

cotton, corn, soybeans, livestock, and vegetables. His livestock consisted of 30 to 40 cows and 50–100 hogs. In 1957 they purchased their first piece of land and moved away from the family owned land and farm, "Wheeler Farm."

Primus along-side his wife grew their farm to 100 acres, which is still located in the Sharkey Road community between Glendora and Tippo, MS. He remembers his first crop in 1957 as his worst but just as he was taught and had seen by working with his father on the family farm, "you take the good with the bad and learn from it but keep going to break through. You just have to make more good crops than bad crops in order to survive."

He was dealing with bad weather and insects. Over time Primus got better being on his own even increasing the farm from the initial 100 acres to 238 acres at one point then up to 800 acres by renting from local retired farmers. He was able to supplement his income by harvesting cotton and soybeans for other farmers.

Primus Wheeler, like so many black farmers had challenges that would test the soul and belief of any man.

Over the years he dealt with challenges like bad seasons in terms of weather, insects, and certainly government financing for black farmers. For example, he said, more times than not, that he had to lean on hope and prayer that FSA would approve his applications for financing, which often times came in late July or early August. These were emotional and unpredictable times; especially seeing the other farmers planting while he was faces the pitfall of FSA. You see, he relied on this money to purchase seeds and fertilizers. But nevertheless, he withstood them all relying on his father's teachings.

So, through it all, Primus and his wife was able to educate 9 children on their small delta farm and unlike him, not one of his children had to skip or quit school to stay home and help work the farm. Primus retired and turned the farm over to his son, Michael, who ran it until the late 1990s. Afterwards, Primus, Jr. gained control of the farm and still runs it today. However, in all cases, Primus himself is still involved in the decision making of the farm advising and mentoring his son and future generations. Hat's off to Mr. Primus Wheeler for hanging in there and maintaining his farm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, Mr. Primus Wheeler, a black farmer from the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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#### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 7, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been here for the quorum call (rollcall No. 1), I would have voted "present."

#### RETIREMENT OF CHARLES TRAUGHER

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#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor one of Tennessee's hardest working and most thoughtful public servants on the occasion of his retirement.

Charles Traughber stepped down recently after a 30-year career as Chairman of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole.

Before assuming that role, he spent 10 years working with offenders as a prison counselor and as a charter member of the parole board.

During his 40-year career, Chairman Traughber served the people of Tennessee with great honor and distinction and always approached each case with the gravity and seriousness it deserved.

I was a criminal court judge in Knoxville for seven-and-a-half years, and during that time I issued thousands of criminal sentences.

There may be no tougher job—with greater potential consequence—than evaluating whether or not a prisoner is ready to re-enter society, and I cannot think of a better person to have had in this role than Chairman Traughber.

During his remarkable career, Chairman Traughber reviewed and voted on more than 145,000 cases.

The most infamous person to come before his board was James Earl Ray, who assassinated the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Chairman Traughber said Ray was denied parole because of the "seriousness of the offense."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in celebrating the exceptional career of a very patriotic American, Charles Traughber. Our Nation is a better place because of his service.

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#### TRIBUTE TO EDNA LOUISE FLINT HOUSE

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#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, one hundred years ago a virtuous woman of God, Edna Louise Flint House was born in Decatur, Georgia on December 7, 1913 to John and Louise Flint; and

Whereas, she was raised up in DeKalb County, Georgia and married Mr. Jesse House and their union has blessed our district and nation ever since; and

Whereas, this phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a wife, mother and motivator, becoming a Georgia citizen of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all by always advancing the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. House has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she serves as a Mother at New Beginning Full Gospel Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. House along with her pastor, Bishop James H. Morton, her family and friends are celebrating a remarkable milestone, her 100th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. House on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 7, 2013 as Mrs. Edna Louise Flint House Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 7th day of December, 2013.

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#### HONORING THE SMOKEHOUSE GRILL

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#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a budding Minority Business in the Mississippi Delta, The Smokehouse Grill in Marks, MS.

On January 19, 1971, L.C. and Velma Pride welcomed a bouncing baby boy they named Paul Andrew. Paul was the youngest of the eight Pride children. Paul attended Quitman County School District where he received his high school diploma in 1989.

Paul furthered his education at Northwest Community College in 1990 majoring in Computer Programming. He became employed at Sunflower Grocery Store in Senatobia, MS for his first job. He worked there for two years where he learned to become an independent man he is today. He later moved on to a better opportunity at Mood Automotive for eight years where he gained a lot of friends, experience, and skills to be an example for others to follow.

Paul purchased his first home in Marks, MS at the age of 21. It was a huge accomplishment that he was extremely proud of. He later began driving trucks for Ozark Motor Lines where he worked two years. During this time, his daughter, the most beautiful girl, was born on April 14, 2002 and he named her, Japarian Marie Pride. Japarian is now an intelligent, outgoing 11 years old who attends South Panola Schools.

Driving through Marks, MS in March of 2002, Paul had a taste for barbecue rib tips, but there was no "Rib Shack" in Marks. Paul came up with the idea to open a rib shack. "I asked God to show me the way," stated Paul and two months later, the doors of Paul Pride's Smokehouse were opened. Smokehouse, as it is commonly called, has been selling rib tips, chopped barbecue, ribs, wings, and fish ever since.

Smokehouse is located at 1075 Martin Luther King Dr. in Marks, MS. Paul stated, "We have a great location here and we are located in an industrial area on Main St. Since opening, Smokehouse has saturated Quitman, Panola, Coahoma, and Tallahatchie counties." Being from Marks, Paul is no stranger to the area. His father was a part of the Marks Police Department for 40 years. Paul's roots run

deep in the city of Marks. Eleven years later, he is still on the grill and Smokehouse is still going strong.

