

States Armed Forces, as a U.S. Air Force sergeant, before beginning his law enforcement career in 2002 as a correctional officer with the Shelby County Sheriff's Department. Sergeant Carter served with the Birmingham Police Department for nearly 8 years and was recently promoted to sergeant last year.

But above all, Sergeant Carter was a husband, he was a father, and he was a beloved member of his community. He was so beloved that more than 2,000 people gathered to celebrate his life and his service at his funeral last Saturday.

Sergeant Carter was a passionate guardian of his Birmingham community: He was a fierce protector of his coworkers; he mentored children about the dangers of drugs and gangs; and he was someone who consistently worked above and beyond the call of duty, devoting his life to improving his community.

Sergeant Carter died from a gunshot wound while doing the job he loved so passionately. He and other police officers were working to make our community safer.

Sergeant Carter led by an example of excellence and of giving back to his community. The city of Birmingham is better because of his contributions.

His death is a stark reminder of the dangers that our brave policemen and -women face while working to secure our safety. They courageously put their lives on the line day after day to protect and to serve our neighborhoods while we sleep. Every time they put on their uniform—and even when their uniform comes off—they bravely put duty before self.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying that God provides comfort to Sergeant Carter's family and friends, especially his wife of 21 years, Tiphannie, his daughter, and his young son. We pray for all of those who were affected by this senseless tragedy, as well as his fellow officer, who was critically injured in the shooting and who continues to rehab toward full recovery.

We must use this tragedy as a reminder that Congress must act to prevent this sort of senseless gun violence, gun violence that Sergeant Carter spoke out against. We honor the legacy of service of Sergeant Carter by making sure we in this body act. As President Obama said: "Our tears are not enough. Our words and prayers are not enough." We must act.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Sergeant Carter's contribution to making the community of Birmingham better and this Nation. May we live out Sergeant Carter's legacy by working for a safer and more secure nation today and every day.

ELMORE COUNTY TORNADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hardworking men and women I represent in Elmore County, Alabama, who, this past Saturday, experienced a devastating loss, as a tornado ripped through the city of Wetumpka. By the grace of God, no lives were lost and only minor injuries have been reported at this point. Still, the damage is severe and the road to recovery is long.

Madam Speaker, on Monday, I spent time on the ground with those impacted, and I had the opportunity to see firsthand the damage to several churches, the police station, dozens of homes, and businesses. I appreciate the tireless work of the local leaders and first responders who immediately jumped to action to begin putting the pieces back together for the people who have lost so much.

During this challenging time, it has been so encouraging to see the community united like a family. They have come together to begin the rebuilding process. Merely hours after the devastating storm, the Elmore County Emergency Management Agency heard from nearly 1,000 individuals who signed up to volunteer their time and resources in the cleanup efforts.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak directly to the people impacted by this weekend's tornado:

My office stands ready to assist you in whatever ways we are able. My staff and I work for you, and we want to be a resource for you during this very challenging time. The rebuilding process won't be easy, but if we work together and help each other whenever possible, we will get through this together. In the meantime, my family and I will continue to pray for those impacted by this devastating event.

RECOGNIZING DR. CURETON L. JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize a great American and a great friend, Dr. Cureton L. Johnson, a longtime theologian and community leader in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Dr. Johnson will approach his last official sermon as pastor of historic First Baptist Church in Fayetteville on Sunday, January 27, 2019. I am, therefore, honored to share with my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the accomplishments of this remarkable man of God.

Cureton Lee Johnson was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, to the late Dr. and Mrs. Paul H. Johnson. He is a graduate of the University of North Caro-

lina at Chapel Hill and received his master's degree from American University here in Washington, D.C., and the Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh. He also received his doctor of ministry degree from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. He previously served on the public relations staffs at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro and Howard University here in Washington.

Over the years, Madam Speaker, Dr. Johnson remained true to his commitment to be active, productive, and dedicated to every facet of his beloved community. As a young student at UNC-Chapel Hill, Dr. Johnson served as president of the Black Student Movement Association. He was the founding editor of the BSM's newspaper, referred to as Black Ink, which is still in publication today.

A longtime social activist, Dr. Johnson was a member of the anti-apartheid movement during the 1980s and was arrested while demonstrating at the South African Embassy in the District of Columbia.

Dr. Johnson also served as the editor of the Baptist Informer, which is the official publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Incorporated, the oldest organization of Black Baptists in the Nation, founded in 1867.

The son and grandson of Baptist ministers, Dr. Johnson was called into the ministry in 1976 and ordained in 1978 under his father, the legendary Dr. Paul H. Johnson, Sr., at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Dr. Cureton Johnson served as an associate minister at Martin Street Baptist Church and at Florida Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. Dr. Johnson is also pastor at New Red Mountain Baptist Church in Rougemont, North Carolina, and Baptist Grove Baptist Church in Raleigh.

On the first Sunday in June 1991, Dr. Johnson assumed full pastoral responsibility at his current First Baptist Church in Fayetteville.

I might say, Madam Speaker, First Baptist Church in Fayetteville was formed in 1868, 5 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln and months following the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, ending slavery in America. It is the oldest missionary Baptist church in the city of Fayetteville, a church that I have attended on many occasions, including when I was stationed at Fort Bragg Army post in Fayetteville.

Madam Speaker, much of First Baptist Church's growth in recent years can be attributed to the leadership of Dr. Johnson and its spirit-filled church congregation. Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, the church has been a powerful force for uplifting God's people in this community, launching a free summer children's reading camp in 1993. It continues to serve over 100 children every year.