

United States through legislative redress. Those one hundred years saw the advent of the civil rights movement and Jim Crow, but it also was marred by undercurrents of racism and random acts of violence.

As the Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia and a senior member of the House Judiciary, this legislation, which would finally make the act of lynching a hate crime, has particular significance to me and my constituents. Our district is home to Stone Mountain which is commonly known as the symbolic birthplace of the modern Klu Klux Klan. Since 1915, the Klu Klux Klan has met at Stone Mountain and as recently as 2018, white supremacist organizations sought to rally atop the mountain with Confederate flags. Over the years, many civil rights battles have been won in our district, but our fight for equality is not over.

Lynching is a vestige of slavery and America's views on race and racism in this country. It has long been a practice used to keep enslaved Africans, and later, free Black men, women, and children living in terror. The practice has irrevocably damaged the American psyche. It is time to formally distance our country from these heinous acts and raise the crime to the consideration of a hate crime. In doing so, we declare to ourselves and the rest of the world that we will not tolerate bigotry in the United States and that those who would harm others because of the color of their skin will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Rep. BOBBY RUSH's Emmett Till Antilynching Act will finally be considered by the Full House. This bill honors Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy lynched in Mississippi in 1955. As we progress towards a more perfect union by recognizing lynching for what it is—a hate crime, we reflect on how this heinous practice has been wielded to oppress minorities throughout American history.

My good friend Rep. RUSH brings this legislation to the House floor citing the riots that took place in Charlottesville in 2017 and during the deadly El Paso shooting in 2019. The lynching of black and brown people in our country is truly, as he says, prevalent in American society today. Its face may have evolved, but the crime of hate that it represents is indisputable.

The Senate passed a resolution in 2005 that apologized to victims of lynching crimes; however, lynching still is not classified as a federal hate crime. We honor, today, the herculean efforts from American heroes like my fellow Georgia Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who worked to mobilize our country against these violent acts.

We have waited too long to raise this crime to the level of a federal hate crime, and we cannot delay any longer. Only when we reckon with our troubled history and the epidemic of hate crimes against black and brown people in the United States can we begin to construct a more perfect union.

I'm proud to lend my support and my vote to this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would statutorily add the District of Columbia to the national empowerment zone program, which provides federal tax incentives for businesses to locate and invest in low-income areas. In 1993, Congress created the national empowerment zone program and left it to federal agencies to designate a certain number of low-income areas as empowerment zones. The District was not one of the areas selected. However, in 1997, working primarily with Republicans in Congress, I created federal tax incentives for investment in the District by businesses and individuals. The business incentives were similar to, but more generous than, those available under the national empowerment zone program. I got the D.C. incentives reauthorized regularly until 2011, when Congress refused to extend only the D.C. program. At the same time, the national empowerment zone program continued to be reauthorized and was reauthorized last year through 2020. Under my bill, certain low-income neighborhoods, particularly in Wards 5, 7 and 8, would be treated as empowerment zones as long as the national empowerment zone program remains in effect.

The wisdom of the bipartisan, modest, targeted business tax incentives for D.C. has been amply and visibly demonstrated in the economic resurgence of parts of the nation's capital where they were applied. Among the most visible examples are the formerly run-down area around the Verizon Center (now Capital One Arena), which is now surrounded by offices, restaurants and vibrant nightlife, and the Penn Quarter neighborhood, which had limited residential, commercial and retail spaces, and is now a popular mixed-use neighborhood.

Unfortunately, the D.C. tax incentives were allowed to expire before the poorest D.C. neighborhoods were ready to make use of them, especially in Wards 5, 7 and 8. Withdrawing the D.C. tax incentives, particularly after they had proven to be effective in other areas of the city, has left the nation's capital with essentially half of a revival, and was tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, are ready for redevelopment. The effectiveness of these incentives for the District has been demonstrated and their costs have been de minimis compared to the measurable benefits they have generated in the District.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING AL WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant Mr. Al White.

Mr. White was born in Duck Hill, Mississippi in July of 1955. Duck Hill is in Montgomery County, a county laden with much civil rights history. Mr. White has committed his life to documenting and preserving this history.

Mr. White graduated from Duck Hill High School in 1973. He is also a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. Mr. White worked with "Why Was Mississippi Burning" in response to the "Mississippi Burning" documentary. He documented the inception of Southern Echo and other entities. He's worked with the NAACP, COFO, ACLU, Kellogg, and the Algebra Project. He also continues to be instrumental in documenting the conferences, events, and interviews around the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. White is currently the Director of the MVSU TV Studio and Instructor at Mississippi Valley State University. In this role, he shares the history of the civil rights movement with his students, ensuring that this history is passed on to the next generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Al White for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2020 I regret not being present for a vote session. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 2339—Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019, Roll Call vote 78, and voted in support of H.R. 2819—Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act, Roll Call Vote 76.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 76; Yea on Roll Call No. 77; and Nay on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL O'ROURKE, JR

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bill O'Rourke, Jr., a beloved pillar of our community, who passed away on January 28, 2020.

Mr. O'Rourke was above all an educator, coaching hundreds of students in the Webster Central School District for over forty years. Under the coaching of his father, O'Rourke became an outstanding player at St. John

Fisher, eventually leading the New York Knicks to draft him. During his tenure at Webster Thomas High School, he coached the boys' varsity basketball team where he was inducted into the Section V Basketball Hall of Fame and the Frontier Field Walk of Fame. He completed his career with two Section V championships and 468 wins.

