

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MOTHER LEE ESTHER DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mother Lee Esther Davis.

“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalms 34:1.

Mother Lee Esther Davis was born the 5th of 10 children to the late Mr. Leroy and Mother Josephine Wilson, Sr., on December 27, 1955. A native of Bolton, MS, and longtime resident of Jackson, MS, Mother Davis transcended from Earth to Glory at her home surrounded by her family on Friday, October 16, 2020.

After receiving her education from the Jackson Public School System, Lee married the late Mr. Levi “Ham” Davis, Jr., on December 25, 1971, and to this union three daughters were born, Debra, LaTanya and Sharon. She also had one son, Jeremy. She became gainfully employed for several years as a dietary aide, and then went on to become a bus driver with the Jackson Public School District before retiring after 13 years of loyal dedicated service.

As a young child, Lee accepted Christ into her life and was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost at the House of Prayer Church under the leadership of the late Pastor Doris Lee. She continued to serve faithfully at Holy Tabernacle as a Church Mother, Prayer Warrior and member of the Home and Foreign Mission under the leadership of Pastor Ivory Lee.

Lee is preceded in death by daughter LaTanya Davis and son, Jeremy Davis; one sister, Frankie Mae Wilson; and two brothers Leroy “Pete” Wilson, II, and Ray Paul Wilson.

She leaves to cherish her memories and carry her legacy two loving and devoted daughters, Debra (London) of Pearl, MS, and Sharon of Jackson, MS. Six grandchildren: Meco Shoulders of Washington, DC, Jaquavious “Quay” and JaVonn Shoulders of Pearl, MS, and Jourdan, Avery and Ivory Davis of Jackson, MS. Four sisters: Ida M. Byther-Smith and Lida M. Thomas-Ragland of Chicago, IL, and Josephine Butler and Angela Wilson of Springfield, IL. Two brothers: Clifton (Kristina), and Jack Wilson of Springfield, IL. A very dear and special companion, Mr. Charles Boone, two adopted grandsons, Carl and Eeon Black of Muskegon Heights, MI; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mother Lee Esther Davis was a woman of virtue, poise, strength, and wisdom. She stood for what was right and never wavered. She was the epitome of a Proverbs 31 woman. Mother Davis will be missed by many. Sleep on faithful servant of God and may your works praise you in the gates.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mother Lee Esther Davis.

HONORING STEVE AND LINDA WASHBURN OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30 years of service and ministry of Steve and Linda Washburn with First Baptist Church in Pflugerville and their work in the Pflugerville community.

First Baptist Church was founded in 1973 as a mission-minded ministry dedicated to sharing a passion for God’s word and leading people to faith and salvation in Christ.

Under the guidance of Pastor Washburn, First Baptist Pflugerville has become an integral part of the community, where a strong sense of discipleship has led to the creation of many outreach programs—including children and student ministries, a food pantry feeding thousands in the community each year, support groups for the hurting, and a church committed to keeping Christ at the center of the family.

Even as the church has grown, First Baptist Pflugerville has remained committed to their original mission-minded goals, and through the efforts of the congregation, thousands have found the joy, peace, and contentment that spring from a fulfilling and personal relationship with Jesus.

For the past 30 years, Pastor Washburn and his wife Linda have been a source of light, encouragement, and joy for the entire membership of First Baptist Pflugerville. Under their guidance, the church has seen significant change and growth from a membership of around 600 to 2,400. This growth allowed the church to build its current 1,500-seat worship center after outgrowing its first worship center built just a few years earlier. These buildings were necessary after outgrowing the old campus even after several years of providing three separate Bible study hours and worship services each Sunday.

Pastor Washburn’s commitment to outreach and involvement have made him a pillar of the Pflugerville community as the ministry of the church strives to help and protect vulnerable and hurting citizens. His desire to help led him to author a book, “Salt and Light,” that Biblically explains many of the issues facing the Church and society today.

