

Mr. Speaker, as you can tell by these accomplishments, Beverly Beasley Johnson has a steel backbone and a generous heart. She believes that every person should be presumed to be worthy until proven otherwise, and she has worked hard to ensure that the purposes of social service programs are upheld. Ultimately, those purposes are to feed and house the poor, to relieve suffering for those wrongly afflicted, and to ennoble the human spirit by educating, supporting and guiding good people towards sound choices. Beverly has been outstanding in achieving these purposes during her career.

In her well-deserved retirement, Beverly will split her time between California and Michigan. She is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Thomas, her four children, five grandchildren and soon her first great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Beverly Beasley Johnson, a genuine public servant, a champion for people in need and a woman with a huge heart. She has led so many onto a path to a better life.

HONORING SHERIFF CHARLES L. JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Sheriff, the Honorable Charles L. Jones who is a resident of Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Sheriff Jones was born in Quitman County, Mississippi to Mrs. Georgia Jones and has three brothers who are all law enforcement officers.

Sheriff Jones received his education from Clarksdale High School, Coahoma Agricultural High School, Coahoma Community College, and Alameda University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Sheriff Jones began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the Clarksdale Police Department where he received certification in Basic Law Enforcement and moved up in the ranks from patrolman to gang officer, investigator, and to the SWAT Team Squad. In 2002 he ended his tenure with the Clarksdale Police Department and became a deputy sheriff at the Coahoma County Sheriff's Department and was employed there until 2004. He became Chief of Police for the Town of Friars Point where he was instrumental in reducing crime with the assistance of state and federal law enforcement agencies until 2009.

In 2007 he ran for election to become sheriff of Coahoma County. Sheriff Jones challenged the irregularities of that election process and in 2009 a special election was ordered by the Governor of Mississippi upon the direction of the Mississippi Supreme Court and he was elected Sheriff of Coahoma County.

Throughout his law enforcement career he desired to be the best enforcer of the law by taking various seminar classes and making sure his staff participates as well. Sheriff Jones has earned numerous certificates and awards.

Sheriff Jones is married to Mrs. Andrea Jones; and they are the proud parents of five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing law enforcement officer Sheriff Charles Jones for his dedication in protecting and serving the citizens of Coahoma County, Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF V. LANE RAWLINS' SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of V. Lane Rawlins as the 15th President of the University of North Texas (UNT). Dr. Rawlins joined UNT in 2010 at a critical time in the school's history as it sought to become a tier-one research institution. Under his leadership, great strides have been made in this effort. He remains a strong advocate for students, recognizing that ultimately their success is the measure by which all University accomplishments are made.

Since the entry of the fall 2010 freshman class, UNT has emphasized efforts to increase the number of high-quality students by focusing on recruitment, retention, and enrollment. Under his direction, UNT's fall 2013 enrollment reached a record 36,221 students, an 18 percent growth with an average SAT score of 1108, 7 points higher than three years prior.

Dr. Rawlins sought to strengthen the culture of research at UNT by attracting distinguished faculty and emphasizing the significance of research activity. Through this focus, UNT has increased research funding across the board, now counting two National Academy of Engineering members and a National Academy of Sciences member among the institution's outstanding faculty.

During his tenure, UNT also unveiled its five-year strategic plan: Four Bold Goals for the Future of One Great University, to establish common goals for providing the best educational experience for students and achieving status as a tier-one research institution. Additionally, an updated brand campaign "A green light to greatness" was introduced to expand brand awareness, pride, and engagement among the University's various constituencies. Pride for the University has continued to grow as the Mean Green football team earned the right to play in the Heart of Dallas Bowl in 2014. UNT won 36–14, taking the first bowl trophy in over a decade to Denton's Apogee Stadium in the University's inaugural season under the Conference USA banner.

At a time when traditional sources of higher education funding are in decline, Dr. Rawlins helped launch the public fundraising campaign, The light is green. The time is now. The Campaign for UNT. As a leading proponent to increase sources of financial support, Dr. Rawlins established an era of strengthened fundraising and greater alumni and stakeholder engagement which helped secure two of UNT's largest pledged gifts in 2011.

