

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE  
OF BETTY BENNETT

**HON. SPENCER BACHUS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement from my office, it is my pleasure to recognize the lifetime of public service that Betty Jean Robinson Bennett has provided to Chilton County, the State of Alabama, and our country.

For a Member of Congress, a staple of good representation is listening to the concerns of constituents and addressing community needs identified by local officials and business, education, agricultural, and civic leaders. The role of the congressional field representative is essential to connecting what is happening on a daily basis in our communities to the work being done in the U.S. Congress. In Betty Bennett, I have had an effective, dedicated, and loyal staff member who has helped me to represent the Sixth District in Washington.

Betty, or "Miss Betty" as she is affectionately known, has deep roots in Chilton County. She attended Clanton Elementary School and Clanton Junior High School and graduated from Chilton County High School with honors and responsibilities including her position as editor of the school magazine in her senior year and membership in the National Beta Club.

In 1968, Betty began an association with government service and political activity that became a lifetime vocation. Her career and experiences provide a fascinating reflection on Alabama's recent political history. One of many originally-enrolled Democrats to later join the Republican Party on principle, Betty is the only person to have been the President of both the Democrat and Republican Women's Clubs in Chilton County. She continues to serve on the Chilton County Republican Executive Committee and on the Alabama Republican Executive Committee representing Chilton County.

Betty's leadership skills were recognized when she was chosen as the Selective Service Director for the State of Alabama, a presidentially-appointed position, in May 1990. She was recommended by Governor Guy Hunt and appointed by President George H.W. Bush through the National Director of the Selective Service System, Samuel K. Lessey, Jr. Betty was the first woman to serve as a state director and is the only woman to ever serve in that capacity in Alabama.

As director, Betty coordinated the appointment of all local Selective Service Boards and directed personnel in three National Guard and Reserve Unit detachments in Montgomery and Birmingham. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of Alabama by Governor Hunt for her achievements after being nominated by officers of the National Guard and Reserve and the Alabama Adjutant General.

Betty began her congressional duties in January 1997 as a field representative for then-Congressman Bob Riley in the Third District. She joined my staff in January 2003 after Bob was elected Governor of Alabama and has provided more than a decade of diligent service to the people of the Sixth District.

During that time, Betty has ably represented my office during the development of a number of important projects, including the establishment of the Jefferson State Chilton-Clanton Center. With her deep knowledge, she has always been my liaison to the agricultural community and has worked closely with the Alabama Farmers Federation, whose President Jimmy Parnell is also from Chilton County. Betty is an advocate for the local peach industry and can always be counted on for her support of the Chilton County Peach Festival. Above all, Betty has always cared about helping people and finding solutions to problems.

Betty's service and love of her home county has been commemorated, appropriately enough, at Chilton County High School. In 2006, then-Principal Larry McHaffey started the Betty Robinson Bennett Leadership Scholarship for a senior exhibiting academic achievement as well as leadership in school, community, and church activities. What was more meaningful to Betty than a scholarship being named in her honor, I am sure, is the help it offered to a student and future leader.

On Friday, December 6, Betty's legacy of service will be celebrated during a reception at Jemison City Hall. Her many friends know very well that "retirement" is just a word to Betty and that she will remain visible and active in her community for many years to come.

Let me close by again expressing my appreciation to Betty for her service to my office, the people of the Sixth District, and the State of Alabama during a most remarkable career.

HONORING DELTA BURIAL  
CORPORATION

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Funeral Home Business in the Delta, Delta Burial Corporation of Marks, Mississippi.

Delta Burial Corporation in Marks, Mississippi was first organized in 1927. It took on new life in 1928, when a couple of men got together and had it incorporated.

The founders of Delta Burial were Silas Kelly, I.W. LouAndrew and Rueben Price. The Officers at that time were: John Melchor—President; Dan Nickels—Vice President; Mamie Ruth Smith—Secretary; Hernando Butts—Treasurer and A.L. Saddler—General Manager and Agent.

Delta Burial Corporation is the only corporation that was owned by all black stockholders and still is today. The company started out with one building in Marks, MS, and then got stronger and added four more locations to serve the areas. The branches are: Belzoni Branch, Belzoni, MS; Clarksdale Branch, Clarksdale, MS; Lexington Branch, Lexington, MS and Mound Bayou Branch, Mound Bayou, MS.

Delta Burial is a business that provides burial, life insurance and pre-arrangements services for the deceased and their families. We strive to provide the highest quality of service to accomplish our goals. Our motto is "Seldom Equal, Never Excelled."

Delta Burial officers today are as follows: Manuel Killebrew—President, Fannie Smith—

Executive Secretary; Irma Jean Bell—General Manager; Aaron Gunn III, Dexter Howard and Cedric Burnett—Morticians; and Shelton Leonard—Funeral Director.

Each year Delta Burial gives back to the community and surrounding areas by donating funds for different causes and to the less fortunate. Also, they distribute Black History calendars, fans and yearly planners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Delta Burial Corporation for its dedication to serving our great country.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT D.  
WHITE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Robert D. White, we hereby acknowledge his exemplary military career of service and honor in the United States Air Force. Colonel White began his Air Force career as an officer and instructor pilot with the 37th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Mississippi in September 1992 and proceeded into various other positions of leadership, including Chief of Disclosure and Release Division Headquarters, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in Virginia, which provides geospatial intelligence in support of national security. Colonel White also served as Chief of Flight Safety for the Air National Guard, Andrews Air Force Base. And as a command pilot, he logged more than 4,500 hours in the air and served overseas. For his outstanding service and leadership in flight safety, Colonel White was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Second Oak Leaf Cluster. His singularly distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. We thank Colonel White for his service to our country and congratulate him on the successful completion of his duty as a United States Air Force officer.

CONGRATULATING MUNILLA CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ON  
THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Munilla Construction Management (MCM) on their 30th anniversary, and to commend its exemplary service to the Miami community.

MCM is a construction company founded in Miami, FL in 1983, which specializes in Heavy Civil and Building Construction. However, their history dates back to 1941 where for nearly two decades Fernando Munilla, Sr. was one of Cuba's premier builders and a pioneer in construction methodology. His endeavors included an engineering firm, three of the largest concrete plants, and a construction management company. His work in Cuba included major projects such as the Jose Marti Monument in Havana, and the Cuyaguatete River Bridge. However in 1960 Fidel Castro confiscated his firm and the Munilla family was separated.