

Fisher, eventually leading the New York Knicks to draft him. During his tenure at Webster Thomas High School, he coached the boys' varsity basketball team where he was inducted into the Section V Basketball Hall of Fame and the Frontier Field Walk of Fame. He completed his career with two Section V championships and 468 wins.

O'Rourke understood that the game of basketball is mastered not simply through dedication, but with a commitment to spirit and integrity. We did not just lose a wonderful basketball coach, we lost a devoted man who dedicated his life to his family, friends, and community. His legacy will live on through his family, his players, and the hundreds of lives he touched. He is survived by his wife, Marsha Barber, five children, two grandchildren, one brother, and one niece.

While I am saddened by Mr. O'Rourke's passing, it brings me great pleasure to have represented a man who lived his life inspiring all those around him. My heart is with his entire extended family.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body join me to recognize Bill O'Rourke, Jr.

HONORING VALERIE BERNARD

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Valerie Bernard. Valerie has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Valerie Bernard who is amid her 24th year teaching, is a second-grade teacher at Dana Road Elementary School in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

With both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Elementary Education from Mississippi College, Bernard began her career teaching in the Jackson Public Schools at Powell Middle School. She also taught at Sykes Elementary School in Jackson before moving to St. Therese in the Diocese of Jackson in 2011. In 2014, she returned to Jackson Public Schools, teaching math and social studies at John Hopkins. She later moved to fifth grade at John Hopkins before coming to Dana Road Elementary in 2018.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Valerie Bernard for her passion and dedication and a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 60th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County chapter.

Founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, the League of Women Voters has never

wavered in its fundamental belief that all citizens should make their voices heard not only at the ballot box but also through continuous participation in every aspect of civic life. This organization is comprised of more than 700 state and local chapters dedicated to protecting voting rights and empowering voters to advocate for themselves and their communities.

The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County has helped shape our community for six decades. This chapter supports a variety of issues, from ensuring adequate funding for our county library system, to fostering environmental resilience, to expanding early voting sites to the campuses of our public universities and colleges.

Miami-Dade County is richer and fuller thanks to the efforts of the League of Women Voters, and I am grateful for their advocacy and commitment to our shared community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, due to unavoidable scheduling conflict, I needed to be in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING MRS. FAYE BROWN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a principal at the Jefferson County Junior High School, Mrs. Faye Brown.

Mrs. Faye Brown was born and grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida. She attended school and graduated from Palm Beach County School District. Mrs. Brown continued her studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received her undergraduate degree in Political Science with a minor in Management and Organization. After her undergraduate she went on to pursue a master's degree from Alcorn State University in Guidance Counseling, and later a Specialist in Educational Leadership from Jackson State University. Currently, Mrs. Brown is enrolled at William Carey University where she has completed all coursework and is working on the final two chapters of her doctoral dissertation.

Mrs. Brown has served the educational community in Jefferson County since August 1998. She is known to have unique distinction of serving educationally from multiple perspectives. She was initially hired in the school district as a high school English teacher. After years progressed teaching ninth and twelfth grade English for four years, Mrs. Brown worked as the high school counselor and test coordinator for five years. During the time as a high school counselor Mrs. Brown became a certified school bus driver. It was at the culmination of five years as a high school guidance counselor that Mrs. Brown moved into

service as a school administrator. She started her administrative career at the Jefferson County Elementary School as assistant principal. After five years, she became the Jefferson County Upper Elementary principal and during her tenure it led her to the appointment as the district's School Improvement Officer and Curriculum Director. In this position she was to oversee more than 1-million-dollar SIG grant implementation. At the culmination of the SIG grant, Mrs. Brown returned to a high school and junior high school-based administrative leadership.

Mrs. Brown has worked with the Mississippi Department of Education and was selected as a Mississippi Teacher Fellowship participant, as well as a 2017 Prospective Superintendent Leadership Academy completer.

Mrs. Brown is committed to improving students educational outcomes at her school and she fully embraces their theme, "Inspiring Excellence and Promoting Success".

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Faye Brown for her hard work and dedication in the Jefferson County School District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILTON MANORS MAYOR JUSTIN S. FLIPPEN

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Wilton Manors Mayor Justin Flippen, a dedicated public servant, who loved his community and contributed greatly to the people of Broward County, Florida. Justin passed away on February 25, 2020 at the age of 41.

A graduate of Coconut Creek High School, Broward College, and Florida Atlantic University (FAU), he became Florida's first openly gay student body president at FAU, as well as serving as an intern for United States Senator Bob Graham. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law. Justin was a Wilton Manors City Commissioner before being elected Mayor in 2018. Active in the community, he became a member of the Wilton Manors-based Dolphin Democrats in 1997 and served as president from 2008 to 2009, overseeing the growth of the club to over 400 members. Justin was also a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus.

When marriage equality became legal in 2015, Justin officiated the Valentine's Day marriages of nearly 40 couples at city hall as part of a city-sponsored marriage equality mass wedding program entitled, "We Do It!" He successfully worked to have Wilton Manors become the first city in Broward County to raise the Pride Flag outside city hall for National LGBT Pride Month, and then less than a year later to have Wilton Manors become the first city in the nation to permanently raise the Pride Flag as the foundation to a monument and memorial dedicated to the contributions of the LGBT community and their allies.

In November of 2018, the people historically elected Justin as their Mayor by one of the largest margins of victory in a contested race. Now as "The People's Mayor," but more importantly as a product of our city and community, Justin believed in upholding the highest