

the Eastland Plantation. Rev. Mose Watson was the pastor. He continued to lead the church as he did while pastoring at the first location. After Rev. Watson, the church installed Rev. Issac as the new pastor until his death in 1947. Following Rev. Issac the church was led by Rev. Latson from 1947 to 1952. Rev. Latson left for the church to move to Chicago, IL. Immediately afterwards, Rev. McGee became the pastor in 1952, but separated from the church in 1953. There was a short lapse in pastors because Rev. Fleming did not begin pastoring the church until 1954. Records indicate he was the last pastor of the second structure listed as the home of Gilfield M.B. Church.

GILFIELD M.B. CHURCH—THIRD AND CURRENT STRUCTURE—JULY 24, 1977 YEAR: Rev. Fleming moved with the church to their third home beside the site of the second home, on the banks of the Sunflower River located on the Eastland Plantation. The sanctuary section of the second site was demolished leaving the backside section to be used for church gatherings, of which it still stands today. The pastors of the third site location in order of leadership were: Rev. Fleming, Rev. John H. Williams, Rev. Clarence Tolbert, and the current pastor is Rev. Theatry Winters.

CHURCH MEMBERS (PAST AND PRESENT): Gilfield M.B. Church was founded by slaves, built by slaves, pastored by slaves, and handed to their descendants, of which many are still members. Please know that many of the member's names have yet to be recorded. Ms. Hattie Jordan is still researching the church history and compiling documents to be used in the recordings. Membership records show these individuals as the members: Sis. Hattie Young and family, Sis. Mary Pittman, Sis. Mary Ella English, Sis. Mahalia Jones and family, Sis. Lucy Williams, Sis. Lubertha Williams and family, Sis. Willie Ann Moore and family, Sis. Grace Brown, Sis. Bettie Jones and family, Sis. Louis Pittman and family, Sis. Celestine Wallace, Sis. Mirays Brown, Sis. Eddie Lee Barnes, Bro. Wiley Caples, Sis. Ruth Caples, Sis. Hattie Robinson-Jordan and family, Deacon George Roby and family, Deacon Charlie Edwards and family, Deacon Glay Smith, Deacon David Williams and family, Sis. Susie Bowie and family, Sis. Bessie Williams, Deacon Howard Lawrence and family, Brother Thomas Hudson and family, Brother Joe Henry Pittman and family, Mrs. Hattie Byrd, Sis. Magnolia Wright and family, Sis. Rose Lee Lacy and family, Bro. W.C. Williams and family, Sis. Lillie Bell Robinson and family, Sis. Linnie Triplet and family, Bro. Hays Robinson and family, Sis. Bessie Joiner, and Sis. Deloris Lawrence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Gilfield M.B. Church of Dodsdsville, MS located in Sunflower County inside of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

HONORING MICHELLE DENISE BROWN

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Michelle Denise Brown on her re-

tirement from the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation (CHLDC) in Cypress Hills Brooklyn, NY, where she started more than two decades ago on March 15, 1993.

As a long time community resident and prior to joining CHLDC, Michelle served as President of the P.T.A. at Public School 65 for three years. She was an active parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church where she served as a volunteer religious education teacher for 6 years. Michelle had been attending Kingsborough Community College pursuing a Business Administration degree when she learned about the CHLDC job opportunity at the new school-based community center Beacon Program. Motivated to return to the workforce after 12 years, she applied for the position and was hired. For five years, she served as the Administrative Assistant at the Beacon School Based Community Center and the Beacon Family Place at IS 302, dividing her time with two programs. She was instrumental in the start-up of these programs which are now neighborhood institutions. Michelle set the tone of safety and caring at the Beacon while establishing intake, health and safety procedures and managing enrollment and scheduling for thousands of young people and their families.

Her exemplary work caught the attention of Ms. Neugebauer, the Executive Director who then promoted Mrs. Brown to serve as her right-hand Senior Administrative Assistant which she proudly did for the past 18 years. In addition to her administrative role, Mrs. Brown also serves as a Liaison with the Board of Directors and as the Coordinator of the Communications Committee of the organization—ensuring that the board members are aware of all CHLDC happenings and that agency's 400-plus staff and 17 offices know each other and the array of programs offered by the CHLDC and Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation.

