

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP PRESTON  
WARREN WILLIAMS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

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

Whereas, Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II is celebrating years of service to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in ministry and has provided stellar leadership to his church on an international level as the 119th consecrated bishop of the A.M.E. Church 6th Episcopal District, of Georgia; and

Whereas, Bishop Williams, with the support of his wife, Supervisor Dr. Wilma Delores Webb Williams, and under the guidance of God, has pioneered and sustained the 6th Episcopal District, as an instrument in our nation that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop Williams is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with my District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II, as he celebrates service in ministry and to salute him as he retires from pastoral leadership; A true Man of Excellence; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 22, 2015 as: Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of October, 2015.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCINE R.  
KAUFMAN

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Francine R. (Fran) Kaufman, renowned pediatric endocrinologist, author, consultant, professor, researcher, and corporate officer in the medical field of diabetes. Dr. Kaufman is being honored by The Executives of the Los Angeles Jewish Homes at their 19th Annual Circle of Life Gala, for her extraordinary contributions in the medical field.

Born in 1951, Fran grew up in Chicago with her parents and two siblings. According to Fran, she believes she decided to become a doctor when she was about four years old, under the direction of her father, who was a physician. After attending Northwestern University, she obtained her medical degree from Chicago Medical School, specializing in Pediatric Medicine with a sub specialty of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

In 1980, Dr. Kaufman was appointed as an Instructor in Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Southern California (USC); in 1997 she became Professor of Pediatrics at USC; and

in 2001 she accepted the position as the Head of the Center of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Currently, Fran is the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Global, Medical, and Health Affairs at Medtronic, Inc., a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Some of Fran's professional volunteer positions include serving as a Delegate to the World Health Organization Assembly in Switzerland, a California Delegate to the Healthy School Summit in Washington, D.C. and the California Task Force on Childhood Obesity. In addition, she was President of the American Diabetes Association, Chair of the Youth Consultative Section of the International Diabetes Federation, Chair of the National Diabetes Education Program, a member of the Advisory Council of the Diabetes Branch of the National Institutes of Health, and is currently a member of the National Association of Medicine, among other organizations.

Dr. Kaufman has received numerous awards, including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Association of Diabetes Educators Living Legend Award, the McGovern American Medical Writers Award, the California Public Health Advocacy Award, and the Charles Siegel Disability Rights Legal Center Award of Loyola Law School. Consistently included in the annual "Best Doctors in America" list, she has been recognized by the California State Senate and the Los Angeles City Council for her health advocacy efforts, and nominated by former Congressman Henry Waxman as a Local Legend of Medicine. She is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, USC's honorary society, and was awarded their Undergraduate Writers Humanitarian Award. In 2009, she received a Telly Award for starring in and authoring Diabetes: The Global Epidemic, the Discovery Health Documentary.

Dr. Kaufman is married to Dr. Neal Kaufman, MD. She and her husband have two sons, Adam and Jonah, and four grandchildren, Maya, Dylan, Logan and Cassia.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing Dr. Francine R. Kaufman for her significant contributions to the medical field for more than three decades.

HONORING MAMIE OSBORNE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mamie Osborne, who is an assistant professor of English and has devoted herself to teaching and research since she began working at MVSU in 1999. She completed post-graduate studies at the University of Toledo, University of Louisville, and University of Mississippi in American literature, rhetoric and composition, children's and young adult literature, and received an undergraduate degree in English from MVSU.

As a professor, Osborne assisted the Department of English and Foreign Languages' English Education program successfully by drafting two NCATE self-study reports and earning the program the status of "Nationally

Recognized" twice; she is a member of Valley's Quality Enhancement Plan faculty team; and she holds membership in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the Black Caucus of NCTE.

Osborne is a scholar and creative writer. Her scholarly and creative works have been published in national and international scholarly and literary journals including: The Southern Quarterly, Valley Voices, Black Magnolias, The Kentucky River, and Renditions (Hong Kong). Her interview with Sterling Plump will be published in Conversations with Sterling Plump by the University Press of Mississippi in spring, 2016. She has also made numerous presentations at professional conferences and serves as an editor for Valley Voices, a national journal for criticism and writing published at MVSU.

The assistant professor devotes herself to community service. Osborne has volunteered to help the City of Itta Bena address its community's literacy problem by volunteering during the summer and after school at the Itta Bena Public Library and for the past two years conducted workshops for the MVSU Reading Institute in children and young adult literature and writing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mamie Osborne, a professor, writer, researcher and educator, for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

CONGRATULATING ROBOTHINK ON  
THEIR GRAND OPENINGS IN  
MUDELEIN AND BUFFALO  
GROVE

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize RoboThink on their grand opening in the Mundelein and Buffalo Grove communities. RoboThink's mission is to provide an engaging, effective, and innovative way to introduce this STEM education program to young individuals K-12 and even beyond.

RoboThink creatively teaches students how to build robots and how to code, while being challenged to use their critical thinking, problem solving and visual spatial abilities. They hope to inspire our next generation to pursue career paths in engineering.

Mr. Speaker, this incredible program would not be possible without two inspiring young individuals, Danny Park, the President, and Anthony Shvets, Program Director, of RoboThink. I wish them continued success in the future and look forward to working with them in growing and expanding their program to thousands of other students.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRUCE STREET  
SCHOOL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

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

Whereas, in 1938, the first school for African American children was established in Lithonia, Georgia under the name of the Lithonia Colored School which would become the Lithonia Colored High School and today is known as the Bruce Street School, the only school for African American children in Lithonia until 1968; and

Whereas, we celebrate and honor all of the graduates of the Bruce Street School; and

Whereas, we recognize them for their tenacity, community service and leadership in building a strong community that promotes education and family; and

Whereas, upon graduation, these students wrote their own stories by becoming productive citizens, serving in the Armed Services, as small business owners, educators, civic leaders, civil servants and community advocates, thus allowing our district to have pillars of wisdom and strength for many years to come; and

Whereas, the Bruce Street School graduates are distinguished citizens of our district, spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all citizens that desire to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Bruce Street School Classes of 1938 through 1968 as they celebrate their All Classes Reunion in Stone Mountain, Georgia; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 7, 2015 as: The Bruce Street School Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 7th day of November, 2015.

