

related to the Pigford class action lawsuit, and the Cobell class action lawsuit. The Claims Resolution Act included several provisions addressing a long-delayed justice for tens of thousands of African-Americans and hundreds of thousands of Native Americans.

In 1999, a federal judge approved a settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit (Pigford v. Glickman) filed by African-Americans farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, for denying them federal loans, disaster assistance, and other services. Under this agreement, black farmers, who were eligible and filed a complaint against the USDA by July 1, 1997, were to receive compensation resulting from discrimination practices. However, tens of thousands of black farmers filed after the cutoff date because they reported not receiving or being notified of any information regarding a filing deadline. Therefore, they were not included in this class action to receive compensation. As a result, black farmers and the federal government have been fighting over this issue for years.

H.R. 4783 is a bill that contained a provision to provide some relief to those that were left out of the original class action. This legislative measure provides an estimated \$1.15 billion to resolve the longstanding Pigford case. In addition, other legislative language was included in H.R. 4783 to address an injustice against the Native Americans regarding a long-running class action lawsuit (Cobell v. Salazar).

The Cobell class action lawsuit alleged that the Interior Department mismanaged billions of dollars in grazing land, gas, oil and other royalties owed to hundreds of thousands of American Indians. H.R. 4783 resolves claims against the government regarding the government's management and accounting for over 500,000 individual Indians' trust accounts. This provision is estimated to cost \$3.412 billion.

H.R. 4783 is a bill that is long overdue to address past failures and misjudgments of the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior toward African-American farmers and Native Americans. Moving forward as a Nation, we hope that we can build on the existence of our past to learn from our failures and to move forward without any racial, gender, and religious malice.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia is an icon of courage, dignity, and perseverance. He risked his life in the struggle for civil rights for all Americans, he stood with Dr. King as one of that movement's most eloquent and inspirational leaders, and he has held steadfast to the principle of equal justice in every part of his public life, from the Freedom Rides to his service in the House. I am proud to call him a dear friend—and I am proud that his leadership has recently been honored with two prestigious awards.

On November 17, President Obama announced Congressman LEWIS as one of the next recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

The award citation noted his courage on "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama, and his contributions to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act; it observed that "JOHN LEWIS is an American hero and a giant of the Civil Rights Movement." The medal will be presented early next year.

On the same day, Congressman LEWIS was also honored by the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation as the inaugural recipient of the LBJ Liberty and Justice for All Award. The award marks Congressman LEWIS's lifelong commitment to the founding principles that were the watchword of the Civil Rights Movement. It also recognizes the determined legislative leadership that enabled President Johnson to turn the movement's moral vision into political action. The LBJ Foundation honored Congressman LEWIS for "his dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles [which] has won him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the United States Congress."

I am among those colleagues who have taken regular inspiration from the force of JOHN LEWIS's example. He has my sincere congratulations on these recent honors.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E.
OLIPHANT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert E. Oliphant. Mr. Oliphant, who passed away at the age of 88, is survived by his wife Pearl; his two daughters Deborah and Patti; and his two grandchildren, Justin and Emily. The community of Odessa and the State of Missouri will sorely miss this remarkable man's leadership, generosity, and congenial disposition.

Born on June 22, 1922, in Cainsville, MO, he was raised by Glenn and Cordia Oliphant in Princeton, MO. After graduating high school in 1941, he attended Chillicothe Business College for a year before heeding the call to service and entering the United States Army. He began basic training in the spring of 1944 and was shipped off to Europe where he served with the 103rd Infantry Division. During the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944, he suffered injuries to his shoulder and arm and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After recovering from his injuries, Mr. Oliphant began working for Clarence H. Goppert at the People's Bank in Kansas City. In 1948, Mr. Goppert acquired the Bank of Odessa and Mr. Oliphant was named executive vice president of the bank. After being promoted to president in the early 1960s, he became chairman of the board of the Bank of Odessa and remained in that position for more than 40 years. Under his leadership, the Bank of Odessa provided invaluable assistance to area churches, civic groups, and volunteer organizations. This assistance and Mr. Oliphant's personal philanthropy allowed these organizations to thrive, prosper, and serve countless individuals.

Mr. Oliphant's leadership in the Odessa community goes far beyond his work at the Bank of Odessa. Selected in the first Hall of

Fame class of the Odessa R-7 Public School Foundation, he was also a founding member of the Odessa Rotary Club, a longtime member of the Odessa Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Odessa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. I have no doubt that he has touched the lives of every person in the Odessa community, and his legacy will remain for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Oliphant has served our Nation well as a dedicated family man, a military veteran, and a community servant. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in celebrating the life of an American treasure, Robert E. Oliphant.

IN HONOR OF MR. ARMSTER
HINTON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my constituents in celebrating the 124th Anniversary of Greater Saint Mark AME Church in Columbus, Georgia. As part of this celebration, we honor the Church's oldest living member, Mr. Armster Hinton, who is 96 years old and has spent the majority of his life worshipping as a parishioner at Greater Saint Mark AME Church.

Born April 16, 1914 in Hurtsboro, Alabama, where his family owned a horse farm, Mr. Hinton is the son of the late Merion and Daisy Hinton. He was educated at William H. Spencer High School, and graduated from that institution in 1933.

Mr. Hinton sought higher education, and graduated from Albany State College with a degree in business. He went on to honorably serve his country during World War II. While a soldier in the U.S. Army, his company in the Army made dog tags for the troops. He also instructed his fellow soldiers in reading and writing, helping many of them to attain a fourth grade level education.

In 1934, Mr. Hinton was married to the love of his life, the late Mrs. Nell Blanchette Gibson Hinton. They were married for 71 wonderful years and were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Mrs. Beverly Gaynell Hinton Hogle. Mrs. Hogle is married to Mr. Kenneth Hogle, who Mr. Hinton considers a son. Mr. Hinton's family also includes his precocious grandson, Master Destin Hinton Hogle.

Along with his immediate family, Mr. Hinton's great love has impacted countless lives, namely those of his god-children: Mrs. Doris Burton Upshaw; Mrs. Frances Jones Walker; Mrs. Rose Marie Wilson Arnold; Rev. Paul Berry, III; Mrs. Jasper Dawkins, Jr.; and Mrs. Jasmine Dawkins Jones.

A master tailor, he is retired from Tillman's Men's Clothing in Columbus. In his retirement, he has utilized his many talents as an avid cook and a consummate gardener. Mr. Hinton also has been the recipient of numerous recognitions from Greater Saint Mark AME Church, where he has been a life-long member since childhood.

He is known throughout the community for his resplendent appearance. When asked about it, his favorite expression is, "I can't help that; I was born looking good." He attributes his longevity to a powerful faith in