On October 25th, 2020, First Baptist Pflugerville is saying goodbye to Pastor Washburn and Linda as they begin the next chapter of their lives in retirement. There is no doubt that Pastor Washburn will continue to spread the Word of God no matter where retirement leads him.

I thank both Pastor Washburn and Linda Washburn for their down to earth and positive leadership of this congregation, and for their impact in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE REVEREND ELLIS CLIFTON, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the retirement of Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr.

Born January 15, 1953, the Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr. is the only child of Reverend Deacon Ellis Clifton, Sr., and Marie Clifton. He grew up in Inkster, Michigan, and often comments on his childhood, saying, “I had a happy childhood, but it was a different one. While others were playing ‘cops and robbers’, ‘cowboys and Indians’, pretending to be superheroes, or playing sports, I was in my backyard playing priest.” There is no doubt he would eventually pursue work in the clergy. Reverend Clifton graduated from Robichaud High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, in 1970, and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education in 1974, and certification to teach students in special education and with learning disabilities from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Reverend Clifton taught school in Columbus, Ohio, from 1974 until 1988, when he entered Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry. He received his Master of Divinity in 1991, becoming the first African American graduate of the seminary.

Before returning to Michigan, Reverend Clifton served as curate and interim pastor in Pennsylvania and vicar in Ohio. He was briefly the Vicar at Church of the Resurrection in Ecorse, Michigan, before eventually settling as the 7th rector of St. Clement’s Episcopal Church in Inkster. Reverend Clifton’s work has gone beyond his service to St. Clement’s, but has extended to his surrounding community. Reverend Clifton is a lifelong member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Chaplain and Board Member of the National Action Network Western Wayne County Chapter, Member of the Inkster-Citizens Action Network, and Chaplain for the Bishop H. Irving Mayson Scholarship Fund. He’s also served on the Inkster Charter Commission and on Inkster Housing Commission until August of 2020.

Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr.’s ministerial leadership, commitment to clergy, and service to Inkster is extraordinary and a true reflection of our great district. Please join me in honoring Reverend Clifton, Jr., on his retirement and job well done.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH I. CASTRO BEING NAMED CHANCELLOR OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Joseph I. Castro on being named the eighth Chancellor of the California State University system. Dr. Castro will be the first California native and the first Mexican American to hold the chancellorship. In his role as Chancellor, he will oversee 23 campuses and 486,000 students throughout our nation's largest four-year higher education system.

Dr. Castro was born and raised in the small city of Hanford, in the heart of California's Central Valley. The grandson of Mexican immigrants and the son of a single mother, Dr. Castro knows well the challenges so many young men and women face in their pursuit of higher education. Like many of his students, Dr. Castro is a first-generation college graduate. He earned a B.A. in political science, a M.P.P. from the University of California, Berkeley, and later a Ph.D. in higher-education policy and leadership from Stanford University.

Since 2013, Dr. Castro has served as President of California State University, Fresno. Under his leadership, Fresno State attained a national ranking as one of the top universities in the country. The school was also recognized for its commitment and achievements to diversity. More than 60 percent of Fresno State's recent graduating class are the first in their families to attend a four-year institution. As President, Dr. Castro has led by example, encouraging Fresno State students, faculty, and staff to "Be Bold" in order to meet and overcome any challenge that would limit academic, personal or professional growth.

As an advocate for Fresno State and the California State University system, Dr. Castro serves on numerous boards, including the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' Governing Board, WASC Senior College and University Commission, Mountain West Athletic Conference Board, and the Stanford University Graduate School of Education Advisory Council. Before becoming President of Fresno State, he served for 23 years in the University of California system. From 2006 to 2013, he was Vice Chancellor of Student Academic Affairs and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

