

Although we did not serve together, I consider that it was a privilege to be able to work with him on many of the issues he championed as only he could—from the United Negro College Fund, to his work on telecommunications advances or on relations with the foreign governments he represented. Whenever he called we responded because he was always there to support us when needed. We never even had to ask.

We will miss exuberant presence and his booming raspy voice, but not just the sound. What the CBC, I, our Nation and the world will truly miss is the strong unrelenting voice that he was for a better country and world and for opportunity, equality and justice for all. We have lost a great public servant.

To his son Justin who was always with him, his wife Andrea and the other children, his church family and the people of Philadelphia who loved him dearly on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the Virgin Islands I extend my condolences. We are a better place that he lived. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE E.
ROBINSON, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young man, Mr. Willie E. Robinson, Jr. (affectionately known as J.R.)

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Robinson, Sr. and Vickie Robinson on February 3, 1988, J.R. was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, he was an outstanding young man who was deeply involved in his community and church home. He regularly attended Hill of Zion Missionary Baptist Church and was active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.

J.R. was not only a well-mannered young man, but also exceptionally bright. His academic ambitions were accomplished and exceeded during his matriculation at Clinton High School, where he graduated in May 2006. He furthered his education at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, ultimately receiving his B.A. in Administration of Justice and a M.S. in Economic Development. During his time at USM, he was well known among his peers, faculty and administrators. He became Student Government Association President and also served as president of the Mississippi Student Government Board of President's Council. While serving on the council, he was instrumental in implementing a number of policies geared towards assisting the student body with their matriculation at USM, including reducing the cost of textbooks through a consorted effort with textbook manufacturers and USM campus officials.

While obtaining his Master's degree, J.R. served as a graduate assistant for the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship. His commitment to the USM campus earned him induction into the Centennial Student Hall of Fame.

In addition to his valuable contributions to USM, J.R.'s passion for helping others

reaches far into the surrounding Hattiesburg community. He serves as Guide Right Director, which allows him to mentor over 20 young men. Many in the area attribute the economic growth of the area to J.R. because of his skillfulness in helping to coordinate the placement of a General Dynamics facility, which brought 250 jobs to the community. He also was instrumental in negotiations for fiscal expansion of an existing company in Hattiesburg, leading to the retention of 120 jobs and the addition to 10 within that company. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he was named "2012 Up and Coming Black Professional" in the Greater Hattiesburg area.

Currently, J.R. serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Young Professionals, to which he was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant. He is also employed as the Business Development Director with Area Development Partnership in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and continues to dedicate time to help those in need in his growing community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Willie E. Robinson, Jr. for his remarkable contributions as a young adult to the Greater Hattiesburg area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 305 on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 1341, the Financial Competitive Act of 2013, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANCIS
RESTIVO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as our nation celebrated its liberty and independence last week, a champion of liberty has passed away in our home community of Toledo, Ohio. Judge Francis "Buddy" Restivo passed from this life at the age of 91 on July 2, 2013. We extend deepest sympathy, heartfelt prayers, and gratitude from our community to his family for sharing him with us these many years. Truly, he was a generous, kind, and wise "buddy" to all who knew him. His gleeful presence never failed to inspire anyone who met him. His smile was infectious, his humor ever-flowing.

Judge Restivo came from humble beginnings yet graduated from Toledo's Central Catholic High School and the University of Toledo, earning his law degree. The economic circumstances from which he arose in his early years were not easy and then he served during World War II, where he was a member of the Air Force 136th Radio Intelligence Squadron. He married his wife, Jane, with whom he celebrated 70 years of marriage. Together they built a strong family and raised four children.

