

North Carolina. James served in Afghanistan in 2012, where he was deployed to the Kandahar Valley. Throughout his service abroad, James was invaluable to his brothers in uniform, and he took great joy in the work he did for nearby villages. Following his return home, James married his wife Emalyn in 2013, and joined the Army Reserve, serving with the 321st Psychological Operations Battalion in Grand Rapids. Seeking to further serve his fellow Michiganders, James entered the State Police Training Academy and graduated in July 2018 as Trooper No. 1615.

Despite his unforgettable sense of humor and unique ability to bring joy to others, James hid his struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. On October 22, 2019, James took his own life. Even after his death, James was dedicated to the public good as his organs and tissue were used to save the lives of six fellow Americans. As we look for solace after this tragedy, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. James' tireless devotion to the public good has touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of James Oliver Twist. His legacy will forever live on in his family and through the countless lives he bettered through his service.

HONORING SAINT PETER'S
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Peter's Baptist Church in Pascagoula, MS which will be celebrating its 200th anniversary. The founding of this church tells the story of Mr. Dudley Brooks, who was a former slave that gained his freedom by saving the life of his master's wife. Mr. Brooks then went on to work as a ship caulker so he could save up money, eventually buying his wife's freedom in Louisiana. Together, they traveled back to Scranton, presently known as Pascagoula, where they built their home on Market Street.

Mr. Brooks started by gathering a small group of community members to worship in his home which eventually transformed into the First Free Mission Baptist Church, later installing Reverend George Washington as the first pastor. The congregation soon outgrew the Brooks' home as worshippers traveled from Gautier by boat to attend the church, requiring the church to move the service underneath a huge oak tree on Market Street, presently known as Canal Street. With the oak tree's roots serving as pews for family members, and a small ship's bell fastened to the tree churchgoers would summon worshippers to join their service by ringing the bell. While times were tough and money was limited, members of the congregation were able to raise \$250 to purchase a 200 ft. by 60 ft. lot. While Mr. Brooks and the congregation were unable to write at the time the church was established, the story of the church's beginnings have been passed down through generations.

The new church purchased a larger bell and placed it in the tree where the old ship's bell hung. While the church has since moved locations, the larger bell still hangs from an oak tree on Canal Street. Mr. Dudley Brooks' hardships are a real test of the human spirit, and through his determination, he created something that would continue to touch lives on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for centuries. His story is a true miracle and inspiration to us all. I want to congratulate the members of Saint Peter's Baptist Church for continuing to build on the foundation laid by Mr. Brooks and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED L.
HARPOLE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mildred L. Harpole a highly esteemed change agent and civil rights leader. A Native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mildred came to Milwaukee to earn her bachelor's degree from Marquette University, and later her juris doctorate from now Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. During her brief time away, she married Reuben Harpole the love of her life and returned to Milwaukee to raise their family.

Upon her return in the early 1960s, Mildred would become an educator for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). With very few curriculum materials, and children lacking reading skills, she unlocked their desire to learn by engaging them in everyday media. By using newspapers, popular music, and television shows, she helped students read and inform themselves on current events, and literature styles. Mildred simultaneously became engaged in the fight to end segregation in MPS with the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC). Like other demonstrations during the Civil Rights era, Mildred helped organize several "Freedom Schools" that ran parallel to the boycott. These grassroots schools were designed to be a supportive environment for her students with innovative teaching, learning, and liberated thinking for African American children. "I don't feel that it was productive for children to sit home or be on the street during the boycott." Mildred often recalled. She would go on to administer and establish the foundation for the Harambee Community School that cultivated generations of students for more than forty years.

Mildred understood that there was a direct link between educational opportunity and housing policy and became the Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in the Milwaukee office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Her work updating national fair housing standards and providing access to shelter for the underprivileged and homeless received extensive recognition from policy makers, developers and community groups. Mildred also served as chair of the health committee for the Harambee Health Center and was awarded a \$5 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and members of Fisk University for the City of Milwaukee to expand their operations.

Mildred's deep commitment to supporting our community was done consistently with humility and persistence. She was the National President of Eta Phi Beta an affiliate of the National Council of Negro Women, co-founder of the Community Brainstorming Conference, Family Service of Milwaukee, the women's leadership forum TEMPO Milwaukee, as well as the founding President of the North Central Service Club. Mildred was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the City of Milwaukee Arts Board, the Milwaukee County Cultural Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council and a charter member of the Cream City Links, Inc.

She was also the recipient of the Vatican II Award from the Milwaukee Archdiocese for service in society, the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day—Todd Wehr Volunteer Award and the City of Milwaukee's Frank P. Zeidler Public Service Award with her husband.

Mildred never did anything for a title or recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. She understood that though this world is imperfect, what we do with our lives can create a better one. Her career as an educator and housing advocate was done intentionally to lift future generations of African Americans and underserved communities, so that they may reach for the sky. Till the end of her days she never stopped lifting and her legacy will have lasting impacts. I am proud to say Mildred was my friend and she and Reuben were a part of my support network. I will cherish the memories of working with her over the years. She leaves behind her husband Reuben, children Anette and John, and grandchildren to cherish her memory.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I rise to salute Mildred Harpole, a fierce woman whose actions made the 4th Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the world a better place.

HONORING ERICA WEBBER JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Erica Webber Jones. A native of Houston, Mississippi, Mrs. Jones earned a bachelor's and master's degree in Elementary Education from Jackson State University in May 2000.

Mrs. Jones served as an instructional coach and teacher in the Hinds County School District for four years. While there, she improved her students' passage rate on district-level assessments and saw profound academic growth in her pupils. Because of her effective instructional practices, she was named Teacher of the Year for Gary Road Elementary. It didn't take long before district leadership took notice of her superb performance in the classroom.

Jones was named Hinds County's District Teacher of the Year and her class became a model classroom for teachers to visit.

In 2018, she was also selected by the NEA Foundation to serve as a Global Learning Fellow. Later this summer she will travel to South