With Dr. Rawlins' support, UNT opened three of its four LEED-certified environmentally friendly facilities, earning recognition by Princeton Review as a "Green College". UNT also achieved the highest rank in the State by the Association for the Advancement of Sus-

tainability in Higher Education, underscoring UNT's sense of responsibility through commitment to conservation research and application, and modeling the leadership necessary to support US economic growth in an increasingly competitive worldwide energy market.

I am grateful to Dr. Rawlins for bringing his wisdom, boldness, vision, and discipline to the University of North Texas. I am also indebted to his wife Mary Jo as she became an important member of the Denton Community, supporting him through the challenges faced in guiding UNT. I am pleased to hear they will remain in Denton, becoming Texans by choice, as he accepts the title of President Emeritus. It is my continued privilege to represent them, UNT, and the great State of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING A.C. GARNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and self motivated man, Mr. A.C. Garner.

Mr. Garner, a son of a sharecropper, was born in Grand Gulf, Claiborne County, Mississippi. He was reared on a plantation, educated in the public schools and later joined the United States Armed Forces. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Alcorn State University, Alcorn, Mississippi.

Mr. Garner is a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he was trained as a power plant operator. In 1958 he participated in Nuclear Testing of A and H bombs at Bikini Island. He has worked as a sales representative and also as an engineering inspector for public roads.

Mr. Garner became President of the Claiborne County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1980. In that same year he helped to carry a 13 year boycott case from Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi to the United States Supreme Court known as the "Port Gibson Boycott". He personally appeared before the United States Supreme Court as a guest of the court and the case was won in the NAACP's favor.

In that same year of 1980, Mr. Garner was appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors as director of Emergency Management. At that time he started attending colleges and universities across the United States in order to be certified to help bring the one and only nuclear power plant in Mississippi on line by 1985.

In 1994, Mr. Garner completed all courses and was certified by the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

Mr. Garner is retired and is a small farmer in Port Gibson, Mississippi. He raises beef cattle. He serves as the President of the Black Farmers Association of Claiborne County. He is the President of the Claiborne County Port Commission and is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Garner is married to Charity Carpenter Garner and they have four children: Albert, Jr., Andra, TaWanda and Exzavian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dynamic man, Mr. A.C. Garner.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAVILAND AVENUE GRADE SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Haviland Avenue Grade School.

In 1913, the town of Audubon, NJ purchased land for Public School #3. Beginning as a four room school house, it expanded in 1926 to accommodate the growing population in the surrounding area. Due to a lack of funds and support, the school began to show its age in the 1970s and was in danger of closing. More than 300 engaged citizens signed a petition asking the school board to keep the school open. In 1979, the school board allocated funds for an extensive renovation, allowing the Haviland Avenue School to continue serving students. During its 100 year existence, Haviland Avenue School has served as the starting point for numerous young men and women who have become doctors, teachers, professional athletes, elected officials and even Purple Heart recipients.

Mr. Speaker, this beautiful school has fostered learning and community values for generations of New Jerseyans. On the centennial of the founding of this school, I join all of South Jersey in wishing students, staff, and alumni at Haviland Avenue Grade School another hundred years of happiness and prosperity.

HONORING TYRONE LEWIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Tyrone Lewis, who is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and a proud product of Jackson Public Schools as a 1978 graduate of Lanier High School. Upon completing high school, he went on to attend Jackson State University and graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications. While exploring his career options, Tyrone's desire to serve and build community affirmed to his decision to apply to the Jackson Police Training Academy.

After completing the training and certification process in 1983, Tyrone Lewis began his successful career in law enforcement with the Jackson Police Department.

During his 28-year career, he steadily rose through the ranks; mastering each position he was assigned. Having been directly and indirectly involved with virtually every facet of the Jackson Police Department, Tyrone developed an intense understanding of the importance of transparency, integrity, and communication.

He has become well aware of the law enforcement needs that the citizens of Hinds County have as a whole. Tyrone knows that all citizens deserve a safe and orderly community maintained by firm and fair law enforcement.

Tyrone's career began as a Patrolman. He worked steadily and was later promoted to a

Shift Sergeant. Eventually, he was promoted to a Neighborhood Enforcement Team Commander and then Acting Precinct Commander. As his stellar career continued, Tyrone was made Commander/Director of the Jackson Police Academy where he served until his promotion to Acting Chief of Police in 2009.

