

his outstanding and impactful tenure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Idaho Farm Bureau. Rick has dedicated the past 41 years of his life to the Farm Bureau and protecting the many great farmers of Idaho. Throughout his leadership, total membership increased 39 of the 41 years he held the office of CEO.

Over the years, Rick has been an active and spirited member of the Idaho Farm Bureau. Originally starting as a field manager for Southeast Idaho, Rick worked fervently and eventually was named Organizational Director. Under this title he has worked with members and officials from each of the 37 individual county Farm Bureaus to ensure ample access to county, state, and national insurance benefits for each member. Along with these benefits, the Bureau protects member farmers through creating and pushing legislation both on the State and National level, working closely with appointed officials for the benefit of our farmers. I had the pleasure of working with Rick at the State and Federal level.

Admirably, one of Rick's favorite jobs was working with the many volunteer leaders within the organization, who forfeit their free time in order to help farmers and ranchers. Even though he progressed to a higher office, he never forgot his roots.

Madam Speaker, Rick Keller's many years of service and advancement of farmers across our state, as well as his example to the citizens of Idaho will be widely missed. I commend the work he has done over the years. May he enjoy his retirement with his wife Alene.

HONORING RUTHIE MAE RANSOM
MORRIS

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 remarkable public servant, Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris.

Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris was born on October 24, 1942 in Leland, Mississippi, to Henry Parker Ransom, Sr. and Blanche Johnson Ransom. She was the sixth of their ten (10) children.

Ruthie accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized under the leadership of her uncle, Reverend Clarence Johnson, who was the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Shady Grove South Missionary Baptist Church (SGSMBC) in Greenville, Mississippi. During her years at SGSMBC, Ruthie sang in the Senior Choir, typed and printed the Church bulletins, organized special events, and served as a trusted confidant and adviser to Reverend Clarence Johnson as well as to his successor, Pastor Solomon B. Miller. Following Pastor Miller's departure from SGSMBC, Ruthie continued to serve under Pastor Gregory C. Lance, Sr., who, like Pastor Miller, not only became the Senior Pastor of SGSMBC, but was also "a spiritual son" to Ruthie.

In 1997, Ruthie joined Agape Storge Christian Center (ASCC) under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Paul Williams, who was a lifelong family friend and former member of SGSMBC.

During her years at ASCC, Ruthie served as a Greeter before answering God's call for her

to become an ordained minister. In 2011, Ruthie obtained her Minister's License after graduating from the ASCC School of Ministry. She faithfully served on the Ministry Team until her health began to fail in April of 2019.

Ruthie was educated in the Bolivar County Public Schools in Rosedale, Mississippi and in the Greenville Public Schools where she graduated from Coleman High School in the Class of 1960. She also attended Alcorn A&M College in Lorman, Mississippi where she first majored in Early Elementary Education. However, after her first day of practice teaching with a classroom full of young children, Ruthie quickly realized that she was in the wrong field and changed her major to Business Administration. She was the first of her siblings to both graduate from high school and attend college.

After leaving Alcorn A&M College, Ruthie returned home to Greenville where she worked as a Secretary in the Greenville Public Schools at T.L. Weston High School and E.E. Bass Jr. High School before starting her banking career as a Teller. Throughout her career in banking, she worked at various banks including Commercial National Bank, Trustmark Bank, and Sunburst Bank, which later became Union Planters Bank before eventually becoming present day Regions Bank.

Ruthie's natural gift for accurately and speedily counting money; her excellent people skills; and her strong work ethic led to her meteoric rise in every bank where she worked. Not only was she chosen to train numerous Tellers who came after her, but she eventually became the first African-American Branch Manager of a bank in Greenville, Mississippi.

After retiring from Regions Bank, in the summer of 1996, Ruthie was hired as the Office Manager at Infipro Security for several years before her love for both ministry and business led her to become the Bookkeeper at The Salvation Army in Greenville, Mississippi. She "officially" ended her work career when she retired from her bookkeeping position at The Salvation Army in 2012. However, in 2016, Ruthie was recruited to become the Office Manager at Jackson Heating and Air Conditioning where she remained for two (2) years and acquired yet another "spiritual son," Malcom Jackson, who was her boss.

