

On July 11th, 2012, Dewayne passed away at the age of 50. Over 450 people attended his funeral, including State legislators, fellow educators, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, and friends from all walks of life. During the funeral service, it was announced that the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal had been posthumously awarded to Dewayne, for his exceptionally admirable and meritorious conduct.

Dewayne was a quality man, dedicated to his State, his church, and most importantly, his family. On behalf of my wife Cynthia and myself, I want to extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Regina, the Bunch family, and those who had the privilege of knowing Dewayne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Dewayne Bunch for dedicating a lifetime of service to the families of southeastern Kentucky, our Commonwealth, and our great Nation.

HONORING SHAWANDA ALLEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shawanda LaShell Allen. Shawanda LaShell Allen was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi to the proud parents of Glenda Johnson and Anthony Allen.

Throughout her years in school, Shawanda remained dedicated to her academics and extracurricular activities. She received the highest academic average of her class for the 2011–2012 school year in advanced placement English Literature and Composition, Calculus, United States Government, and Accounting. In addition to this, Shawanda was inducted into the Crystal Springs High School Hall of Fame; received the Student Council Leadership Award; and the U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award. Ms. Allen was also awarded the following scholarships—Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP, the United States Achievement Academy, Workforce Investment Area Transition, and University of Southern Mississippi Leadership Scholarships.

Shawanda also participated in the Student Council, Beta Club, SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta Club, Theater Club-Tigers Actin' Up, and played on the soccer, softball, and track/field teams. She is a faithful member of Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she is a part of the Feeding Ministry and Nursing Home Ministry.

In 2012, Shawanda graduated from Crystal Springs High School with honors. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue a degree in Accounting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shawanda LaShell Allen for her hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Historic Pilgrim Baptist Church of Saint Paul, and its 150 years of rich history and dedicated service to our community.

Pilgrim Baptist Church is the oldest African-American church in Minnesota, with a history deeply rooted in America's struggle for racial equality and social justice. More than 150 years ago, a group of slaves escaped and embarked upon a turbulent and courageous journey to the North during the Civil War. With the help of Union Forces and the Underground Railroad, this group of black men, women and children departed from Boone County, Missouri. Calling themselves "pilgrims", because they did not know their final destination, they began their long trek through the Midwest, eventually finding refuge in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The group found a leader in fellow escaped slave Robert Thomas Hickman, who had previously learned how to read under the direction of his master, and also received permission to preach to his peers. Reverend Hickman continued this practice upon arriving to Minnesota, gaining many followers who desired a welcoming place to worship. The congregation worshipped in several Saint Paul homes until they were able to rent a room in a local concert hall. Reverend Hickman received his mission status from the First Baptist Church of Saint Paul, and the congregation continued to worship under Hickman's direction, officially becoming the Pilgrim Baptist Church on November 15, 1866.

The courage and dedication of Reverend Hickman and the founders of Pilgrim Baptist Church are woven into church history. Throughout the years, the congregation has not only been a spiritual home for countless families and individuals, but also a center for community action, serving as the birthplace of the Saint Paul Chapters of the NAACP and Urban League as well as schools and organized labor movements. This legacy of community activism continues today through the congregation and Reverend Charles Gill, Jr., who has served as the Senior Pastor since 2004. Reverend Gill remains steadfast in the church mission, delivering a message of love and acceptance to the congregation and the congregation continues to serve the community in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Baptist Church of Saint Paul, Minnesota, I am pleased to submit this statement.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
MILITARY SERVICE OF COLONEL
JOE N. WILBURN ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the

United States Air Force, I rise to recognize Colonel Joe N. Wilburn for his twenty-six years of commissioned service to our country. In his most recent assignment, he was the Commander, Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service, Robins AFB, Georgia. In this role, he served as advisor to the Air Force Reserve Command Commander, Vice Commander, senior staff and field numbered Air Force and wing commanders on all matters relating to recruiting for the Air Force Reserve. He commanded and exercised oversight for more than 450 military and civilian personnel worldwide at forty-five main operating locations and numerous satellite offices.

Colonel Wilburn joined the Air Force on June 27, 1982 when he reported in as a cadet at the Air Force Academy. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 28, 1986, with an undergraduate degree in International Affairs. While stationed at MacDill AFB, he deployed to the Middle East in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon returning from deployment, he was selected to be the Chief of Operations at the 369th Recruiting Squadron in Los Angeles, California. Colonel Wilburn later joined the Air National Guard where he performed duties with the 148th Combat Communications Squadron in Ontario, California. In April 2000, he was asked to lead a Recruiting Flight at March Air Reserve Base, California. Because of his success at March Air Reserve Base, Colonel Wilburn was chosen to be a Program Manager on the Island of Oahu in Hawaii.

Due to his achievements and unwavering dedication to his country, it was no surprise he was chosen to be the Commander of Air Force Reserve Recruiting. During his almost four years as Commander, Colonel Wilburn was responsible for accessing 39,268 new citizen airmen. His innovative ideas and exemplary leadership skills allowed his team of recruiters to focus their accession practices on targeting prior service candidates, which saved the Air Force Reserve Command over \$600 million dollars in training costs.

Colonel Wilburn could not have been such a tremendous leader without the support of his wife of thirteen years, Monica, his daughter Maya, and his son Jason. Colonel Wilburn also owes much of his success to his parents Joe Wilburn, Senior, and his mother Merrie as well as his in-laws, Dudley and JoAnne Latham. We thank them for helping to develop and mold such an outstanding leader for our military.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our sincere appreciation to Colonel Joe N. Wilburn for his outstanding service to both the United States Air Force and our great nation. We wish him and his family the best of luck as he transitions into retirement. Colonel Wilburn is a true professional and a credit to himself, his family, and the United States Air Force.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber on Thursday, July 19 to vote on rollcalls 487