

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Toney's family in honoring the life and service of Brigadier General Frank Toney, Jr. For a man of his caliber, who demonstrated superb leadership, dedication, and sacrifice throughout his service to our great nation, it seems no amount of recognition is sufficient to say thank you but he will always be remembered as a highly respected leader and warrior.

HONORING LASONJA HARDY  
MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lasonja Hardy Moore, who is the wife of Deaundra Moore, and mother of one daughter, Faith Hannah Moore.

Mrs. Lasonja Hardy Moore is a member of Hudson Missionary Baptist Church in West, Ms. Lasonja serves as a Sunday school teacher, youth leader, and church announcer. A graduate of Mississippi and Jackson State Universities with a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education, Mrs. Hardy Moore is a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at William Dean Jr. Elementary School, which is a part of the Holmes County Consolidated School District.

Mrs. Hardy Moore has been recognized and awarded numerous awards, including Teacher of the year 2006–2007 under the leadership of Mrs. Lillian Mitchell, and the 2014–2015 Teacher of the Year at William Dean Jr. Elementary under the leadership of Mr. Charles Lacy.

Mrs. Hardy Moore has been educating children in Holmes County for 15 years. Lasonja is a member of Holmes County & Mississippi Association of Educators, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (Rho Nu Zeta Chapter) and serves on the Hippy Council.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating Mrs. Hardy Moore for being actively involved and making great accomplishments in Holmes County.

RECOGNIZING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the government and people of the Republic of Turkey on the 97th anniversary of October 29, 1923, when Turkey became a Republic.

It was on this day in 1923 when Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the visionary leader of modern Turkey, became its first President. Under his leadership, Turkey rose from the ashes of a war-torn country into a confident, stable, and growing democracy.

Turkey and the United States have been NATO Allies since 1952. Our soldiers have been serving side by side for almost seven decades in crises and conflicts in a vast geography, ranging from Afghanistan to Kosovo.

Turkey is an important ally and partner of the United States in facing 21st century challenges.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Turkey is now the largest refugee-hosting country in the world.

Turkish Americans are an important part of the fabric of the United States, as evidenced by their contributions to the arts, science, academia, and business.

Turkish Americans serve as goodwill ambassadors promoting greater understanding between the United States and Turkey, by educating people in the United States about Turkey's rich cultural heritage, and the impor-

tance of the partnership to advance mutual interests between the United States and Turkey.

I rise today to congratulate my friends in the United States and Turkey on the 97th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

HONORING DEBRA SMITH WRIGHT  
AS A BELOVED EDUCATOR AND  
MENTOR

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 30, 2020*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Debra Smith Wright was a beloved educator and mother, whose legacy is the countless minds she opened and hearts she touched.

Ms. Smith Wright was born in 1953, to Eddie Lowe Smith and Essie Mae Jackson. She graduated from Lakeland High School in 1970, and Florida Memorial College in 1973. Afterwards, she went on to earn her master's and Specialist in Education Leadership from Rollins College in 1984.

Ms. Smith Wright began her long and influential career in education as an elementary music teacher. She went on to serve as a principal, and in 2007, she retired as an education consultant. Even after her retirement, her dedication to the field endured, and she served as a Polk County School Board member.

Ms. Smith Wright took the time to mentor me on the history of Polk County Schools, the struggles and reforms, and improvements made over the years. We worked together to improve justice for all students regardless of their background, expand trade program opportunities for young people to help them develop skills, and increase teacher pay to retain and recruit top talent at our schools. For this and more, we honor her.