

HONORING MOUNT OLIVE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an irreplaceably important architecture of worship in the town of Bolton, Mississippi. For 143 years, the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church has served as a beacon of spiritual light for so many in the community.

The beginnings of Mount Olive were formed through a coordinated effort among a group of God-fearing, Christian individuals who regularly gathered to conduct Sunday worship service beneath a small bush harbor in the late 1800s. The group subsequently established the Forkey Hill Missionary Baptist Church, located at the intersection of Mount Olive Road and Joe Hall Road. In 1883, the congregation decided to move and build a new sanctuary; in doing so, the church was renamed to Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

In order to finance the construction of the new sanctuary, Brother John H. Jones and his wife, Earnestine Jones, allowed the church to use their home as collateral to have the new church built. Once financing was achieved, the church was built and continued to grow in number. One notable pastoral leader was Reverend Augustus Harper. Under his leadership, the church became debt-free by completing the terms and payments on the mortgage for the sanctuary in November 1971. The church also purchased 8 acres of prime farmland from Sister Alma Reuben and family, of which 2 of the acres were designated for the church cemetery and 3 acres were designated for the church parking lot. Through additional contributions made from Sister Reuben, the church was also able to construct the first lighted outdoor recreational facility for children of the community.

The construction and establishment of the Mount Olive community park encouraged other members of the congregation to spearhead the church's first athletic program, softball, and baseball teams. With so many positive advancements occurring within the congregation and the community, the Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church saw it necessary to construct a larger sanctuary to accommodate the growing membership. By September 2010, the membership performed a ribbon cutting ceremony, officially opening the new sanctuary.

In addition to acquiring a new sanctuary, the church was blessed with many other new amenities from members of the congregation, including a new refrigerator, a new stove, cabinets, dishes, a hot water tank, and a kitchen vent. Amongst all of the additions and changes came a revelation that Reverend Harper would honorably resign as pastor of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church in 2002. The following year, Reverend Wayne C. Moore became pastor and established numerous new ministries and goals for the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church for being an inspiration for change, growth, and unwavering spiritual unity for its congregational members and local community.

RECOGNIZING MS. PATRICIA
PARKER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, A virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Educational System; and

Whereas, Ms. Patricia Parker began her educational career in teaching thirty-eight (38) years ago, and this year she retires from teaching at Dunaire Elementary School in Stone Mountain, Georgia, she has served the DeKalb County School District well and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a Teacher, Educator and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader, a devoted scholar and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Parker is formally retiring from her educational career today, she will continue to promote education because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Patricia Parker on her retirement from the DeKalb County School District and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 21, 2013 as Ms. Patricia Parker Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of May, 2013.

HONORING WOODY HUNT

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor distinguished El Pasoan Woody Hunt as the recipient of the Ysleta High School "2012-13 Outstanding-Ex Award," which recognizes exceptional school alumni. Mr. Hunt has earned this distinction through a lifetime of serving the El Paso community in his roles as a successful business leader, tireless education advocate, and generous community servant.

Mr. Hunt, a fourth generation El Pasoan, graduated from Ysleta High School in 1962 and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin (1967). He received his MBA in Finance from UT Austin (1970) and later earned his MA in Management from the Drucker School of Management in Claremont, California (1986).

Mr. Hunt began his career by returning to El Paso to work for the family business, which he eventually grew into one of the nation's leading construction and development companies. As Chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies, Inc., Mr. Hunt manages more than \$13 billion in assets focused on the key areas of public-

private partnerships, community development, real asset investment management and multi-family housing. Mr. Hunt uses his business expertise as a board member of numerous business and leadership nonprofits in El Paso.

Beyond his notable business achievements, Mr. Hunt has been a particularly effective higher education advocate. He understands that access to college is essential to growing our middle class and ensuring that all Americans have an opportunity to succeed. Mr. Hunt is a board member of several national, statewide and local education organizations focused on college access, including Complete College America; the College for All Texans Foundation; and the Development Boards of the University of Texas at El Paso and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso. He previously served as the Vice-Chairman of the University of Texas System Board of Regents. This work allows him to focus on closing achievement gaps and increasing opportunity for traditionally underrepresented students. He is one of the first people I call when issues of higher education are before Congress.

Mr. Hunt is also passionate about promoting quality and accessible healthcare. He is the founding Chairman and current board member of the Medical Centers of Americas Foundation in El Paso; a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston; and was the Chairman of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation.

Mr. Hunt serves as Chairman of the Hunt Family Foundation, which he and his wife Gayle established in 1987. The El Paso community continues to be enriched by Woody Hunt's legacy of leadership, integrity and generosity. I thank Mr. Hunt for his commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone in El Paso, and in particular for his tireless efforts to ensure young people in our community have access to excellent educational opportunities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 452, "yea."

HONORING DR. LARRY RIDLEY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, legendary jazz artist Dr. Larry Ridley will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) at the Jazz Issue Forum and Concert that will take place during the 43rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). Dr. Ridley, an internationally renowned bassist/composer/bandleader/educator, will also perform at the concert, which will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ridley will receive the 2013