Buddy Restivo dedicated his life to public service and to our community. He was an assistant Ohio attorney general and assistant Lucas County prosecutor. He served on Toledo City Council in 1957 to 1960, and then served as solicitor for Sylvania, Walbridge, and Northwood. In 1971 Ohio Governor John Gilligan appointed him to the Toledo municipal court. He was elected later that year, and re-elected to six-year terms in 1973 and 1979. In 1980, he was elected to a vacancy on Lucas County Common Pleas Court and re-elected in 1982. He retired in 1986 and worked until 2000 as a visiting judge and as a hearing officer for mental health commitment cases for Lucas County Probate Court.

Judge Restivo was a fair and compassionate judge with a keen understanding of both people and the law. Lucas County Probate Court Jack Puffenberger said of Judge Restivo, he "was considerate of everyone in his courtroom. He was an excellent judge. He had good legal knowledge and he knew people and he just knew how to be fair. He was a great mentor . . ." Toledo lawyer Jerome Phillips perhaps expressed it best when he said, "I would classify him as a people's judge. He had a wonderful understanding of people and how to try to deal with the problems they had."

After retirement, though he kept in touch with the lives of colleagues and the law, his focused turned to fishing, family, and University of Toledo basketball. His son explained, "He went on numerous fishing trips with family members. He was a big UT Rockets fan, especially basketball. He had season tickets probably 40 years."

If the measure of a man can be counted by the lives he touched, then Judge Restivo was a great man indeed. He has shared his love of life, good heart, and generous spirit as husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather for his wonderful family, as well as our community and country. He shall be missed by all who knew the pleasure of his company. How fortunate each of us is to have known him, been blessed by his happy spirit, love of life, respect for the "common man," and his even-handed dispensing of the law. His good measure lifted us all. May his family and friends draw strength and comfort from his example of living life to its fullest as he helped countless others along life's way. His life made us all better as people and as a community.

HONORING MS. KAVONYA WALKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a student making a difference in her school West Tallahatchie High School, Ms. KaVonya Walker.

The difference KaVonya is making in her school comes in the form of art. Her home town is Webb, MS. It's a small community of about five hundred citizens. Like many other small rural towns, it too has its challenges to meet the needs of its citizens in more ways than one. The one I am speaking of is recreational which is why she turned to art when it comes to KaVonya making a difference. Art

is an expression, it's a way to release, relax, communicate, and to beautify. And that is what KaVonya does, she's an artist. She turns eyesores into beautiful eye pieces to look at. Right now she has been given the charge to lead the effort at her school to paint murals to represent the school spirit. This meant presenting herself as a leader in a way that other students would follow and listen to. She had the task of all the preliminary planning, choosing fellow artists that could help her complete this awesome responsibility. This project is scheduled to be completed May 1, 2013. KaVonya has plans to attend college to study art. She says, "Life is too short to not pursue your dreams. I dream of art, academic achievement, and completing my college degree . . ." I wish her much success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. KaVonya Walker for her current active role as a student making a difference as an artist.

CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. BANK

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer congratulations to U.S. Bank, who was awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 to recognize exceptional support of the U.S. Armed Forces from the employer community, and is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to employers for outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

U.S. Bank is one of only 15 honorees out of nearly 2,900 nominated companies. Through U.S. Bank's companywide initiative called Proud to Serve, thousands of veterans have been hired and supported over the past five years.

The numbers are impressive. U.S. Bank committed to hiring 1,000 service members and veterans between 2012 and 2013 and surpassed its 2012 goal by hiring 597 new veterans.

Minnesota is home to many great corporate citizens like U.S. Bank who are dedicated to supporting those who have made great sacrifices to defend freedom, liberty and our country. Congratulations to U.S. Bank for receiving the Employer Support Freedom Award and thank you for your support of our nation's veterans.

Floyd Sears was a national leader of grassroots military retirees who achieved remarkable legislative success in righting what they knew was a wrong. He represented the best of the military retirees whom we all represent.

I am grateful to Floyd Sears, a great American citizen in the truest sense, who joined the military in his youth when duty called and devoted his career to defending our freedoms, and then, in his retirement, exercised those freedoms to help make our country a better place.