O'Rourke understood that the game of basketball is mastered not simply through dedication, but with a commitment to spirit and integrity. We did not just lose a wonderful basketball coach, we lost a devoted man who dedicated his life to his family, friends, and community. His legacy will live on through his family, his players, and the hundreds of lives he touched. He is survived by his wife, Marsha Barber, five children, two grandchildren, one brother, and one niece.

While I am saddened by Mr. O'Rourke's passing, it brings me great pleasure to have represented a man who lived his life inspiring all those around him. My heart is with his entire extended family.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body join me to recognize Bill O'Rourke, Jr.

HONORING VALERIE BERNARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Valerie Bernard. Valerie has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Valerie Bernard who is amid her 24th year teaching, is a second-grade teacher at Dana Road Elementary School in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

With both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College, Bernard began her career teaching in the Jackson Public Schools at Powell Middle School. She also taught at Sykes Elementary School in Jackson before moving to St. Therese in the Diocese of Jackson in 2011. In 2014, she returned to Jackson Public Schools, teaching math and social studies at John Hopkins. She later moved to fifth grade at John Hopkins before coming to Dana Road Elementary in 2018.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Valerie Bernard for her passion and dedication and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 60th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County chapter.

Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, the League of Women Voters has never

wavered in its fundamental belief that all citizens should make their voices heard not only at the ballot box but also through continuous participation in every aspect of civic life. This organization is comprised of more than 700 state and local chapters dedicated to protecting voting rights and empowering voters to advocate for themselves and their communities.

The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County has helped shape our community for six decades. This chapter supports a variety of issues, from ensuring adequate funding for our county library system, to fostering environmental resilience, to expanding early voting sites to the campuses of our public universities and colleges.

Miami-Dade County is richer and fuller thanks to the efforts of the League of Women Voters, and I am grateful for their advocacy and commitment to our shared community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable scheduling conflict, I needed to be in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING MRS. FAYE BROWN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a principal at the Jefferson County Junior High School, Mrs. Faye Brown.

Mrs. Faye Brown was born and grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida. She attended school and graduated from Palm Beach County School District. Mrs. Brown continued her studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received her undergraduate degree in Political Science with a minor in Management and Organization. After her undergraduate she went on to pursue a master's degree from Alcorn State University in Guidance Counseling, and later a Specialist in Educational Leadership from Jackson State University. Currently, Mrs. Brown is enrolled at William Carey University where she has completed all coursework and is working on the final two chapters of her doctoral dissertation.

Mrs. Brown has served the educational community in Jefferson County since August 1998. She is known to have unique distinction of serving educationally from multiple perspectives. She was initially hired in the school district as a high school English teacher. After years progressed teaching ninth and twelfth grade English for four years, Mrs. Brown worked as the high school counselor and test coordinator for five years. During the time as a high school counselor Mrs. Brown became a certified school bus driver. It was at the culmination of five years as a high school guidance counselor that Mrs. Brown moved into

service as a school administrator. She started her administrative career at the Jefferson County Elementary School as assistant principal. After five years, she became the Jefferson County Upper Elementary principal and during her tenure it led her to the appointment as the district's School Improvement Officer and Curriculum Director. In this position she was to oversee more than 1-million-dollar SIG grant implementation. At the culmination of the SIG grant, Mrs. Brown returned to a high school and junior high school-based administrative leadership.

Mrs. Brown has worked with the Mississippi Department of Education and was selected as a Mississippi Teacher Fellowship participant, as well as a 2017 Prospective Superintendent Leadership Academy completer.

Mrs. Brown is committed to improving students educational outcomes at her school and she fully embraces their theme, "Inspiring Excellence and Promoting Success".

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Faye Brown for her hard work and dedication in the Jefferson County School District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILTON MANORS MAYOR JUSTIN S. FLIPPEN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Wilton Manors Mayor Justin Flippen, a dedicated public servant, who loved his community and contributed greatly to the people of Broward County, Florida. Justin passed away on February 25, 2020 at the age of 41.

A graduate of Coconut Creek High School, Broward College, and Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he became Florida's first openly gay student body president at FAU, as well as serving as an intern for United States Senator Bob Graham. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law. Justin was a Wilton Manors City Commissioner before being elected Mayor in 2018. Active in the community, he became a member of the Wilton Manors-based Dolphin Democrats in 1997 and served as president from 2008 to 2009, overseeing the growth of the club to over 400 members. Justin was also a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus.

When marriage equality became legal in 2015, Justin officiated the Valentine's Day marriages of nearly 40 couples at city hall as part of a city-sponsored marriage equality mass wedding program entitled, "We Do It!" He successfully worked to have Wilton Manors become the first city in Broward County to raise the Pride Flag outside city hall for National LGBT Pride Month, and then less than a year later to have Wilton Manors become the first city in the nation to permanently raise the Pride Flag as the foundation to a monument and memorial dedicated to the contributions of the LGBT community and their allies.

In November of 2018, the people historically elected Justin as their Mayor by one of the largest margins of victory in a contested race. Now as "The People's Mayor," but more importantly as a product of our city and community, Justin believed in upholding the highest