

the residents who call her “home.” Most Mississippians have a warrior spirit, a tenacity, a willingness to do whatever it takes to live and nurture each other with compassion and intentional care. These qualities embody one of Mississippi’s youngest and most determined warriors—ten-year-old Emma Hartley.

Emma was born August 2, 2008, missing a heart valve. Less than 24 hours after her birth, Emma underwent the first of what would become many surgeries. Perhaps it was an innate fighting spirit and a purpose to persevere for the sake of loving others that brought Emma and her heart safely through that first critical surgery. Perhaps she knew then that she would need to grow strong and develop a voice to encourage others to face tough battles with a smile. Perhaps it is simply that God has big plans for this little girl. What is known is that Mississippi’s Gulf Coast is blessed by Emma’s heart, beating now for over 10 years, and Emma’s desire to make a difference in the lives of those facing similar health challenges.

Emma has outlived the expectations of many of her doctors, and she will soon undergo her fifth surgery. Before age 18, she is likely to face several more; but, she endures each procedure with courage and grace. From an early age, Emma participated with her mom, Lisa Northrup, in fundraising efforts such as Rock Your Scar, the March of Dimes, Mended Little Hearts, and the Heart Walk for the American Heart Association. Now, with the support of family, friends, and her church, Emma champions her own efforts, working hard to raise funds, give speeches, and boost awareness of these causes in her local communities.

Crafting and creating artwork, two of Emma’s hobbies, are incorporated into her philanthropic efforts, too. For one of her fundraisers this year Emma sold handcrafted wood signs, some of which were ordered from far away. Also, Emma’s artwork has been reproduced in awards given to the top Heart Walk high achievers.

This year’s Gulf Coast Heart Walk is on September 22. Emma will offer the opening prayer to start the event. Mississippi is fortunate to have such a brave, talented, ambitious, and inspiring warrior, like Emma Hartley.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
BISHOP JAMES WALKER HOOD
ON THE ONE HUNDRETH ANNI-
VERSARY OF HIS PASSING

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legendary Bishop James Walker Hood on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his passing. Bishop Hood is credited with establishing the North Carolina African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Conference, the Prince Hall Masons of North Carolina, and Livingstone College, all in my home state of North Carolina.

On May 30, 1831, James Walker Hood was born to Levi and Harriet Walker Hood on the farm of Ephraim Jackson in Chester County, Pennsylvania, nine miles from Wilmington, Delaware. Hood’s parents instilled their love of

the church and a spirit to help fellow African Americans improve their lives in their twelve children. Hood’s father was a Methodist minister and his work moved the family around the country as he served various churches. Together, Hood’s parents became involved in the AME Zion church, established as the Methodist church for Blacks.

Upon coming of age, James Walker Hood’s moral and religious convictions led him into ministry. In 1856, Hood secured his license to preach from the New York Conference of the AME Zion Church. In the following years, Hood moved to Connecticut and Nova Scotia to preach and work as a missionary. In early 1864, following the path of the Union Army, Hood was appointed to missionary work in North Carolina, recognizing that legal slavery would soon end. He would then stay in North Carolina for the remainder of his life.

Although Hood was met with strong opposition in establishing the North Carolina Conference of AME Zion Church for African Americans, he persuaded the Black Southern Methodist congregations in New Bern and Beaufort, North Carolina to affiliate with the AME Zion Church. Among the more than 300 churches he successfully established in North Carolina are St. Peter’s AME Zion Church (New Bern), Evans Metropolitan AME Zion Church (Fayetteville), and St. John AME Zion Church (Wilson).

After becoming a Presiding Bishop in 1872, Bishop James Walker Hood resided in Fayetteville until his death on October 30, 1918. He is interred in Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville. Hood helped establish Zion Wesley Institute, now Livingstone College, in Salisbury, North Carolina to train African American students for the ministry and to become productive citizens in North Carolina. He presided over the school’s board of trustees for over thirty years.

Bishop Hood was politically active on behalf of his people. In 1865, he presided over the first statewide political convention for African Americans. In 1868, he participated in the state constitutional convention, which abolished slavery, provided universal male suffrage, and established free public education for all children. He also held several government positions, including magistrate and assistant superintendent of the North Carolina Freedman’s Bureau.

Bishop Hood was a man of courage, conviction, and persistence. He was unwavering in his commitment to the cause of Christianity and the establishment of the AME Zion Church in North Carolina. It is remarkable that Bishop Hood, who had little formal education, would publish five books, including *The Negro in the Christian Pulpit* (1884) and *Sketch of the Early History of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (1914).

Mr. Speaker, by the grace of God, Bishop James Walker Hood left an indelible mark on North Carolina that is still recognized one hundred years after his passing on October 30, 1918.

On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop James Walker Hood’s life, work, and legacy on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his passing.

HONORING ROBERT HOOKS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Robert “Bobby” Dean Hooks, a native of the District of Columbia, for his lifetime of empowering African Americans in the arts and for his contributions to race relations in the District.

Robert Hooks’ lifelong passion for theater began at the age of nine with his first play, *The Pirates of Penzance*. He later honed his stagecraft at West Philadelphia High in classical works by playwrights such as William Shakespeare and Samuel Beckett. In 1959, Mr. Hooks pursued acting professionally in New York City with works such as Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* and LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka’s *Dutchman* in his repertoire. Mr. Hooks simultaneously launched his award-winning television career with his groundbreaking role as the first African American lead on the original N.Y.P.D. series. He is recognized for his over 100 roles in film and television in a career that spanned over 40 years.

During his time in New York City, Mr. Hooks also started the Group Theater Workshop and the Negro Ensemble Company, both of which offered free training in the arts to underprivileged New York City youth.

Following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Hooks returned to the city of his birth—a move he made after meeting with radio host Pety Greene and then-City Administrator Walter E. Washington about the riots of 1968, which had engulfed the District. In 1970, Mr. Hooks unveiled his plans for the DC Black Repertory Company, an all-black theater company in the District, as part of a plan to harness what he believed to be the socially transformative power of theater.

Mr. Hooks executed his plan in partnership with D.C.-area black theater professionals and students at Howard University. The DC Black Repertory Company directly contributed to reducing community tensions during those tumultuous times. The group produced more than 20 plays, telling black stories that had not been told. The DC Black Repertory Company was dissolved in 1976, but its legacy continues through The Rep, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Robert Hooks for his lasting artistic and social contributions to the African American community and to the District of Columbia.

HONORING MARY LOU BATCHELOR
WITH CALIFORNIA’S THIRD DIS-
TRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR
AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Lou Batchelor as a woman of the year. She is well-known in Solano County as a community leader, activist and public