

HONORING VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of high school students from the second District of Mississippi with a special congratulations for winning the State 3A Boys Basketball Championship when they defeated East Side by the score of 46 to 32 on March 10th with an overall record of 27 and 6.

I would first like to recognize the team beginning with the coaches. They include Head Coach, Anthony Carlyle and Assistant Coaches: Bryantae Garrett and Christian Johnson. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

The players' teamwork and athletic abilities are also evident with this victory. The players are Mason Riley, Robert Anderson, Kiryne Jobe, Brandon Weatherspoon, Robert Kendrick, Charles Smith, Travius Brown, Nikolas Weatherspoon, Haven Ousley, Carlton Beamon, Leaveon Griffin, Jamuel Brooks, DeMarion Jones, Andre Lee and Antwain Dixon.

Congratulations Velma Jackson High School Falcon Boys Basketball Championship Team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Velma Jackson High School Boys Basketball Championship Team.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MELANY REIS-ABERNATHY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Melany Reis-Abernathy, who sadly passed away on March 18, 2017 after a long battle with cancer.

Mrs. Melany Reis-Abernathy was born in Modesto, California on March 27, 1973. Growing up, Melany was the daughter of a dairyman and a District 5 Dairy Princess. She attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she graduated in 1996, and went on to work in the agriculture industry with the Farm Credit system and later at Rabobank North America Wholesale as a financial analyst.

An avid adventure seeker, Melany met her husband, Kevin Abernathy, while in a martial arts class in 1999. The two became quick friends due to their active lifestyles and similar upbringings in the dairy community and began dating soon after meeting. Melany and Kevin got married on June 17, 2003 in Kauai, Hawaii at Ship Wreck Beach and made their home in Delhi, California. Kevin and Melany enjoyed water skiing, boating, hiking, running, and snow skiing together. Although the two never had children of their own, Melany was known and loved by her nieces and nephews as the "cool aunt".

Known for her dedicated service, Melany and Kevin began working with disadvantaged children through Aspiring Children for Tomorrow,

an organization of which her husband serves as general manager. The goal of the organization is to assist struggling young people through training and competition in the fighting arts.

Mrs. Reis-Abernathy became a yoga instructor while battling cancer, showing her strength and resolve even in the face of adversity. Melany had the strength to continue fighting this disease and living her life with love and joy, as she always had. She truly lived every moment to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mrs. Melany Reis-Abernathy. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF KATY LUCILLE HENDERSON

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Houston County Tadmor Community will celebrate the one hundredth birthday of Katy Lucille Henderson, a cherished leader and faithful servant in the community.

On April 24th, 1917, George and Josephine Augusta Stewart Henderson welcomed a new addition to the family, Katy Lucille Henderson, better known as Lucille. In her life, Lucille has witnessed the growth and transformation that took place in the world during the 20th and 21st Centuries. Growing up, Lucille's family used a horse drawn buggy as their primary mode of transportation. She vividly remembers the introduction of many "modern" inventions such as the electric light bulb, refrigeration, and indoor plumbing. However, few modern marvels have had a great impact on Lucille compared to hearing her favorite hymn, How Great Thou Art, or the majestic voice of the great Mahalia Jackson.

After graduating high school in 1936, Lucille married Carl Lester Franklin. While Carl served in the military during World War II, Lucille dedicated her time to working in the community and serving as a cook at the Kennard West Side Schools. For more than 50 years, she has served the Lord as a Stewardess at the Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and as a respected role model in the Tadmor Community.

Together, Lucille and Carl raised five children: Carl E. Franklin, Barbara Franklin, Marva G. Anglin, Charles D. Franklin, and Ronald L. Franklin. Lucille is also blessed with a stepdaughter, Doris Gibson.

Lucille's family continues to grow as she is blessed with twelve grandchildren and ten great-grand children: Byron Franklin, Abria Perry, Brian Franklin, Bobby R. Anglin, George K. Anglin, Kyla N. Franklin, Micha A. Franklin, Diondra I. Franklin, Nichelle R. Franklin, Patrice L. Franklin, Robbyn L. Traylor, and Rosslyn K. Douglas; along with Doris' children: Mitchell, Marcus and Milton; Malkijah Perry, Aniya Perry, Briana M. Franklin, Jayna Franklin, Jordan Anglin, Jayron Anglin, Kennedy Anglin, Reign K. Traylor, Ryleigh M. Traylor, and Cadence K. Douglas.

From her home in the Tadmor Community, Lucille continues to see the world transform

around her; however, she recently joked with her family that she "has never been on an airplane and never will be!"

As she celebrates her 100th birthday, I would like to join her family, friends, and the Tadmor Community to wish Lucille a very happy and blessed birthday.

HONORING TWENTY-TWO TEACHERS OF THE GREATER BOCA RATON AREA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the twenty two outstanding teachers in South Florida who have been awarded the Teacher of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise.

For the past 31 years, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise has offered this annual distinction to one teacher at each of the twenty-two schools in the greater Boca Raton area. Each awardee is selected by the school's principal. These teachers have dedicated their time to inspiring, empowering, and bettering the next generation of youth in our community. Their passion in this effort is truly worthy of our recognition.

These twenty-two exemplary teachers have made a profound impact on their students through their caring, commitment, and professionalism. They are a cohort defined by integrity, excellence, and the highest marks in all they do. The City of Boca Raton is fortunate to have such outstanding faculty.

Congratulations to Maria Laing, Brad Chapell, Kelly Green, CarolAnn Da Rocha, Meghan Forbush, Mariel Stark, Shari Fargosa, Eileen O'Brien, Denise Rudy, Courtney Elkin, Emlyn McAna, Nora Buck, Robin Koota, Sarah Gregory, Jacqueline Grandison, Shelly Devino, Mary Fish, Anna Lillie-Young, Karen Gibson, Amanda Fraga, Lance Blank, and Sharon Gotschall on being nominated for this year's Teacher of the Year Award. I am pleased to honor them, and I thank them, for their continued service.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES DICK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain James Dick for his more than 30 years of faithful and dedicated service to the U.S. Navy and our country.

A 1987 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and 1993 graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, Captain Dick served as an engineering officer on the USS *San Jacinto* (CG 56) where he completed three deployments to the Persian Gulf. In 2000, he returned to shipboard life aboard the USS *Klackring* (FFG 42) as executive officer. In this tour, he oversaw a crew of more than 200 sailors as they circumnavigated South America as part of their UNITAS XLI exercises with other foreign navies. In 2005, Captain Dick assumed command of the USS *Ramage* (DDG