

In times like these I am reminded of the comforting words of John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'"

HONORING SHELLEY MARTIN FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE
OF CALIFORNIA'S 36TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to congratulate and recognize Ms. Shelley Martin: a generous and selfless individual who worked as an integral part of my team for over three years.

Shelley is a long time resident of my congressional district. She grew up in the Hemet Valley and graduated from Hemet High School. She then attended The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles, and later returned back to her hometown to serve her community.

For over three years, Shelley was the gold standard for constituent services in my office. She dedicated many hours and energy to constituents, finding solutions in the most difficult cases involving social Security, Medicare, and Veterans.

While working for the People of California's 36th Congressional District, Shelley paid special care and attention to veterans in our communities. Shelley spent countless hours advocating on behalf of veterans who served our country honorably. She treated each constituent who sought help from my office with the patience, care, and respect due to them. Shelley's selfless dedication to serving those in need in my congressional district is commendable and a model for public service.

Shelley remains passionate about serving the community she calls home. In her time with my office, Shelley successfully managed all community engagement in the communities of San Jacinto and Hemet. She is diligent and thorough, and goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve our communities, working hard to ensure that my constituents have the resources that they need.

Her selfless dedication and hard work will be greatly missed. However, her love of public service will not be forgotten. Shelley has transformed the lives of countless individuals and families in my district, and for that I am truly grateful.

I thank Shelly for her dedication and service to the constituents of the 36th district. I wish her well in her future endeavors and look forward to seeing her future accomplishments.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
SCIENTISTS AND TECH-
NOLOGISTS—TEJES SRIVASTAVA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tejes Srivastava from Sugar

Land, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Tejes attends William B. Travis High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 29th through July 1st. Tejes was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to his dedication to his academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Tejes and all of his hard work, and know he will make Sugar Land proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Tejes for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

HONORING YOLANDA JONES

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 Yolanda Jones, who is a director, counselor and educator.

Yolanda Jones grew up in Greenwood, Mississippi, and after graduating from Greenwood High School she enrolled in Grambling State University.

Although she recalls her time at Grambling fondly, it was her first experience living away from home and she oscillated between being focused on schoolwork and being distracted by the more social aspects of college life. Eventually, she left Grambling before finishing her degree, working a number of odd jobs, both in Greenwood and Jackson, before deciding to re-enroll in JSU in 1999 under a program called Academic Second Chance, which is a program that allowed students, who failed to return and complete their bachelor's degree, to be under a strict retention plan.

The next year Jones, who is fluent in sign language, received her B.A. degree in Disabilities Studies and Hearing-Impaired Education graduating summa cum laude. She also earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Jackson State University in 2002. She began her career as a counselor in 2002 at MVSU and currently serves as the Director of the Comprehensive Counseling Center, a position she's held since 2007. Jones also has received a master's degree in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University.

Additionally, Dr. Jones has also been afforded the opportunity to study abroad. In the summer of 2012, she studied in Beijing, China, at the University of Trinidad and the University of West Indies.

Dr. Jones also served as: co-chair of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee, for students that are not meeting satisfactory academic progress; chair of the MVSU Behavioral Intervention Team; Advisory Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club, Inc. (MVSU Unit); and also a statutory member of the Mississippi Blues Commission, where she was appointed in 2013.

Dr. Jones has presented at several state and national conferences, which included: the United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) 2010 in Miami, Florida; the White House Initiative Policy Planning meeting in 2010, where she was selected to serve as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities' representative; and most recently, at the 2015 National Association of Student Affairs Professionals conference (NASAP) in Huntsville, Alabama.

In Dr. Jones' dissertation, "An Examination of Academic Variables that Explain Persistence to Graduation for Students who take Remedial Courses in Higher Education", she examined academic variables between two groups of students (students that were required to take remedial courses and students that were not required to take any remedial courses) at public four year institutions to determine if there was a significant difference in their persistence to graduation. Utilizing a quantitative design, she examined the success of the students taking remedial courses as measured by graduation and the number of years it took them to meet their graduation requirements.

She is a scholar/practitioner who continues her research in this area as well as in the areas of retention, student persistence and student success among college students in hope of providing practical application that will assist in increasing the gap in college attendance and graduation rates of all students that enroll in institutions of higher learning. Jones hopes to use her doctorate in order to expand her influence in higher education administration, developing strategies that increase student retention and promote student success.

"Strategic planning is crucial!" she emphasized. There has always been a plethora of issues in higher education; however, it is pivotal that higher education institutions began making extraordinary efforts to meet students where they are, with special emphasis on the "under-prepared" students, in which schools are admitting in alarming numbers every year."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Yolanda Jones, a Director, Counselor and Educator, for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

TRIBUTE TO COLLIN R. BARNES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Collin R. Barnes for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the