

HONORING HOSKINS LEARNING
CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hoskins Learning Center of Batesville, MS.

Mrs. Lillie L. Hoskins, a woman of favor and faith, is a native of Batesville, MS. She has been an educator and Daycare Provider for over 35 years and is currently the owner and operator of the Hoskins Learning Center.

She graduated from South Panola High School in 1973 and later obtained a secretarial degree from Northwest Community College. In 2000, she obtained State credentials as an Early Childhood Education Director.

Mrs. Hoskins was born into a family where she was rooted in her faith in Christ. She is the daughter of the late George and Audrey Leland and the youngest girl of eight (8) children, but even as a young girl she knew, she would someday spend her life working with children.

Mrs. Hoskins is the mother of two children, a daughter-in-law and has two grandchildren. Over the course of forty-two (42) years of marriage, Lawrence and Lillie have traveled and touched the lives of many people.

In 1979, Mrs. Hoskins prayed to God through faith and opened the first daycare, Magnolia Kindergarten, which she owned and operated until 2003. In 2003, she expanded her business to include infants and early toddlers. At this time she also changed the operating name to Hoskins Learning Center, as it is known today.

Mrs. Hoskins has touched the community and the lives of children in the city of Batesville in many ways, by opening her house and heart to train and tutor our children.

As owner and operator of Hoskins Learning Center, her goal has been to serve the children of Batesville and Panola County, preparing them all to be productive and responsible adults in a rapidly changing world. Since 1979, the daycare has had a 96 percent high school graduation rate, including several valedictorians, salutatorians and honor roll students, one of which went on to play football in the NFL.

For all of her outstanding accomplishments, Mrs. Hoskins is recognized as a trailblazer in Early Childhood Education, in the great State of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hoskins Learning Center for their commitment and dedication to the community.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the achievements of an outstanding faith community, the Union Baptist Church, who are celebrating their ministry's 80th Anniversary of successful service to the community of Passaic on Sunday, April 3, 2016.

Eighty years ago the Union Baptist Church was established through the Merger of two parishes in the city of Passaic NJ; the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Greater St. Paul Baptist Church on April 4, 1936. The combined Church membership was approximately 150 parishioners. The Church and its members worshipped Christ for 28 years at its 315 Oak Street and 30 Ann Street location. Due to an increase in membership the Union Baptist Church purchased 221 Myrtle Ave on September 27, 1964 and began to worship there.

The Union Baptist Church is located in a welcoming neighborhood. Current ministries within the church include traditional Sunday morning worship service, Bible study, Sunday school, voluntary work such as feeding the homeless on Saturday afternoons, Camp Union for the youth, and the services provided to the senior citizens. Union Baptist has always focused on spiritual leadership accompanied by a strong sense of commitment to community involvement. I know that their dedication will continue to grow.

In fact, the church has been an integral part of Passaic and the surrounding area for more than three quarters of a century. Its hallowed grounds have witnessed the miracle of newborn baptism, the holy matrimony of marriage as well as the somber rituals of burial. But most importantly, many lives have been changed by the people that have called the Church home since 1936. Indeed, the ministry has been a major part of the Passaic community and continues to serve all.

In this sense, the Union Baptist Church clergy and organizers have worked passionately to build many bridges between different groups within the faith community. At the forefront of this cause has been the church's many leaders throughout its history. The first among several leaders to grace the halls of the church was Reverend O.D. Henry—who served from 1936–1942.

His work undoubtedly laid a strong foundation for the others to follow, such as Reverend T.H. Alexander—who continued his predecessor's work until 1932. Reverend Ronald W. Johnson was the next to answer God's calling, and he devoted himself to the Union Baptist Church until 2010. Indeed, the Union Baptist Church has had many leaders throughout its years. Today, it is led by Reverend Kortney L. Haigler, who has inspired many to follow the path of faith and kindness.

