

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD  
M. COURSE JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 4, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Edward McCoy Course Jr.

Mr. Course, 68, died Tuesday, July 7, 2020, in Greenwood, Mississippi. He was the longest-serving deacon at Providence Missionary Baptist Church and the church secretary. Mr. Course was also a life member of the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association and past president of its Leflore County chapter. He served as chairman of the Leflore County Election Commission for 41 years and worked for the Mississippi State Department of Health for 30 Years, serving as district supervisor of environmental quality.

Working in the civil rights movement at an early age, he marched as a boy and later worked within the NAACP for a short time. Mr. Course displayed a willingness to give back to the community, to work, and asked for very little in return. He spent all his life at Providence and was beloved by many.

As chairman of the election commission, he would help with voter registration drives, going to local high schools, and MVSU to ensure people understood the processes and volunteering to make sure everything was run smoothly. He was able to offer a wealth of knowledge to all those around him.

Mr. Course is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mrs. Linda Course of Greenwood; a special niece, Jakayla Rayford of Greenwood; six sisters, Marjorie Course of Houston, Texas, Joyce Ann Course and Sandra Course, both of Greenwood, Katie Course and Denise (Thad) Johnson, both of Jackson, and Gail (Lucious) Lewis of Clinton; and two brothers, Ervin Course of Greenwood and Terrence Course (Celdrick) of Carrollton.

Mrs. Course said that her husband lived by a simple sentiment that she feels personifies the message they wanted to share to the world: "Never lose faith or give up."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Edward McCoy Course Jr., in which he was a faithful community leader, worker, and motivator.

**TRIBUTE TO TRACY BEARD—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 4, 2020*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Tracy Beard of Solvang, California.

Tracy Beard currently serves as Executive Director of the Solvang Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Association of Re-

gional Councils, and served as board member, treasurer, and vice president of the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association. Lomako was president of the Heat and Warmth Fund, and has also sat on the boards of Inforum, the Urban Land Institute, and the Michigan Society of Association Executives. In addition, Lomako has been a fierce advocate for women, serving as a board member and officer with the Women's Economic Club and a board member with the Michigan Chapter of Women in Transportation.

Without a doubt, Kathleen Lomako has devoted her career to serving Michigan and has worked tirelessly to ensure it remains a fruitful, safe, and prosperous place. Across all capacities, Lomako has been recognized as a dedicated, compassionate, and humble leader who strives to make a meaningful difference. She has been the voice of reason in challenging times and has encouraged all to work together to better our state. Her efforts have transformed Michigan, and her impact will forever be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Kathleen Lomako. I am proud to honor her work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We thank her for her outstanding service and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

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**IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN LOMAKO FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 4, 2020*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Kathleen Lomako as she celebrates her retirement and recognize her many years of distinguished service with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Her contributions to Michigan are worthy of commendation.

Kathleen Lomako has dedicated much of her professional career to working in various positions at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). She joined SEMCOG in 1979, and quickly became a pillar of the organization. Since 2014, Lomako has served as executive director, where she has overseen a staff of 66 and has led SEMCOG's efforts to address a variety of multi-community, regional issues such as transportation, water quality, air quality, solid waste, land use, community and economic development, and data analysis. Beyond SEMCOG, Lomako has also been president of the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC), a nonprofit public/private partnership dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life in Southeast Michigan.

Kathleen Lomako has held several other leadership positions and is known throughout the community as a passionate leader who effects change. She was vice chair of the Michigan Infrastructure Council, chair of the Executive Director Council at the Association of Re-

V-J DAY

**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 4, 2020*

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the veterans of the First District of Oklahoma, who served in the Pacific Theater of the Second World War, in remembrance of Victory over Japan Day, commonly known as V-J Day.

Following the surrender of Japanese forces on August 15, 1945, President Harry Truman proclaimed, "This is a victory of more than arms alone. This is a victory of liberty over tyranny." The dark years of fighting had finally come to an end, through the bravery and sacrifice of a generation of Americans.

As we stand here seventy-five years later, their legacy reminds us of God's grace, the true meaning of honor, and the unimaginable blessing bestowed on each and every one of us to live in the United States of America.

Today, I honor some of the bravest warriors on the face of the earth—heroes who were willing to venture into unknown territories to meet an uncertain fate, who weathered unimaginable circumstances.

When their nation called, men and women left their families, spouses, and children to go to a foreign place stricken with war and savagery, all because they knew the United States of America was the last great hope on earth. Those who served not only saved our nation and our world from tyranny, but they changed the course of history forever.

As the news of the war ending spread around the world, we can only now imagine the thrill of emotions that spread like fire through country sides and city squares across America. Millions of people took to the streets, many of which were covered with blizzards of confetti, and citizens crowded into churches to

thank God for this victory and for the beginning of a new era of peace.

