

in his 90 years of life, more than most of us. He lived everyday with passion to do his best and to be happy. He is now on his journey into somewhere we will all meet again.

A successful businessman, loving father, and community icon, Andy was indeed a talented man of courage and integrity. His character, love of life, enthusiasm and selflessness were felt by all who knew him. It is individuals like Andy that make our Nation a sought-after home for those with a dream. My thoughts and prayers are with family, and everyone who has enjoyed Andy's hospitality and a meal at one of his restaurants. May the memory of Andy live on in our hearts.

HONORING ELIZABETH JONES

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

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

Whereas, A virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Ms. Elizabeth Jones began her educational career in teaching thirty-five (35) years ago, and this year she retires from teaching at Stephenson Middle School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County School District well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Jones is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Elizabeth Jones on her retirement from the DeKalb County School District and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 25, 2014 as Ms. Elizabeth Jones Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of May, 2014.

HONORING THEODOSSIA MURPHY NOLAN

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today I submit the homily of Theodosia Murphy Nolan, a legendary Arkansas businesswoman and philanthropist, delivered on May 28, 2014, and authored by her godson, the Reverend Doctor Christoph Keller III.

Theodosia; from theos (God) and dosis (gift). "Gift of God."

As Jesus was passing through Samaria, he met a woman at a well. Thirsty, he asked for water. "Who are you," she said, "a Jew, a man, asking me, a woman of Samaria, for water?" That's when he said: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that asks you for a drink, he would give you living water." If you knew the Gift of God. If you knew Theodosia.

If you knew Theodosia, then you know the story; that her father was already forty-five, her mother thirty-old for those days—when they married; that in the first two pregnancies, they lost their baby. Now came a daughter, beautiful and healthy. With thankful hearts, they named her Theodosia.

You know that she grew up gentle, respectful and devoted to her parents, but not meek; that at sixteen, she owned and flew an airplane, setting a dangerous example for her sister, in the opinion of my father; and that at eighteen, she married William, over objections from her parents. She was too young; about William, there were questions. As she stood her ground opposite her parents, she was being every inch their daughter. Firm and loving, they gave their children rope to make and accept the consequences of their own decisions. It was her life and she would get to live it as she saw fit.

So how did she live it? As a firm and loving wife and mother, devoted to her family—and with William, who was a keeper.

If you knew Theodosia, you know Bubba. For our guests, Bubba is our term of endearment for Bertie Wilson Murphy, Theodosia's mother. I guess Charlie Nolan must have been the first to call her that. Eventually, Bubba was her name to everyone in El Dorado.

When Bubba died almost forty years ago, Theodosia—now "Dosia," thanks to Diny—assumed the matriarchal mantle for our wider family, including siblings Charles, Polly and Bertie, plus all their progeny and in-laws. Ours has been a fruitful, multiplying clan, now sprawled out across the planet from Seattle to Beirut. The family center, though, is here in El Dorado: 900 N. Madison, where you can dangle your feet in the pool, sucking scuppernongs and muscadines.

If you've read King Lear, or Faulkner, or Genesis and 2nd Samuel, or the Wall Street Journal, or watched Dallas, then you should know that life in families isn't simple, necessarily.

Theodosia, however, doesn't bring to mind the complexity of family life. She represents its grace. It was Robert Frost who said: "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." True enough, I suppose, but it doesn't capture Theodosia. With her, you wanted to go there and she wanted to take you in. She wanted to feed you a heart-healthy breakfast: quail and scrambled eggs, Talla Bena sausage with a side order of bacon, pancakes with Ribbon Cane syrup (maple syrup only if you begged, served with a slight frown of disapproval). She wanted you to plop down beside her on the couch, get comfortable, and tell her the latest chapter of your story. She would know that you weren't telling her the whole truth. You would know that, even if you did, she would love you. There was nothing you could do or say that would warrant expulsion. You were family, period.

A word to my younger Nolan cousins: I used the word "grace." If you have heard that word and wondered what it means, then think of where you stood with Dosia.

Remember your worst day. You know that on that day she still loved you. That is grace. Jesus made that point through parables, like the prodigal son returning to his father. You can understand the father in that parable just by knowing Dosia. Once you understand that father, you know God.

The force of Theodosia's presence and example on our family history is impossible to calculate, but I am thinking that her impact was enormous. After everything, and no small thanks to her, we know our family as a blessing. We won't let it be less.

