

These improvements also supported economic efforts within the City to reduce the retail vacancy rate to 6.3 percent, the lowest since his early days on council. This was a significant accomplishment in spite of significant challenges including the pandemic and recessions. The achievement was accomplished by focusing not only on the newly developed neighborhoods, but also including the City's historic areas to redevelop park areas and infrastructure to keep the areas vibrant. The economic vitality is evidenced with the additions of Babe's, Sweetie Pie's, Patriotic Pig, Floor & Décor, Winco, Platinum Music Complex, Painted Tree, Gritr Sports, Seconds & Surplus, Warespace, Truby Hilton Hotel and the development of Volli Entertainment. These private investments only foreshadow the potential of the former mall property redevelopment as new businesses and a Homewood Suites by Hilton are developed around the City's new City Hall.

As the Mayor steps down from his duties, I am proud of all he has accomplished for his beloved City and for the region that has been blessed with his public leadership and service. I have appreciated his wisdom and insight on many occasions and I will personally miss his counsel and friendship. However, I also understand the sacrifice public service requires of family. I wish Mayor Trevino a long retirement with his wife Carol, his children and his granddaughter Reis, to make-up for the time lost as he served. The City, our region and our State are all better as a result of his service.

HONORING GREATER HINDS
STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the community, Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church. Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church has served as a catalyst for the African-American growth in Washington County and the State of Mississippi.

The history and purpose of the Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church is to participate and promote the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ in evangelism, discipleship, Christian education, missions, ministries, social service, and any other objective that the church may consider to be appropriate and desirable.

The Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1911 when a group of members chose to leave First Baptist Church, located in Greenville, Mississippi, and start anew. Namely, Deacon John Gray, Deacon John Collins, Deacon Robert Moore, and his wife, Sister C.L. Bean, who were all members of Penthian Hall, begin to hold church meetings in the association's building, located on Cately and Nelson Streets. They eventually moved to 502 Nelson Street, currently known as Doe's Eat Place. In January 1926, "Hinds Street" was founded at its present site under the late Rev. Lynke Williams.

In 1954, Hinds Street underwent a new look with new restorations and 1955 became a new dawning for the Church. A new pastor was

elected, Rev. E.D. Simpson, and a massive renovation took place. The renovation led to a desire to rename the church. Henceforth, it became known as the Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1994, the Church committed to continuous improvement of the building. As improvements were made, the church also elected Youth Pastor, Rev. Cedric Reed. Sadly, the year brought the end of era. Rev. E.D. Simpson passed away in October 1994, thus bringing an end to the longest tenured Pastorate of the church.

In March 1995, Rev. Thomas Morris, Sr. became the Pastor. Then, Mr. Frank Seid and married couple, Napoleon and Maurice Thomas, donated property to the church for expansion. Throughout the years, the Church purchased several portions of land in the surrounding neighborhood. In October, the Hinds Street Baptist Church Community Development Corporation was established.

In 1997, the church acquired additional property at 434 Hinds Street. In 1999, Mr. George Lynch generously donated property at the corner of Hinds and Alexander Streets to the church.

In March 2002, the church broke ground for the Greater Hinds Street Church Family Life Center.

In the fall of 2012, the church purchased a small 4-unit apartment complex and a vacant lot across the street, aiming to renew the building for future use and benefit to the church and community. A community garden has since been established on the vacant lot.

In 2013, renovations began to update both the Church and the Family Life Center. This effort, aimed at reinforcing the unity of the church and its facilities, supported spiritual growth and community service.

Countless individuals have been baptized and converted to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and remission of sin. The church's history is storied with decades long service and contributions by numerous members and friends, who are God-fearing and God-loving, both named and unnamed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Greater Hinds Street Missionary Baptist Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Res. 1215. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233.

CELEBRATING SAGE ELDERCARE'S
70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratula-

tions to SAGE Eldercare on its 70th Anniversary.

