

told me not to go, that it was too violent, and that there would be consequences. But I knew I had to go, and I had to see for myself.

Not only was it not a war-torn area, as Azerbaijan would have you believe, but Artsakh was beautiful and charming. And I was able to see and feel the national pride that was there. Azerbaijan may not want to recognize Artsakh, but all you have to do is walk around and talk to the people there and you will know. The Armenian people are alive and thriving in Artsakh.

But something else I saw while I was there was the lingering damage caused by Azerbaijan's war on Artsakh. Land mines still make so much land unusable, threatening the lives of farmers, children, or people just out for a walk. And Azerbaijan's military still threatens the peace along the border. That is why, last year, I introduced and secured House passage of a pro-peace amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. This common-sense amendment urged all parties to agree on the non-deployment of snipers, heavy arms, and new weapons; the deployment of additional OSCE monitors, and; the placement of gunfire-locators along the line-of-contact. But sadly, despite overwhelming support in this House, the Senate caved to pressure from Azerbaijan and stripped this amendment.

And now, in another gift to Azerbaijan, the State Department seems ready to end funding for demining. This is unacceptable. I was privileged to visit the HALO Trust in Artsakh, which leads the demining work there, and I was amazed at how much land was cleared and made usable again. Thanks to HALO, thousands of mines and unexploded ordnance have been identified and removed, and Armenians in Artsakh are able to reclaim lands that had been too dangerous before. We cannot let this work go unfinished. I am committed to standing with the people of Artsakh though, and that is why, as we consider Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations, I will be supporting no less than \$10 million for Artsakh demining and rehabilitation services.

You can count on me to always stand with the Armenian people and to stand up for democracy and peace in Artsakh.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on March 2, 2020 due to family medical matters in Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 5003, the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act and YEA on H.R. 5932, the Ensuring Chinese Debt Transparency Act of 2020.

#### HONORING NSOMBI LAMBRIGHT-HAYNES

##### 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 worthy mem-

ber of our society, Mrs. Nsombi Lambright-Haynes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Nsombi Lambright-Haynes. Nsombi Lambright-Haynes is the Executive Director of One Voice, a statewide leadership development and policy advocacy organization, headquartered in Jackson, MS. The goal of One Voice is to build leadership in an effort to address structural oppressions that show up in the institutions that are significant in the lives of families, including the public education system, voting, the environment, and the criminal justice system.

Before beginning her role at One Voice, Nsombi Lambright-Haynes served as the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Mississippi for eight years. Under her leadership, the ACLU challenged the state's prison system, the denial of voting rights for people with felony convictions, and a number of schools to prison pipeline cases. The ACLU also led several LGBTQ cases during her time there.

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes serves on the City of Jackson's Civil Service Commission and Criminal Justice Taskforce and served on the transition teams of Jackson Mayors, Chokwe Lumumba and Chokwe Antar Lumumba.

She has received several honors including the Chokwe Lumumba Award for Advancing Social Justice (2019) the Fannie Lou Hamer Humanitarian Award (2012) and the Young Women in the NAACP Award (2008).

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes is a 1994 graduate of Tougaloo College (B.A. English-Journalism) and a 1996 graduate of Jackson State University (Master of Public Policy and Administration).

Nsombi Lambright-Haynes sits on the boards of the Center for Constitutional Rights, the National Network for Justice and the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is also a Life Member of the Jackson Branch of the NAACP. She worships at Christ The King Catholic Church in Jackson.

She is the mother of an adult son, Julian Lambright and resides in Jackson with her husband, Joseph Christopher Haynes.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Nsombi Lambright-Haynes.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOWARD SNYDER

##### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Howard Snyder the founder and long-time Executive Director of the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For nearly 40 years, Howard has been a critical ally for economic development in some of Milwaukee's most disadvantaged areas and this year will be stepping down from his role.

Howard began his career as a community organizer for the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center advocating for housing on Milwaukee's Northwest Side. After serving for six years, Howard saw the communities dire need for economic development and founded the

Northwest Side Community Development Corporation (NWSCDC) in 1983. His vision for NWSCDC was an organization that could help lead the transformation of the Northwest Side of Milwaukee into a preferred destination for business and residents.

