

TRIBUTE TO THE WISCONSIN  
BLACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MU-  
SEUM

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the renowned Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum. On November 3, 2018, the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum will celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Much of the success of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum can be attributed to its founder and Director, Clayborn Benson III. He worked as a photojournalist for 39 years at WTMJ-TV News. When Benson was an adult student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1987, he produced a documentary, "Black Communities," for a film class. The three-part film follows a grandfather as he shares stories with a young girl about black history in the United States, Wisconsin and Milwaukee. The project reignited Benson's love of history. In producing the documentary Benson discovered that the records and documents concerning the history and roots of African American people in Wisconsin were widely scattered and poorly preserved. Benson felt the stories had to be told.

The Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum, located on the corners of North 27 and West Center Streets, opened its doors and its heart to the community, city and state in 1987 and remains at this location. In 1988, the Museum became an affiliated member of The State Historical Society. The building, constructed in 1898, was the Engine No. 2 Fire Station. It was converted into the Center Street Library in 1928.

Mr. Benson founded the Society/Museum to instill cultural pride and self-worth based on the premise that a people who know their history will grow to love and appreciate themselves more. The mission of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum is to document and preserve the historical heritage of African descent in Wisconsin. The Museum exhibits, collects and disseminates materials depicting this heritage. The Society/Museum serves as a resource center for all people interested in Wisconsin's rich African American heritage and encourages and promotes family, community and cultural activities. He not only teaches at the museum, but also at schools. Further, he encourages people to write down their own stories, so they can be passed down for generations. Mr. Benson really loves history and states that history fits his spirit and understands this is what he was supposed to do in this lifetime.

The Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum is a true Wisconsin treasure. The Society/Museum through its many exhibits has shown despite the limitations often placed upon them, African Americans were pioneers, leaders and great contributors to the growth of this nation and to the settlement of Wisconsin. They were men and women who made enormous impacts, strived for freedom, and were leaders in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum hails from the 4th Congressional District and I am pleased to give praise to Clayborn Benson III on their 30th anniversary. I wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2018*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 400 and 401 on September 25, 2018, due to recent surgery. Had I been present, on roll call vote number 400, I would have voted "yes," and on roll call vote number 401, I would have voted "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN H.  
JONES FOR HIS DEDICATED CA-  
REER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 26, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and give thanks to a lifelong public servant and deeply valued member of my staff, Mr. John H. Jones. On Friday, September 28, 2018, John will bid his final farewell as my Chief of Staff to pursue opportunities presented through his years-long public service as a congressional staffer. Since his first day on the job in February of 2014, John has overseen operations in my legislative office in Washington, D.C., as well as my district offices in Kansas City, Independence, and Higginsville, Missouri. Over the past four and a half years, John has dedicated his time to serving the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri with the utmost integrity and class. Now is my opportunity to give thanks on behalf of myself and the constituents he has so honorably served.

John was born and raised in northern New Jersey. Following his graduation from high school, John attended Clark Atlanta University, a historically black university, in Atlanta, Georgia. At CAU, John received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, graduating with honors and Cum Laude. He then attained his Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Relations as well as Master of Arts in Corporate and Public Communications at Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations. But John's pursuit of higher learning wasn't finished there. Just last year, while serving as my Chief of Staff, John earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. If ever there was an example of education leading to success, look no further than John Jones.

Professionally, John's first post-grad opportunity came from the distinguished Congressional Black Caucus Foundation as a Legislative Fellow. After his year-long fellowship, John moved to Copenhagen, Denmark to work for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as an International Research Fellow. Following two years of working internationally, public service and home came calling.

In 2006, John began his steady climb up the ranks on Capitol Hill, beginning as a Senior Legislative Assistant for my good friend, Congressman AL GREEN. After a three-year stint focusing on homeland security and energy

issues in the House of Representatives, John decided it was time for a move to the upper-chamber, landing a job in 2009 as Director of National Security Policy for current Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER of New York. For the next six years, John would focus on a legislative portfolio that included foreign affairs, national security, energy, and homeland security, while also serving as the lead Banking Committee staffer on issues pertaining to economic sanctions along with terrorism and financial intelligence—all the while managing a group of Legislative Aides, Legislative Correspondents, and a Military Fellow to achieve excellence on behalf of Senator SCHUMER.

Although his portfolio has contained a wide array of issue areas, John is one of a very limited number of people with policy expertise in the intersection between financial services and technology industries. That, along with his litany of accomplishments—both professionally and academically—left me no choice but to make him my Chief of Staff when an opening arose in 2014.

John's first year as my Chief of Staff was a busy one. Following the tragic death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri in August of 2014—in an effort to increase transparency of police tactics—I wrote a letter to President Obama, urging the President to secure funding for body cameras and community policing. On February 2, 2015, I announced, and am proud to say, that the President included \$22.5 million of funding for body cameras in his FY2016 budget. Over the next four months, John played an integral role in helping me push H. Res. 295—sponsored by myself and Congressman AL GREEN—through the House of Representatives. This bill, highlighting a report by the U.S. Department of Justice entitled "Police Officer Body-Worn Cameras," called for support of local law enforcement agencies' use of body-worn cameras, and I'm proud to say it was approved by the House on June 10, 2015.

That same year, I led an effort to close the digital divide within different neighborhoods of Kansas City. The digital divide, at its heart, is an issue that only perpetuates existing social and economic inequality. Again, John played a critical role in urging then-Secretary of the U.S. Department of Urban Housing and Development (HUD) Julian Castro to select Kansas City as one of the demonstration cities for their new ConnectHome digital inclusion program. Yet again, I am proud that Kansas City was chosen to participate and has reaped extensive rewards from its inclusion in the program.

As many of you are aware, I've dedicated much of my time in Congress to promoting social and economic equality while fighting for an end to discrimination on several fronts. In 2016, there were reports of discrimination against African Americans and other minorities who attempted to book rooms on the room-rental company "Airbnb, Inc." John served as the staff-lead in my successful campaign to convince Airbnb to conduct a comprehensive review of discriminatory practices employed by some of its users. In a letter to the company, I urged Airbnb to conduct a review of the accusations, pinpoint how the issue was occurring and put an end to such practices. The CEO, Brian Chesky, responded by hiring former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to help conduct a thorough review of discrimination within the Airbnb platform. By January