

each patient he treats, but also his students hoping to follow in his footsteps. It is his incredible talent and spirit of enthusiasm with which he has always conducted himself that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Thanks for your continued service.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN
WESLEY WINTERS, SR.

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a great North Carolinian, John Wesley Winters, Sr.

North Carolina and its capital city, Raleigh, lost one of its most outstanding citizens with the death of John Wesley Winters, Sr., on February 15. Mr. Winters was a builder, land developer, civil leader, and a pioneer in improving race relations in his city and State. He was a loyal Democrat and an innovative champion for human rights.

Mr. Winters worked as a milkman and airport skycap in his youth, saving his money with the goal of becoming a builder for south-east Raleigh's African American community. In 1957, he opened his home-building company and began building homes. Each year brought more houses. In the early 1960s he developed Biltmore Hills as a neighborhood of affordable homes for middle-class African American families. He named the streets of the subdivision for famous African Americans, including (Ralph) Bunche and (Ella) Fitzgerald Drives and (Roy) Campanella Lane. He later developed Madonna Acres, an upper-level development near St. Augustine's College, and Wintershaven, an apartment complex for senior citizens.

Elected to the Raleigh City Council in 1961, only a year after the Greensboro drug store sit-ins launched the civil rights movement in North Carolina, Mr. Winters was thrust into a key leadership role in Raleigh and Wake County. His was the voice on the city council raised to help the city respond to the civil rights revolution. Quiet-spoken, diplomatic, determined, he was a tower of strength for both whites and blacks as the city responded to the demands for equal rights. When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visited Raleigh in 1961, it was Mr. Winters who was asked to pick him up at the airport and drive him to the speech. Former Governor James B. Hunt called Mr. Winters "the best bridge-builder between the races that has ever come along in North Carolina." Governor Hunt was later to appoint Mr. Winters to the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

In 1974, Mr. Winters and Mr. Fred Alexander of Charlotte were elected to the North Carolina State Senate. They were the first two African Americans elected to that body since Reconstruction. With quiet determination and hard work, Mr. Winters quickly became a leader in the State senate, forming life-long friendships with North Carolina's political leaders. He was a friend of Governors, Senators, Congressmen and Presidents. Governor Terry Sanford, whose term as Governor corresponded with the civil rights protests, was a personal friend and sought Mr. Winters' advice.

Mr. Winters is survived by his wife of 63 years Marie; by seven children, Frances, John, Jr., Donna, Naomi, Rebecca, Roland and Seaneia; by a brother, Joseph Winters of Raleigh; by a sister, Delores Scotto of Port Charlotte, Florida; by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His courage and his leadership will be missed in Raleigh, Wake County, and North Carolina. If God charges each of us that we leave the world a better place than we found it on our birth, John Winters succeeded admirably. He lived, as the Chinese proverb says, "in interesting times." We can only thank God that a kind Providence saw fit to place us on the same highway of life with John Winters and made him our friend.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP AND MRS.
R.E. RANGER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month 2004, I rise today to recognize an outstanding and historic African American ministry and church in my district. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Bishop & Mrs. R.E. Ranger and historic Wayside Church of God In Christ, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger served as the legendary Pastor of Wayside Church of God In Christ from January 16, 1930 until January 6, 1992—a period of 62 years of continuous ministry at the same Church location at 2100 Beckham Place, Fort Worth, Texas 76104—and is believed to have served one of the longest tenures as a Pastor of the same church—if not the longest—of any pastor in Fort Worth history and one of the longest continuous pastoral tenures in the State of Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was born on Sunday, January 22, 1899 in the small, southern, rural area of Wilson Creek community, Allenhurst, Texas in Matagorda County and was a serious, disciplined student who became a voracious reader and independent learner who acknowledged the call of God to preach the gospel at age 17 in San Antonio, Texas and continued as a gospel preacher for over 75 years (Diamond Jubilee).

Bishop R.E. Ranger rose from very humble beginnings on his own via early self-education at the St. Mary's Baptist Church using Catholic books and materials and without customary parental support to become an outstanding radio and TV trailblazer and pioneer in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as the nation and with the aid and assistance of radio and TV stations owned by Amon Carter, Jr.—WBAP Radio and WBAP-TV—achieved a number of historic 'firsts' in the 1930's, 40's and 50's, including but not limited to: the Founding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ (Southeast) in Texas; a pioneering Pastor and Bishop in the Church of God In Christ in the State of Texas; the first African American appointed a denominational Bishop in Fort Worth History; the first African American minister in America to receive 'national' radio air time; the first African American minister in the South to have a national radio ministry in the early 1930's; first African American minister south of the Mason/Dixon line to have weekly broadcasts short

waved to many parts of the world—such as Australia, South America and England; and, became internationally known and his homilies were featured on television from such locales as Piccadilly Square in London and Honolulu, Hawaii; first African American minister in America to be seen in a "live" television worship service from a church auditorium; featured in June 1949 issue of Ebony Magazine as one of the "Outstanding Black Ministers on Radio"; and a survey revealed his WBAP radio audience to be about six (6) million at its peak.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was the historic minister of the Wayside Church of God In Christ. In 1944, he personally drew up the blueprints for the current Wayside Church after receiving a God-given vision of a new, brick church in the "shape of a cross" with a tower. With that vision, he tore down the former church facility—the "Little Wooden Church on the Hill"—with his own hands.

Bishop R.E. Ranger was a pioneer in the Church of God in Christ in the state of Texas and was appointed Presiding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ (Southeast) by the founder of the Church of God In Christ—Bishop C.H. Mason. He also became an influential state and national religious leader headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bishop R.E. Ranger willingly opened doors for activities for the good of the larger community and provided material and spiritual assistance to countless numbers of people in need. As a member of the NAACP and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, he was actively involved in religious, civic, and educational activities and the struggle for human rights.

Mrs. Blanche Mae Ranger was born March 20, 1904 in Houston, Texas, and graduated from the City of Houston's Normal and Colored High School on June 1, 1922. She also received a teaching degree from the historic Tuskegee Normal & Industrial Institute on May 22, 1924, during the time of George Washington Carver. Blanche Mae Ranger served with Bishop Ranger at Wayside Church from January 16, 1930 until her passing on October 26, 1985.

Mrs. Blanche Mae Ranger was an exemplary Christian wife, a licensed missionary, musician and singer of the radio/TV ministry theme song—"The Old Ship of Zion", homemaker, mother of eleven (11) children, home economics teacher, poll tax collector and civic worker of Fort Worth, Texas. She reared and supported the education of a host of children and grandchildren who studied at and received numerous college and postgraduate degrees from institutions such as Huston Tillotson, Wiley College, Hastings Law School (UC), Lincoln University, University of Minnesota, Howard University, Howard University Law School, Lane College, University of Texas, Rutgers Law School, Morehouse College, Bowdoin College, Harvard Law School, University of Michigan Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Oberlin College, MIT, Stanford, Boston University, Perdue University, Northwestern University, United States Air Force Academy, Loyola Marymont University, and University of Virginia.

I am very proud of the achievements of Bishop and Mrs. R.E. Ranger and historic Wayside Church. Thanks to their significant achievements, Bishop and Mrs. R.E. Ranger and Wayside Church were symbols of selfless