

Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr. was born on September 13, 1933 in Birmingham, Alabama. At the age of twelve, he entered Parker High School where he developed a talent for shoe repair and tailoring and a gift for public speaking.

Bishop Calvin Woods graduated from Parker High School in 1950 and went on to earn a B.S. degree in social science and B.D., B.R.E., M.B.S and D.D. degrees from the Universal Baptist Institute, the Universal Baptist Seminary and Birmingham-Easonian Baptist Bible College.

In 1960, Bishop Calvin Woods became pastor of East End Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. During the 1960's, he was a resolute advocate for the boycott of Birmingham's segregated city bus system. He was sentenced to prison for six months and fined for his leadership in the Birmingham Bus Boycotts. Despite this setback, Bishop Calvin Woods continued his steadfast commitment to the Movement. In 1963, he was arrested and beaten by Birmingham's police for participating in public protests. Again, his dedication to fighting segregation and intolerance in the Deep South did not waver. Bishop Calvin Woods was heavily involved in the 1965 protest of Birmingham's voter registration procedures. He served as the strategy chairman for the protest of the shootings of five black protesters at a Birmingham supermarket.

Today, Bishop Calvin Woods continues to be a guiding light for the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. He remains an outspoken advocate for justice speaking out most recently against the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case and the Supreme Court's decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act. I am inspired by the words he spoke at a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony in 2012 for the 6 Birmingham youth killed on September 15, 1963. "In a sense we've crossed a stream," he said, "but still there are mighty oceans of adversity that lie ahead."

As a direct benefactor of their life's work and sacrifices, it is my honor to recognize the contributions of brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Their contributions have inspired generations. On behalf of a grateful state and nation, we acknowledge these trailblazers and their influence on the progress we have made. The City of Birmingham, the State of Alabama and this entire nation have benefited from their sacrifices and tenacious pursuit of justice. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Jr. and Bishop Calvin W. Woods.

HONORING ANITA BLEDSOE-COVINGTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Black History honoree, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington.

Raised in Grenada County, MS, Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington is known within the community for her entrepreneurship and an active

member of the community. Born 9th out of 11 children of the late Icy Bell and Willie Sykes, the family had made strides of their own. Her mother, Ms. Icy Bell, was the head cook of a prestigious and all white restaurant, Monte Cristo, of Grenada, MS from 1963 until the year she passed 1973. Ms. Juanita Sykes, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington's twin sister, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he made his way through the south in 1967. And for her courage and civil defiance, she was arrested and jailed for this act.

With her three children, Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington moved to Yalobusha County in 1973. This move would be the first of many for Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington. In 1978, she became the first black female delegate for the Mississippi Democratic Convention in Jackson, MS, as a representative for Yalobusha County.

During 1982 Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington opened Nita's Beauty Salon making her a staple in serving her community as a business woman. The salon earned Mrs. Anita numerous accolades as a beautician and entrepreneur. By 1986, she was the first black chairman of the Title I program for the Coffeeville School District as an active parent. As the 90's rolled in, Mrs. Anita was elected the first female Trustee of Coffeeville School Board District from 1991 through 1998. She also was hired as the first black female city clerk for the town of Oakland, MS in 1991.

During this time, the beginning of her career as a teacher with the Institution of Community Service head start program. Although she had already started her career as an early childhood school teacher, Mrs Bledsoe-Covington graduated from Coahoma Community College with an associate in early childhood education in 2003.

By 2005, in the same field, she earned her B.S. from Mississippi Valley State University. Coming full circle, 2010, Can's Chapel CME Church honored Mrs. Bledsoe-Covington as an unsung hero for Succeeding against the Odds during their Black History program. In 2012, she has obtained the Dean and President Certificate from the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Now married at the age of 60 and with 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild later, when asked if it was her agenda to create Black History, her response was, "I've always accepted challenge and I guess maybe I did! I wanted to see if I could make a difference."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Anita Bledsoe-Covington for her quest in being a part of making history.

“GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY”

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the thousands of dentists and volunteers who participate in the "Give Kids A Smile Day." Each February, Illinois dentists donate more than \$1 million in much-needed dental care to children. Many families cannot afford to provide their children with regular dental care. This can not only result in potentially serious health problems but is also likely to serve as an impediment to

economic success. The unfortunate truth is that individuals with unhealthy looking teeth are less likely to be hired than those with better oral health. Furthermore, an inability to obtain dental care can adversely affect children before they even enter the job market—dental pain can affect both sleep patterns and school performance. Inadequate dental care is not a cosmetic concern; it has a real impact on a person's economic mobility and success.

I commend the American Dental Association for its tireless efforts to raise awareness and develop solutions so more people can receive dental care. Since the ADA's "Give Kids A Smile" program was founded twelve years ago in St. Louis, it has grown to become the world's largest oral health charitable program—encouraging parents, health professionals and policymakers to address the year-round need for oral health care for all children. Each year, thousands of the nation's dentists, dental team members and community volunteers provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families.

This February in Illinois, over 2,000 dental care professionals volunteered for "Give Kids A Smile Day," reaching upwards of 17,000 kids. Dentists in Illinois have demonstrated their commitment to giving back to the community. In June 2014, the Illinois State Dental Society and its Foundation will hold the third "Illinois Mission of Mercy" in Peoria, Illinois. The Mission of Mercy is a free, two-day dental clinic during which over 950 volunteers see 1,000 patients each day and provide over \$1 million in much-needed oral health care.

I would like to thank all the dental professionals who have volunteered their time this year to provide screenings, treatments and education to children throughout the United States. I urge my colleagues to support the ADA's efforts to improve the lives and expand opportunities for our nation's children.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
JOE INFAUSTO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe Infausto as he retires after 43 years of public service as a police reserve officer. Joe's commitment and dedication to serving his community deserves to be commended.

Joe began his career in law enforcement in 1970 with the Clovis Police Department Auxiliary Unit. In 1977, he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno. That same year, Joe was transferred to the Fresno Police Department Reserve Unit where he served for 36 years.

As a reserve officer, Joe was a citizen volunteer who donated his time and energy to help make Fresno a better place. Throughout his law enforcement career, Joe received numerous commendations for his service and professionalism, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant in 1999.

Joe's dedication to the security of his community was not only exemplified through his service but also through the establishment of his small business, BESTEC Security in 1983.