It gives me pride to recognize the excellence of the Union Baptist Church, as well as a deep sense of satisfaction for their service to the residents of Passaic. I am grateful to represent the Church and its congregation within the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of faith communities such as the Union Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, and the Union Baptist Church in celebrating their 80th Anniversary and recognizing their leadership, dedication and loyalty to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING TRI COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tri County Community Action (TCCA) upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. The organization's decades of committed service have brought awareness to the issue of poverty and helped lessen its impact in Pennsylvania. Helping families to identify and achieve economic self-sufficiency has enabled TCCA to increase the standards of living for my constituents in Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties.

Founded in 1966 as a private, nonprofit, anti-poverty planning agency, TCCA has transformed into a dynamic organization with the mission of "creating and maximizing the resources necessary for individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency throughout a multi-county region." Over the course of the last 50 years, TCCA has evolved into a network of programs offering specialized assistance to at-risk youth, low income families, and poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Some of their services include providing credit counseling for families that are struggling financially, arranging self-sufficiency guidance, engaging with youth mentor programs, and leading neighborhood revitalization efforts. The organization strives to help those stricken by poverty and financial instability on an individual and family basis, with personalized action plans for socioeconomic advancement.

The lives of many in my district have been greatly improved by the work of TCCA since its inception 50 years ago. In 2014 alone, TCCA served 12,997 families representing 38,629 individuals across three counties. They have brought to light the root causes of poverty that otherwise may not have been exposed, and subsequently worked to empower members of our community to create better lives for themselves. Through strategic identification, TCCA works to empower existing community programs that can act as vessels for combating poverty and its consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a district that is home to such an impactful, successful, and benevolent organization. I commend Tri County Community Action for its accomplishments in improving the lives of my constituents, family by family, and I wish them all of the best in their continued efforts. No one chooses to live in poverty, and the pathway out can be painfully difficult, but the good work of organizations like theirs help families grow and see possibility, where before there was only despair.

HONORING MS. GINNY CRAVEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Ginny Craven, founder of Operation Tango Mike, for her ongoing support for veterans, active duty troops, and her Lake County, California community.

Ms. Craven's family has been in Lake County since the 1800's, and it's these strong Lake County roots that helped to form her impressive commitment to serving her neighbors. Ms. Craven is a retired Senior Deputy Probation Officer for Lake County, and for 14 years, she has served as a volunteer firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with the Lucerne Fire Department.

Ms. Craven has a long history of ensuring service members, veterans and their families receive the care and services they need. For the past 13 years, she has led Operation Tango Mike, an all-volunteer non-profit organization that has sent over 16,000 care packages to troops serving overseas.

Locally, Ms. Craven serves as an honorary member on the United Veterans Council of Lake County, the Military Funeral Honors Team of Lake County, and the Pearl Harbor Survivors of Lake County. Ms. Craven serves as a liaison for local Gold Star families and Operation Homefront, and provides publicity, fundraising, and social media expertise for multiple veteran organizations. Furthermore, Ms. Craven has put her organizational talents and volunteer connections to work in California to assist her community during and after the Rocky and Valley Fires, coordinating with the U.S. Army to bring an engineer battalion to Lake County for flood prevention operations.

In recognition of her numerous contributions to her community, Ms. Craven was named as the 2007 Lake County Friend of the Veteran, the 2008 Stars of Lake County Woman of the Year, and the Grand Marshal of the Lake County Fair in 2011. For her contributions to the United States Army, Ms. Craven received the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute in 2010, and for her dedication to community service, she received the Byron Whipple Award from the Lake County Association of Realtors in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, Ginny Craven has dedicated countless hours to improving the welfare of deployed troops, veterans, and her neighbors, and it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING HARRISON BEFFA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harrison Beffa of Troop 586 from St. Louis, Missouri for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest honor attainable in Boy Scouts. Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the level of Eagle Scout, which requires years of dedicated effort.

Community service, leadership, and family values are the most important aspects of scouting, and are essential to becoming an Eagle Scout. After overcoming a difficult battle with brain tumor, Harrison grew from this struggle into the exceptional young man he is today. He is a proud American, a helpful, honorable citizen, a strong Christian, and a leader by example.