Despite being a working mom with three (3) children, Ruthie still found time to be civically and politically active in her community. For more than thirty (30) years, Ruthie served on the Board of Directors of the Brent Daycare Center, which later became known as The Greenville Daycare and Learning Center (TGDALC). While serving on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie worked closely with her fellow Board Members as well as various Directors, including Ruby Gloria Washington, who also became a close friend of Ruthie's; and Dollie Creath, who became a mentee of Ruthie's. Throughout her years on the Board of TGDALC, Ruthie formed strategic partnerships with various agencies to secure the necessary funding in order to ensure that numerous children throughout the South End and all over the City of Greenville were able to obtain an excellent pre-school education. She remained on the Board of Directors of TGDALC until it eventually closed its doors.

In addition to her civic engagements with several organizations including her beloved Coleman High School Class of 1960, Ruthie was passionate about politics. In fact, she canvassed Delta neighborhoods and traveled

around the State of Mississippi in order to get Democratic candidates elected on the local, state, and national levels.

For many years, Ruthie was an active member of the Washington County Democratic Party, and she worked closely with the Democratic National Committee (DNC). She not only campaigned for State Democratic candidates such as Robert Clark, but in 1987, Ruthie campaigned diligently to elect Mike Espy to the U.S. House of Representatives (MS 2nd District). Then, in 1993, she helped to secure victory for Bennie Thompson when he successfully ran for Mississippi's same 2nd Congressional seat after Mike Espy became the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

In 1988, while serving as the Precinct Captain of 3-1, Ruthie galvanized the highest voter turnout in the precinct's history, which played a pivotal role in electing Mississippi's 60th Governor, Raymond Mabus, Jr.

In 1993 and 1994, Ruthie was also instrumental in helping to elect Greenville attorneys, Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. and Willie Bailey to the Mississippi State Senate (12th Senatorial District) and the Mississippi State House of Representatives (49th District), respectively.

Because Ruthie was such a gracious hostess who maintained a lovely home, she was often called upon to host visiting dignitaries at her residence, including The Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., Minister Louis Farrakhan, Judge James Earl Graves, Jr., and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young's daughter, Andrea Young, just to name a few.

Moreover, long before the "Me Too Movement," Ruthie recognized the need for women to hold political offices. As a result, she served as the Campaign Manager or as a volunteer for numerous female candidates, including Vernita King Johnson, Bernadine Young (Deceased), Laverne Moore Holmes, Margaret Carey-McCray, and Estelle Pryor, among others.

Ruthie was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Blanche; her siblings, Martha (Bay) Birkhead Brewer, Alma Catherine (Gloria) Ransom, Marguerite (Sister) Clark, Betty Jean (Beh Jean) Walker, Henry (Bay Brother/Ramp) Ransom, Jr., Clarence (Scrappy) Ransom, and Charles (Bimbo) Ransom. She will be missed by many more.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ruthie Mae Ransom Morris for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY
CONTEST 2020 GRADES 6-8

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize exemplary middle and high school students from Virginia's Fourth Congressional District who were selected as winners of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. I am inspired by the words of these students, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them personally.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor

and recognize the remarkable achievements of the African-American community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these distinguished students and their accomplishments in celebration of Black History Month.

I include in the RECORD Trenton Blake Townes' winning essay:

WHAT BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEANS TO ME
(By Trenton Blake Townes)

As an African American male, Black History means a great deal to me. In today's society racism impacts the lives of my people in a number of ways and for me that is very scary. Black history means to me that no matter how the world views me, I am somebody and I stand on the shoulders of those before me. I can not think of what black history means to me without thinking of the years of slavery my ancestors had to endure. I think of the world we live in, and I don't understand why racism continues to exist today. The achievements of black people compared to the many pitfalls set before us should allow people to see how strong and resilient of a people we are, instead they only continue their attempts to destroy us and what we value and love.