In 2010, Tyrone retired from the Jackson Police Department as Deputy Chief of the Community Services Division. While in each position, he provided a solid leadership base for personnel, effectively managing the overall operations and procedures, and handling the fiscal responsibilities with respect to his assignment.

Having worked in so many capacities with the Jackson Police Department, Tyrone underwent extensive training in a wide variety of areas of law enforcement and public safety including: crime prevention, police supervisory training, field officers' training, control & restraint techniques, evidence, crime scene, search & seizure, weapons of mass destruction, Constitutional law, police tactical driving, and diversionary devices.

Throughout his stellar service career, Tyrone has been recognized for his contributions to the community as he was named Jackson's Best in 1994 and Officer of the Year in 1992. He is also a member of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy and both the Mississippi and National Associations of School Resource Officers. He is also a member of the MS Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition of Hinds County and the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition of Hinds County.

Over the years Tyrone has made it a point to continually participate in a variety of community and civic organizations. He organized the 1st Annual Officer Thomas Catchings Toy Drive in 2008 through the Jackson Police Department and has also served as a Board Member for the Farish Street Heritage Festival since 2008.

Tyrone is a very active member of Stronger Hope Baptist Church where he is a Deacon and Pastor's Armor Bearer. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Apostolic Restoration Ministry. Tyrone is a member of Masonic Lodge #701 and of the Jackson Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Tyrone is fully aware of the crime and economic conditions that presently face our community. He is also keenly aware of the perceptions that many citizens have of the Hinds County Sheriff's Department. As such, upon his election his goals include restoring safety to our communities and rebuilding trust in the Sheriff's Department. He will also work to create a greater relationship with all law enforcement agencies and increase the visibility and accountability of the department and its officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Tyrone Lewis for his dedication to serving.

RECOGNIZING RABBI ELLIOT M. STROM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Elliot M. Strom has served the Shir Ami, Bucks

County Jewish Congregation for 35 years with distinction. On the occasion of his retirement we acknowledge Rabbi Strom's spiritual leadership to his congregation and his many contributions to the greater Bucks County community. Under his leadership, the Shir Ami, Bucks County Jewish Congregation has grown to become the largest Jewish congregation in Bucks County and the spiritual home to more than 800 families and 2,000 members. Additionally, Rabbi Strom has dutifully served and contributed to the boards of directors of many community organizations, including his advocacy on behalf of the American Red Cross Homeless Shelter and Habitat for Humanity. We know him to be a strong advocate of open dialogue between local and national leaders and their constituents, while being honored with several invitations to the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. Throughout his tenure, Rabbi Strom has stood alongside thousands of congregants at the most significant moments in their lives—both blessings and sorrows. And generations have flourished under his spiritual leadership, knowledge and his tender heart. We sincerely congratulate Rabbi Elliot Strom on this milestone and wish him more blessings, much happiness and good health in the coming years.

HONORING DEPUTY TERRY WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Law Enforcer, Deputy Terry Williams, Sr.

On August 4, 1968, Henry and Emma Roberts gave birth to Terry Williams, Sr. He is a 1986 graduate of Quitman County High School in Marks, MS.

Deputy Williams furthered his education by attending Northwest Community College and majoring in Communication.

His first job was a machine operator for the Thermos Company, where he learned leadership skills. After leaving Thermos, he began working at Frame Picture Enterprise in Batesville, MS. During his time there, he supervised for 9 years.

In 2001, Deputy Williams began a job with the Quitman County Sheriff Department as a part-time jailer. Since his employment with the Quitman County Sheriff Department, he has served in many capacities such as County Arson Investigator, Triad Coordinator, Juvenile Resource Officer, Jail Administrator, Dispatcher and Deputy Sheriff. Also he serves and is acting Chief of Police for the town of Sledge, MS.

Deputy Williams is married to Lucille Williams, who has worked for the Quitman County Justice for the past 16 years. He is the father of four children.

Deputy Williams' goal is to continue to serve and protect the citizens of Quitman County for many more years to come.

Through God and determination, Deputy Williams will continue to make a difference in his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deputy Terry Williams, Sr. for his dedication in being an outstanding Law Enforcer.