

memory of Merle F. Peterson of Dumas, AR. Strong leadership, vision, concern for others, and philanthropy were enduring legacies left by Merle Peterson. He died on March 19, 2004 after having served his nation, state and Dumas with distinction.

After graduating with an electrical engineering degree from Arkansas State University, he came to Dumas in April of 1939 to operate a service station his father had bought. In November of that year, he was married to Deloris Ellegood, and together they built a successful Ford automobile business.

When Mr. Peterson volunteered for the Army Air Force in 1942, he rose to captain and served overseas three years with a bomber squadron in Africa and Italy. His wife kept the business operating during those years. After selling the Ford dealership in 1976, they continued their business and farming operations through Peterson Enterprises and jointly led in service and philanthropic endeavors for over 64 years.

After World War II, Mr. Peterson realized that Dumas faced major economic challenges in order to prosper. With other Dumas leaders, he worked to establish an industrial foundation and organized a drive to buy land for development as an industrial park.

Mr. Peterson founded Dumas State Bank, now Simmons First, and was its board chairman. His financial acumen led him to serve on the boards of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, State Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Fund of Arkansas.

Fully devoted to his church, First United Methodist of Dumas, he was active in the Methodist Men's Class, chaired the administrative board and many committees, and served in important roles in the Little Rock Conference.

A mainstay of the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club, he was chosen Citizen of the Year in 1952, and 50 years later was still working with enthusiasm for projects to benefit Dumas. An early supporter of Arkansas Community Foundation, he was a founding board member of Dumas Area Community Foundation. He and his wife established scholarships at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Dumas High School.

A loyal Democrat, he served as a state senator from 1960 through 1966, was chairman of the County Committee for 10 years, and was a volunteer staff member for Governor Bill Clinton for 12 years. He was a leader in the Clinton gubernatorial and presidential campaigns, and was named to the U.S. Electoral College in 1996. He received the Arkansas Democrats' top award in 1994.

Many state leadership and service accolades were bestowed on Mr. Peterson, but he always credited the people of Dumas for their support. He served for the betterment of many and leaves a huge legacy to fill.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN HURST
ADAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop John Hurst Adams, one

of eight legendary leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who will be retiring at this year's Quadrennial Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

Bishop Adams was born in Columbia, SC, where he now lives after years of serving congregations and communities across our Nation. He grew up in the Waverly neighborhood of Columbia, which is located in the Sixth Congressional District which I proudly represent in this august body. He attended Waverly Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School and John C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. Bishop Adams continued his education at the Boston University School of Theology, Harvard School of Divinity, and Union Theological Seminary.

Bishop Adams began his ministry with a small congregation in Lynn, MA. He taught at Payne Theological Seminary in Ohio and later served as President of Paul Quinn College in Texas for 6 years and as Chairman of the Board for 8. During his years at Paul Quinn College, the school received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and saw many new building renovations and improvements.

Bishop Adams next served as pastor at First AMEC in Seattle. From Seattle, Bishop Adams went to Los Angeles where he pastored Grant AMEC in the Watts section of Los Angeles. It was also in Los Angeles that Bishop Adams was elected the 87th Bishop of African Methodism.

Upon his election, Bishop Adams served the Tenth Episcopal District in Texas and later left his mark on the Second Episcopal District in the Mid-Atlantic States. Under his leadership, 40 new congregations sprouted throughout the district. From there, he served the Sixth Episcopal District in Georgia where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Morris Brown College, Turner Theological Seminary, Interdenominational Theological Center and the Atlanta University Center. He also served on the Centennial Olympic Committee.

I was very proud when Bishop Adam's service called him to the Seventh Episcopal District in South Carolina, in 1992, to serve over the State's 609 AME churches. He arrived in South Carolina just in time to play a pivotal role in my election to this body. Bishop Adams currently serves the Eleventh Episcopal District, encompassing Florida and the Bahamas.

Bishop Adams is a strong believer that people must join together to do what they cannot do alone. To that end, he has founded the Congress of National Black Churches, the Institute on Church Administration and Management in Atlanta, Georgia; the Richard Allen Service and Development Agency in Washington, DC; and the Educational Growth Organization in Los Angeles, CA. He continues to serve on many Boards including that of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Institute on Church Administration and Management, Joint Center for Political Studies, Children's Defense Fund Black Community Crusade for Children, National Black United Fund, Industrial Area Foundation, National Urban League, and the Palmetto Project.

Bishop Adams has received many fitting honors and awards throughout his 25 years as Bishop. In 1996, he was awarded South Carolina's highest citizen honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in recognition of his contributions to the State.

Bishop Adams is married to his partner in the ministry, Dr. Dolly Adams of New Orleans,

Louisiana. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Bishop John Hurst Adams whose spirit, belief, and kindness have moved communities to action across the Nation. He is a roll model, a friend, an outstanding leader and a great American. His retirement from the Bishopric creates a void that will be hard to fill.

HONORING MARK BEELER ON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Beeler on his retirement from the Trousdale County Agricultural Extension Service. Mark is a resident of Hartsville, TN, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

For 27 years, Mark has been a dedicated employee of the Ag Extension Service, but the agency has been in his blood for much longer. His father, H.Y. Beeler, is a retired extension agent from Williamson County. Mark began his own career in Hickman County before transferring to Trousdale County in 1981.

In addition to his commitment to Ag Extension, Mark has been a first-rate public servant. As a member of Hartsville's Volunteer Fire Department, he has championed fire-safety education programs. In fact, Mark was instrumental in establishing fire-safety education in the local school system and day-care facilities.

I applaud Mark and all that he has accomplished. He and his coworkers at Trousdale County Ag Extension have made certain that Middle Tennessee farmers have access to the latest technology and techniques. I am sure the Hartsville community will be sad to see him go, but I know I join with them in wishing him a very happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING
ALL AMERICANS TO OBSERVE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
DEATHS OF ANDREW GOODMAN,
JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL
SCHWERNER, CIVIL RIGHTS OR-
GANIZERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, this House must be applauded for the passage of the Resolution (H. Con. Res. 450) I introduced to honor the civil rights martyrs: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. These young men were true martyrs, non-violent and self-sacrificing for the highest ideals. In contrast to the suicide bombers who call themselves "martyrs" while taking lives, these heroes placed themselves at risk in order to save lives. The fact that their passion and dedication was expressed in non-violent actions made them no less courageous and brave fighters. On this fortieth anniversary of