

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MOTHER
LEE ESTHER DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mother Lee Esther Davis.

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalms 34:1.

Mother Lee Esther Davis was born the 5th of 10 children to the late Mr. Leroy and Mother Josephine Wilson, Sr., on December 27, 1955. A native of Bolton, MS, and longtime resident of Jackson, MS, Mother Davis transcended from Earth to Glory at her home surrounded by her family on Friday, October 16, 2020.

After receiving her education from the Jackson Public School System, Lee married the late Mr. Levi "Ham" Davis, Jr., on December 25, 1971, and to this union three daughters were born, Debra, LaTanya and Sharon. She also had one son, Jeremy. She became gainfully employed for several years as a dietary aide, and then went on to become a bus driver with the Jackson Public School District before retiring after 13 years of loyal dedicated service.

As a young child, Lee accepted Christ into her life and was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost at the House of Prayer Church under the leadership of the late Pastor Doris Lee. She continued to serve faithfully at Holy Tabernacle as a Church Mother, Prayer Warrior and member of the Home and Foreign Mission under the leadership of Pastor Ivory Lee.

Lee is preceded in death by daughter LaTanya Davis and son, Jeremy Davis; one sister, Frankie Mae Wilson; and two brothers Leroy "Pete" Wilson, II, and Ray Paul Wilson.

She leaves to cherish her memories and carry her legacy two loving and devoted daughters, Debra (London) of Pearl, MS, and Sharon of Jackson, MS. Six grandchildren: Meco Shoulders of Washington, DC, Jaquavious "Quay" and JaVonn Shoulders of Pearl, MS, and Jourdan, Avery and Ivory Davis of Jackson, MS. Four sisters: Ida M. Byther-Smith and Lida M. Thomas-Ragland of Chicago, IL, and Josephine Butler and Angela Wilson of Springfield, IL. Two brothers: Clifton (Kristina), and Jack Wilson of Springfield, IL. A very dear and special companion, Mr. Charles Boone, two adopted grandsons, Carl and Eeon Black of Muskegon Heights, MI; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Mother Lee Esther Davis was a woman of virtue, poise, strength, and wisdom. She stood for what was right and never wavered. She was the epitome of a Proverbs 31 woman. Mother Davis will be missed by many. Sleep on faithful servant of God and may your works praise you in the gates.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mother Lee Esther Davis.

HONORING STEVE AND LINDA
WASHBURN OF PFLUGERVILLE,
TEXAS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30 years of service and ministry of Steve and Linda Washburn with First Baptist Church in Pflugerville and their work in the Pflugerville community.

First Baptist Church was founded in 1973 as a mission-minded ministry dedicated to sharing a passion for God's word and leading people to faith and salvation in Christ.

Under the guidance of Pastor Washburn, First Baptist Pflugerville has become an integral part of the community, where a strong sense of discipleship has led to the creation of many outreach programs—including children and student ministries, a food pantry feeding thousands in the community each year, support groups for the hurting, and a church committed to keeping Christ at the center of the family.

Even as the church has grown, First Baptist Pflugerville has remained committed to their original mission-minded goals, and through the efforts of the congregation, thousands have found the joy, peace, and contentment that spring from a fulfilling and personal relationship with Jesus.

For the past 30 years, Pastor Washburn and his wife Linda have been a source of light, encouragement, and joy for the entire membership of First Baptist Pflugerville. Under their guidance, the church has seen significant change and growth from a membership of around 600 to 2,400. This growth allowed the church to build its current 1,500-seat worship center after outgrowing its first worship center built just a few years earlier. These buildings were necessary after outgrowing the old campus even after several years of providing three separate Bible study hours and worship services each Sunday.

Pastor Washburn's commitment to outreach and involvement have made him a pillar of the Pflugerville community as the ministry of the church strives to help and protect vulnerable and hurting citizens. His desire to help led him to author a book, "Salt and Light," that Biblically explains many of the issues facing the Church and society today.

On October 25th, 2020, First Baptist Pflugerville is saying goodbye to Pastor Washburn and Linda as they begin the next chapter of their lives in retirement. There is no doubt that Pastor Washburn will continue to spread the Word of God no matter where retirement leads him.

I thank both Pastor Washburn and Linda Washburn for their down to earth and positive leadership of this congregation, and for their impact in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE REVEREND ELLIS
CLIFTON, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2020

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the retirement of Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr.

Born January 15, 1953, the Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr. is the only child of Reverend Deacon Ellis Clifton, Sr., and Marie Clifton. He grew up in Inkster, Michigan, and often comments on his childhood, saying, "I had a happy childhood, but it was a different one. While others were playing 'cops and robbers', 'cowboys and Indians', pretending to be superheroes, or playing sports, I was in my backyard playing priest." There is no doubt he would eventually pursue work in the clergy. Reverend Clifton graduated from Robichaud High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, in 1970, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1974, and certification to teach students in special education and with learning disabilities from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Reverend Clifton taught school in Columbus, Ohio, from 1974 until 1988, when he entered Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry. He received his Master of Divinity in 1991, becoming the first African American graduate of the seminary.

Before returning to Michigan, Reverend Clifton served as curate and interim pastor in Pennsylvania and vicar in Ohio. He was briefly the Vicar at Church of the Resurrection in Ecorse, Michigan, before eventually settling as the 7th rector of St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Inkster. Reverend Clifton's work has gone beyond his service to St. Clement's, but has extended to his surrounding community. Reverend Clifton is a lifelong member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Chaplain and Board Member of the National Action Network Western Wayne County Chapter, Member of the Inkster-Citizens Action Network, and Chaplain for the Bishop H. Irving Mayson Scholarship Fund. He's also served on the Inkster Charter Commission and on Inkster Housing Commission until August of 2020.

Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr.'s ministerial leadership, commitment to clergy, and service to Inkster is extraordinary and a true reflection of our great district. Please join me in honoring Reverend Clifton, Jr., on his retirement and job well done.

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