

HONORING WHITE STAR
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the history of White Star Missionary Baptist Church.

The history of White Star Missionary Baptist Church will help to inspire the present and future congregations. Since its beginning, White Star has stood pointing men and women, boys, and girls to the Heavenly way. Amid world turmoil in the face of strife and war, and at times when Christian ideals are crumbling this church has ever held high the banner of Christ who said, "Upon this rock I build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

White Star Church had its beginning intricately tied to another church, the "Colored Methodist Episcopal Church." The first church held its services in the Methodist church building that was located on the northwest corner of Railway Avenue and Willis Street (the present residence of Mr. & Mrs. S.A. Payton). White Star Church developed out of the desires of and efforts of some of the residents of Belzoni to organize a church. These members met in the Methodist building until they were able to purchase the Methodist lots and build their own church. According to Mrs. Geneva York and the legal documents at the county courthouse, White Star Church was organized in 1915.

The White Star Church became a separate entity in 1920 under the leadership of its first pastor, the Reverend I.E. Taylor. During his leadership, White Star Church moved to its present site at 609 Railway Avenue.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing White Star Missionary Baptist Church for their dedication and tenacity to serving their members and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 233, I mistakenly voted Yea when I intended to vote Nay.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE 340B DISCOUNT
DRUG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, in West Virginia, the 340B Drug Pricing Program is essential to providing access to low-cost medicine for individuals in rural and underserved areas.

Without it, many health care providers would not be able to deliver critical services to the communities they serve.

The benefits are clear and the need is obvious, not just in West Virginia, but for rural and underserved communities across the country.

Since coming to Congress more than a decade ago, I've been strong advocate for the 340B program.

It has been an honor to join Rep. SPANBERGER on numerous occasions in our ongoing effort to defend and protect 340B, because it is the right thing to do for the people we serve.

On the 30th anniversary of the program, we must recommit to holding pharmaceutical companies accountable and protect the program going forward. This means ensuring care for the uninsured, low-income and rural patients is not interrupted and our most vulnerable communities continue to have access to affordable medicine.

If 340B ended in West Virginia, for example, the State's hospitals would see losses of nearly \$300 million, resulting in services being cut, and access to care and low-cost prescriptions severely limited, hurting the neediest people the most.

We need to stay engaged and keep up the charge. God Bless America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF J.D. HESS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.D. Hess.

J.D. was first elected in 1990 and has served as Calhoun County District 4 Commissioner for 28 years—the longest serving commissioner in Calhoun County history. His service was from 1990 through 1998 and 2002 through 2022. The district includes Blue Mountain, Saks, Weaver, Alexandria, Pleasant Valley, Cedar Springs, Wellington, and Webster's Chapel.

J.D. is a lifelong resident of Calhoun County. Before his time as Commissioner, he served in the United States Army Reserve and as a fireman. He also owned a small business. Some of J.D.'s accomplishments in office include the Tag and License Branch Office, Ronnie Carr Park, the Camp McClellan Horse Trails, the reopening of Woodland Park in Lenlock, and the AgCenter's development. He also had a hand in starting community centers across his district including in Saks, Alexandria, Webster's Chapel and Weaver as well as numerous road and bridge projects.

J.D. is a founding board member of the Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame. He has supported numerous youth and school programs and projects throughout the county. He is a supporter of Jacksonville State University and a past Gamecock Club President. J.D. has been involved in various community and civic organizations and is an active member of First Baptist Church of Saks.

J.D. plans to spend time with his wife, Debbie, family, and his grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, J.D. Hess, and his tireless service for the folks across Calhoun County.

HONORING ABUNDANT LIFE AS-
SEMBLY CHURCH OF APOSTOLIC
FAITH, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable church, Abundant Life Assembly Church of Apostolic Faith, Inc.

In 1978, God instructed Apostle James T. Herrington, a native of Sardis, Georgia, to transition from his surroundings because he had been assigned to a greater work. Leaving his family behind, Apostle, his wife, and young son moved to Grenada, Mississippi, and started what was then, a very humble ministry.

Apostle James T. Herrington is the Vice President of the General Board of the Alliance of Apostolic Churches of Christ Jesus (AACCJ). He is a member of the Grenada Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Grenada Chamber of Commerce; Grenada's Chapter of 100 Black Men of America; and Grenada's Chapter of the Rotary Club.

