

HONORING HOSKINS LEARNING CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hoskins Learning Center of Batesville, MS.

Mrs. Lillie L. Hoskins, a woman of favor and faith, is a native of Batesville, MS. She has been an educator and Daycare Provider for over 35 years and is currently the owner and operator of the Hoskins Learning Center.

She graduated from South Panola High School in 1973 and later obtained a secretarial degree from Northwest Community College. In 2000, she obtained State credentials as an Early Childhood Education Director.

Mrs. Hoskins was born into a family where she was rooted in her faith in Christ. She is the daughter of the late George and Audrey Leland and the youngest girl of eight (8) children, but even as a young girl she knew, she would someday spend her life working with children.

Mrs. Hoskins is the mother of two children, a daughter-in-law and has two grandchildren. Over the course of forty-two (42) years of marriage, Lawrence and Lillie have traveled and touched the lives of many people.

In 1979, Mrs. Hoskins prayed to God through faith and opened the first daycare, Magnolia Kindergarten, which she owned and operated until 2003. In 2003, she expanded her business to include infants and early toddlers. At this time she also changed the operating name to Hoskins Learning Center, as it is known today.

Mrs. Hoskins has touched the community and the lives of children in the city of Batesville in many ways, by opening her house and heart to train and tutor our children.

As owner and operator of Hoskins Learning Center, her goal has been to serve the children of Batesville and Panola County, preparing them all to be productive and responsible adults in a rapidly changing world. Since 1979, the daycare has had a 96 percent high school graduation rate, including several valedictorians, salutatorians and honor roll students, one of which went on to play football in the NFL.

For all of her outstanding accomplishments, Mrs. Hoskins is recognized as a trailblazer in Early Childhood Education, in the great State of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Hoskins Learning Center for their commitment and dedication to the community.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the achievements of an outstanding faith community, the Union Baptist Church, who are celebrating their ministry's 80th Anniversary of successful service to the community of Passaic on Sunday, April 3, 2016.

Eighty years ago the Union Baptist Church was established through the Merger of two parishes in the city of Passaic NJ; the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Greater St. Paul Baptist Church on April 4, 1936. The combined Church membership was approximately 150 parishioners. The Church and its members worshipped Christ for 28 years at its 315 Oak Street and 30 Ann Street location. Due to an increase in membership the Union Baptist Church purchased 221 Myrtle Ave on September 27, 1964 and began to worship there.

The Union Baptist Church is located in a welcoming neighborhood. Current ministries within the church include traditional Sunday morning worship service, Bible study, Sunday school, voluntary work such as feeding the homeless on Saturday afternoons, Camp Union for the youth, and the services provided to the senior citizens. Union Baptist has always focused on spiritual leadership accompanied by a strong sense of commitment to community involvement. I know that their dedication will continue to grow.

In fact, the church has been an integral part of Passaic and the surrounding area for more than three quarters of a century. Its hallowed grounds have witnessed the miracle of newborn baptism, the holy matrimony of marriage as well as the somber rituals of burial. But most importantly, many lives have been changed by the people that have called the Church home since 1936. Indeed, the ministry has been a major part of the Passaic community and continues to serve all.

In this sense, the Union Baptist Church clergy and organizers have worked passionately to build many bridges between different groups within the faith community. At the forefront of this cause has been the church's many leaders throughout its history. The first among several leaders to grace the halls of the church was Reverend O.D. Henry—who served from 1936–1942.

His work undoubtedly laid a strong foundation for the others to follow, such as Reverend T.H. Alexander—who continued his predecessor's work until 1932. Reverend Ronald W. Johnson was the next to answer God's calling, and he devoted himself to the Union Baptist Church until 2010. Indeed, the Union Baptist Church has had many leaders throughout its years. Today, it is led by Reverend Kortney L. Haigler, who has inspired many to follow the path of faith and kindness.

It gives me pride to recognize the excellence of the Union Baptist Church, as well as a deep sense of satisfaction for their service to the residents of Passaic. I am grateful to represent the Church and its congregation within the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of faith communities such as the Union Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, and the Union Baptist Church in celebrating their 80th Anniversary and recognizing their leadership, dedication and loyalty to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING TRI COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tri County Community Action (TCCA) upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. The organization's decades of committed service have brought awareness to the issue of poverty and helped lessen its impact in Pennsylvania. Helping families to identify and achieve economic self-sufficiency has enabled TCCA to increase the standards of living for my constituents in Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties.

Founded in 1966 as a private, nonprofit, anti-poverty planning agency, TCCA has transformed into a dynamic organization with the mission of "creating and maximizing the resources necessary for individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency throughout a multi-county region." Over the course of the last 50 years, TCCA has evolved into a network of programs offering specialized assistance to at-risk youth, low income families, and poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Some of their services include providing credit counseling for families that are struggling financially, arranging self-sufficiency guidance, engaging with youth mentor programs, and leading neighborhood revitalization efforts. The organization strives to help those stricken by poverty and financial instability on an individual and family basis, with personalized action plans for socioeconomic advancement.

The lives of many in my district have been greatly improved by the work of TCCA since its inception 50 years ago. In 2014 alone, TCCA served 12,997 families representing 38,629 individuals across three counties. They have brought to light the root causes of poverty that otherwise may not have been exposed, and subsequently worked to empower members of our community to create better lives for themselves. Through strategic identification, TCCA works to empower existing community programs that can act as vessels for combating poverty and its consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a district that is home to such an impactful, successful, and benevolent organization. I commend Tri County Community Action for its accomplishments in improving the lives of my constituents, family by family, and I wish them all of the best in their continued efforts. No one chooses to live in poverty, and the pathway out can be painfully difficult, but the good work of organizations like theirs help families grow and see possibility, where before there was only despair.

HONORING MS. GINNY CRAVEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Ginny Craven, founder of Operation Tango Mike, for her ongoing support for veterans, active duty troops, and her Lake County, California community.