

HONORING WILL T. TURNER, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 17, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr., who is a remarkable Civil Rights Worker, Extraordinary and public servant.

Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr. was born in Jefferson County, Mississippi on February 23, 1930 to Rena and Warren Turner, Sr. At the age of 7, his mother died shortly after childbirth and his Uncle and Aunt, Howard and Mary Lou Nichols, reared him along with his siblings.

Mr. Turner, Sr. attended Jefferson County Training School. Being independent and desiring a better life, at the age of 16 he began working with Sidney Brown, a white contractor. He remained in his employment for 20 years. During this period he became adept in the construction field and well known in this arena. He was approached to do private jobs, independent of Sidney Brown, which led to the beginning of Turner Construction.

Well known throughout the community for his generosity and kindness, Mr. Turner, Sr. became instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement in Fayette, Mississippi. In 1963, he moved Charles Evers, brother of slain civil rights advocate Medgar Evers, to Fayette. He became instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement of Fayette, Mississippi as well as the surrounding communities. He attended weekly NAACP Mass Meetings, participated in numerous civil rights marches and was often jailed for equality and justice for all.

In 1964, Mr. Turner, Sr. was elected as one of the first Black Aldermen to serve in a bi-racial town in the State of Mississippi along with four other blacks and Charles Evers as Mayor. He served three terms as an Alderman of the City of Fayette. He also served as Coroner of Jefferson County for 24 years.

Mr. Turner, Sr. is married to the former Florence Clark and they are the proud parents of two sons—Will T., Jr. and Perry (deceased) and five daughters—Delories, Mary, Patricia, Tina and Janice.

After working to register people to vote, after encouraging others to participate in the work of the movement in several different places, Mr. Turner participated in the slate of blacks seeking to make changes with the elected officials in the town of Fayette and they were all elected.

When elected to the Board of Alderman of Fayette, he was interviewed by JET magazine and they were all published in that month's issue of Jet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Civil Rights Worker Extraordinaire, Mr. Will T. Turner, Sr., for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS THE FAIRFAX COUNTY 2013 LAND CONSERVATION AND TREE PRESERVATION AND PLANTING AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 17, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the Fairfax County 2013 Land Conservation and Tree Preservation and Planting Awards.

Fairfax County is considered one of the best counties in the nation in which to live, work and raise a family. One reason for this designation is the innovative environmental protection policies that have been implemented by the County and embraced by its business partners. I was pleased to have led that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. These awards recognize the following developers, designers and site superintendents who have excelled in their stewardship of the environment:

Land Preservation Awards:  
Large Commercial: Jennings Toyota  
Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC  
Small Commercial: MTPD District II Substation and Training Facility  
Owner: Washington Metro Area Transit Authority

Large Single Family Residential: The Reserve at Timber Lake

Owner: Winchester Homes, Inc.  
Small Single Family Residential: Leatherland Property

Owner: Palisades Development at Telegraph Road, LLC

Special Project: Timber Ridge at EDS Park Facility

Owner: Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc.

Linear Project: Timber Ridge at EDS North—South Collector

Owner: Timber Ridge at Discovery Square, Inc.

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Jennings Toyota

Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC

Best Protected Environmentally Sensitive Site: Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project

Owner: Fairfax County Park Authority

Outstanding Engineering Firms: Walter L. Phillip, INC for Jennings Toyota

Outstanding Superintendent: Gareen Khoranian for Huntley Meadow Park Wetland Restoration Project

Outstanding Contractor: S.W. Rodgers for Jennings Toyota

Outstanding Developer/Owner: Jennings Business Park, LLC/Jennings Toyota

Outstanding E/S Inspectors of the Year: Mike Ernst, Gary Cook, and Mark Evans

Outstanding E/S Plan Reviewers of the Year: Walt Hamilton, Laura O'Leary, and Greg Rodgers

Tree Planting Awards:  
Project: Clemyjontri Park

Developer: Fairfax County Park Authority

Project: Lee Highway and Nutley Street

Developer: Washington Property Company, LLC

Project: Oakton Library

Developer: Fairfax County, DPWES, Capital Facilities

Tree Preservation Awards:  
Project: Huntley Meadows  
Developer: Fairfax County Park Authority  
Project: Roseglen  
Builder: Stanley Martin Homes  
Project: The Reserve at Stone Hill  
Builder: Winchester Homes, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these honorees. Fairfax County and its residents have benefitted greatly from the collaborative spirit that is represented by these awards today, and I thank each of the awardees for their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN YOUNG, A SENIOR AT FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL, IN KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 17, 2014*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an exceptional high school student from my District whose common-sense and eloquent words brought national attention to education policy.

Kevin Young, a senior at Farragut High School in Knox County, Tennessee, recently testified in front of the Knox County School Board against Common Core, the one-size-fits-all educational scheme being implemented across the Nation.

Kevin's speech was noticed by outlets such as FOX News and Glenn Beck, who called the remarks possibly the best case against Common Core ever made.

I have been friends with Kevin's grandmother for many years and know him to be a very passionate and intelligent young man.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin has learned through his own experience that, in his words, "creativity, appreciation, and inquisitiveness are impossible to scale." I bring his powerful speech, which is reprinted below in its entirety, to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. All education policy-makers should listen closely to his wisdom.

SPEECH TO KNOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(By Ethan Young)

In a mere five minutes, I hope to provide insightful comments about a variety of educational topics. I sincerely hope you disprove the research I've compiled.

Here's the history of the Common Core. In 2009, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers partnered with Achieve Inc., a nonprofit that received millions in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Thus the initiative seemed to spring from states, when in reality it was contrived by an insular group of educational testing executives with only two academic content specialists. Neither specialist approved the final standards, and the English consultant, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, publicly stated she felt the standards left students with an empty skill set, lacking literary knowledge.

While educators and administrators were later included in the validation committee and feedback groups, they did not play a role in the actual drafting of the standards. The product is a, quote, "rigorous preparation for career and college," yet many educators agree that "rigorous" is a buzzword. These standards aren't rigorous, just different, designed for industrial model of school.