

to those of us working to shape policy in a humane and comprehensive way.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 247 I was attending a funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING DIXON LONG ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Dixon Long on the occasion of his 80th birthday on June 21, 2013. Mr. Long's many contributions as a board member and donor of the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco, supporter of the Holden Arboretum in Mentor, Ohio, and supporter of the Trust for Public Land, have been a great benefit to our Nation's environment.

In addition to his extensive involvement in these organizations, Dixon was also a professor of Political Science and dean of Western Reserve College, helping to educate the next generation of political thinkers and office holders. During his academic tenure, Mr. Long wrote extensively about the intersection of science, technology and public policy.

Dixon's passion for writing moved beyond academia. He published a number of novels, short stories, and travel guides since returning to Mann County. His love of learning, passion for teaching, commitments to public engagement, and preserving the environment are worthy of commendation.

Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Mr. Dixon Long for his long and impressive career, and exceptional record of service.

HONORING TOREY BELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable civil servant, Mayor Torey Bell.

On March 29, 1996, Torey ran for the Office of Aldermen and was sworn in and appointed as the Vice-Mayor of the Town of Doddsville, MS on July 2, 1996. He was overwhelmingly elected on June 2, 2000, garnering nearly 90 percent of the vote. During his campaign, he pledged to help reunite the town by: focusing on cleaning up failed State's reporting; documentation; seeking a stable building for operation and town business; community beautifi-

cation; gaining a collaborative approach to water and sewage; having safer streets in all neighborhoods; and restoring fiscal responsibility to city government.

Mayor Torey Bell Administration began the task of moving forward in accomplishing the Mayor's four top priorities: improving community education and awareness for all elderly and children; creating better water control procedures and policies; providing economic development opportunities for all town residents, and making sure residents feel safe in the neighborhood in which they live by ensuring that the city is fiscally sound. Mayor Bell also is focused on achieving self-sufficiency and full democracy for Town of Doddsville and taxpayers and improving their health outcomes.

A native of Sunflower County, Mayor Bell has tirelessly advocated for the residents of the Town for more than 20 years. His dedication to children and their families has been the hallmark of his service in both city government and the non-profit sector. His lifetime of public service to the Sunflower County can be best summed up by a singular governing philosophy—"that a man's heart plans his way, but God directs his footsteps."

His disciplined approach to public service was born from humble beginnings. He grew up in a single parent home and some apartment life in Sunflower, Mississippi until marriage brought James R. Haywood, Sr. in his life. Although his parents were limited to the things they could offer the family of four boys, they instilled in their sons a solid work ethic, strong community ethics and deeply rooted values. Mayor Bell attended East Sunflower Elementary and Ruleville Junior High Schools, and graduated at the age of 17 from Ruleville Central High School, where he excelled in school social relations, High School pride support and sports.

Despite his athletic talents in basketball and baseball, the Mayor chose to continue his education and service by joining the Army during the Gulf War. After returning home, Mayor Bell became an Orderly and an Ambulance Driver at the South Sunflower County Hospital. While serving the community in the medical field, he went to Mississippi Delta Community College where he graduated from the Emergency Medical Technician program. He later went to work for the Northern part of the county community by joining the North Sunflower County Hospital team, where he worked with many others as well as the Walter B Crook Nursing Facility, X-Ray Department and surgery team. He later joined the ranks of Sunflower County Sheriff Department to continue his county-wide service. Subsequently, he was accepted and admitted into the 10th District Masonic Fraternity and later, joined the Order of Eastern Stars.

Mayor Bell began his community service career with local summer baseball teams and basketball leagues. In Sunflower County, he successfully advocated for innovative policy initiatives on behalf of children with very little resources, limited positive mentoring and recreational events and chaired the initiative that lead to the uncovering of abusive administrative powers, fraudulent spending, poor child educational environment and unfair labor within the County school institution.

In 1999, Mayor Bell was appointed to serve as mentor and supporting counselor for the

Collaborative Mayor's Initiative for Sunflower and Bolivar County small towns. He spearheaded the implementation of several initiatives to address the developmental needs and community awareness to help direct Mayors to productive partnerships and implement policies that would support overall growth and developments.

In his first term as Mayor, he helped lead a successful campaign to purchase and renovate a real estate office to become Doddsville first official City Hall. Within that same year, he joined others to improve water quality and replace out dated equipment to improve the water and sewage system. Later, he began another campaign to rescue nine lots seized by Mississippi Home Corp in the NR Subdivision to help build single family homes with a multipurpose community center in the Town of Doddsville.

Mayor Bell's dedication to his community and the residents inspired a successful campaign for re-election to office in 2004, with no challengers in the primary. During his second term as mayor, he collaborated with Special Committees throughout the State to help educate and bring awareness to help control and Prevent Youth Violence, and supported HIV/AIDS initiative. While working to establish this support, Mayor Bell worked to obtain enough funds through MDA to rehab all senior citizens owned homes in Doddsville to Energy efficacy homes.

Mayor Bell worked long hours to lead the community into efforts to improve the Council's operations, transparency and oversight for capacity, and was a true champion for positive quality of living for kids and senior citizens. Eventually, the Mayor worked to help improve fire protection in the community by obtaining land to construct a fire truck's house and a fire truck for the community. The Mayor's diligence resulted in those goals being met in September of 2007. Later, Mayor Bell worked with others to help gain funds to improve streets throughout the community. His love for his community allowed him to start community property clean ups, advocating for the saving of the town's post office and jobs, obtain funds to meet the state's mandates for sewage system by-waste products and is currently working to establish partnership to help residents with home purchasing, financing and credit management.

Mayor Bell has lived in the Doddsville neighborhood for more than 17 years. His wife, Lisa, is an outstanding public school accountant in the Cleveland Public Schools and currently seeking office as town Alderman for the 2013–2017 term. He has four children, Torey Bell Jr., Simeon, Nathan and Nigel. Mayor Bell is the oldest of four sons of Deloris Jean Haywood and James R. Haywood Sr. He gives credit to his success as a public servant to God first, teachings from his mother and father, support from his wife and family, a trusting and dedicated board of aldermen, Gregory Associates, Gardner Engineering, a faithful city clerk and a supportive Mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Torey Bell for his dedication to serving others and giving back to his community.