Earlier in his career, he held faculty and administrative leadership positions at four other University of California campuses including Berkeley, Davis, Merced and Santa Barbara. Dr. Castro has received five Excellence and Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for his accomplishments at Fresno State. In 2018, he was named as CSU President of the Year by the California State Student Association. In 2016, he received the Alumni Excellence in Education Award from the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. Dr. Castro has also been honored with the Ohtli Award, which is highest honor granted by the Government of Mexico to recognize leaders who have em-

powered the lives of Mexican natives in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Castro for all of his achievements. On behalf of a grateful Central Valley and State of California, we look forward to his future accomplishments and what he will do for California State University students everywhere.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH "JACK" MEEHAN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Joseph "Jack" Meehan, who passed away recently at the age of 88.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Jack graduated from the University of San Francisco (USF) in 1954. Following service in the United States Army, Jack went to USF for law school; he earned his law degree in 1959.

In 1960, Jack joined the Alameda County District Attorney's (ACDA) Office. While there he created Point of View, a monthly publication, and Points and Authorities, a weekly video series, to help teach California prosecutors. He was recognized for his accomplishments by being presented with the 1978 Prosecutor of the Year award by the California District Attorneys Association (CDA).

In 1981 Jack was appointed Alameda County District Attorney. He was reelected unopposed in 1982, 1986, and 1990. He did not run for reelection in 1994.

Jack was affectionately known as the "Big Guy" at the ACDA Office, beloved by all of his colleagues. His leadership, respect for our system of justice, and concern for victims of crime will be long-remembered.

It also should be noted that as district attorney Jack hired a young KAMALA HARRIS, now a United States senator from California and the Democratic Party's nominee to be vice president of the United States, to be a deputy district attorney. Clearly he could spot talent when he saw it.

Jack was well-recognized for his lifetime of career success and community service. USF awarded him its alumnus of the year award in 1994, and four years later it created the John J. Meehan Alumni Fellowship to honor USF alumni who help develop young lawyers. CDA created the John J. Meehan Career Prosecutor Award, to recognize lawyers for career achievement in criminal prosecution. And, in 2003, the Saint Thomas More Society of San Francisco present him with its Saint Thomas Moore award.

While Jack had many professional successes, it was his family that mattered most. He and his wife, Janet, were married for 59 years, before she died in 2017. They had four children—sons John Matthew ("Matt"), James Patrick ("Jim"), and Mark Emmitt, and a daughter, Anne Marie (who passed away in 1968).

It was mostly in San Rafael where Jack and Janet raised their family. There they hosted many a family event, at which Jack showed his talents for playing piano and bartending that he honed over the years.

My deepest condolences go out to Jack's many family members and friends. He will be greatly missed.

REVEREND DR. ALFRED GORDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon, who has served the City of Mount Vernon, New York for more than 50 years in ministry. Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon has served our nation both through his service in the United States Marine Corps and through his work in ministry improving the quality of life for the people of Mount Vernon, especially our most vulnerable populations. In honor of his 86th birthday, it is my privilege to acknowledge the work he has done to better his community and his contribution to our nation as a whole. He has set a high standard for civic engagement and service to one's community, and he is a well-respected and integral part of the City of Mount Vernon. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Reverend Dr. Alfred Gordon on this special occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ALLOW CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WITH PRIOR SERVICE UNDER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO MAKE DEPOSITS TOWARDS ANNUITIES UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to correct a retirement issue for several categories of workers who used to be under the District of Columbia retirement system.

In 1997, Congress transferred several categories of workers who participated in D.C.'s defined contribution plan from 1987 to 1997 to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). However, those workers' service from 1987 to 1997 was not counted for purposes of creditable service or annuity amount in FERS. In 2009, Congress gave these employees the right to have this service counted for creditable service.

My bill would correct this last retirement issue for these public servants. It would allow these workers to buy into the FERS annuity amount for the 1987–1997 by paying 1.3 percent of their base pay plus interest, essentially the employee contribution for this time, and then allowing them the full retirement benefit to which they are entitled.

Our bill is an important step to assisting these workers to get the retirement benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.