Michelle has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will surely be missed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her, but I am certain that she is looking forward to this exciting next chapter in her life and will enjoy spending more time with her husband of 37 years, Mr. Beaufus Lee Brown, her three sons, daughter and 11 grandchildren.

I thank Michelle Denise Brown for her community service and longtime dedication to the Cypress Hill LDC community. I wish her all the best and congratulate her on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JANET REINERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Janet Reiners of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for being selected as the Together, Educators and Administrators Make It Happen Award from the Iowa State Education Association. Janet Reiners has served as the Chief Human Resources Officer for the Council Bluffs Community School District for over 19 years, and will retire from this position later this summer.

Janet Reiners received the Together, Educators and Administrators Make It Happen Award for her outstanding work in human re-

sources with the Council Bluffs Community School District as an administrator who has "worked to create a collaborative, collegial working environment for all staff." Before joining the school district staff, Janet Reiners worked in the private sector and gained valuable experience as an effective human resources officer. Ms. Reiners said she has seen many changes and requirements in education that directly affect classroom teachers and administrators. She said the human resources function and recruitment of teachers and administrators is the lifeblood of the school district. Ms. Reiners noted that, "The most important attribute the school district has is staff committed to helping children learn and grow."

I applaud and congratulate Janet Reiners for earning the Together, Educators and Administrators Make It Happen Award. She is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can affect the future of our youth and their education. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Janet Reiners for her many accomplishments serving the Council Bluffs Community School District. I wish her continued success and the very best in her retirement.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH HAMILTON AND DR. A.V. RAMAYYA

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vanderbilt University and two of its physics professors, Dr. Joseph Hamilton and Dr. A.V. Ramayya. Their research with an international team led to the discovery of element 117, tennessine, a new addition to the periodic table.

Their work was a collaborative effort by Vanderbilt, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the University of Tennessee, the Flerov Laboratory for Nuclear Reactions in Russia and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. The name was chosen to honor the contributions from our region; Tennessee is only the second U.S. state to have a namesake element.

After spending decades studying superheavy element research, the team's discoveries provide new evidence for the "island of stability." Tennessine will join three other newly discovered elements to fill the seventh row of the periodic table.

Drs. Hamilton and Ramayya are the best of the best, and they have made the Volunteer State proud. Their discovery will live forever in textbooks, and they have proven once more that science is a never-ending frontier.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD H. GANT

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward H. Gant, for his contributions and service in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 351 and throughout southern New Jersey.

Mr. Gant has been a member of IBEW Local 351 since he began his apprenticeship in the Spring of 1974. Mr. Gant served as an apprentice for five years before he became a full-fledged electrician in 1979. Ten years later, at the age of 36, he joined the local union executive board.

From there, he moved swiftly up the ranks and was appointed IBEW Local Union 351 President in 1994. Until his recent retirement he served as the Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the local.

As an example of his commitment to not only improving his immediate community but the state as a whole, Mr. Gant has served as President of the New Jersey State Electrical Workers Association since 2002.

Mr. Gant has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the IBEW Local 351 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee to advance opportunities for young people to join the workforce with gainful employment.

Ed Gant is a man who knows what it is to put in a hard day's work with your hands. Building trades jobs are some of the best jobs around but they are not always the safest. Mr. Gant understood that and donated his time to serve as the Director of the IBEW New Jersey State Lineman Safety Fund.

I had the distinct honor and privilege to work with Ed at IBEW Local 351 until my retirement to join this body, and I wish him all the best in his retirement after over 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, Edward H. Gant is a great man whose contributions toward the working men and women of this country will not be forgotten. I join with all of New Jersey in honoring the investment that he has made in his community.

HONORING HAMILTON SCHOLAR SARAH HILL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Seneca High School student Sarah Hill for being awarded the 2016 Hamilton Scholars Award for outstanding academic accomplishments and community service.

