

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF MR. BENJAMIN  
"BEN" EVANS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2020*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented tailor, dedicated husband, loving father, and dear friend of longstanding—Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Evans. Sadly, Ben passed away on Thursday, January 2, 2020. His funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at 1:00 pm at New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church located at 795 Maynard Street in Macon, Georgia.

Benjamin Evans (affectionately known as "Ben" to his family, friends, and colleagues) was born in Bibb County, Georgia to the late Clifford Danielly and Fannie B. Evans. He was born on August 5, 1929 and was the eldest of two sons.

He attended Hudson High School in Macon, Georgia and later joined the U.S. Army. Ben was a veteran, having retired from the military as a Staff Sergeant with 22 years of service. He was always industrious and hard-working. He attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland where he majored in Fashion Design. He loved men's fashion. Having learned the art of tailoring, Ben was so skilled that he could design a suit without a pattern. Known for being one of the best-dressed men in Macon, he loved to design matching outfits for himself and his beloved wife, Lillie Ruth. Ben opened an alteration shop, Genesis, and operated it in Downtown Macon for many years. He also served as the Business Manager and Co-Owner of Gantt's Pre-School and M.A. Evans Academy.

On June 2, 1982, Ben was joined in Holy Matrimony to the Love of His Life, Lillie Ruth Gantt-Evans. They married after a long courtship. He made a dress from memory for his beloved Lillie Ruth and presented it to her as a gift on their first date.

Ben accepted Christ at an early age where he was a member of Friendship Baptist Church in Macon, GA. He later became a member of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church where he served on the Trustee Board.

Ben cared about his community, and he was always engaged in organizations that did positive work. He served dutifully as a member of the following organizations: Disabled American Veterans (Life Member), Veterans of Foreign Wars, Homosapien Civic & Social Club, former member of 100 Black Men of Middle Georgia, Inc., Bibb County Democrats (Post Seat Holder), and former member of the Civil Service Board of Bibb County. Ben enjoyed sewing and loved to listen to music. He had a vast collection of blues and jazz. He loved to attend the annual Tom Bonner Picnic

and VFW events and cared about the community.

Ben accomplished much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God; the love and support of his wife, Lillie Ruth; his children, Chandra, Merita, Gregory, and Jimmy (deceased); his stepson Freeman; and a host of family and friends who will miss him deeply.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed with Ben's and Lillie Ruth's friendship and support over the years. Ben and Lillie Ruth have long had a passion for civic involvement manifested by unreserved support of candidates they believed would use the public trust of elected office to benefit their community. They worked tirelessly in voter registration, voter education, and voter participation. Together they could place campaign signs across the Macon landscape with such precision and creativity that they appeared to grow out of the ground overnight. Never have two people worked together for so long in so many elections for so many candidates and so successfully as the "Ben and Lillie Ruth" political team. I and countless other elected officials benefited and for their tireless service we will forever be grateful. Truly Macon, Bibb County, and America are better because Benjamin Evans passed our way.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in paying tribute to Mr. Benjamin "Ben" Evans and in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. Moreover, we pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO LISA C. WILLIAMS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 10, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great humanitarian, a proud military veteran, and a woman some call "a latter-day Harriett Tubman." Lisa C. Williams is a survivor, a fighter and a champion for all who have been sexually exploited. She is an inspiration and an example of how one person can make a tremendous change in the world.

A U.S. Air Force and Army commissioned officer, Ms. Williams left the service with an honorable discharge and set her sights on helping women and children victimized by sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and intimate partner violence. Drawing from her own experiences to find freedom from a life of trauma and sexual abuse, she founded Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc., in 1999. She

has worked for more than twenty years to help educate, equip, and empower women to live their best lives, free of violence.

As the founder of Living Water Learning Resource Center, Ms. Williams has developed a program that the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) calls "one of the most comprehensive, rehabilitative programs for child victims of sex trafficking in the country." Over the years, she has helped hundreds of children and young women reclaim their lives from sexual abuse.

Ms. Williams is an author, an orator, and a thought leader and has taken her message to the White House and the United Nations. She travels the world as a motivational Speaker for the Centre for H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel), and hosts the podcast Front Porch Conversations.

I have grown to know Ms. Williams through her partnership and support of the annual National Health Disparities Conference, which I help coordinate with the Medical University of South Carolina and can attest to her powerful presence and message.

Her work has been featured in numerous publications, including: O Magazine, Essence, Ebony, Glamour, Black Enterprise, Good Housekeeping, Woman's Day, Cosmopolitan, and Seventeen. She has appeared in film and television on the award-winning CNN Special Report: Children for Sale: The Fight to End Human Trafficking, CNN International News, CNN Freedom Project, BBC Brazil, and C-SPAN.

Ms. Williams has been honored by numerous organizations, including CNN, Ford Motor Company, Porsche USA, YWCA, Glamour, and L'Oréal Paris.

She earned a Bachelor of Science from Campbell University, a Masters of Arts from Bowie State University and attended a doctoral program at Virginia Tech. Ms. Williams latest endeavor is establishing the Circle of Friends Impact and Circle of Friends Impact Legacy Scholarship Fund endowments at Boston University.

To honor her contributions, the university will dedicate the Lisa C. Williams Listening Room in her honor at the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground. This room is a safe space for quiet meditation, introspection and contemplation, which is being dedicated on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this year. The room dedication is part of a program spotlighting women who advocate for social justice.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in applauding the selfless work that Lisa C. Williams has done to end sexual exploitation and help those who have been victimized by this brutal crime to live their best lives. She is a true example of selfless service for country and community, and her work has changed so many lives, including her own. I offer Ms. Williams best wishes as she is honored in Boston, and I look forward to watching her ongoing efforts and their tremendous impacts.

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