

stationed at Baghdad, Iraq. In April 2008, Master Sergeant Miller returned home.

Master Sergeant Miller took the position as First Sergeant (1SG), April 2012, with the 4/323rd REGT, this is a Drill Sergeant Unit, U.S. Army Reserve. Master Sergeant Miller recalls when he was stationed in Germany, assigned to the 249th ENG BN, his First Sergeant at the time asked him if he wanted to go to Drill Sergeant School and he declined. Master Sergeant Miller wishes today that his First Sergeant would have asked him several times and given him more information on becoming a Drill Sergeant. In the reserve component the First Sergeant is just the manager of the unit, he or she does not have to be a Drill Sergeant.

As of March 17, 2014, Master Sergeant Miller is now re-assigned to the 412th Theater Engineer Command, Vicksburg, Mississippi. He speaks highly about the 412th Theater Command, he says, he is now back home. Master Sergeant Miller is fully aware that his military career is now coming to an end, and when he does retire it will be a difficult transition. Serving in the military was never a mistake to him, it is a privilege which he is so glad that he took advantage of to serve our great country.

Master Sergeant Miller has numerous military occupation specialties, he is qualified as an Army Maintenance Management System Clerk, Prescribed Load List Clerk, Ammunition Specialist, Transportation Operator, Military Police, Physical Security Specialist, and Supply Specialist.

During Master Sergeant Miller's military career, he has received numerous awards, not listed in prestigious order to include: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Occupation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbons, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbons, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army NCO Professional, Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Ribbons and Drivers Badge.

Master Sergeant Miller is married to Mrs. Florine Miller and they have 3 daughters: Lakechia, Tiffany, and Alexis; one son, French and 6 grandchildren. Master Sergeant Miller is son of Eddie & Evelyn Brown, and Willard Hughes and has 2 sisters: Jackie and Shelia; and 5 brothers: Willous, Allen, Reginald, Michael and Willard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a distinguished American Soldier.

HONORING THE NEW PALESTINE
HIGH SCHOOL DRAGONS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Palestine High School Dragons on their first state football championship.

The Dragons faced off against the New Prairie Cougars on November 28th at Lucas Oil Stadium. During their first appearance in the Indiana state football finals in more than

20 years, the team made their mark by breaking the record for total points, total yards, and most touchdowns and extra points. In the end, the Dragons won the Class 4A state final 77-42 over the Cougars.

I am proud of these young men for not only their remarkable win, but also for the Hoosier sportsmanship that they each displayed throughout the game. Their dedication to excellence and their perseverance was evident not just in this game, but throughout the entire 2014 season. I want to commend Coach Kyle Ralph and all of the assistant coaches who led these young men through this historic season.

I want to again congratulate the New Palestine Dragons on both their hard-earned victory in the state finals, as well as on their record-breaking 2014 football season. I look forward to hearing about the accomplishments of each of these young men in the future, and I wish the Dragons the best of luck in the 2015 season.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEN STONE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Len Stone who is departing the Pacifica City Council after serving with distinction during these past four years.

Mr. Stone is a local business owner and resident of Pacifica since 2002. He and his wife, Jessica, have two young children. In addition to his service to the community while on the city council, Len Stone served for five years on the Board of Directors of the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce.

Pacifica is a city nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the hills. Its young families are energetic and often part of Silicon Valley's high tech businesses. Its longtime residents are rightfully proud of many traditions of environmental protection that have shaped modern Pacifica. Newer residents move to Pacifica to enjoy the ocean, Pacifica's great beaches, its strong schools and its natural beauty.

During his four years on the Pacifica City Council, Len Stone focused tirelessly on all of the qualities of Pacifica that make it a special place in this nation. He led the effort to improve economic development. He successfully sought to have an economic development director position created in city government. He worked to recruit new businesses to town, and he wanted to expand the tax base by filling the vacant storefronts that sometimes exist in shopping centers and shopping areas in this marvelous community.