If you knew Theodosia, you know that, not only was she devoted to a family, she was devoted to a place: El Dorado, Arkansas.

Let's think on this place. Growing up in Arkansas, we learn early on of our three distinct geological regions: mountains to the north and west, delta to the east and, in between, spreading south from Little Rock, the gulf coastal plane. Of the three regions, this is the one that seems to have lacked a national identity: Hillbillies, they know, delta planters, they know, but who are we?

Well, there is a lot of wood, so I will start with that. Wood means deer, and I will mention that. Then came oil. My wife Julie recently took on a project to salvage and restore a Steinway piano at Central High School in Little Rock. This instrument had been purchased for the school in 1927. Julie tracked down the original Steinway distributor's ledger that recorded the sale. That particular ledger page shows 73 sales from throughout the Mid-South. Looking it over, Julie noticed a sale, December 28, 1926, to Bertie Wilson Murphy. When Julie showed me her find, I noticed that, of the entries on that page, no fewer than twenty were to buyers in El Dorado, Arkansas. It made perfect sense! The Busey-Armstrong well came in 1921. Through the twenties, El Dorado was a boomtown. What are you going to do with all that new money? The good citizens of El Dorado were going to purchase Steinways, which we now know is what people did with extra cash before the invention of the bass boat. Just three weeks ago, Julie brought that ledger down to 900 North Madison and showed it to Theodosia. They sat down on the couch beside Bubba's Steinway, and Julie caught Theodosia up on Keller family stories.

El Dorado's early glory day was back before the great depression. Even then, it would not have been the kind of town that is full of its own importance. There are such places. Great ladies in such places are not called Bubba. I have lived in such places and I appreciated and enjoyed them. But they don't care. They don't need our loyalty and love. If we want the kind of instant self-esteem they offer, we can have it just by living there. They give us that, needing nothing in return. These places are in New York or California. I am told there may be some in Texas. They are not in Arkansas. They are not El Dorado.

The big oil play petered out and the economics of the region began to favor dispersion: raise your kids and send them off, pack up the Steinways and move on. But El Dorado defied that fate with muscular determination, as well as cultured sensibility and aesthetic flair. Does that sound like anyone we know?

As much as Theodosia's love for family was unconditional, so was her commitment to South Arkansas. The taxes are a little higher here than Florida or Texas, the lights a little brighter in New York, but she belonged to El Dorado, case closed. She stayed put, as did her brother; and, as they insisted, so did the companies they founded. So Madison stayed too, with Suzanne; and Bill, with Deborah; and Bob with Candi, and in came Claiborne with Elaine; now Raymond with Liza; and back come Mike and Sydney. And now El Dorado is recognized throughout the country as the town where anyone and everyone can get a college education. There are no such towns in Texas, New York or California. El Dorado has an impressive new identity; and a remarkable town square; and

a beautiful new school; and a growing reputation for commitment to the arts. Also, the Wildcats are doing well.

All this grew as much from heart as calculation. This is a little bit like faith. It has to stand the tests of reason—in this case, economic reason—and it does, but there are other factors in the blend: appreciation for tradition; memories of loved ones; love of neighbor. As Newman said of faith, belief in El Dorado lives in the desire for that which it confesses. There are things between earth and heaven, my dear Horatio, undreamt of by Investor's Weekly. To Theodosia, such things were real and exceedingly important—and in some small part because she saw them as such, they took hold. Through grace, grit and imagination, El Dorado perseveres against the tide.

If you knew Theodosia, you know where else her love of place and family coalesced: the Coast and Cherokee. When we say "coast" we don't mean the Pacific Palisades, we mean Pass Christian and the Mississippi Sound—waveless, brown and shallow. We couldn't wait to get there: slathered up with Off and Coppertone, fishing from the pier, catching crabs and speckled trout and occasionally a stingray; swinging in a hammock with a good or trashy book; zooming up and down the Gulf Coast Highway; eating better than kings. All that, we lost to Hurricane Katrina. Even the house that Bubba built couldn't hold against that primal tide. Safely inland, Cherokee endures.