RECOGNIZING HISTORICAL  
BAYTOWN MEXICAN SCHOOL

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Baytown Mexican School for its distinction as an Official Texas Historical marker.

The Baytown Mexican School was founded in 1923 with the mission of teaching and nurturing Mexican-American children as they transitioned to English. The school, which was staffed by local students from Robert E. Lee High School, taught Mexican-American children until its closing in 1969.

In 1992, a new school was built as the successor to the Baytown Mexican School. Although the original three room schoolhouse has since been demolished, the dedication of this historical site will serve as an appropriate and lasting tribute to the Baytown Mexican School.

HONORING VETERAN EDISON  
THOMAS BROWN, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Edison Thomas Brown, Jr.

U.S. Army Veteran Edison Thomas Brown, Jr. is a Mississippi native who was born and reared in the hills of Holmes County within the U.S. Second Congressional District.

Born in the very late 1950's, Mr. Brown, and other youth like him, grew up during the heat of oppression, segregation and poverty of the Holmes County 1960s civil rights movement. Yet, Mr. Brown says, he nor his family ever viewed themselves as underclass.

Although poor by economic standards and conditions, he and his siblings learned early of the importance of working hard to make a decent living by two nurturing parents, who were farmers themselves and who also worked for white farmers as well, picking cotton and such. His parents were Edison Thomas Brown, Sr. and Ednora Randle Brown (both now deceased).

His father was also a U.S. Army veteran who served in World War II. In fact, Mr. Brown says he was inspired to volunteer to serve his country in the military by his father and eldest brother James, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. After graduating from high school at what is formerly known as Tchula Attendance Center (TAC) in Tchula, MS, he began his military career in July, 1975 at Fort Knox, Ky.

During his tour of duty, he was trained and served as a Track Vehicle Mechanic, specializing in diesel repairs. His U.S. military career also included service in Gelnhausen, Germany.

While in the military, he earned the rank of Specialist 4th Class (SPEC 4). Proud to serve his country, Mr. Brown is grateful that his military career afforded him many travels that he would not have afforded to make and opportunities he possibly would not have had.

Mr. Brown's tour of duty concluded at Fort Stewart, GA in 1979; however, he remained in reserve status until 1981, when he received an Honorable Discharge.

After the military, Mr. Brown took advantage of the GI Bill and began to educate himself (part-time) in Electronic Service Technology coursework. Over the years, he has served in several employment capacities in the Metro Jackson area. His longest stint was with McRaes Distribution and its merging operations, 1985–2001.

Today, a Clinton, Miss, resident in the Second Congressional District, Mr. Brown spends most of his time actively serving in Holy Temple Baptist Church of West Jackson, pastored by the history-making Rev. Audrey Lynne Hall. At Holy Temple as a deacon, he is Chairman and also serves as Sunday School Superintendent and teacher. He, his wife, Gail, and son, Edison, III, have also participated in the church's ongoing Homeless Outreach Ministry in which the church gives toiletries, snacks and other needful items to the homeless once a month at Poindexter Park near Downtown Jackson.

Mr. Brown's favorite scripture of the Bible in which he tries to live by is Proverbs 3:5–6—“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a special Veteran, Mr. Edison Thomas Brown, Jr., for his dedication and support to the Holmes County Community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF AUGUSTINE "GUS" ORTIZ VEGAS

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, rise to recognize the life and service of Augustine "Gus" Ortiz Vegas, who served honorably for fifteen years with the Richmond Police Department in Contra Costa County.

A lifelong Bay Area resident, Mr. Vegas was born on August 8, 1957, in San Francisco and moved to nearby Vallejo as a young child. He was a member of the 1976 graduating class of St. Patrick's High School in Vallejo, where he excelled at track, football, and wrestling.

Those who knew Mr. Vegas admired him for his generosity and his empathy. Together with his wife Sandra, he ran a non-profit called Fostering Greatness that offered mentoring, clothing, and other resources to children in the local foster care system.

In his professional career, Mr. Vegas always focused on keeping others safe. His first job was as Operator at the Equilon refinery in Martinez, California, where he was also a rescue team member and auxiliary firefighter. In 1990, he graduated as the Valedictorian of the Napa Valley College Police Academy, and in 2001, began his career with the Richmond Police Department.

Officer Vegas applied his tremendous ability to connect with others to his work where he fully embodied the ideals of community policing. He went beyond simply deterring crime and arresting suspects to having genuine empathy and a connection to the community he served.

Officer Vegas's aptitude was recognized within the department and he became a property crimes detective rising through the department to become a homicide detective. In these roles, he was not only adept at solving crimes, but shined in his ability to provide empathy and closure for victims' families. Officer Vegas was versatile in his professional abilities due to his gift to connect with others. In his last assignment, he worked closely with agencies like the Richmond City Attorney's Office and the Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) to enforce the City of Richmond's Municipal Codes.

Officer Vegas cared deeply about his family and considered them the most important part of his life. Congressman THOMPSON and I send our deepest condolences to Officer Vegas' family, including Sandra, his wife of 32 years, their five sons, five daughters, and 22 grandchildren. Officer Vegas made a lasting impression on our community, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY DIXON

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

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

Whereas, Mrs. Betty Dixon was born on October 23, 1950 in Atlanta, Georgia and this