

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, Travis 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 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 Fareng, 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

61). While in command, his crew supported both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under his leadership, the *Ramage* earned recognition as Self-Sufficient Ship of the Year for the Atlantic fleet, saving the Navy over \$200,000.

Captain Dick transitioned from being a surface warfare officer to serving as an exceptional navy acquisition professional in 2008. In this capacity, he served as Program Manager for the Sea Warrior Program, as an International Programs and Foreign Military Sales expert, and most recently within the International Fleet Support and Ship Transfer Directorate. Captain Dick's tireless efforts supporting the U.S. Navy's foreign military sales endeavors have helped to ensure America's timeless values of freedom and democracy extend beyond our borders, around the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Captain James Dick for his lifetime of dedication and service to the U.S. Navy and the country. We thank him for his sacrifice, his commitment, and his countless efforts to preserve peace at home and spread freedom abroad.

RECOGNIZING PONCE DE LEON  
HIGH SCHOOL'S SENIOR KOBY  
TOWNSEND

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ponce de Leon High School's senior Koby Townsend.

Koby has received and accepted an offer to continue his college basketball career at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama.

In addition to his success as a basketball player, Koby has excelled in the classroom. He is an active member of the Sr. Beta Club, a national organization honoring high academic achievement; and is set to graduate as Magna Cum Laude of his high school class.

Koby has also been an active member of the FCCLA club serving as treasurer for one year. He competed in the speech contest and won 5 gold awards at the state level allowing him the opportunity to compete at the national level.

I am proud to recognize the diligence and dedication this young man has shown to his team and education. Koby is a role model for fellow students and team members, and a source of pride for his community and all Northwest Florida.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Koby on his spectacular senior season and receiving this honor. I look forward to continuing to follow his basketball career.

HONORING TUNICA 10 POINT  
COALITION, INC.

**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 Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. in Tunica County, Mississippi.

Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. is a Faith Based Organization with a strategic vision, programmatic structure, financial resources necessary to save at-risk youth from child abuse and neglect, street violence, drug abuse, school failure, teen pregnancy, incarceration, chronic health and wellness issues, spiritual depravity and hopelessness about the future.

Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. was formulated in 2004 after being introduced to the facts or the (10 Points) by the Memphis Chapter who was providing a training workshop on community involvement in local metropolitan areas. In April 2005, the Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. organization was introduced to local clergy and community leaders. In 2007, the Executive Board was officially established and officers elected took office to start the local chapter.

Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. primary mission is to work closely with local organizations and law enforcement, clergy, school administrators, elected officials and community leaders to assist with programs such as: after school programs, community outreach services and youth outreach enrichment activities. Partnership with these agencies enables the organization to continue to assist youth and parents in creating a better community for all. They are also partners with community health centers, recreation centers to promote good health choices and provide a program that will help guide youth and parents to a healthy lifestyle by eating healthy and exercising.

Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. organization has many accomplishments over the years with most of the involvement that are still ongoing in the community. Some of the major accomplishments and ongoing initiatives for the Tunica 10 Point Coalition are:

1. Created the COW (Combating Obesity & Intervention Program) initiative that enables the Tunica community to participate in a FREE Health & Wellness Program.

2. Partner with the local faith-based organizations to sponsor a weekly low impact exercise and wellness program on Tuesday and Friday from 4:15pm until 5:15pm with an annual membership fee of only \$40.00.

3. Initiated "Water for Flint Drive" in June 2016 with a Water-A-Thon Day at the Rivergate Park in downtown Tunica. At the event, there was 308 cases of water collected and \$450.00 in donations that was used to transport the water to Flint, Michigan. One of the Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. board member and local pastor, Roman Fullilove volunteered to transport the water to Flint using his church van.

4. Partner with the local Sheriff Department, Sheriff K. C. Hamp to assist in the monthly activities of the "TRIAD" Program who provides activities and programs for the senior citizens in the Tunica County community. This includes special activities such as: Valentine Day Celebration, Black History Month Observation, Senior Citizen Prom, Cancer Awareness Month, Home Coming Participation and Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners celebrations. They also partner with the Sheriff Office to present Domestic Violence Awareness programs and activities which consist of speakers from various sources such as: local Judges, Mental Health and Law Enforcement.

5. Provide financial assistance of \$1,000.00 annually to the local Tunica Head Start Program to ensure each student receives a gift during the Christmas Holiday Season.

6. Provide a \$500.00 college scholarship to a deserving high school graduate(s) each year. The organization also donated \$300.00 to a local college student, Keara Jones who attends Clark University to help sponsor her visit to London.

7. Serve as character witnesses for youth at the local youth court proceedings regarding cases that involves youth who are identified as at-risk youth with minor offences. They have an opportunity to negotiate with the judge on penalty recommendation for certain cases. Pastor Evelyn Hubbard serves many times in this capacity.

8. Participate with local community organization "God Make Us One" to identify and rectify diversity in the community to create racial harmony under the common core umbrella of Hope, Faith and Love. They meet quarterly and have an annual celebration for the entire community of Tunica County called "The Great River Revival" orchestrated by Brother Billy Pritt.

9. Partner with the Tunica County Recreation Commission to sponsor the Summer Feeding Program, Snack Program and the Back-Pack Program annually. These programs are vital to the community to ensure the youth are receiving meals all year.

10. Sponsor an Annual Gospel Extravaganza Concert each December for the Tunica County community which include world renowned Gospel Artists such as: Lee Williams and the Spiritual QC's, Harvey Watkins and the Canton Spirituals, The Jackson Southernaires, and local Artists such as: The Tunica Harmonizers and the Tunica Gospel Choir. This concert provides spiritual connection for the entire community and is well received.

The Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. current Board of Directors consist of Pastor Evelyn Hubbard, Executive Director; Dr. Billy Willis, Chief Officer of Operations; Pastor Ben Pratt, President; and Pastor Kelvin Bell, Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tunica 10 Point Coalition, Inc. for their dedication to serving their community and this great state and country.

RAMON'S EL DORADO

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 25, 2017*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ramon's El Dorado, an institution in my hometown of Collinsville, Illinois.

In the 1960s Raymundo "Ramon" Otero was working in St. Louis at the Chevrolet assembly plant. An unfortunate accident occurred in which he fell through scaffolding, injuring his back. He was paralyzed from the waist down, and doctors told him he would never walk again.

Six months later he found a doctor who would perform a surgery that would allow him to walk again. But payments from the plant had already stopped.

With a young, hungry child, Mr. Otero's wife, Estella, sent him to borrow \$5 from a neighbor and get food for the baby. But God interceded.

On his way to the store, Mr. Otero felt a calling to buy meat instead, which he did.