Under Howard's leadership, the NWSCDC has served the development needs of Milwaukee's low-income communities by assisting the expansion of industries and small businesses. Since the year 2000 alone, the NWSCDC has lent over \$10 million to several major projects for its constituency. As a result, economic growth has continued to spur, creating new jobs, markets, and services for these communities. One of these notable projects included the redevelopment of the Villard Avenue Library on Villard with 47 housing units for "grand families", grandparents serving as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

Today NWSCDC is one of the oldest and most dynamic community development corporations, serving as a model for the rest of the country. It has been a catalyst for change in our city; rehabbing properties and lending funds to new businesses. In a community that is still recovering from the effects of deindustrialization, this organization has given our community hope for a grander future.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have a leader like Howard in our community. His heart has always been set on improving the lives of the community he serves. The compassion and ongoing success of NWSCDC reflects the kindness and leadership he has provided to the Greater Milwaukee community.

While he may be entering a new chapter of his life, I know that his work and dedication will not end. Madam Speaker, Howard Snyder has made Milwaukee and the 4th Congressional District, a better place and I salute him for his love and service to its residents.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2020, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures. Had I been present, I would have voted the following: (Roll no. 76) On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2819—Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act, had I been present I would have voted yes. (Roll no. 77) On Motion to Recommit with Instructions of H.R. 2339—Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, had I been present I would have voted yes. (Roll no. 78) On Passage of H.R. 2339—Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, had I been present I would have voted no.

#### RECOGNITION OF RICK KELLER'S SERVICE TO IDAHO AGRICULTURE

##### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rick Keller on

his outstanding and impactful tenure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Idaho Farm Bureau. Rick has dedicated the past 41 years of his life to the Farm Bureau and protecting the many great farmers of Idaho. Throughout his leadership, total membership increased 39 of the 41 years he held the office of CEO.

Over the years, Rick has been an active and spirited member of the Idaho Farm Bureau. Originally starting as a field manager for Southeast Idaho, Rick worked fervently and eventually was named Organizational Director. Under this title he has worked with members and officials from each of the 37 individual county Farm Bureaus to ensure ample access to county, state, and national insurance benefits for each member. Along with these benefits, the Bureau protects member farmers through creating and pushing legislation both on the State and National level, working closely with appointed officials for the benefit of our farmers. I had the pleasure of working with Rick at the State and Federal level.

Admirably, one of Rick's favorite jobs was working with the many volunteer leaders within the organization, who forfeit their free time in order to help farmers and ranchers. Even though he progressed to a higher office, he never forgot his roots.

Madam Speaker, Rick Keller's many years of service and advancement of farmers across our state, as well as his example to the citizens of Idaho will be widely missed. I commend the work he has done over the years. May he enjoy his retirement with his wife Alene.

#### HONORING RUTHIE MAE RANSOM MORRIS

#### 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 public servant, Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris.

Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris was born on October 24, 1942 in Leland, Mississippi, to Henry Parker Ransom, Sr. and Blanche Johnson Ransom. She was the sixth of their ten (10) children.

Ruthie accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized under the leadership of her uncle, Reverend Clarence Johnson, who was the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Shady Grove South Missionary Baptist Church (SGSMBC) in Greenville, Mississippi. During her years at SGSMBC, Ruthie sang in the Senior Choir, typed and printed the Church bulletins, organized special events, and served as a trusted confidant and adviser to Reverend Clarence Johnson as well as to his successor, Pastor Solomon B. Miller. Following Pastor Miller's departure from SGSMBC, Ruthie continued to serve under Pastor Gregory C. Lance, Sr., who, like Pastor Miller, not only became the Senior Pastor of SGSMBC, but was also "a spiritual son" to Ruthie.

In 1997, Ruthie joined Agape Storge Christian Center (ASCC) under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Paul Williams, who was a lifelong family friend and former member of SGSMBC.

During her years at ASCC, Ruthie served as a Greeter before answering God's call for her

to become an ordained minister. In 2011, Ruthie obtained her Minister's License after graduating from the ASCC School of Ministry. She faithfully served on the Ministry Team until her health began to fail in April of 2019.

Ruthie was educated in the Bolivar County Public Schools in Rosedale, Mississippi and in the Greenville Public Schools where she graduated from Coleman High School in the Class of 1960. She also attended Alcorn A&M College in Lorman, Mississippi where she first majored in Early Elementary Education. However, after her first day of practice teaching with a classroom full of young children, Ruthie quickly realized that she was in the wrong field and changed her major to Business Administration. She was the first of her siblings to both graduate from high school and attend college.

