

innovators who drive our economy forward. I am glad that the House has taken concrete steps to address this problem, and I expect improvements will be made to this bill as it continues through the legislative process.

HONORING COLLINS FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collins Funeral Home, Inc. in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the funeral service business for African-Americans which began in the 1880's. The business was Lyman and Harvey Undertakers at the corner of Pearl and Farish Streets. Lyman came from Vicksburg, Mississippi where he had also started a funeral home. He and Jack Harvey sold their business to G. F. Frazier who operated from 406 North Farish Street beginning in 1903. Records from this year forward are maintained by Collins Funeral Home.

In the late 1880's, Malachi Collins and E.W. Hall established a funeral service business, Hall and Collins Funeral Home was in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This was the first funeral home owned by African-Americans to service the African-American population.

In 1924, as G. F. Frazier prepared to move from Jackson to Cleveland, Ohio, he sold his business to Malachi Collins and his wife Mary A. Collins. For many years, although owned exclusively by Mr. and Mrs. Collins, the company was known as Frazier and Collins Funeral Home. The Collins Burial Insurance Company was established in 1925.

In April, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Collins moved the business from 406 North Farish across the street to 415 North Farish Street, its present location. Mr. Collins died later that year, and Mrs. Collins, along with a dedicated staff continued to operate the business.

Clarie Collins Harvey, the only child of Mary and Malachi Collins, joined her mother in management of the business in 1950. The Frazier name was dropped and the business became known as Collins Funeral Home, Inc. Mary A. Collins remained president and CEO until her death in 1970 when her daughter assumed these responsibilities.

Since Clarie C. Harvey had no children or siblings, she developed a close relationship with some of her many cousins. Two of them joined her in the business: Ralph E. Collins in 1963, and his sister, Annette Collins Rollins in 1973. They have owned and operated the Collins Funeral Home and Insurance Companies since Mrs. Harvey's death in 1995.

Collins Insurance Company was formed to offer burial insurance to people of color in the community at a time when standard life insurance was not available. Mrs. Harvey took this service a step further by offering to Collins' patrons a funeral service for these limited amounts. In an effort to meet the needs of our changing society, Collins now offers life insurance in face amounts up to \$5,000 and has continued the burial insurance allowing patrons the opportunity to upgrade. Prearrangements are also available for those who want to assure that their needs are met and to lighten the burden on loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Collins Funeral Home, Inc.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DONNA WILLIAMS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to commend the recognition of the House to an individual who has had an immeasurable influence on the lives of young people in the Sixth District and the State of Alabama, Donna Griffin Williams.

One of my longest-serving staff members, Donna has devoted a large part of her working and volunteer life to creating opportunities to help young people achieve their dreams and to highlighting the many positive things that our students are doing in their schools and communities.

Donna's role as the Special Projects Coordinator in my district office has touched the lives of countless young people.

As a congressman, some of my proudest moments have come when I have met with young people who feel called to defend freedom and serve our country in the U.S. military. That is why a function of my office that I have always taken most seriously is the nomination of students to attend a Service Academy. Donna has expertly coordinated this process for me, and over the years it has been a privilege and an honor to have been of help to so many outstanding young people with high character and an abiding love for America.

Donna has also served as our local organizer for the annual Congressional Art Competition, which provides students with the opportunity to have their original artwork displayed at the U.S. Capitol. This competition attracts entries from schools across the Sixth District and is a public showcase for the positive accomplishments of our students.

Donna has also been a principal organizer of a program that brings great joy to my wife Linda and I during each Christmas season, the Holiday Card Call for Art. This program, run in cooperation with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, invites students with visual impairments to submit artwork for our annual Christmas card. The breadth of the creativity is inspiring and Donna has always worked to encourage an excellent level of participation by students and their schools.

Donna's concern for young people has extended beyond work to her civic and volunteer activities. She has provided service as President of the Alabama PTA Board of Directors, a National PTA Board Director, a member of the Mayor's Education Committee, past president of the Vestavia Hills City School Foundation, and member of the A+ Foundation Board. Donna's many other community contributions include her service on the Board of the American Village Citizenship Trust, VIP for United Cerebral Palsy, and her involvement with Leadership Vestavia Hills and Leadership Alabama.

Donna would be the first to say that she has been blessed with a supportive and loving family which includes her husband of 46 years, George, three grown children, and five grandchildren with a sixth soon on the way.

For her service to the residents of the Sixth District and especially the young people who will be the future leaders in our communities, Donna Williams is well-deserving of this recognition and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to her for her loyalty and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was unable to be present for H.R. 3521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather on December 10th, my flight was cancelled and I was unable to vote on H.R. 3521 Dept. of VA Major Medical Facility Lease and H.R. 1402 VA Expiring Authorities Extension. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted for both pieces of legislation. I applaud the passage of these resolutions which will positively benefit our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "SHACK" HARRIS, A BARRIER-BREAKING PIONEER IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my fellow colleagues Rep. JIM CLYBURN (SC-06), Rep. KAREN BASS (CA-37), Rep. CORRINE BROWN (FL-05), Rep. JOHN CONYERS (MI-13), Rep. ELIJAH CUMMINGS (MD-07), Rep. CHRIS COLLINS (NY-27), Rep. SUSAN DAVIS (CA-53), Rep. BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), Rep. JOHN LEWIS (GA-05), Rep. VANCE MCALLISTER (LA-05), Rep. GARY PETERS (MI-14), and Rep. JON RUNYAN (NJ-03) to pay tribute to James "Shack" Harris, in this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington. Like such pioneers as Paul Robeson, Joe Louis, and Jackie Robinson, James Harris applied his brilliant talent and steadfast determination as an athlete to advance the cause of racial equality in America.

James Harris was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, during some of the harshest years of segregation when a policy of "massive resistance" against court rulings and federal laws denied equal rights for Black citizens. Racial inequality pervaded football fields as much as buses, hotels and lunch counters in the South.

But the Reverend Nashall Harris, James' father, gave his son an appropriate nickname: "Shack," after the Old Testament's Meshach, one of the three ancient Jews who refused the