Yet, seventy-five years later, we are still reminded of the true cost of that peace. Our current generation has also witnessed the sacrifice of American lives in the name of freedom. While our nation always attempts to protect American lives through any diplomatic tools available, human history reveals the sad reality that sometimes the liberty of all must be defended by a brave few. As Winston Churchill is often attributed as stating, "We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

As a society, we must remember and educate our children to ensure that future generations never forget the heroes that saved our world from tyranny and destruction. Americans gather on V-J day to do just that: celebrate the greatest generation—those who came back home and those who laid down their lives on the field of battle.

With the utmost humility, I recognize and honor those who served in the Second World War throughout the Pacific Theater and beyond. It is the greatest honor to live in a country with such valiant men and women, much less to represent so many of them in Congress.

Victory over Japan Day is a necessary reminder of not only the enormous sacrifice and triumph of American warfighters over tyrannical empires, but ultimately, it exhibits the capacity of the American spirit to overcome all obstacles in order to complete the task at hand. I pray that we now, as Americans, face today's tests and trials with the same resolve, unity, and honor as those brave patriots who shed their blood from the beaches of Normandy to the islands of Okinawa. May we, too, find victory in our day.

#### HONORING RUBY MONTGOMERY

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 4, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruby Montgomery.

"Mama Ruby has faith" . . . her faith enabled the love she has shared with others—others who have grown now share her faith and believe her acts of kindness to be pre-

cious gifts—gifts that touch people's hearts and are rooted right here in the Mississippi Delta.

In fact, Ruby Montgomery, described by her children as, "a dedicated child of God", is a woman who shapes the lives of others and continues to dedicate her life to serve her children and neighbors while being led by the Holy Spirit.

As we learned, it is Ruby's faith, her confident belief and trust in The Lord, which has kept her going all these years. In addition, her testimony reveals that even from a very young age, Ruby was taught to practice kindness and humility, two ideals her parents, the late Rev. Rollie Lee and teacher Daisy Bell Lee of Lambert, Mississippi, taught her well.

Ruby, the wife of the late TSGT William Henry Montgomery of Marks, Mississippi, who with her became proud parents of Deborah A. Simpson, Rhonda L. Montgomery, and Roderrick L. Montgomery. The pair also managed to care for their granddaughter, Tashunda Montgomery-Vaughn; great granddaughter, Ja'Brea Joiner; and four other grandchildren: Lacambrise, Ahbrae, Andre, and Desiree.

But did the couple stop there? Of course not. They also committed to raise five foster children: Linda, Shelia, Patricia, Pamela, and Stephanie. And as a result, she inherited several more grandchildren: Markus, Kim, Melanie, Teon, Nekeveonia, Herbert Jr., Altrevia, and Corderio. Onward, she inherited several more children: Joel, Anthony, Stephanie Reeder, Yolanda, Yameka, Lorraine, April, and their children. Now that is a big family and makes this author wonder just how Mama Ruby had time for anything else.

Questions come to mind: How does the first teacher teach in an integrated school system in Quitman County, raise dozens of kids, and go to work helping other children learn all day? Where did her energy and money come from when times were hard? Ruby credits The Lord.

People whose lives have been touched by Mama Ruby know that she is a person who can be trusted. She is seen by so many as an inspiration to those around her and a living example of how faith can impact the lives of those she has helped. Ruby is the person people come to with their problems, the one who comforts those in need, and the mother who cares for the sick in the body or in the spirit.

By making time to mentor countless of children in the community of Marks over the years, she unknowingly stepped into the per-

manent role of "Mama Ruby" for generation after generation, gaining the respect of the community and the trust of its members.

For example, as a teacher in the Quitman County public school system for over 40 years, retiring in 1993, Ruby gained the trust of her students, many of whom she opened the doors of her home to and also offered rides to church on Sunday. Many of these students grew up and had their own children, who were also taught by Ruby—allowing her to impact one generation after another.

However, the teaching did not stop in the classroom. In fact, at church, Ruby was also a teacher who shared the Bible with young minds. She serves as both a Sunday school and Bible study teacher. Even after teaching for over forty years, she does not tire of spending her energy toward young children's education. Education, as we all know, is not limited to just the classroom.

Ruby likes to educate teenagers as well. She and her husband always helped out the youth in the community who wished to work by hiring them to help around the store and teaching them the value of a dollar.

You would think with all of this teaching going on there would not be room for much else in Mama Ruby's life, but Ruby gives her time freely to community activities and outreach ministries. Ruby is currently serving as an active, committed, and dedicated member of Les-Grandes Soeurs Social Club of Lambert, Marks, and Crenshaw, Mississippi, as well as in Memphis, TN. Here she serves on the planning committee in Marks, MS. The purpose of Les-Grandes Soeurs Social Club is to serve as big sisters in time of need, to provide training, recreational, social, and cultural activities for the community, and provide educational support through scholarship. Mama Ruby is a board member of Trinity Community Center and the Quitman County Development Organization of Marks, MS. She also served as chairman for the 2019 Annual September Song Festival. These experiences are not all that make Ruby an amazing person. Ruby believes this path was chosen for her, not by her. By following this path, Ruby has excelled at every stage in her life. Mama Ruby "got faith" . . . faith found because of God's love for her is the love she has shared with others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ruby Montgomery for her dedication to serving her community and this great state.