I wish black history month would mean to everyone what it means to me. Black history month means to me that in times of turmoil I have the strength to rise victorious. Black history month is a time where all can reflect, not on the narrative they want us to believe in, but one that is factual and full of strength, hope and promise. It's one where Mansa Musa was King of the Mali empire in 1312 and is regarded even today as the richest man in the history of the world. Black history month means to me even as an enslaved people, Harriet Tubman led about 13 missions to help many to freedom and shared she could have freed more if they only knew they were enslaved. Black history month means to me we must pass the knowledge of the achievements of our ancestors like the establishment of what was known as Black Wall Street. Black wall street was a very prosperous and self-sufficient business district in Oklahoma where black people owned barbershops and stores, schools and even a local newspaper. Black history month means to me that I can help the advancement of the world like Dr. Gladys West who is a mathematician who grew up locally in Sutherland VA and helped with the technology used to create the GPS systems everyone uses today.

Black history month means to me it is a time where all people should be able to reflect upon the history of African Americans. This is a time where our culture, contributions, music, and arts should be celebrated as a positive influence and reviewed as leaving a positive impact on the entire world. Black history month is a time where we should be able to come together as a people and uplift one another and celebrate the many achievements of our past and the hope and realization of a rich future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent and unable to cast my votes on all or part of June 4 and June 25. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA Roll Call No. 235; YEA Roll Call No. 236; YEA Roll Call No. 237; YEA Roll Call No. 238; NAY Roll

Call No. 239; YEA Roll Call No. 240; YEA Roll Call No. 403; YEA Roll Call No. 404; NAY Roll Call No. 405; YEA Roll Call No. 406; NAY Roll Call No. 407; YEA Roll Call No. 408; YEA Roll Call No. 409; YEA Roll Call No. 410; and NAY Roll Call No. 411.

REVERSING THE YOUTH TOBACCO
EPIDEMIC ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I will vote in support of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020.

Despite a previous years-long decline in youth tobacco use, we have witnessed a sharp rise in youth tobacco use and nicotine addiction in recent years. At the heart of this trend are flavored e-cigarettes, which Big Tobacco companies have marketed toward young people in their ongoing drive to increase their profits at the cost of public health.

I believe H.R. 2339 takes important steps toward tackling the youth tobacco epidemic and curtailing Big Tobacco's unfettered promotion of these highly addictive products, including closing loopholes in current law that cover traditional tobacco products but not e-cigarettes.

This includes H.R. 2339's provisions to prohibit the marketing, advertising, and promotion of e-cigarette products to individuals under 21 years of age; ban online sales of e-cigarettes; close a tax loophole for e-cigarettes by establishing tax parity with current tobacco taxes; apply graphic health warnings to cigarette packages; and provide funding for tobacco cessation research, therapies, and counseling, as well as for outreach and grants to medically underserved communities.

I also support provisions in H.R. 2339 which would waive Medicare's coinsurance requirements for colorectal cancer screening and increase access to asthma medications. While I will vote in support of H.R. 2339, I believe important improvements could have been made to strengthen the overall bill.

For example, in light of the legislation's ban on all tobacco flavors—including menthol—I strongly opposed the inclusion of a provision that creates a discriminatory exemption for premium cigars. This clearly unfair provision protects the tobacco habits of wealthier individuals—who use premium cigars at higher rates—while imposing new restrictions on tobacco products that low-income individuals and communities of color are more likely to use.

I also believe H.R. 2339 should have contained stronger provisions to alleviate criminal justice concerns that this legislation could disproportionately impact people of color, increase criminal penalties in state and localities across the country, and potentially encourage harmful police practices.

Additionally, while I am pleased H.R. 2339 takes vital steps to address the youth tobacco epidemic, this legislation unfortunately does not address the disturbing outbreak of vaping-related lung illnesses and deaths that we witnessed in recent months. The CDC found that

these deaths and illnesses stemmed primarily from black market THC-containing e-cigarettes with vitamin E acetate—an additive that can damage lungs when inhaled.

Despite these concerns, I believe the clear public health benefits of this legislation outweigh its faults. There is no time to waste. I will not stand idly by while corporate greed and Big Tobacco marketing tactics threaten to engulf yet another generation to the ravages of addiction, cancer, stunted brain development, damaged lungs, and more.

You can be sure I will work with my colleagues in the Senate to improve this legislation in order to put forward well-balanced legislation that can comprehensively address the youth tobacco epidemic.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
MARCH 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the National Guard and Reserve.

SD-138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense review of vetting policies for international military students following