

IN RECOGNITION OF IRA LOMIS
FLOWERS OF THOMASVILLE,
GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Ira Lomis Flowers, a beloved citizen of Thomasville, Georgia, who will be honored at the 23rd Annual Black and White Scholarship Ball hosted by the Thomasville, Georgia Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

The upcoming Black and White Scholarship Ball will take place on Friday, June 1, 2012 at 1200 West Jackson Street in Thomasville. During the event, Mr. Flowers will be presented with the Joseph R. Jenkins Award, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.'s Southeastern Province.

A native of Thomasville, Mr. Flowers is a graduate of Thomasville High School. Following high school, he went on to complete his undergraduate studies at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Mr. Flowers also has his Certification in Secondary Education in English and Reading from Valdosta State University.

Mr. Flowers spent most of his professional life working as an educator and serving as a positive role model and influential mentor to children in Middle and Southwest Georgia. Throughout his dynamic and distinguished career he served as the Director of the Francis F. Weston YMCA in Thomasville; CEO & General Director of the A.J. McClung YMCA in Columbus, Georgia; Executive Director of the Thomasville Community Resource Center; and Senior YMCA Director for the USA YMCA Institute.

Despite the multiple and pressing demands associated with his professional career, Mr. Flowers always has and continues to play an integral role in several social, civic and community service oriented organizations in Georgia. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. and has held memberships in the S.P. Masonic Lodge #118 and the Jones Masonic Lodge #118.

Mr. Flowers has achieved numerous successes in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love imparted upon him by his late wife, Thedora Belinda Flowers, and his wonderful daughter Hope Allen Ellis-Flowers. He is also the proud grandfather of his adorable grandchildren Brianna and Christen.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Ira Lomis Flowers, an outstanding individual who has tirelessly devoted himself to progressively developing the academic and social skill sets of youth throughout the State of Georgia.

On a personal note, my wife, Vivian, and I would like to applaud Mr. Flowers and his family for his distinguished record of service on behalf of our Nation's children and his outstanding legacy of service to the communities of Middle and Southwest Georgia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2012, I missed rollcall votes 202–223 because of my primary election in Indiana. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall 202, “no” on rollcall 203, “no” on rollcall 204, “yes” on rollcall 205, “no” on rollcall 206, “no” on rollcall 207, “no” on rollcall 208, “no” on rollcall 209, “yes” on rollcall 210, “no” on rollcall 211, “no” on rollcall 212, “yes” on rollcall 213, “yes” on rollcall 214, “no” on rollcall 215, “no” on rollcall 216, “no” on rollcall 217, “no” on rollcall 218, “no” on rollcall 219, “no” on rollcall 220, “no” on rollcall 221, “no” on rollcall 222, and “no” on rollcall 223.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF C. DONALD BABERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished federal public servant, Mr. C. Donald Babers, as he retires from his position as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Southwest Regional Administrator on June 1, 2012. Over the last 42 years, all of it with HUD, he has provided dedicated service to the American public in a variety of positions.

Mr. Babers began his career in June 1970 as an unpaid intern in HUD's Fort Worth Office. He then moved on to Little Rock, Arkansas working in the local field office as an Equal Opportunity Specialist before being appointed the Acting Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. He was next assigned to the Dallas Field Office where he held a number of positions, including 15 years as the Field Office Director.

In 2002, he was promoted again, this time to the position of Deputy Regional Director in the Fort Worth Regional Office. In 2006, he assumed additional responsibilities when he was appointed by the Secretary of HUD as the Recovery Advisor and Chairman of the Board for the Housing Authority of New Orleans, where he oversaw recovery efforts due to Hurricane Katrina. On May 27, 2010, he was recognized again for his hard work and dedication to the mission of HUD with a promotion to Regional Administrator of HUD's Region VI in Fort Worth. In this position, he is responsible for managing the operations of the Fort Worth office as well as eleven field offices in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Over the years, Mr Babers has been the recipient of many prestigious awards for his work. In 2006, he received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards given to career civil servants and restricted to no more than five percent of executives per year. In 2007, he also

received the Interagency Resources Management Conference Award from the General Services Administration, which is given to those government employees who have shown exceptional ability to operate across organizational boundaries and improve the public's experience with the government.

As Mr. Babers retires from a long and dedicated career, I would like to recognize his service and congratulate him on a job well done. His experience and skills will certainly be missed by both the employees he worked with and the citizens he served. I wish Don Babers and his wife Sheila a long and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF LANCASTER, WISCONSIN, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to honor the historic City of Lancaster as we celebrate its 175th anniversary.

Lancaster was established for its central location in Grant County. Though it wasn't located on a stream or major source of power, its location was ideal for the efficiency and accessibility of a county government. Shortly after its founding, Lancaster was named the seat of Grant County. In fact, the county courthouse was built before Lancaster's founding, creating a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs once Lancaster was established. Hotels and stores were among the first establishments to be built. But, growth in Lancaster was slow with only 350 residents in 1853. However, the dedication of a few people, including Wisconsin's first Governor, Nelson Dewey, was all Lancaster needed to thrive. After the construction of houses, commercial buildings, warehouses, stores, and a railroad depot, Lancaster's population surpassed 1,000 residents by 1880, enough to allow incorporation.

Just as Lancaster was beginning to mature, a fire destroyed half of the square and the city was faced with the challenge of starting anew. The folks of Lancaster took on that challenge and as they always have; the people of Lancaster worked together and the square was built again. Many of these buildings still stand today, signifying the deep historical roots in Lancaster and its ability to endure the test of time. The Grant County Courthouse, Lancaster Municipal Building, and the Lancaster Post Office are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Lancaster is home to more than 3,800 people. Lancaster embodies the quintessential small town that is a staple in rural Wisconsin. The historically rich community still thrives on the agricultural successes of surrounding farms and its quaint and pure atmosphere make Lancaster a beautiful place to call home. I wish the City of Lancaster and its residents a happy 175th anniversary and all the best in the years to come.