After leaving Alcorn A&M College, Ruthie returned home to Greenville where she worked as a Secretary in the Greenville Public Schools at T.L. Weston High School and E.E. Bass Jr. High School before starting her banking career as a Teller. Throughout her career in banking, she worked at various banks including Commercial National Bank, Trustmark Bank, and Sunburst Bank, which later became Union Planters Bank before eventually becoming present day Regions Bank.

Ruthie's natural gift for accurately and speedily counting money; her excellent people skills; and her strong work ethic led to her meteoric rise in every bank where she worked. Not only was she chosen to train numerous Tellers who came after her, but she eventually became the first African-American Branch Manager of a bank in Greenville, Mississippi.

After retiring from Regions Bank, in the summer of 1996, Ruthie was hired as the Office Manager at Infipro Security for several years before her love for both ministry and business led her to become the Bookkeeper at The Salvation Army in Greenville, Mississippi. She "officially" ended her work career when she retired from her bookkeeping position at The Salvation Army in 2012. However, in 2016, Ruthie was recruited to become the Office Manager at Jackson Heating and Air Conditioning where she remained for two (2) years and acquired yet another "spiritual son," Malcom Jackson, who was her boss.

Despite being a working mom with three (3) children, Ruthie still found time to be civically and politically active in her community. For more than thirty (30) years, Ruthie served on the Board of Directors of the Brent Daycare Center, which later became known as The Greenville Daycare and Learning Center (TGDALC). While serving on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie worked closely with her fellow Board Members as well as various Directors, including Ruby Gloria Washington, who also became a close friend of Ruthie's; and Dollie Creath, who became a mentee of Ruthie's. Throughout her years on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie formed strategic partnerships with various agencies to secure the necessary funding in order to ensure that numerous children throughout the South End and all over the City of Greenville were able to obtain an excellent pre-school education. She remained on the Board of Directors of TGDALC until it eventually closed its doors.

In addition to her civic engagements with several organizations including her beloved Coleman High School Class of 1960, Ruthie was passionate about politics. In fact, she canvassed Delta neighborhoods and traveled

around the State of Mississippi in order to get Democratic candidates elected on the local, state, and national levels.

For many years, Ruthie was an active member of the Washington County Democratic Party, and she worked closely with the Democratic National Committee (DNC). She not only campaigned for State Democratic candidates such as Robert Clark, but in 1987, Ruthie campaigned diligently to elect Mike Espy to the U.S. House of Representatives (MS 2nd District). Then, in 1993, she helped to secure victory for Bennie Thompson when he successfully ran for Mississippi's same 2nd Congressional seat after Mike Espy became the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

In 1988, while serving as the Precinct Captain of 3-1, Ruthie galvanized the highest voter turnout in the precinct's history, which played a pivotal role in electing Mississippi's 60th Governor, Raymond Mabus, Jr.

In 1993 and 1994, Ruthie was also instrumental in helping to elect Greenville attorneys, Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. and Willie Bailey to the Mississippi State Senate (12th Senatorial District) and the Mississippi State House of Representatives (49th District), respectively.

Because Ruthie was such a gracious hostess who maintained a lovely home, she was often called upon to host visiting dignitaries at her residence, including The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., Minister Louis Farrakhan, Judge James Earl Graves, Jr., and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young's daughter, Andrea Young, just to name a few.

Moreover, long before the "Me Too Movement," Ruthie recognized the need for women to hold political offices. As a result, she served as the Campaign Manager or as a volunteer for numerous female candidates, including Vernita King Johnson, Bernadine Young (Deceased), Laverne Moore Holmes, Margaret Carey-McCray, and Estelle Pryor, among others.

Ruthie was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Blanche; her siblings, Martha (Bay) Birkhead Brewer, Alma Catherine (Gloria) Ransom, Marguerite (Sister) Clark, Betty Jean (Beh Jean) Walker, Henry (Bay Brother/Ramp) Ransom, Jr., Clarence (Scrappy) Ransom, and Charles (Bimbo) Ransom. She will be missed by many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST 2020 GRADES 6-8

#### HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 2, 2020*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia's Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor