

Ambassador Chris Stevens will be remembered for his strong sense of dignity, his humility, and his generous service to others. He will be truly missed by all who loved him and by all he served through the magnitude of his life's work.

HONORING MR. JOE WILLIE  
"PINETOP" PERKINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the best blues pianists known, Mr. Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins.

Pinetop was born Joe Willie Perkins in Belzoni, Mississippi, on July 7, 1913. Pinetop dropped out of school after the third grade. He taught himself the rudiments of blues guitar on a homemade instrument called a diddley bow: a length of wire stretched between nails driven into a wall. He began entertaining at dances and house parties at age 10 and soon learned to play the piano as well. While still in his teens he left Mississippi and traveled to Chicago. But he came back to Mississippi and didn't decide to make Chicago his home until the 1950s.

He worked primarily in the Mississippi Delta throughout the 1930s and '40s, spending three years with Sonny Boy Williamson on the King Biscuit Time radio show on KFFA in Helena, Arkansas. Pinetop also toured extensively with slide guitar player Robert Nighthawk. After briefly working with B.B. King in Memphis, Pinetop "barnstormed" the South with Earl Hooker during the early '50s. The pair completed a session for Sam Phillips' famous Sun Records in 1953. It was at this session that he recorded his version of "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie," a song originally written and recorded by pianist Clarence "Pinetop" Smith—the influential blues pianist who died from a gunshot wound at age 24 in 1929. Willie Perkins was already being referred to as "Pinetop" when he played on King Biscuit in the '40s, but it was his sensational version of this song that secured him the lifelong nickname of "Pinetop."

Pinetop Perkins started out playing guitar and piano at house parties and honky-tonks. In the 1940s, he had to drop the guitar due to an encounter with an outraged chorus girl in a Helena, Arkansas, nightclub when she knifed him, leaving him with severed tendons in his left arm. That dashed his guitar aspirations, but Pinetop came back strong from the injury, concentrating solely on piano from that point on.

Pinetop is known for holding down the piano chair in the great Muddy Waters Band for twelve years during the pinnacle of Muddy's career. Replacing Otis Spann in 1969, Pinetop helped shape the Waters sound and anchored Muddy's memorable combo throughout the '70s with his brilliant piano solos. In 1980, Pinetop and other members of Muddy's crew struck out on their own and formed the Legendary Blues Band—a group that recorded two records for Rounder and toured extensively, culling several Grammy nominations.

After being labeled a sideman for most of his career, Pinetop eventually left the Leg-

endary Blues Band to concentrate on solo work. Within two years, he had cut his first domestic record as a frontman and pursued an ambitious tour schedule. He was featured on several nationally syndicated news and music programs, and appeared in numerous movie productions and TV and radio ads.

The great irony of Pinetop's career is that he didn't blossom as a headliner until his eighth decade on the blues scene—a phenomenon that resulted in the release of 15 solo records in 15 years, beginning in 1992. On his 1998 release, "Legends," Pinetop collaborated with master blues guitarist Hubert Sumlin. Together, they blended the traditional Delta blues sound with modern electric blues rock, showcasing the spirit and energy of the music. "Born in the Delta" and "Legends" were both nominated for Grammy Awards—in 1997 and 2000 respectively. This was followed by a 2005 Grammy nomination for "Ladies Man," released by MC Records. That same year, he was also presented with a lifetime achievement award at the Grammys.

Aside from his well-deserved Grammy recognition, Pinetop also received a National Heritage Fellowship in 2000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been featured in the documentary "Piano Blues," directed by Clint Eastwood for the Martin Scorsese PBS series, "The Blues." In addition, he continued to win the Blues Music Award for best blues piano every year until 2003, when he was retired from the running and the award was renamed the Pinetop Perkins Piano Player of the Year.

In 2007, he was still on the road at 94 years old; Pinetop Perkins' unique life was chronicled in Peter Carlson's biographical documentary DVD, "Born in the Honey," which includes a live CD with a rare studio outtake track.

"Pinetop Perkins and Friends" released on Telarc, an independent classical recording company that crosses over to include blues and even jazz music. In that release by Telarc in the summer of 2008, Pinetop was positioned in the midst of several high-profile guests—all of whom have been influenced by his music in some way or another over the past several decades. Included on Pinetop's list of Friends were such luminaries as Eric Clapton, B.B. King and Jimmy Vaughan.

His latest recording is "Joined at the Hip," a collaborative project with Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, released in June 2010. Pinetop also received a Grammy in 2010 for this collaborative project with Willie "Big Eyes" Smith for Best Traditional Blues CD.

Pinetop passed away on March 21, 2011, at the age of 97. When he passed away, he still had performances lined up for the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Joseph Willie "Pinetop" Perkins, a great blues legend from Mississippi's Second Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGEL  
GOMEZ

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Gomez for selfless service to our community. He has helped thousands of

people through his non-profit, Operation HOPE Helping Other People Endure.

Selfless doesn't even begin to describe Angel Gomez.

Many lives have been touched by Angel, an appropriate name for a man with a heart the size of Texas.

A native of El Paso, Texas, he attended Bowie High School and later joined the United States Navy. He is a proud Bowie Bear Alumni and Veteran.

His real passion, other than serving his county in uniform, has always been helping others in need.

In 1995 he began volunteering his time to the community, with the support of his wife Patricia, daughter Rubi and other family members.

Seeing the growing need around him he co-founded Operation HOPE in 2009, and he has invested even more time and resources to help the El Paso Community he loves so much.

Operation HOPE has allowed Angel to share his vision of community outreach with thousands of people in need. He works with community partners and volunteers who share the same values and passion for giving, and these relationships have made it possible to multiply his efforts to improve our community.

Over the past seventeen years, El Paso residents have received food baskets during the holidays, along with blankets, clothing, and medical supplies. Hospitalized children that were hospitalized have received toys and gift baskets to lift their spirits. Hundreds of persons with disabilities have received assistance with medical supplies, medications, durable medical equipment, and accessible ramps. And families have received assistance with funeral expenses and spiritual support during their time of need.

To others, the donated items and arrangements made may not seem like much, but behind each action is something intangible, something money can't buy: hope.

On behalf of the El Paso community, I would like to thank Angel Gomez for all he has done for those in need and for the positive impact he continues to have in our community.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.  
TONY AND MARY CARDOSO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthdays and 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Mary Cardoso. The life that Tony and Mary have built together over the past sixty years is an inspiration to all of us. Their story is reflective of the American Dream, working hard to create better lives for themselves and their children.

Anthony Bernard Cardoso was born in Lemoore, California, on October 16, 1922. When Tony was 20 years old, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during the height of World War II. He proudly served our country for six years, spending time overseas on the Marshall Islands and Hawaiian Islands as an aviation mechanic. Tony was honorably

discharged from the Marines in 1948 as a Staff Sergeant. Upon his return home, he went into the dairy business with his brothers.

Mary Dorothy Couto was born in Kerman, California, on October 18, 1922. In the 7th grade, Mary was pulled out of school, so she could contribute all of her time and energy into the family farm. In 1944, Mary bravely joined the Navy where she served our country for two years. In 1946 she returned home; a few years later, she met Tony at a local dairy.

Tony and Mary were married on October 18, 1952. In the early years of their marriage, Tony and Mary owned a dairy farm. The farm was sold in 1959, and they opened a liquor store in Biola, California. Over the years, they experienced great success and had the opportunity to expand their store, which was aptly named the Biola Variety Liquor Store. Tony and Mary were proud owners of the store for over 20 years. They worked long hours and were open seven days a week.

In the past six decades they owned and operated three businesses, raised their children, Antoinette and Charles, remained active in the community, and have acted as loving and caring grandparents and great grandparents. Clearly, their marriage not only reflects a partnership filled with deep affection and love, but also one that enjoys the intelligence of two business savvy people.

Tony joined the Biola Chamber of Commerce in 1959, and was a past president in 1963. He was a past commander of the Biola VFW Post. Tony is extremely proud of a veterans' memorial that was put up near an elementary school in Biola. He believes it is a perfect location because children can walk by and better understand the sacrifices men and women make to serve our country. Tony is also a member of the Biola American Legion Post and the Kerman American Legion Post. He has proudly served as Grand Marshal at the Biola Raisin Day Parade.

The Cardosos retired in 1979. They stay busy by working in their vegetable garden, being involved in the community, and spending time with family. Having a cohesive and close-knit family is very important to Tony and Mary. As a grandmother, Mary made it a point to bring all of her grandchildren together whenever possible, so all the cousins would have close relationships. Mary and Tony truly understand what is important in life. On a personal note, Mary and Tony have served as exceptional role models for me—their nephew. Their work ethic and commitment to service allowed me to witness first-hand the best of what our nation has to offer and encouraged me to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Mary Cardoso for their 60 years of commitment to one another and for their long lives that exemplify the genuine meaning of hard work and dedication.

#### HONORING EDDIE McCORD

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Ms. Eddie M. (Thompson) McCord was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana. She graduated from

Monticello High School in 1989. She then attended and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Alcorn State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. While at Alcorn, she also joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She later graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Master of Education Degree in K–12 Educational Leadership.

Ms. McCord began her career as an educator in the Vicksburg-Warren School District, teaching fifth grade. She later relocated to East Tallahatchie School District and served as a teacher of first and second grade students and eventually the assistant principal. The desire for professional growth then led her to West Tallahatchie School District where she served as Assistant Principal of R.H. Bearden Elementary School for three years and later became the Principal. After serving as the Principal at R.H. Bearden, she became the Principal at West Tallahatchie High School for two years. Currently, she is the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the West Tallahatchie School District.

Ms. McCord has been an asset to the West Tallahatchie School District because of the relationships she has developed with local stakeholders and throughout Tallahatchie County serving in various capacities in both West Tallahatchie School District and East Tallahatchie School District. She has been involved in initiatives and partnerships that have been critical to meeting the educational needs of school-age children in surrounding communities. These partnerships include collaborative professional development sessions between elementary school teachers and Head Start teachers. As a result of this collaboration, more students are entering kindergarten ready to learn at the necessary academic level. Additionally, she was instrumental in securing the district in-house GED Option Program which assists students who have academic deficiencies in meeting the requirements necessary for obtaining their general education diploma.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY LYNN ANN D'AVERSO

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Lynn Ann D'Averso on her retirement from Brookdale Community College at Long Branch, New Jersey. Ms. D'Averso dedicated over 31 years to Brookdale Community College, and her many achievements should be celebrated.

Nancy Lynn D'Averso's commitment to education is not only evident in her years as a teacher, but also in her many personal academic achievements. A graduate of Long Branch High School, Ms. D'Averso went on to earn a "Certificate of Culture" from the University of Madrid, Spain as well as a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Spanish and a Grade 7–12 Teaching Certificate from Montclair State College. After 6 years of teaching at Memorial School in Eatontown, New Jersey, Ms. D'Averso continued her studies at Montclair State College, graduating with a Master's of Arts Degree in Spanish Literature. She later also received an Associate Degree in Human

Services from Brookdale Community College, which helped her to excel at her work at Checkmate Fort Monmouth Homeless Shelter in Oceanport, New Jersey.

After teaching briefly at the primary education level, Ms. D'Averso went on to teach at Brookdale Community College at Long Branch in 1981. Combining her educational studies in Spanish and teaching, Ms. D'Averso taught English as a Second Language, GED studies in Spanish and Citizenship Studies. Her commitment to helping others through her various positions is admirable, and the impact she has had on the Brookdale Community College community is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nancy Lynn Ann D'Averso on her retirement. Her commitment to the Brookdale Community College at Long Branch community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

#### HONORING THE CHRISTIAN HARMONIZERS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 16, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a gospel singing group, The Christian Harmonizers. They were organized in the late 1980s by Jerome Williams along with Bobby Bailey and Ellison Brown.

The group began to grow over the years, adding such singers as Thomas Murray, Larry Thompson, Jerry Davis, Ronnie Polk, Calvin Harris, Frank McGriggs, Jr., Xavier Hampton, Frank Curtis, Maurice Buck, and the late Sherman King, Sr., who sang with the group for over 22 years, and Antoine Eakins, who sang with them for over 17 years. The current members of the group are Elder Frank Curtis, Elder Antoine Eakins, Bobby Bailey, and of course, the founder and organizer, Jerome Williams. In the earlier years, the late Walter Griffin and the late Robert Moore served as the group's teachers and advisors.

In 1988, the Christian Harmonizers recorded popular songs such as "Consideration" and "Don't Doubt the Lord" which were penned by Jerome Williams. Their current album is "30 Years Live" which is comprised of 10 songs and features two of Williams' originals: "Some-day" and "Grateful." The remaining tracks of the album were rearranged by Jerome Williams.

The Harmonizers are known worldwide for their performances and have shared the stage with such great gospel artists as: Lucille Polk & Pearly Gates, the Jackson Southernaires, The Angelic Gospel Singers, The Swanee Quintet, the Sensational Nightingales, Debra Snipes, Ronica & The Blazing Stars, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Willie Banks & The Messengers, the Canton Spirituals, and Gold City.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring The Christian Harmonizers, a Mississippi gospel singing group.