If you knew Theodosia, you know that, as we reckon long, she lived a long time: from Model T to Prius. Not that she would drive a Prius: she belonged in Thunderbirds. She lived through social revolutions. I always knew what Polly Keller thought about those revolutions as they happened. I also had a solid take on William Nolan's views, which reliably ran opposite to Polly Keller's. Theodosia held her opinions closer to the vest. She seemed neither restless with the way things were, nor much disturbed by the thought that they were changing. There would still be town and family to attend to, come what may.

I do know that in 1966 she supported David Pryor's run for Congress in the Fourth District, because I read that in his book (actually, my son Christoph read the whole book and showed this to me. I read only the two or three sentences concerning Theodosia.) In the primary, Charles Murphy was backing Richard Arnold. (Show me a congressional election from New York to California that involved such commendable opponents.) The battle went to Pryor and Theodosia over Charles and Richard Arnold. As I said, meek she was not.

Watch over thy child Theodosia, O Lord, as her days increase. Bless and guide her, wherever she may be.

If you know Theodosia, you know her faith: Methodist, with the occasional Episcopal accoutrements; and you know that she called her children, and their children, and theirs, on their birthdays, to pray with them from the Book of Common Prayer.

Strengthen her when she stands, comfort her when discouraged or sorrowful . . .

Well, certain aspects of that prayer are no more applicable to Theodosia. She leaves sorrow and discouragement behind. She leaves you, her beloved family, with that prayer, to say for one another as you carry on. As you say that prayer, as I know you'll do, you will think of her. As you think of her, remember her in faith. The faith in that prayer imbues our attitude towards place and family—actually, our attitude towards everything, Theodosia's death included. At least, it should; and for her, it did.

This place, First United Methodist, was the church through which she lived that

faith through all her many years. Here, she commended the souls of Charles and Bertie her parents; William her husband; Charles her brother; and Bill her son, to the good Lord who was grace itself, incarnate.

If you know Theodosia, you know that, good Methodist that she was, her faith in Christ was first and last a matter of the heart.

She had a good one, didn't she. She was a gift.

RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Opportunity Village and the AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals who have significant disabilities or are blind. Organizations like Opportunity Village, located in every state of our great nation, employ nearly 50,000 Americans who are blind or have significant disabilities through this Program.

AbilityOne affiliated non-profit agencies like Opportunity Village offer people who are blind or who have significant disabilities opportunities to acquire the job skills and training necessary to receive good wages and benefits and ultimately improve their quality of life. Today, over 75 percent of people with significant disabilities do not have jobs. Census statistics indicate there are 9.4 million people with significant disabilities in the United States who could work given the appropriate opportunity and support.

Opportunity Village is a shining example, providing employment opportunities and training to over 1,990 individuals with disabilities; many of whom live in the 4th district of Nevada; through this Program. Opportunity Village helps them to lead more productive lives, support their families, gain important work experience, and share in the same pride that each of us has after a day's work. Many of these individuals work in support of our men and women in uniform, doing their part to improve our country and ensure safety and security for us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program and to Opportunity Village. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Mr. Ed Guthrie, the Executive Director of Opportunity Village, and to his staff for helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities find employment opportunities. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each of the nearly 50,000 AbilityOne employees who work every day to improve their lives, and make our country a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP DR. STEWART REESE, JR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

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

Whereas, Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr., is celebrating forty five (45) years in pastoral leadership this year as the founder of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Bethesda Cathedral as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Reese, as he celebrates forty five years in pastoral leadership on this the Founder's Day of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 1, 2014 as Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of June, 2014.

COMMENDING THE SALVATION ARMY OF BROWARD COUNTY ON THE LAUNCH OF THE OPEN DOOR PROJECT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Salvation Army of Broward County, Florida. In the coming week, the Salvation Army will launch the Open Door Project, a new homeless shelter in Fort Lauderdale that will focus on helping the chronically homeless.

Our nation is currently faced with a harsh reality. Roughly 2 million Americans face homelessness every year. We have made great progress in reducing the number of Americans without a home, but there is much more to be done. The Open Door Project will be instrumental in helping vulnerable individuals in Broward County find shelter, support, and eventually, a permanent home.

The Salvation Army of Broward County has been serving the South Florida community since 1926, tirelessly working to serve the needs of the less fortunate. The organization offers transitional housing, life-skill training, and a structured support system to help individuals and families escape the cycle of homelessness. With the launch of the Open Door Project, the Salvation Army of Broward