The Abundant Life Assembly Church of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. was literally birthed out of his heart and was the first apostolic church to grace the city of Grenada.

Since the church's inception in 1982, and its humble beginning, the church has experienced tremendous growth and now Apostle serves as Senior Pastor of this assembly and Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Abundant Life Assembly Churches of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. (ALCAF) which has churches throughout the southeastern continental United States.

June 2022, the Abundant Life Assembly Church of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. will honor its' 40-year anniversary. The ALCAF has done so much for the Grenada community. Through ALCAF, Apostle Herrington has provided a daycare for children to attend, and he has provided transportation to the community that needed rides to their doctor appointments or work. Apostle Herrington has also provided food boxes.

We are very thankful for Abundant Life Assembly Church of Apostolic Faith, Inc. and Apostle James T. Herrington for all the astonishing things he has done for the Grenada community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Abundant Life Assembly Church of Apostolic Faith, Inc. for its longevity and dedication to serving the community.

CELEBRATING THE MERGER BE-
TWEEN THE BUILDERS' ASSOCIA-
TION AND THE KANSAS CITY
CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATED
GENERAL CONTRACTORS TO
FORM THE BUILDERS, A CHAP-
TER OF THE AGC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the merging of The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter

of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), the two most prominent commercial building associations in the region. Operating as separate entities for nearly eighty years, The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC hope to better serve their respective members by bringing them together under one roof. With the signing of a ceremonial charter, the presentation of a charter certificate, and the unveiling of the new, unified association's logo, today marks a historic milestone for mid-America's construction industry. Now representing one of the largest commercial construction associations in the county, The Builders, a chapter of the AGC, is poised to advance the interests of the construction industry and its workers further than either of the original, separate entities could do on their own. As members from both associations gather today to recognize this important occasion, let us reflect on the history of The Builders' Association and the AGC, the profound impact they have made in the heart of America, and the spirit of collaboration that made this merger possible.

The Builders' Association, originally known as The Builders' and Traders Exchange, was founded in 1887 with nearly one hundred and forty original members. Under the leadership of B.F. Swain, the first Board Chairman, and C.L. McDonald, the first managing director, The Builders' played a profound role in the development of Kansas City, incorporated just thirty-four years prior, and the midwestern United States. For nearly one hundred and fifty years, The Builders' have faithfully delivered safety, craft, and management training; employment, labor, and government relations; along with construction plans and technology tools. Today, The Builders' Association serves hundreds of member companies that employ over twenty-five-thousand people in mid-America. For these members, the services offered by The Builders' Association are invaluable to fostering a healthy, thriving construction industry. From hosting academies and seminars for individuals hoping to enter the industry or advance within their companies, to helping employers and job seekers establish mutually beneficial relationships, The Builders' role in supporting the commercial construction industry cannot be overstated. By providing young people with information and resources about careers in the construction industry, and by supporting the educational endeavors of students planning to enter construction-related fields through The Builders' Association Scholarship Foundation, The Builders' have gone above and beyond to ensure a strong construction industry for generations to come. Moreover, The Builders' Training Center in North Kansas City, home to eight apprenticeship training programs, guarantees that tomorrow's construction will be carried out by welltrained and well-educated workers. And in all that they do, The Builders' have never failed to set the highest standards for workers' safety, understanding that the wellbeing of the construction industry depends on the wellbeing of construction workers.

The Kansas City Chapter of the Associated General Contractors was chartered as a sister association to The Builders' Association in the early 1900s. Today, the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC represents more than one-hundred firms in the heartland region. Realizing the value of national connection and engagement offered through the Associated General Con-

tractors of America, The Builders' added the option of membership in the AGC soon after the organization established roots in Kansas City. Herein lies an important observation—for nearly a century, The Builders' and the AGC have operated in close collaboration, not only sharing members and staff, but also a common mission and vision. However, as part of the Associated General Contractors of America, the largest and oldest national construction trade association in the United States, the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC has historically been able to offer greater access to resources and services, along with expanded opportunities to network with others in the industry, develop business, and create a stronger voice to advocate on behalf of the construction industry.

