

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. HATTIE LUCINDA BENNETT FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett. Ms. Bennett was born on January 2, 1916 in Spartanburg, South Carolina to John and Hattie Abner. Ms. Bennett began her early years of school in the Spartanburg community until she and her family relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida. It is in the West Palm Beach community at the early age of 10 that she discovered the severity of economic depression and hardship affecting her community. After visiting a hospital in West Palm Beach, Ms. Bennett realized she would leave her mark on society by becoming a nurse.

Ms. Bennett graduated from West Palm Beach Industrial High School in 1935 as Valedictorian of her class. A short time after that, she began selling insurance policies at a private company to help raise money for college tuition. This job, along with the help of her family and her community, afforded Ms. Bennett the opportunity to successfully attend and complete nursing school as one of 16 blacks. Her achievements did not end there. Ms. Hattie Bennett, after completing nursing school, immediately passed the Georgia and Mississippi Registry Exam, which allowed her to begin a career in nursing.

Ms. Bennett's academic achievements and nursing credentials attracted the attention of Dr. Carl Day of the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City, Mississippi. In February of 1941, Dr. Carl offered Ms. Bennett the head nursing position at the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital. After generously accepting, Ms. Bennett managed to meticulously raise the standards and performance expectations of the staff by implementing professional training and seminars. She sought to institute professional development activities by the staff to grow and enhance the facility.

Ms. Bennett served admirably as head nurse for the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City for 29 years before subsequently serving for 2 years at the African American Sons and Daughter Hospital, 14 years at the Heritage Manor Nursing Home, and 32 years at the Mid-Delta Home Health Service.

In 2002, Ms. Bennett retired and was honored for her exemplary lifelong dedication to the nursing profession. Ms. Bennett continues her commitment to nursing as she motivates and encourages youth to pursue a career in the health profession. In 2002, she was honored with the Community Service Award presented by the St. Peters Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms Bennett is also a faithful member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Yazoo, Mississippi

where she serves as steward, trustee and chairperson of the Surplus Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a legendary servant of Yazoo City, Mississippi, community, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett.

IN CELEBRATION OF TWENTY YEARS OF U.S.-UZBEKISTAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 20 years of U.S.-Uzbekistan diplomatic relations.

When the United States of America established diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan on February 19, 1992, we were dealing with a newly reborn country that had just gained back its independence from the Soviet Union. Although Uzbekistan has a history that is thousands of years old, it faced many difficulties during the first years of its independence.

Today, Uzbekistan has managed to make significant progress in every field including politics, economics, and international relations. Working to build a foundation based on established legislative, executive, and judicial branches of power, Uzbekistan is transitioning to democracy and, in so doing, is raising its unique historical heritage and national identity.

I am extremely pleased by the high level of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the U.S. in the areas of regional security, the fight against transnational threats, and the deepening of political and economic consultations. U.S. companies are also expanding their presence in Uzbekistan, including General Motors.

The U.S. is particularly appreciative of Uzbekistan's assistance in our efforts in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is also building railroads and bridges and providing low price electricity and other bilateral assistance to Afghanistan, which is also critical to U.S. interests.

So, once more, I congratulate the government and people of Uzbekistan for all they are doing to support the U.S., and I applaud President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for strengthening U.S.-Uzbekistan relations.

HONORING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH ON RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Immaculate Concep-

tion Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker. The current Pastor is Rev. Kevin A. Collins and the church is composed of people from all walks of life. I am proud to honor Immaculate Conception, located in Magnolia Park, for receiving this marker.

On Monday, February 20, 2012, the Texas Historical Commission will dedicate the historical marker with the following text:

In October 1911, the oblates of Mary Immaculate established their Roman Catholic society's first parish in Harris County and named it Immaculate Conception. The site was chosen on Harrisburg Boulevard in the incorporated community of Magnolia Park, which was annexed by the City of Houston in 1926. For the parish's first anniversary on October 6, 1912, a three building campus comprising a wood-frame church, rectory, and school and boarding house was dedicated. The school and boarding house were administered by the Sisters of Divine Providence. A consolidated school and auditorium brick building dedicated in September 1936 replaced these facilities, with the school auditorium serving as the church. The 1912 church building was relocated two miles away and converted into a brick building to serve another parish, Queen of Peace, which was originally a mission church of Immaculate Conception. In March 1957, a neo-Romanesque style church was dedicated to complement the style of the 1936 school and auditorium. The boarding house ceased operating and in 1969 the school closed permanently.

Adhering to their motto as oblates of Mary Immaculate, the priests of Immaculate Conception ministered to the needy and conducted extensive missionary work in southeast and central Texas. For decades, the priests were assigned the ministry for the state penitentiary system in Huntsville. Immaculate Conception was the mother church of the first predominantly Hispanic Catholic Church in Houston, named Our Lady of Guadalupe. At least nine parishes in Harris and surrounding counties can trace their histories to the missionary efforts of Immaculate Conception. Entering its second century of existence, Immaculate Conception continues to be an influential institution in the Magnolia Park community and beyond.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY "HANK" PIOROWSKI

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 2012*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Henry "Hank" Piorowski, a loving husband, proud father, and a distinguished veteran who earned national recognition for his instrumental role in helping to create "Drug Court."

In 1994, under the leadership of the Chief Judge of Buffalo City Court, the Honorable

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