Len is deeply committed to making Pacifica a destination for more people from outside the community, and so his support of tourism is energetic. To this end, he and another councilmember recently negotiated an option on land that will, if purchased and improved, fill the missing link in the coastal trail. With the opening of the Devil's Slide trail just south of Pacifica, the city is an even greater magnet for tourists seeking vigorous, outside excursions. During both his term as mayor and while on the council, Len sought to position Pacifica as an unrivaled place to bring a family for an outdoor adventure.

Len joined the city council during the worst economic downturn in modern times. This

downturn hit Pacifica's tax base hard. Residents had to leave town to do major shopping and to enjoy entertainment options such as movies. The city's budget, never flush, was in deficit. Len sought to balance the budget and to retain needed services. As a businessperson, he was aware that new ways of doing things were needed to help close the deficit. It is difficult for a community to change, but if any community can pull together to find solutions, I have faith that Pacifica is that community. Len, who participated in countless budget and study sessions, demonstrated the energy that many Pacifica residents possess when confronted with challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is never easy or simple to serve in local government. If times are good then your neighbors expect a great deal. If times are not so great then your neighbors wonder why you are shuttering a popular local field or laying off longtime personnel or considering changes in the services of the city. Len Stone is an example of local councilmembers throughout our nation: he is smart, tenacious, and deeply committed to the community that he serves at great expense to his personal time and family life. Please join with me in honoring the public service of Len Stone, departing city councilmember of Pacifica. Thankfully, he will retire from public life but not from the community that he and his family love. Pacifica will therefore continue to have the talents of this resourceful young man to call upon in the years to come.

S. 1691: "BORDER PATROL AGENT
PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014"

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1691, the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014.

This measure would replace the current antiquated overtime system used by the Border Patrol and create a new pay system that results in more hours worked on the border, provides more reliable schedules and paychecks for agents, and saves taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

As Chairman of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I have been focused on increasing border security efforts along our long and porous border and supporting the men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol who defend our nation against drug and human smugglers and others who would do us harm.

This measure supports that effort.

The men and women who secure our borders often work alone, in very remote locations on the border. They cannot simply punch a clock at the end of their shift if they are in pursuit of illicit border crossers. Instead they work irregular hours to track and apprehend dangerous criminal aliens.

This bill will allow front line supervisors to better manage agents' work schedules, saving taxpayers millions of dollars each year. In fact, according to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill will save taxpayers up to \$100 million a year.

Last year, the Office of Special Counsel issued a scathing report about the misuse and

abuse of the current overtime system by Customs and Border Protection. This legislation will end such abuse in the future, at the same time increasing the number of hours the Border Patrol can secure the border, which is the equivalent of adding an additional 1,500 Border Patrol agents.

With additional hours on the border, our nation will be more secure as additional agent hours will help gain control of the border, carry out additional law enforcement missions, and apprehend dangerous criminals.

Mr. Speaker, the mission carried out by the men and women of the Border Patrol is extremely dangerous—more than one hundred agents have given their lives protecting our nation.

We owe it to them to give them a stable, predicable paycheck that takes into account the irregular nature of the arduous work they do every day on the border.

So, I want to commend the leadership of the Chief of the Border Patrol, Michael Fisher, and the Deputy Chief of the Border Patrol, Ronald Viteillo, for their commitment to finding sustainable reforms for agent pay, while also improving the security of our border.

I urge my colleagues to support this common sense bill that saves the taxpayers millions of dollars.

HONORING TOMMY “MR. NOTTIE”
GUNNS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character from Shaw, MS in Bolivar County.

I believe that when you give honor and recognition to someone they should truly deserve it. I am always happy when I meet someone or hear their story about overcoming, rising from obscurity, coming from meager beginnings but leaving a legacy although unaware; which doesn't get the recognition and thanks it really deserves. This is why I want to honor Mr. Tommy Gunns, Jr. a man of “noble” character.

Childhood: Nottie was originally from Egypt, MS in Chickasaw County, MS. He was born in the year 1900 to Mr. Tommy Gunns, Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Gunns. Nottie was raised in a home with his mother, his only sister named Alma, and his stepfather, “Mr. Brick”. His parents were sharecroppers and struggled; which was the backdrop for an unstable home environment that easily led to abuse. And Nottie was often times the one subjected to the abuse (verbal and physical) by his stepfather. Since his mother would not protect him and because of years of abuse, he developed the drive early in life to want “better,” so he planned to run away, someday. In his plan, he always included Alma, his young sister.