Paul is now engaged to Stacy Frost who helps him run Smokehouse. Paul is destined to continue running his business and serving great food to those who eat at and support The Smokehouse Grill. Paul has a bright future that is continuing to blossom on a path to greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Smokehouse Grill for serving our great community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BUSTER  
JOHNSON

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, Today I congratulate Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson on becoming president of the Arizona Association of Counties (AACO). Mr. Johnson is the first elected official from Mohave County to serve as the AACO's president. He has already proven his dedication to the people of Mohave County as a leading Mohave County Supervisor, and I have no doubt that his leadership will serve the AACO and all people of Arizona well.

The AACO is an important organization in Arizona. As the only organization that represents all of Arizona's 15 counties and their officials, its purpose is to promote issues important to our counties on the state and federal levels.

Congratulations to Mr. Johnson and the AACO. I wish them much success in serving Arizona.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO  
ALLOW AGENCIES TO FIGHT  
FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN  
THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two technical corrections to the Affordable Care Act. These two bills provide minor technical corrections to avoid confusion and to ensure that regulators can effectively do their work in combatting fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program. We need to extend the solvency of the Medicare program and to do so, we must ensure that the regulatory agencies are empowered to fully enforce provision to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program.

The first bill would allow certain physician extenders, including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists, to document that the face-to-face encounter required by the Affordable Care Act has occurred. The Affordable Care Act currently requires that a physician document that a face-to-face encounter has occurred, even though the law allows the face-to-face encounter to be performed by a physician extender. The face-to-face encounter is an important

tool to combat fraud and abuse in the durable medical equipment context, and it is important to recognize the role that physician extenders play in many instances.

The second bill would correct an error in the ACA that was carried over from an underlying law, which prevents regulators from stopping waste, fraud, and abuse. A provision in the Affordable Care Act intended to allow regulators additional discretion to impose a surety bond on home health agencies based on the volume of payments they received from the Medicare program. However, due to a drafting error in the underlying law that was inadvertently perpetuated in the Affordable Care Act, the bond that regulators can require from home health agencies is essentially capped at \$50,000. For large providers, this amount is too low a sum to have a meaningful impact and directly contradicts Congress' intention to require a higher bond from home health agencies that receive substantial Medicare payments.

We must continue our efforts to extend the solvency of the Medicare program. Fighting fraud is a nonpartisan issue. I urge my colleagues to support these technical correction provisions.

WREN'S NEST HOUSE MUSEUM

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Wren's Nest House Museum, a community institution and National Historic Landmark is one of Atlanta's most engaging historic sites, bringing education and joy to untold numbers of visitors including many from the 4th Congressional District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest is open to the public year-round sharing the African American storytelling tradition and educating visitors about the life and work of Joel Chandler Harris, one of Georgia's most celebrated journalists and literary figures; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest is filled with many original artifacts and furnishings that belonged to the Harris family and as a museum is one of the finest examples of 19th century Victorian-era middle class lifestyles in the United States; and

Whereas, in recent years the museum has completed several accurate historic restorations of the property with an eye toward authenticity; and

Whereas, the Wren's Nest was the boyhood home of Julian, a Harris son and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who in the 1920's courageously fought the Ku Klux Klan in the editorial pages of his newspaper; and

Whereas, the museum has extended its community outreach by encouraging young writers through the Wren's Nest Scribes Program which mentors 5th, 6th and 7th graders to hone their writing skills and become published authors; and

Whereas, the dedicated board, staff and volunteers of the Wren's Nest are today welcoming the community to A Victorian Christmas Open House & Celebration of the 168th Birthday of Joel Chandler Harris by featuring the incredible Wren's Nest Ramblers Akbar

Imhotep, Curtis Richardson, Josie Bailey and Mama Kofu who interpret and present the more than 180 African folktales preserved by Joel Chandler Harris; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to join in the celebration and recognize this outstanding museum and community institution that is uniquely Georgia; Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 8, 2013 as Wren's Nest House Museum Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2013.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM  
"KINGFISH" BYRD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month is August and all this month I rise to honor black farmers. So today, I rise to honor the late Mr. William Byrd of Sunflower County, MS, five miles east of Shaw on Highway 442. He earned the name of Kingfish not because people thought he was a joke but because he became a well-known, respected and honest black business man with money—time frame 1920s to his death.

Mr. Byrd did not get a chance to go to school and get a full first through twelfth grade education, no, in fact, he acquired his education by the means of hands-on hard work, life experiences, and the "Blue Back Webster." Like many laboring migrant black families he moved with his father, mother, and siblings around until finally settling in the Mississippi Delta. The many moves with his family was because his dad, Mr. Shep Byrd, was strong willed on not settling his life as a sharecropper but, rather self-employed and own land.

So, this transmission of self-employment was passed on to Mr. William Byrd, who in turn passed it on to his children, Lonnie "LC" Byrd, Melvin "Jimbo" Whiting, Velma "Red" Whiting, Thelma "Black" Whiting, and Thomas "TL" W. Byrd. His son, Thomas recalls his dad, often saying, "I'll even buy swamp land and make something out of it, if I just get the chance to buy it."

Little by little Mr. William Byrd would work and save his money never forgetting his dream to buy land. He even found a piece of land he wanted to buy and yes, it was under water and thought to be useless. A useless piece of land back then was called "deadening" land because it was swamp area and not considered fertile for anything. He would often go there and gaze and dream, and cut down trees wisely clearing the land but telling all those who asked him, "What are you doing. . .?" he would say, "I'm cutting wood for burning."

Many times, the white men would threaten his life and run him home but he kept going back into the "deadening" until eventually he had saved enough money to buy the first of approximately 700 acres of land he would own over the course of his entire life.

The journey of this Black Farmer is that by 1940 he was well established with 20 houses or more on his land for all his workers,