

a boy, his father sent him to Tuskegee Institute to study in the farm educational and vocational academy. He studied for four years; helping in the wheel shop during his spare time. He began his ministerial career on February 11, 1911.

His first pastorate was the Shiloh Baptist Church of Alabama City, Alabama. In 1917, Reverend Vaughn came to Rome as Pastor of the Lovejoy Baptist Church, where he served for over fifty years. During three summers he studied in Gadsden, Alabama working toward his degree and then entered Morehouse College. He returned to Rome in 1923 with his degree and once again took over the pastorate of the church. Reverend Vaughn also served as pastor of Flint Hill Baptist Church of Gaylesville, Alabama, where he served for 25 years. While in Rome, he also served Matthew Chapel Baptist Church for 4 years, Friendship Baptist Church of Adairsville, Georgia for 9 years, and the Hopewell Baptist Church of Dalton, Georgia for 14 years.

In 1948, Reverend Vaughn was elected as Vice President of the Rome Ministerial Alliance, composed of both black and white ministers. This was the first time an African American had been elected to an office. Reverend Vaughn's interests did not stop with problems of just his own congregation. He was constantly being called on to help solve outsiders' problems and to aid needy families, and he also posted bail to get people out of jail. During the Christmas Season, he was one of the leading figures in the Empty Stocking Fund, and also one of the prime forces in helping Rome Black Leaders procure a band for Old Main High School. He was looked upon as a leader in all civic drives and campaigns benefiting both races, and he freely gave of his time and monies to help build a better Rome.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF BLACK PRIDES'
ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEETING

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the International Federation of Black Prides' Annual Meeting and Technical Assistance Meeting, which will be held in Washington, D.C., from January 13–16, 2012.

The International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)—a 501(c)(3) with offices in Washington, D.C., Jacksonville, FL, and Los Angeles, CA—is a coalition that promotes a multinational network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Black Prides and community-based organizations dedicated to: promoting grassroots organizing around issues affecting the Black LGBT community; promoting community health and wellness; providing technical assistance to its member Prides; promoting unity; and ensuring educational development, economic empowerment, and individual and collective self-determination.

The mission of the IFBP is to build awareness of and pride in the diversity of the black LGBT community. Each local Black Pride is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of the IFBP. Each Black Pride hosts year-

round services and activities in addition to a multi-day festival that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the black LGBT community through educational workshops, health seminars, artistic events, and activism on the local level. Since its formation in 1999, the IFBP has grown to include 32 domestic member- and affiliate Prides and three international Prides. D.C. Black Pride, which will celebrate its 22nd anniversary in May 2012, was a charter member of the IFBP.

The IFBP is led by a national board comprised of eight members—four officers, three At-Large members and one Ex-Officio member. The board consists of: Dwayne Jenkins, Chair; Kimberly Jones, Vice-Chair; Anthony Hardaway, Secretary; Elizabeth Burch, Treasurer; Victoria Kirby, Member At-Large; Rev. Eric P. Lee, Member At-Large; Charles E. Nelson II, Member At-Large; and Earl Fowlkes, Jr., Ex-Officio Member.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all who are attending the IFBP's Annual Meeting and Technical Assistance Meeting.

HONORING TEXAS CENTENARIAN
CLESPIE WEST CARR

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ms. Clespie West Carr of Houston, Texas, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Ms. Carr celebrated her 100th birthday on January 4, 2012, and hers is a life rich in history and life experience.

Ms. Carr's childhood was not easy, and from an early age she had the strength of character that would carry her throughout her life. At age 2, Ms. Carr was orphaned and placed under the care of her grandmother. Just a few short years later, when she was not attending the Marquez School four months out of the year, she was hard at work in the fields picking cotton and vegetables.

Having lived for 100 years, Ms. Carr has seen so many of our Nation's historic events. When Ms. Carr was only 23, the Great Depression was in full swing. A young mother, she cared for her small children during the harsh economic realities of the time. Her resilience and strong work ethic helped carry her family through one of the toughest periods in American history.

She too has witnessed our country's decades-long struggle for civil rights. She lived through a time of segregation and violence motivated by hate, and decades later she would see the first African American elected to the highest office in the land.

If there was one thing in particular that enduring these hardships and struggles did for Ms. Carr, it was to forge unbreakable bonds with her children and family. Ms. Carr recalls the happiest time in her life as watching her children grow up and being able to attend school. Her constant and enduring desire to work hard so that her children could live a better life and her duty to family is as selfless as it is noble.

But Ms. Carr's selflessness extended far beyond her own family; the benefits of her service and generosity poured out into the commu-

nity. Ms. Carr served as Secretary for the Robinson Chapel Baptist Church for 40 years. There, she was one of several members of the Sick Committee who would aid the sick by cooking, cleaning and running errands for the needy.

Mr. Speaker, Clespie Carr is now part of the small number of centenarians in the U.S. but her determination and dedication to her family and friends only make her that much more unique. I am pleased to acknowledge this monumental occasion and Ms. Carr's tireless efforts for the sake of others this past century, and I wish her continued health and prosperity.

HONORING GREG HAMILTON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 13, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary achievements of my constituent, Mr. Gregory V. Hamilton. Greg is dedicated and he is passionate, and he has devoted his entire life to serving our country, his community, and the causes he champions so well. Many Montgomery County residents know him by his signature braids and his colorful garb that reflect his love of country, his Native American heritage, and his pride as a Vietnam veteran.

Unfortunately, Greg's braids are gone now, a victim to the cancer that is ravaging his body because of his exposure to Agent Orange during his service in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. Greg served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1970. He received numerous medals and ribbons for his service, including the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Combat Action Ribbon for his service on the USS *Hickman County LST 825* in the Brown Water Navy in Vietnam.

Despite his lifelong fight against the effects of Agent Orange—or maybe because of it—he is passionate about improving the lives of veterans nationwide, and he has dedicated himself to doing so. A lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America and a committed member of Rolling Thunder Maryland Chapter 1, Greg has for many years been a part of the Wall Washing Crew, volunteers who wash and maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from April to November each year. He also participates in the arrival of "Honor Flights," greeting and escorting World War II veterans to the Memorial in Washington, DC. Greg has been active in assisting those affected by military life ever since his own discharge 40 years ago. He supports military families by sharing with them his own experiences and offering advice. He was critical to the creation of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs and, most recently, he has been involved in the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County's initiative "Serving Together: Troops, Veterans, and Family Care Project." He has tirelessly provided support and care for military families throughout our community.

Greg is of African-American and Cherokee descent. He maintains a strong connection to his Native American heritage, having spent much of his life working with Native American organizations. In 2002, he was elected Council