A native of Hillsboro, MO, Harrison's Eagle Scout project involved building wagons for summer campers at Camp Rainbow, a foundation that provides camping experiences free

of charge to children undergoing cancer treatment as well as to survivors. Throughout his career as a Boy Scout, Harrison has earned 25 merit badges, camped for over 76 nights, completed over 75 hours of community service, was elected into the Order of the Arrow, and served in a number of leadership roles such as Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Order of the Arrow Representative.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Harrison Beffa on his accomplishment of becoming an Eagle Scout before the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING UPPER KUTZ BARBER & STYLE COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable business, Upper Kutz Barber & Style College.

Upper Kutz Barber & Style College maintains the philosophy that their students come to them for; education, skill development, and career advancement. They believe in equal opportunity for all students, reinforced with training. Placement assistance has helped their students to become enterprising professionals.

The school has an orderly, purposeful, businesslike atmosphere which is free from threat of physical harm. The school climate is not oppressive and is conducive to teaching and learning. The school has an atmosphere of ex-patiation in which the staff believes and demonstrates that all students can attain mastery of the essential barber cultural skills and that they have the capability to help all students attain that mastery.

The mission of Upper Kutz Barber & Style College is to train men and women: (1) To familiarize and instruct students in the proper and most current methods in all phases of barbering; (2) To make a living in the business world; (3) To become good citizens on both local and national levels; (4) To be able to recognize problems and procedures in business and industry from the view-point of both producer and consumer; (5) To assist students in suitable job placement; (6) To provide assistance and counseling to graduates; (7) To develop self-discipline, self-reliance, and self-direction and; (8) To enter the national work force as productive individuals.

Furthermore, the school has at least 1200 square feet of floor space, composed of two separate areas: The classroom and lecture area and the clinical/lab area, where services are practiced on school patrons. The clinical area is equipped with at least 10 modern built in-stations, 10 mirrors, 10 hydraulic chairs, 3 sinks, 3 dryer chairs, a dispensing area, and a reception area. This salon environment prepares students for professional operation in the career field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Upper Kutz Barber & Style College for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

HONORING DANIEL H. LOPEZ

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the President of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech), Dr. Daniel "Dan" H. Lopez, on his retirement after serving as President for the past 23 years. Dan is a leader in education and a dedicated public servant, whose contributions to our state will last generations.

Throughout his career, Dan made serving our state his priority. Before entering academia, Dan had a long and distinguished career in public policy. He served as the Secretary of Employment and Security from January 1983 to August 1984 where he worked diligently to reduce unemployment in our state. Next, Dan served as the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration until December 1986, where he oversaw all the cabinet agency budgets. From January 1987 through March 1993, he served as the Chief of Staff of the New Mexico State Senate Finance Committee.

In July 1993, Dan became the 16th President of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology where he has served ever since. As President of a world class institution, he is responsible for overseeing roughly 2,000 students, more than 100 tenured faculty as well as 1,000 employees, and a yearly budget of approximately \$170 million. Dan has worn this responsibility well and has served as President longer than any other President in NM Tech's history.

During his tenure, NM Tech's federal funding for research programs has grown from \$20 million to over \$123 million. Additionally, Dan secured \$200 million for construction projects including the Altamirano Apartments and the Joseph A. Fidel Student Center, which will serve students for generations to come. Dan has also worked hard to recruit minority and female students to NM Tech. Before he became President, the school was only 10 percent Hispanic. Today, the Hispanic population has risen to 26 percent. Furthermore, over the past 20 years, NM Tech has witnessed a 33 percent increase in its female student population.

We need more leaders like Dan at our universities and colleges to educate and empower future leaders. John Steinbeck once said, "I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." Without a doubt, Dan is such a teacher.

On June 30, 2016, Dan will retire after 23 years at the helm of NM Tech. Mr. Speaker, I wish Dan all the best in retirement and know that he will stay busy working hard to help others as he always has. Dan's dedication to his community and insistence on providing the best possible educational experience for his students is a manifestation of his outstanding character and desire to serve others. His accomplishments have touched thousands and will be felt for generations to come. Congratulations Dan.