

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NETTIE J.
ROBBINS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, one hundred years ago a virtuous woman of God, Nettie J. Ford was born in Midway, Alabama on August 4, 1915 to Mr. Hanson and Mrs. Lottie Ford; and

Whereas, she was raised up in Midway, Alabama and married Rev. Aaron Robbins in 1932 and their union has blessed our district and nation with fourteen children and a host of grand, great and great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a wife, mother and friend, becoming a Georgia citizen of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all by always advancing the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbins has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robbins is celebrating a remarkable milestone, her 100th Birthday; her family and friends are pausing to acknowledge a woman who has been revered by many and a pillar of her community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and extend well wishes to Mrs. Robbins on her birthday and recognize her for an exemplary life that has been an inspiration to all; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim August 4, 2015 as Mrs. Nettie J. Robbins Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 4th day of August, 2015.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY BARTZ

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievements of legendary saxophonist and educator Gary Bartz. A highly-talented instrumentalist, vocalist, composer, and leader—Mr. Bartz's long career deserves our applause.

Mr. Bartz started playing at an early age with Art Blakey at his father's jazz club in his hometown of Baltimore, MD. Fifty-seven years later, he is an international sensation, earning a Grammy Award in 2005 for his and McCoy Tyner's "Illuminations." Over the course of his career, he has recorded over 40 solo albums and made guest appearances on over 200 more.

Gary Bartz first came to New York in 1958, at just 17 years old, to attend the Julliard Conservatory of Music. He remembers those days fondly, saying, "It was a very good time for the music in New York, at the end of what had been the be-bop era. Charlie Parker had passed away three years previously but Miles' group was in its heyday, Monk was down at the Five Spot, and Ornette Coleman was just coming to town. Things were fresh." He spent

much of his time drinking Coca-Cola in the all-ages "peanut gallery" at Birdland, where he enjoyed a marathon bill of performers. Reflecting on his musical youth, he has said, "If I didn't have money to get in, I'd help somebody carry a drum to work my way in."

From 1962–64, Mr. Bartz participated in Charles Mingus' Workshop and began practicing regularly with fellow members of the horn section, including Eric Dolphy. By the mid '60s, the alto saxophonist, still in his early 20s, began performing throughout the city with the Max Roach/Abbey Lincoln Group, and quickly established himself as the most promising alto voice since Cannonball Adderley.

With the splash of his New York debut solidly behind him, Mr. Bartz joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. The young saxophonist's parents owned a club in Baltimore called the North End Lounge. When his father hired Blakey for a gig, Mr. Bartz grabbed the opportunity to fill a sax player vacancy in the band. After his performance that night, he was officially hired to join the Jazz Messengers. In 1965, he would make his recording debut on Blakey's "Soulfinger" album.

In 1968, Mr. Bartz began an association with McCoy Tyner, which included participating in Tyner's classic "Expansions" and "Extentions" albums. Work with McCoy proved especially significant for Mr. Bartz because of the bandleader's strong connection to John Coltrane. During his first two years with Tyner, Mr. Bartz was also touring with Max Roach and taking some time out to record on Max's Atlantic Records release, "Members Don't Get Weary." "With Max, there was that bond with Charlie Parker," declares Bartz. "Charlie Parker is why I play the alto saxophone."

Mr. Bartz began working with Miles Davis in 1970, his first experience playing electric music. It also reaffirmed his yen for an even stronger connection to Coltrane. In addition to working with Miles in the early '70s—including playing the historic Isle of Wight Festival in August, 1970—Mr. Bartz was busy fronting his own NTU Troop ensemble. The group got its name from the Bantu language: NTU means unity in all things, time and space, living and dead, seen and unseen.

Outside the Troop, Mr. Bartz had been recording as a group leader since 1968, and continued to do so throughout the '70s, during which time he released such acclaimed albums as, "Another Earth," "Home," "Music Is My Sanctuary" and "Love Affair." By the late '70s, he was doing studio work in Los Angeles with Norman Connors and Phyllis Hyman. In 1988, after a nine-year break between solo releases, Mr. Bartz began recording what music columnist Gene Kalbacher described as "Vital ear-opening sides," on such albums as "Monsoon," "West 42nd Street," "There Goes The Neighborhood," and "Shadows."

Mr. Bartz followed those impressive works in 1995 with the release of his debut Atlantic album "The Red and Orange Poems," a self-described musical mystery novel and just one of his brilliantly conceived concept albums. Back when he masterminded the much-touted "I've Known Rivers" album, based on the poetry of Langston Hughes, his concepts would be twenty years ahead of those held by some of today's jazz/hip hop and acid jazz combos. So it continues with "The Blues Chronicles: Tales of Life," a testimonial to a steadfast belief in the power of music to soothe, challenge, spark a crowd to complete ecstasy, or move

one person to think. It adds up to a shoe box full of musical snapshots from a life lived and played with passion and stirred—with both joy and sadness—by the blues.

Mr. Bartz's release "Live at the Jazz Standard Volume 1—Soulstice" is the first of a series of recordings documenting his legendary, non-stop style, live performances. This initial release on his own OYO label bares testimony to Bartz's continuing growth as a composer, group leader, and a master of both the alto and soprano saxophones. A quartet session recorded in 1998, was followed by "Live at the Jazz Standard, Volume 2" released in 2000, which features Mr. Bartz's exciting Sextet. His follow-up release "Soprano Stories" features Mr. Bartz exclusively performing on the soprano saxophone in a studio quartet setting.

His follow-up album to the highly acclaimed "Volume 1 of the Coltrane Files, Toa of a Music Warrior," will be released in 2015, along with his album honoring Woody Shaw entitled "Two MF's."

When he is not on the road or preparing new music, Mr. Bartz serves as a professor in the Jazz Studies Department of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Bartz performs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Jazz Concert on September 17, 2015. On that occasion, I will be presenting him with the Foundation's Jazz Legacy Award. Next month, he will be honored with the BNY Mellon Jazz 2015 Living Legacy Award in a special ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, October 16, 2015.

Gary Bartz is an extraordinary musician that has made a remarkable contribution to jazz music and world culture. For these reasons, I urge you to join me in congratulating him for these awards and his lifetime of outstanding accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. IVORY C.
SHEPHERD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 88 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Ivory C. Shepherd was born on November 26, 1927 and today she is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Shepherd has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she is the First Lady Emeritus of Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church and is a Spiritual and Prayer Matriarch that has spread the gospel since the days of her youth; and

Whereas, Mrs. Shepherd is celebrating her 88th Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in Georgia, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a Mother, Wife, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, friend, community servant and leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily as she leads a blessed life by example: an advocate, faithful matriarch and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 88th birthday in Georgia; and