contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Landon Montgomery for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE CALVIN SMYRE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant, principled business leader and dear friend to my wife, Vivian and me, Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre. Representative Smyre will be retiring this month as Executive Vice President of Corporate External Affairs of Synovus, a financial services company based in Columbus, Georgia.

Representative Smyre earned a degree in Business Administration from Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Georgia. In 1974, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as its youngest member at 27 years of age. I was honored to have served with Rep. Smyre during my own tenure in the Georgia General Assembly, and I feel blessed to have gained a dear friend.

A 40-year legislative veteran, Rep. Smyre has built a repertoire of legislative accomplishments. He currently serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee and is Chairman Emeritus of the House Democratic Caucus. In 1983, Rep. Smyre transcended racial barriers when Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed him as Administration Floor Leader, making Rep. Smyre the first African American in history to hold this position. In 1985, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first African-American elected official from Georgia to serve on the Committee. Then, in 2001, Rep. Smyre made history again when Governor Roy Barnes named him Chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia, making Rep. Smyre the first African American to chair the state Democratic Party. Nationally, Rep. Smyre is President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) and the immediate Past President of the NBCSL Foundation.

In addition to his legislative achievements, Rep. Smyre has also built a successful business career. In 1976, he joined Columbus Bank & Trust Company, the Columbus-based division of Synovus, as a Manager Trainee. Two years later, he was promoted to Assistant Vice President and Marketing Officer. He served as Assistant Vice President and Vice President of Corporate Administration for Synovus from 1984 to 1990 and as Vice President of Corporate Affairs from 1992 to 1994. In 1996, Rep. Smyre was named Senior Vice President and Assistant to the Chairman for Community Affairs. In 1999, he was promoted to Executive Vice President and has served in this position ever since. In addition, he has the role of Synovus representative on the Financial Services Roundtable, the leading advocacy organization for the financial industry headquartered in Washington, D.C.

As former Chairman and CEO of the Synovus Foundation, the organization that directs corporate and philanthropic gifts from Synovus, Rep. Smyre has been one of the driving forces in ensuring that the company creates goodwill in the communities that it serves. Synovus boasts approximately \$26 billion in assets and provides commercial and retail banking and investment services to consumers in the southeast United States. The company has been named one of Fortune magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" in America multiple times.

Although his business career and legislative duties have kept him busy, Rep. Smyre still finds the time to serve his community in various other capacities. He has held leadership and membership positions on numerous boards, foundations and organizations. He is a devoted Christian and has been a member of Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church for over fifty years.

Nelson Mandela once said, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Rep. Smyre embodies this statement thoroughly, for in light of his great personal success, he continues to fight to ensure that every voice is respected and heard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Columbus, Georgia community in honoring Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre for his decades of leadership at Synovus. While he leaves behind a great legacy at Synovus, we have certainly not seen the last of Rep. Smyre. He will continue to represent his constituents in the state legislature and he will continue to serve the Columbus community with integrity and distinction.

## HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER EDWARD KASSIG

**HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the service and sacrifice of Abdul-Rahman Peter Edward Kassig. Tragically before his time, Kassig was taken from this earth by the hands of the terrorist group ISIL. He will forever be remembered as a self-

less man who gave his life in service to those who needed it most. I also honor his loving and dedicated parents, Ed and Paula Kassig, who live in Indianapolis.

Although he was only 26 at the time of his death, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig dedicated his entire adult life to serving others. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Kassig graduated from North Central High School in 2006. Upon his graduation, Kassig served as a soldier in the U.S. Army as a member of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Deployed to the Middle East, he bravely served his country and returned to the United States with an Honorable Medical Discharge.

After his tenure in the Army, Kassig attended Hanover College and Butler University. During this time, he also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician. In 2012, after seeing the suffering of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, he left higher education to use his medical training by providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. He founded a non-profit, Special Emergency Response Assistance (SERA), to provide Syrian refugees with medical supplies, medical assistance, clothing and food. Kassig also taught trauma care skills to others and thus spread his knowledge and good works to countless people.

The compassion and selflessness that Kassig displayed is an inspiration to his fellow Hoosiers and everyone who dreams of a more peaceful world. The danger he faced did nothing to temper his resolve to help those who needed it most. Kassig and SERA were dedicated to providing acute logistical support and assistance in areas too difficult for other humanitarian organizations to effectively operate.

Abdul-Rahman Peter Edward Kassig will be remembered as a young man of tremendous courage and integrity by family and friends from Indiana and across the globe. I join people of all faiths in praying for the comfort of those who mourn his death and a more peaceful world for all to live in.

## HONORING REVEREND THADDEUS J. WILLIAMS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams is married to the former Teresa L. Buckner and the father to four children: Sam, Dante', Philip, and Alexandria. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams is currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 1987 and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 2008