I am truly grateful to be celebrating this monumental milestone with you all. Over the past 70 years, SAGE Eldercare has made a deep impact on the lives of older adults in our community. Through delivering meals, restoring family heirlooms, providing companionship, and much more volunteers provide the support for older adults to live the most independent and active lives possible. I am proud to have such dedicated volunteers and organizations committed to helping people in our community within the 7th Congressional District.

I look forward to watching them all flourish in the coming decades. I wish SAGE Eldercare a wonderful anniversary. May their next 70 years be filled with as much success as this one.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JOY
LYNN ALEXANDER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the incredible career of Joy Lynn Alexander, who recently retired as a Colonel after thirty years of dedicated service in the military. Colonel Alexander is a highly decorated officer who rose through the ranks of the Mississippi National Guard, eventually becoming the Commander of Camp McCain Training Site.

Throughout her career, Colonel Alexander completed all the necessary professional military education courses, including the U.S. Army War College. Her numerous awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. She served in various roles, from tactical to strategic positions, and even completed a combat tour in Iraq in 2009 through 2010, where I had the honor of serving alongside her.

Colonel Alexander spent countless days, weeks, months, and years traveling across Mississippi, the United States, and the world to support and lead critical missions. Her dedication and hard work have taken her to many places, all in service to our country and state.

As one of the most influential leaders in the Army, Colonel Alexander always maintained the highest standards, even during some of the most challenging times in history. She is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian. We are deeply grateful for her unwavering commitment to our country and to Mississippi. Her legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire us all.

HONORING JIMMY WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated efforts of JW Cleaning & Maintenance, owned, and operated by Jimmy Williams. A true entrepreneur, an enthusiastic and self-motivated business owner from Cleveland, Mississippi.

Jimmy Williams started JW Cleaning & Maintenance 20 years ago. The idea of this business on the side developed while working at Baxter Healthcare, where he retired after 31 years. He was also co-owner and operator of County Platter restaurant. After retirement he focused his attention on other ventures, including the cleaning service. He specializes in cleaning and maintaining the upkeep of several medical offices, banks, and businesses in the area. He does both commercial and residential maintenance and cleaning.

Mr. Williams embarked upon the cleaning and maintenance business specifically because he did so much of that while working at Baxter and supervised others doing that. He has a staff of five as well as others when needed. His daughter, Sheila Williams, also works for the business. She handles the books, paperwork, and the business side of the company. Mr. Williams states, "we're thorough and efficient, we do a good job, and we take pride in our work. I check on my staff daily and often go into the offices we clean the mornings before their staff arrives to make sure everything was done properly if I didn't do the work myself." His slogan, "Doing whatever needs to be done, wherever it is needed". This is how his business has remained successful.

He is motivated to make positive impacts on his community by helping people in the community. He loves to cook and take meals to the elderly people in the area as a part of simply giving back to his hometown of Cleveland. This also keeps him active and gives him an opportunity to stay connected with the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jimmy Williams for his dedication and initiative in continuing to offer his services to the community, surrounding areas and the MS Delta. His collective contributions are truly inspiring and reflect the best of our shared values as citizens and neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my votes for H. Res. 1215 and H.R. 6983.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233, and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

CONGRATULATING MR. VICTOR MCKENZIE, JR. ON BEING NAMED CHAIR OF VIRGINIA'S ADDICTION AND RECOVERY COUNCIL

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Victor McKenzie, Jr., who was recently named Chair of Virginia's Addiction and Recovery Council.

Mr. McKenzie has devoted much of his career to helping Virginians who suffer from sub-

stance use disorders. A leader in his community, he has been a consistent advocate for expanding access to behavioral and developmental health services for all who need them. As Executive Director of the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia, he works to transform communities across our Commonwealth by spearheading work on substance use disorder and recovery, and providing Virginians with education, advocacy, and support.

