

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: Garen 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.

Nevertheless, Common Core emerged. Keep in mind, the specific standards were never voted upon by Congress, the Department of Education, state or local governments. Yet, their implementation was approved by 49 states and territories. The president essentially bribed states into implementation via Race to the Top, offering 4.35 billion taxpayer dollars to participating states, \$500 million of which went to Tennessee. And much like No Child Left Behind, the program promises national testing and a one-size-fits-all education, because, hey, it worked really well the first time.

While I do admire some aspects of the core, such as fewer standards and an emphasis on application and writing, it's not going to fix our academic deficit. If nothing else, these standards are a glowing conflict of interest. And they lack the research they allegedly received. And most importantly, the standards illustrate a mistrust of teachers, something I believe this county has already felt for a while.

I've been fortunate to have incredible educators that opened my eyes to the joy of learning, and I love them like my family. I respect them entirely, which is why it frustrates me to review the TEAM and APEX evaluation systems. These subjective anxiety-producers do more to damage a teacher's self-esteem than you realize. Erroneous evaluation coupled with strategic compensation presents a punitive model that, as a student, is like watching your teacher jump through flaming hoops to earn a score. Have you forgotten the nature of a classroom? A teacher cannot be evaluated without his students, because as a craft, teaching is an interaction. Thus how can you expect to gauge a teacher's success with no control for student participation or interest?

I stand before you because I care about education, but also because I want to support my teachers. And just as they fought for my academic achievement, so I want to fight for their ability to teach. This relationship is at the heart of instruction, yet there will never be a system by which it is accurately measured.

But I want to take a step back. We can argue the details ad infinitum. Yet I observe a much broader issue with education today. Standards-based education is ruining the way we teach and learn. Yes, I've already been told by legislators and administrators, Ethan, that's just the way things work. But why? I'm going to answer that question. It's bureaucratic convenience. It works with nuclear reactors, it works for business models, why can't it work with students? I mean, how convenient calculating exactly who knows what and who needs what. I mean, why don't we just manufacture robots instead of students? They last longer and they always do what they're told.

But education is unlike every other bureaucratic institute in our government. The task of teaching is never quantifiable. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I haven't learned anything. I'd like to repeat that. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I have not learned anything. Creativity, appreciation, inquisitiveness—these are impossible to scale, but they're the purpose of education, why our teachers teach, and why I choose to learn.

And today we find ourselves in a nation that produces workers. Everything is career and college preparation. Somewhere our founding fathers are turning in their graves, pleading, screaming, and trying to say to us that we teach to free minds, we teach to inspire, we teach to equip. The careers will come naturally.

I know we're just one city in a huge system that excitedly embraces numbers, but ask

any of these teachers, ask any of my peers, and ask yourselves, haven't we gone too far with data?

I attended tonight's meeting to share my critiques, but as Benjamin Franklin quipped, any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do. The problems I cite are very real. And I only ask that you hear them out, investigate them, and do not dismiss them as another fool's criticisms. I'll close with a quote of Jane L. Stanford that Dr. McIntyre, shared in a recent speech:

"You have my entire confidence in your ability to do conscientious work to the very best advantage to the students—that they be considered paramount to all and everything else. We're capable of fixing education, and I commit myself to that task. But you cannot ignore me, my teachers, or the truth. We need change, but not Common Core, high-stakes evaluations, or more robots." Thank you.

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#### IN HONOR OF ROD RICE

#### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 17, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Rod Rice as he prepares to hang up his microphone after a 40 year career in radio.

Rod Rice has more than three decades on the air in Houston—providing us news and information. Much of that time, he's spent at Houston's Public Radio station, 88.7 KUHF.

He joined KUHF from KTRH as a reporter and he's joined this Friday morning as the anchor of KUHF Morning Edition. As Rod told a media reporter, "It's been a pleasure playing a small role in the daily life of this wonderful city." Well, Rod, it's been our pleasure as listeners.

During Rod Rice's tenure at KUHF, the station has grown their news operation from a 5 person newsroom to a full service news and information station that Houston relies on each and every day.

Rod Rice may sound like he was born behind a news microphone, but he served in the US Army and as a disc jockey in many formats over several years before coming to Houston in 1991 to anchor the news on NewsRadio 740 KTRH. That's because Rice's fascination with radio began with his grandfather and listening to radio programs. That fascination never left him and those he mentored say he is always eager to pass it on to a new generation.

Rod quickly developed a reputation for working with new reporters and helping them to make their news coverage better. One of those reporters mentored by Rod Rice now serves as my Communications Director.

Rice has been honored more times that we can address here for excellence in broadcast journalism, including a regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association.

What's next for Rod Rice is turning off his early morning alarm and enjoying life, but his roots in radio will always be a part of him. And, those who know him are convinced he will continue to mentor and share his love of radio for many years to come.

HONORING MR. L.C. LEACH, 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 a remarkable civil rights advocate and public servant, Mr. L.C. Leach, Sr. Throughout his remarkable life, Mr. Leach made unprecedented strides towards the ongoing battle of ensuring civil rights for African Americans in his community.

Born February 7, 1927, Mr. Leach was a lifelong resident of Bolton, Mississippi. He received his formal education at Champion Hill Elementary School, Champion Hill High School, and Southern Christian Institute College. He received additional education at Jackson State University and became a prominent figure in the community through his employment at Universal Life Insurance, located in Jackson, Mississippi.

As an African American male living in a small rural town of segregated Mississippi, Mr. Leach witnessed and endured many injustices towards himself and others in the community. But with the necessity of change beckoning his spirit, Mr. Leach set aside any fears or reservations he may have had to help his community rise above the systematic inequalities of segregation.

Through a coordinated effort with other African American members of the community, Mr. Leach put forth his determination to integrate the white-only elementary school in Bolton, Mississippi by sending his son (along with three other African American students) to attend class there. Although many in town were uneasy with the decision to do so (both whites and blacks), the stance proceeded without incident.

Using the stance on the white-only elementary school as a catalyst for advancing other significant changes in the community, Mr. Leach became an avid member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He worked extremely close with many other civil rights advocates in the state, most notably brothers Charles and Medgar Evers.

Through organized boycotts orchestrated through the NAACP, Mr. Leach and others were instrumental in integrating white-only grocery stores in Jackson, Mississippi, the Jackson Zoological Park, and public restrooms and water fountains in and around the city of Jackson. At times, Mr. Leach helped local residents strategize boycott tactics under the cover of his insurance office.

In addition to advocating for the dismantlement of segregation, Mr. Leach will be forever known for his courage in seeking and obtaining the elected position as first African American Alderman of Bolton, Mississippi. After serving as Alderman, he would later sit as Judge Leach of Bolton, as well as spearhead an effort with other community leaders to establish the community's first Head Start program for area preschool children to attend.

Through all his community advocacy and public servitude, Mr. Leach was a wonderful husband and father. He was married to his loving wife, Earnestine Perry Leach, for 55 years at the time of his death. He has two sons (Joe and L.C., Jr.) and two daughters (Veronica and Bobbie) who also will continue