The Hamilton Scholars Award is presented nationally by the Alexander Hamilton Scholars, a non-profit organization designed to build leaders of character who improve our nation and our world through their service, innovation, and excellence.

To be considered for the Hamilton Scholars Award, one must be a high school junior who has demonstrated financial need, academic excellence, commitment to community service, and leadership potential. 35 to 40 students are selected each year to complete a rigorous three year program designed to provide them with practical tools for success in college and the post-college world. Students like Sarah who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Sarah has displayed the ability to not only excel in the classroom, but to balance her academics with such extracurricular activities as being president of her Future Business Leaders of America chapter and district, president and founder of her school's Junior State

of America, and her involvement in other such organizations as Student Council, National Honor Society, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah for this distinguished achievement and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

PASSMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLACES THIRD AT THE NA- TIONAL SEAPERCH CHALLENGE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alvin, TX Passmore Elementary School Sea Sharks II for placing third in the Obstacle Course Challenge at the National SeaPerch Challenge at Louisiana State University.

The U.S. Navy National SeaPerch Challenge is an underwater robotics competition. The Passmore Elementary School built and operated their own remotely operated vehicles that function underwater and are designed to complete an obstacle course. The SeaPerch Challenge competition judges the students' underwater vehicles in poster and interview first, and then two underwater challenges follow. The first being an obstacle course and the second being an orbs challenge where the students move different sized balls into submerged containers. The students develop problem-solving, teamwork and technical skills through this competition. They were awarded 3rd Place in the Obstacle Course Challenge. We are very proud of what these bright young students have accomplished.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Passmore Elementary School Sea Sharks II for placing third at the National SeaPerch Challenge. Keep up the great work.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE AND RONNIE EBLEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Bonnie and Ronnie Eblen on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bonnie and Ronnie were married on June 3, 1956, residing now in Creston, Iowa. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many more years to come.

I salute this lovely couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING SYKES CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Lambert, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was founded in the 1900s by the share cropping plantation families: the Sykes family, the Noble family, the Cox family, and the McCray family. For years, there was no building for worship service. Therefore, the families went from house to house worshipping and praising God. The plantation was first-owned by Mr. Yeager who later gave it to his relative, Mr. E. H. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was more of a God-fearing man who would often attend some of the worship services, sometimes standing in the back or just stopping by one of the homes.

The Sykes family was the oldest and first family on the plantation. Therefore, the families gathered together and sold cakes to raise a little money. Afterwards, they asked Mr. Anderson to allow them to have a spot to build a church. Mr. Anderson allowed them to build a one-room shot gun building and allowed the men on the plantation to provide the labor. There was one wood heater and no air, but the families continued to praise God.

The members along with Mr. Anderson agreed to name the church Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Afterwards, they selected a pastor to lead them. Minister Richardson was the first pastor selected. He served for a while, and later God called him home. In addition to the church, Mr. Anderson provided them with burial ground, and they called it the Sykes Chapel Cemetery. Some of the members are actually buried there.

Later, the church was destroyed twice—first by storm and later by fire. With the assistance of Mr. Anderson and loyal families, the church was rebuilt twice. After rebuilding the church, they had worship service once a month. The church has been under the leadership of several pastors: Rev. Harry Benimon, Rev. Rollie Lee, Rev. Arthur Lee, Rev. Lloyd Johnson, and Rev. Robert Griffin.

Pastor Lloyd Johnson enjoyed praising God. He encouraged members to attend church every Sunday, and the membership increased. He later had a vision to build a larger sanctuary. In the process of preparing to build a larger church, no deed was found. Several deacons, including Deacon Albert Emerson, Deacon James Lee McCray, Deacon Ollie McCray, and Deacon Eddie Moore went to Mr. Anderson to inquire about the deed, and he sold the land to Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for \$1.00. In addition to the new sanctuary, a bus and van were purchased; outreach ministries and abstinence programs were started. Pastor Johnson served as pastor for seventeen years, until God called him home.

God sent Pastor Robert Griffin, who served for approximately four years. Under his leadership, the church continued to praise God. The youth ministry flourished, and the church was paid off in one and a half years.