Through his work, Mr. McKenzie has provided Virginia families and individuals with the support they need to thrive. His continued commitment to Virginia families is highlighted by his recently being elected Chair of Virginia's Addiction and Recovery Council, where he will advise the Governor, the Virginia General Assembly, and the Board of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services on matters pertaining to substance use.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating and thanking Mr. Victor McKenzie, Jr. for his service on behalf of the people of Virginia. I look forward to celebrating his contributions to our Commonwealth, and I thank him for his tireless commitment and advocacy on behalf of Virginians struggling with substance use disorders.

HONORING JOSEPH THOMAS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and dedication of an outstanding individual from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Joseph Thomas, Jr. This individual has made significant contributions to the betterment of the Yazoo County community, and it is fitting that we recognize his achievements.

Joseph Thomas, Jr., a native of Yazoo City, has recently been elected to the Board of Supervisors. This is a testament to his commitment to serving his community and his leadership qualities. Furthermore, Mr. Thomas has been appointed as President of the Board of Supervisors, showcasing the trust and confidence his colleagues have in his abilities.

Mr. Thomas is a proud graduate of Yazoo City High School, where he developed a passion for politics that has guided him throughout his career. His dedication to public service and his tireless advocacy for the residents of Yazoo County are truly commendable.

Additionally, Mr. Thomas worked alongside Davis Peyton, a fellow member of the Board of Supervisors, to organize the inaugural Yazoo County Day at the Mississippi Capitol. This event provided an invaluable opportunity to showcase the rich history and vibrant culture of Yazoo County to state officials and legislators.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Thomas, Jr. for his outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment to serving the people of Yazoo County. His contributions have made a lasting impact on our community, and they deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PERRY MARKEL WHITTINGTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Perry Markel Whittington, a cherished husband, father, and grandfather who passed away peacefully on May 3, 2024, at the age of 74. Born on August 17, 1949, in Braxton, Mississippi, to Charles Hansford Whittington and Della Pierce Whittington, Markel and his twin brother, Mark, were the youngest in a family of ten children.

Markel graduated from Harrisville High School in 1967 and went on to receive a degree in business administration from Mississippi College in 1971. He began his professional career at McRae's department store in 1969, eventually rising to the position of Store Manager. It was here that he met Elizabeth "Libby" Owens, who would become his wife. The couple married in the summer of 1974 in Pensacola, FL, and later settled in Tupelo, MS. In 1979, Markel left McRae's to purchase and manage Middleton Office Products.

Tupelo was where Markel and Libby chose to raise their family, becoming active members of the First United Methodist Church and forging lasting friendships. Markel also contributed to the community as a board member of Alpha House and the Boy Scouts of America, receiving the Silver Beaver Award. A committed Rotarian since 1979, he was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. Markel also dedicated many years to public service as a City Councilman for Ward 1, serving from 2009 to 2021.

Above all, Markel was devoted to his family. He cherished his role as a husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in life's simple moments with his grandchildren. Markel was preceded in death by his wife Libby, his parents, his siblings Joy, Carolyn, and Bill, and his sisters-in-law Betty, Sally, and Opal Whittington.

He is survived by his sons, Preston Markel (Anna) and Pierce Marion (Brittney), grandchildren Stanley Pierce, Catherine Elizabeth, Charlotte Elliott, and Francis "Frankie" Rhodes, brothers Charlie, Ken, Floyd, Bill, Keith, Mark, his favorite cousin Elton, and his beloved dog, Magnolia Blue "Maggie."

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF A GREAT NATIVE SON AND THE OUTSTANDING LIFE OF THE LATE VICTOR JOHN LABAT

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Victor John Labat, born in New Orleans, Louisiana to parents Victor and Jeanne Victor Labat, on November 24, 1932. At the tender age of 91 in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, he recently passed away on Sunday, April 21, 2024. A proud graduate of Xavier Preparatory High School and Xavier University of Louisiana with a degree in mathematics, two key Catholic Institutions, both founded by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.