1938 by Mr. Percy Greene, the Jackson Advocate is a weekly newspaper covering issues affecting the African-American community.

Founder, Mr. Greene was a veteran of World War I and a Civil Rights leader in the 1940s and 1950s. Mr. Greene was determined to make a contribution to the struggle of African-American people in the South during a time when they were severely oppressed by legal segregation and Jim Crow.

In 1940 Mr. Greene and thirty other publishers formed a consortium of African American newspapers to bring relevant information to black readers in the United States of America. That consortium led to the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which promoted coverage of injustices against African Americans as well as their accomplishments. In 1978, Mr. Charles Tisdale became the owner and publisher of the Jackson Advocate and remained the owner and publisher until he passed in 2007.

The paper has received numerous awards and citations in its 68 years of service in reporting news and events relevant to the African-American community, including the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Award for Excellence, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award, and the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year. In 1988 the magazine Newsday referred to the Advocate as a ''national treasure.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Advocate for their dedication to serving and educating those in Mississippi and around the country.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST A. SAMPSON III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ernest A. Sampson III, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Ernest Sampson is the youngest of three children born to Ernest Jr. and Fay Sampson. As a young child, Mr. Sampson would often spend time with his maternal grandparents, James and Winona Willie of Brooklyn, NY. While there he learned to emulate the caring nature of his grandmother and the respect his grandfather earned from the surrounding community as the head of James H. Willie Funeral Home, Inc. As a result, an honest interest in service for young Mr. Sampson was born.

Receiving his early education in the New York Public School system, Mr. Sampson graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in 1982 and went on to obtain his Bachelor's of Science degree in Funeral Service Administration from St. John's University in 1986. In 1986, after taking several exams and serving in a one year apprenticeship with the James H. Willie Funeral Home, Mr. Sampson achieved his lifelong goal of becoming a licensed funeral director. Many of life's challenges would come the young man's way, yet he pursued his dreams and aspirations and established Sampson Funeral Service in 1993. Since that time, Mr. Sampson has expanded his ministry of comfort throughout the Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens communities. Mr. Simpson has conducted numerous educational seminars on the topics of funerals, consolation, and city, state, and federal burial assistance programs. These seminars have been piloted on Career Days at schools, community events, and at youth organizations.

Mr. Sampson currently serves on the ministerial and teaching staffs of the First Baptist Full Gospel Church of Brownsville, NY. He has received awards from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz as well as the New York Men of Distinction award, and also served as a sponsor for Operation Get Ahead in 2003, Annual Youth Explosion in 2003, and the Coney Island Youth Alive sponsor in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Sampson for his extraordinary accomplishments as a funeral director in New York City. Appreciation, comfort, and professionalism are paramount in his life and serve as guiding posts for the families and communities he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Sampson.

TRIBUTE TO TOM JONES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my Staff is second to none in providing the best assistance to everyone in our District. I take great pride in the work that each one has done on my behalf and on behalf of everyone in the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina.

Each District Staff member has shown a strong sense of dedication in meeting the needs of each and every one of our constituents. They often go well beyond the call to make sure each constituent is treated fairly and respectfully by our government agencies and that they receive appropriate resolution. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Tom Jones served on my District staff during my first term in Congress. Tom was instrumental in helping to establish our office's outreach program with the local business community. Tom also performed extensive research into grant opportunities for the District and was a valuable resource to local governments and non-profits in realizing assistance available to them from the Federal government. Tom established our office as a vital resource to the region in helping to grow the local and state economies.

Tom should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Tom and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Tom Jones for his hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING GILDA GONZALES UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Ms. Gilda Gonzales and the tremendous accomplishments of the Spanish Speaking Unity Council under her leadership. For nearly five decades, the Unity Council has continued to enrich families' quality of life by helping them build wealth and assets through comprehensive programs of sustainable economic, social and neighborhood development. We honor the Unity Council along with its fearless leader, Mrs. Gilda Gonzales, who is stepping down from her duties as Chief Executive Officer.

This evening, supporters and friends gather in the Fruitvale District of Oakland to bid farewell to Ms. Gonzales and to congratulate the Unity Council for all of its many accomplishments. In 1964, what started as a political action group soon evolved into a social services assistance program to aid Latinos in the Fruitvale district. By 1967, the organization had become incorporated as a nonprofit organization and service agency. And, in the years that followed, the Unity Council became a powerful catalyst for pervasive social change.

In addition to securing resources for the Fruitvale district, the Unity Council gained respectability and credibility within the Latino community, as well as among local, state and federal officials and private funding sources. As a result of the Unity Council's trailblazing role in the Fruitvale area, public and private social services agencies began to locate offices there for the first time. Furthermore, Unity Council representatives moved onto a variety of advisory groups in the East Bay, influencing policy, funding and resource allocation decisions while providing an empowering voice for Oakland's Latino community.

Ms. Gonzales' prolific career includes three decades of inspired leadership and advocacy. Raised in a small town in California's Central Valley, Gilda Gonzales is the youngest of five children. From an early age, Ms. Gonzales knew she wanted to go to college and enter public service. Her first government job was an internship in the office of Congressman Ron Dellums. Then, when 500 people applied for one-year fellowships at the California State Assembly, she was one of 12 selected. After working for several state assembly members, she left Sacramento in 1991 to assume the position of policy analyst with former Oakland Mayor Harris' office.

During her 14-year tenure in City Hall, Ms. Gonzales served in several capacities, including budget analyst, Assistant to the Finance Agency Director, and dual Chief of Staff for then-City Manager Robert Bobb and Mayor Jerry Brown. In 2001, she was named the City of Oakland's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this capacity, she was the City of Oakland's state legislative lobbyist and managed the City's contracted federal lobbyists. Throughout Ms. Gonzales' successful government career, where she was one of the highest-level Latinos working in City Hall, she