

RECOGNITION OF MRS. ANN M.
WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Ann M. Williams, Founder and Artistic Director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Mrs. Williams will retire this May after 38 years of dedication to the performing arts community in Dallas.

Mrs. Williams has a highly decorated career in the arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree and Related Arts from Texas Woman's University and was inducted into the Texas Women's hall of fame in 2002. Among her various accolades, she was honored at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as a part of the Masters of African-American Choreography series in 2005.

Mrs. Williams had the vision to create a diverse and community-oriented dance institution with a strong emphasis toward the African-American community. Over several decades, Mrs. Williams built the Dallas Black Dance Theatre from the ground up, growing it to become one of the most well-known Dallas-based nonprofits. It has garnered recognition from the City of Dallas, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre is the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas and is host to a multi-ethnic troupe of dancers who specialize in contemporary modern dance. Since its founding in 1976, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has brought cultural and artistic value to millions of people throughout 30 states and 14 different countries such as Great Britain, Japan, and Canada.

Mr. Speaker, under Mrs. Williams' direction, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre has become an invaluable addition to the Dallas arts community. The Dallas Black Dance Theatre has contributed greatly to the revitalization of downtown Dallas by bringing added educational and artistic capital to the area. I would like to recognize Mrs. Williams for her contributions and I join my constituents in wishing her a fruitful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING ERNEST BEDROSIAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian, who passed away on January 1, 2014 at the age of 80. Ernest was a leading raisin grower and packer in California's San Joaquin Valley and played an instrumental role in the development of the raisin industry in the United States and abroad.

Ernest was born in Parlier, California and attended California State University, Fresno, where he graduated with high honors receiving a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. Upon graduation in 1955, Ernest joined the United States Army and was a food specialist sta-

tioned in New York. In 1958 Ernest moved back to the San Joaquin Valley and started working on his family's raisin and wine vineyard. Shortly after, he began serving on various raisin boards and committees. Ernest established the Raisin Bargaining Association (RBA) in 1966 and served as the first acting President. The efforts of the RBA organized raisin growers, stabilized the national raisin market, and expanded domestic and international demand for raisins.

Ernest and his brothers opened the National Raisin Company in 1969 and developed the "Champion" brand for raisins and other dried fruits. Today the Champion brand is the largest independent raisin, prune, and dried fruit operation in the world and the National Raisin Company provides hundreds of jobs to Central Valley residents.

Ernest served as an elder at his Church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, and was also a member of the church's various building committees. Ernest will be remembered as not only a great businessman, but also as a devoted family man with a strong faith and an eagerness to help his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Ernest Bedrosian.

HONORING TOUGALOO COLLEGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, Tougaloo College. Tougaloo College is one of the United States' premier historically black college and universities. The American Missionary Association (AMA) founded Tougaloo in 1869. Early in that year the AMA had commissioned Allen P. Huggins, a former Union officer, to look for land for a normal-agricultural school. He found the former plantation of John Boddie about seven miles north of Jackson, Mississippi and negotiated to buy it from its owner, George McKee, for \$10,500. The money for the plantation was provided by the Freedman's Bureau.

In 1871 the Mississippi State Legislature granted the school a charter with the name "Tougaloo University." In 1892 the state discontinued funding but the Normal Department was recognized as a teacher training school. College credit first became available in 1897, but qualifying for accreditation by the Southern Association took a number of years to achieve. Improvements in the library, academic degrees for teachers, and endowments led to state accreditation in the 1930s. With this, graduates who had taken 18 semester hours of education courses were granted a lifelong professional teaching license. Tougaloo had again undergone a name change in 1916 to Tougaloo College.

In 1954 Tougaloo College merged with the Southern Christian Institute (SCI) in Edwards, Mississippi, because the two schools had similar missions and goals. The new school was called the Tougaloo Southern Christian College, but in 1962 was once again renamed Tougaloo College. Tougaloo was very active

in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and maintains a reputation for strong social commitment.

Today Tougaloo, with approximately 1,000 students, is a private, coeducational, four-year, liberal arts school. It has a selective admission rate, but is committed to providing those from challenging circumstances with a good education. The student population is primarily African American, but all are welcome to apply. Nearly 40 percent of the practicing African American physicians and dentists in the state of Mississippi are Tougaloo graduates, and 35 percent of all current Mississippi educators are. More than 66 percent of Tougaloo graduates enroll in graduate or Ph.D. programs immediately after graduating. Tougaloo has won national respect for its high academic standards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tougaloo College for their dedication to serving.

MRS. ANNIE LAURA WORD DAY

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 10, 2014

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

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Collierville, Tennessee on December 30, 1923; and

Whereas, Mrs. Annie Laura Word was born Annie Laura Walker to Mr. Albert and Mrs. Blanche Walker, she was educated in the local school system as a child, when she became a young lady, she married Mr. Henry C. Word on May 16, 1942 and through their union was blessed with three children, eighteen grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Word along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Word on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim December 30, 2013 as Mrs. Annie Laura Word Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of December, 2013.