Thus, today's merger is in keeping with decades of collaboration between The Builders' and the AGC, in addition to the longstanding commitments of both organizations to best serve the interests of their members and the commercial construction industry. Indeed, the One Builders initiative helps strengthen and solidify a sense of unity that has long bound The Builders' and the local AGC chapter, and in doing so, will enhance the industry's influence in the Kansas City region and throughout the nation. The Builders, a chapter of the AGC, will undoubtedly expand economic opportunities for the Greater Kansas City area and usher in a new era of prosperity for the region's construction industry and the thousands of workers it employs.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the merger of The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter of the Associated General Contractors to form The Builders, a chapter of the AGC.

HONORING TRUE LIGHT M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the history of True Light M. B. Church.

In 1934, approximately 43 members marched with candles from Morning Star Baptist Church on Kane Street to a small store on East Bell Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Rev. J. H. Sims was the founder and first pastor of True Light M. B. Church. A few of the pioneers were Mary Lee Hicks, Sarah Lynn, Pearlina Smith and Rev. James Thomas. Rev. Sims served True Light faithfully until his departure. Then, Rev. Will Robinson was installed as the second pastor of True Light and served for three years. Under Rev. Robinson's leadership, the membership relocated from the store on Bell Street to a wooden framed building in the back of True Light Church present location.

Reverend (Dr.) Robert H. Walls was the third and most tenured pastor of True Light. He was a licensed minister from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and joined True Light in 1935 along with his wife, Leatha Warren Walls. After Rev. Robinson's departure, the church asked Rev. Walls to serve as Pastor until they decided to call a pastor. The church made great progress under his leadership, and the membership in-

creased. Because of this progress, Rev. Walls was ordained to preach the Gospel. In April of 1940, the church asked Rev. Walls to serve as True Light's Pastor, and he accepted this calling of God.

Because of the church's growth, a survey revealed a need for additional space. To address this need, the church purchased two lots with a seven-room house. Uplifting services were held in a small wood framed building on the recently purchased property. The continued growth created the need for a modern church building. The church borrowed \$10,000 to construct the building. Pastor Walls drew on a brown paper bag a sketch of the present edifice. Pastor Walls once stated, "True Light Church was spiritually built." He had never constructed a building before but became a "Master Builder." For five years, day and night, he toiled. He had many sleepless nights and cried many tears, but he kept on working and had faith that God would surely see them through. In 1953, the church marched into our present edifice. The church began full-time worship service in 1961. True Light Church was one of the first Black churches in the City of Jackson and the first Black church to be constructed with bricks in the City of Jackson.

In 2001, after Pastor Walls entered the evening time of his life, Reverend Marvin Adams began to serve as Interim Pastor of True Light. Rev. Adams and his family were long time members of True Light Church. Thus, he was familiar with the membership and the various ministries. He was installed as the fourth Pastor of True Light that same year. Under Rev. Adams leadership, three ministers served as Associate Ministers: Carlos Casanova, Henry Taylor, and James Thomas. Brother Clarence James was ordained as a deacon. The interior sanctuary was renovated, and a Vesta View added to accommodate members and visitors waiting to enter the sanctuary. The church purchased a 47-seat passenger bus and carpeting was placed in the dining area of the Fellowship Hall. A Dance Ministry and Food and Clothing Ministry were organized. Rev. Adams faithfully served as Pastor of True Light Church for three years.

In March of 2006, God sent the church a spirit-filled anointed man of His choice, Marcus E. Cheeks. Pastor Cheeks was installed as the fifth pastor of True Light Church. He is an educator by trade holding degrees from Tougaloo College, Jackson State University and soon to be the University of Mississippi. Pastor Cheeks believes that a church's main focus should be in growing spiritually. He has the belief that through faithful study, dedication to the Word, and an intimate daily walk with Jesus Christ, the Lord will surely use him to glorify His Kingdom. Under his leadership, four ministers have served as Associate Ministers, Carlos Casanova, Henry Taylor, James Thomas, and Darrel Woullard, Sr. Five Deacons, Leroy Carter, Marc Clay, Curtis Holmes, Lee Lyle, and Harvey Marshall have been ordained. In addition, True Light's ministries have increased to include a Couples Ministry, an Outreach Ministry, Small Group Study platform for all Christian teachings, and the implementation of the Unity Drive designed to increase our personal and financial commitments to God. The church has purchased three adjacent properties for future growth. Physical renovations have taken place in several areas of the church: the Pastor's Study,