

Community Board 9 where she served for three decades. In addition, Mrs. Thomson served as the Executive Director of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation for more than two decades and led the Woodhaven Business Improvement District (BID). She understood that small and independent businesses are vital to boosting the local economy, creating walk to work jobs and shaping a neighborhood's identity. Mrs. Thomson enjoyed promoting and showcasing Woodhaven's Jamaica Avenue business corridor by hosting the yearly "Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival" and other events.

Whether she advocated for small businesses or led the fight to landmark the cherished Forest Park Carousel, her passion emanated from her strong sense of civic pride and duty. Her advocacy, passion and dedication to the betterment of Woodhaven was immeasurable. Mrs. Thomson truly set the bar for what it means to be a community activist and leader.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria A. Thomson's distinguished life of public service and accomplishments. Our neighborhoods are enriched because of her vision and leadership. We mourn her passing and cherish her legacy.

IN MEMORY OF CLEMENT CLAY
"BO" TORBERT, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Clement Clay "Bo" Torbert, Jr.

Bo was raised in Lee County. After graduating high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and later graduated from Auburn University in 1951. At Auburn, he was a member of the school's swim team.

In 1954, Bo graduated from law school at the University of Alabama. In 1958, he was elected as a State Representative and in 1966, was elected to the Alabama State Senate. In 1976, Bo was elected as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court where he served two six-year terms.

After serving in the Supreme Court, Torbert went on to teach at both the University of Alabama School of Law and Cumberland School of Law. He also joined the Maynard, Cooper and Gale law firm and practiced there until he retired.

Bo was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Opelika. He passed away on June 2, 2018 in Opelika, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life and public service of Bo Torbert. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JOE C.
JOHNSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize a man who lived

by faith and embodied a life of stewardship: Reverend Joe C. Johnson.

The Johnson family, the family of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, and the broader South Florida community mourn the loss of a moral and spiritual giant.

Reverend Joe C. Johnson was one of our boldest, strongest, and most unapologetic servant-leaders. As the senior pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for the past 41 years, Reverend Johnson has been the cornerstone of a rich and vibrant faith community.

All those who knew him had the opportunity to soak in his wisdom. I am both humbled and proud to have not only known him, but to have been able to fellowship with him and his congregation. He was a role model, a keen listener, an advisor, and a dear friend.

I will always remember him as a man of great empathy and foresight;

A man who believed that people have an intrinsic value beyond their tangible contributions and cared deeply for his congregants; and

A man who worked tirelessly to better the lives of all those in our community.

My thoughts are with his wife Emma Inez, his children, grandchildren, and their entire extended family at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, we will celebrate his life and honor his legacy. While this loss will be felt deeply by everyone, we are forever privileged to have shared this time with him on Earth.

May he rest in eternal peace.

REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAI-
WAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE
OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN
TAIWAN

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to Taiwan on the occasion of the opening of the new office of the American Institute in Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law on April 10, 1979, codifying the foundation to preserve and promote continued economic, cultural, and strategic bonds between the United States and Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan have forged closer economic and security relations over the years based on our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free market principles; and Taiwan's willingness to partner in efforts to combat global terrorism and to address other global challenges. The United States is now Taiwan's largest investor and its second largest trading partner. Taiwan consistently ranks as a leading trading partner of the United States and Taiwan is a strategic destination for our agricultural exports. Taiwan is a significant economic and security partner of the United States in East Asia, and we look forward to Taiwan playing a key role in our Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The Taiwan Relations Act further authorized the establishment of the American Institute in Taiwan to be responsible for implementing United States policy toward Taiwan as well as providing consular services to American expatriates. On June 12, 2018, the American Institute in Taiwan is scheduled to hold an inaugural ceremony for the opening of its new office in Taipei's Neihu district. This new facility is a reflection of the United States' enduring commitment to Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, as the American Institute in Taiwan opens a new office in Taiwan, let us reaffirm that the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances are and will remain cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan. I urge the executive branch to implement the policy set forth in the Taiwan Travel Act, which would allow United States officials to travel without restrictions to meet with their counterparts in Taiwan, and for Taiwanese officials to do likewise with respect to travel to the United States. I would like to point out the sense of Congress contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018 that the State and Defense Departments' review of arms sales to Taiwan be handled in a manner consistent with standard processes and procedures for sales to other countries, and express gratitude to Taiwan for its partnership in combating global terrorism and addressing other global challenges through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework and other initiatives.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the American Institute in Taiwan on the upcoming opening of its new office in Taipei's Neihu district, and give our thanks to the Taiwanese officials who helped facilitate the site selection and construction of the facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing support for a continued strong relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

CONGRATULATING THE ALVIN ISD
TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alvin ISD high school track teams for their performance at the 2018 Texas State Track and Field Meet held at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kynnedi Flannel, of Alvin High School, broke a 37 year record, while winning first place in the girls 6A 200 meter dash. She also won gold in the 100 meter dash and will attend the University of Texas next fall. Hailey Pollard, a senior at Shadow Creek, earned a silver medal in the girls 5A discus. She will attend the University of Houston next year. Ce'cori Tolds, of Manvel High School, was awarded a silver medal in the 5A boys high jump, leaping a whole 23 feet and 7.75 inches. Sydnee Williams, a freshman at Manvel, placed second in the 100 meter hurdles for girls. The Manvel women also placed sixth in the 4x400 meter relay, featuring a team of Rayah Wynn, Taylor Harvey, Thurneisha Keys, and Ja'Daisa Sims. These student-athletes made Alvin ISD proud track and field fans.