

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.

During his college days, he served as the artistic designer and director of the Xavier Yearbook, where he proudly displayed his unique passion for drawing and painting. His professional successes spanned across varying careers. In his early years, he was a construction company owner, designing and building homes around the city of New Orleans. He later moved his family of five to Washington, D.C., with an assignment to desegregate court ordered schools through southern states under the Nixon Administration. His career included being appointed Assistant to Leon Panetta, Director of the Office of Civil Rights under the Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources (HEW). The next assignment took him and his family to Dakar, Senegal, West Africa where he served as Director of the Peace Corps for five years.

With a wealth of international experience under his belt, he established Labat Anderson Inc., one of the country's most successful government contracting firms, creating offices and jobs throughout the U.S. and internationally. The success of Labat Anderson Inc. led to Labat Africa Ltd. in Johannesburg, South Africa. Labat Africa Ltd. is the first African American co-owned company to open upon Nelson Mandela's presidency and to trade on the South African Stock Exchange.

Victor retired to his family's hometown of Bay St. Louis, MS, though he spent a tremendous amount of time in his hometown, New Orleans, welcomed and cared for by family and friends. A vibrant man, that still enjoyed international travel until his passing, found peace in painting, fine dining and French

wines, motorcycle riding, and laughing out loud with his family and friends. He had just completed his first soon to be published book on his family lineage titled, "Is That So? From the Mississippi Gulf Coast, A Portrait of an American Family through Race, Education, Power, Politics, Religion and Class."

Victor is preceded in death by his parents, and a younger brother, Michael L. Labat, Sr. He is survived by his three children, Carla Labat (George Dines), Lori Labat and Yancey Labat (Andrea Menotti), three granddaughters, Akira Scott, Eliza and Serenna Menotti Labat; a brother, Joseph A. Labat, MD (Dr. Deidre Dumas), sister-in-law, Constance "Connie" Ray Labat, Dorothy Martel Labat, Judi Gerhardt; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and associates.

I am proud to have spent time and growing up with mentors from this phenomenal family, as well as their children during my college days, always fascinated by their accomplishments. I am honored to document the incredible life of Victor J. Labat, a life well-lived.

HONORING JAR'KEVIOUS R.
EDWARDS

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 remarkable servant, Jar'Kevious R. Edwards.

Jar'Kevious R. Edwards is a native of Charleston, Mississippi. He is a 2020 graduate of Charleston High School and a 2024 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University.

With aspirations of becoming a news and television personality, he obtained a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and completed a summer internship at WLBT in Jackson, Mississippi.

Jar'Kevious' bright personality, elegance, oratory skills, and charm have gained him the victory in winning the title of Mr. Mississippi Valley State University in 2023. As a bright and prosperous future awaits, Jar'Kevious plans to branch out into the field of broadcast journalism as a news reporter and/or anchor.

Jar'Kevious' long-term goals include anchoring on Good Morning America, CNN, hosting Entertainment Tonight, and one day his own television talk show.

Jar'Kevious' life motto is, "There is no passion to be found playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."—Nelson Mandela,

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jar'Kevious Edwards for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.