Health care for our military community is a priority for me as it was for Floyd, and it is a privilege to represent the district that is home to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Walter Reed is the crown jewel of military medicine, serving our country's active and retired military and especially the wounded who have suffered greatly in the most difficult circumstances. Congress has provided the resources that were necessary to ensure that the new Walter Reed can provide world-class health care to our uniformed service personnel.

However, Floyd's generation did not always receive that level of attention. Floyd became a leader in the effort to restore retiree health care benefits that his generation of enlistees was losing. These individuals had been promised health care upon their retirement when they enlisted in the military services in their youth. But those benefits were pulled out from under them when they retired after a career of at least 20 years due to unintended consequences of legislative and administrative changes in military health care.

Floyd recognized how these legal changes were stripping him and his colleagues of the retiree health care benefits that they earned and richly deserved. Nearly 20 years ago, he began his personal crusade to amend the law and restore those promised benefits. What began as one man sending letters to his local newspaper and representative in Congress became a nationwide grassroots effort connected by the Internet. Ultimately, Floyd, his good friend Jim Whittington and others, on behalf of their grassroots army, inspired the introduction of the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act," which led to the enactment of Tricare for Life, a great leap towards fulfilling Floyd's dream of full restoration of the benefits he had been promised.

Floyd never intended to draw attention to himself. But with his passing we can admire what one person can accomplish when he puts his mind, his heart, and his energy into it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the extraordinary contributions that Floyd Sears, a truly great American, made to our nation.

Currently serving as the Fire Chief of the Modesto Regional Fire Authority, Gary Hinshaw also serves as the Fire Warden and Assistant Director of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County. Prior to joining the County team in June 2002, Gary enjoyed a long-term career in the fire service starting as a wildland firefighter with the United States Forest Service in 1973 on the Stanislaus National Forest. His first full-time position as a firefighter was with the Modesto Fire Department, beginning on November 21, 1978. He remained in that position for two years and was promoted through the ranks; four years as a Fire Engineer, seven years as a Captain, four years as a Battalion Chief and nine years as a Division Chief. He was appointed Interim Fire Chief of Modesto Regional Fire Authority on April 20, 2012.

During his career, Chief Hinshaw has championed the concept of a close and effective working relationship between the fire service and the pre-hospital medical community; he served as the Chair of the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Care Committee.

Chief Hinshaw's assignments within the Office of Emergency Services have included: Chair of Stanislaus County Domestic Terrorism Task Force, President of Stanislaus County Fire Chief's Association, Operational Area Coordinator for the Stanislaus Operational Area Council, Stanislaus County Mutual Aid Coordinator, Operational Coordinator for Stanislaus County Arson Task Force, Region IV Representative to Cal EMA Standardized Emergency Management, Administrator of the Homeland Security Grant Programs, and Manager Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Center.

Chief Hinshaw has been involved in numerous instructional opportunities within the community, including instructor at Modesto Junior College Fire Science Program, County Public Information Officer Training, Weapons of Mass Destruction for First Responder Agencies, Incident Command System/Standardized Emergency Management System, High Rise Strategy and Tactics, and Strike Team Leader.

Chief Hinshaw has been recognized by his colleagues with many awards and accolades. He is well respected on a state and local level in the fire service and CalEMA arenas.

Chief Hinshaw is married and has a daughter, a son-in-law and a grandson. He is active in his church and enjoys photography, boating and the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire service and Stanislaus County by Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw and hereby wish him continued success in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD SEARS, A LEADER OF THE MILITARY RETIREE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Floyd Sears of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Floyd passed away on June 5, 2013 at the age of 82.

HONORING MODESTO REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY CHIEF GARY HINSHAW

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw, who announced his retirement after serving 35 years in the fire service.

HONORING VICTOR MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Victor Moore.

Victor is the son of Ms. Linda Moore and Mr. Vicky Ivy of Clarksdale, Mississippi.