The day came when he ran away and took Alma with him, never returning home. Nottie ran away and arrived in Shaw, MS in 1914. He was a young teenager when he ran away. When Nottie arrived in Shaw, he worked as many odd jobs as he could find and raised his sister alone; vowing to never let anyone else abuse him or his little sister. In fact, he was so protective of her that he never eased up

until he had approved of the man she married. He had to be assured the man was not abusive and was a good provider for Alma.

A Young Man and Family Man: As a young man working in Shaw he was able to acquire many skills and a reputation as a fast learner, hard worker, and a person of good moral character, which equated to a nonsense type of reputation. He was still determined to have a better life and wanted to be respected and treated like a man so he carried himself like a man. Nottie eventually earned that reputation and people began calling him Mr. Nottie or Mr. Gunns. Some of the jobs he worked included driving trucks to haul logs, a loader at the Shaw lumber yard, and sharecropping as a small farmer. While working at the Shaw lumber yard, he learned the skill of carpentry; and became known as a master carpenter around Shaw. Everyone wanted him to do their work.

Mr. Gunns eventually met and married, Nancy Hunt of Shaw, MS. The couple had ten children, 2 died shortly after child birth. Mr. Gunns wanted a big loving family that was full of happy times but serious about life. He directed his journey and based goals in life on his childhood, all that he never had, he was determined to experience before dying. His and Nancy's children are Berna “BB” Gunns-Williams, Nathaniel “Baby Sister” Gunns-Clark, Tommy “Win” Gunns, Jr. (although he is the 3rd), Christine Gunns-Gardner, Torries Gunns, Maurine “Morgan” Gunns-Gray, Shirley Ann “Shelly” Gunns-Juette, and Lonnie Lee Gunns.

As a husband, father, and community member, Mr. Gunns saw the need to become more involved. You see he wanted to be a role model for his children; he wanted to make sure they had a good upbringing and education, so he felt he needed to get involved in the community and help make it happen. Mr. Gunns served as a volunteer fireman for the city. He wasn't trying to be a hero or win a popularity campaign; he just wanted a better life for his children. Mr. Gunns number one priority was education for all colored children.

Since he was very vocal about education he was asked to become a member of the Board of Trustees for the Shaw Colored School.

The Shaw Colored School only educated children to the 8th grade. Beyond 8th grade the colored children had to travel to Greenville or surrounding towns for a high school education. Mr. Gunns helped changed that. He convinced the Board of Trustees to agree to vote on establishing a curriculum for 9th through 12th grades for Shaw students to be able to get their high school education. So, under his tutelage the first high school graduating class from the Shaw Colored High School was in 1949.

How did he do it? Mr. Gunns had an unyielding faith. That was the same faith that brought him as a young teenage runaway with his little sister, Alma, safely to Shaw, MS during the early 1900s. His faith in God provided him with jobs to take care of himself and his sister as a young boy, alone in the Mississippi Delta. His ability to pick up on things and learn fast paid off because he became that master carpenter. His daughter, Maurine said he could build a house from the ground up. He was a devoted member and deacon of the Strangers Home M.S. Church in Shaw, where he was laid to rest for eternity. And those trying times were no match for his common sense, the old folks called it “mother wit” for

survival. It was the foundation of his approach on how to survive in life:

Financial Policy—never spend all your money. Save some for a rainy day.

Child Rearing—everybody has a role and place. Only adults are in charge and children are to stay in their place and do as they are told. He called it his no nonsense approach to raising children. He would often paraphrase Proverbs 13:24, by saying “Spare the rod and spoil the child.”

Preparation—your future depends on your education. “All my children are going to college. I had enough children to work and chip in to help pay for everyone's college,” he would say.

The End: The first of Mr. Gunns' children to go to college was Berna at the age of 16. This was made possible by two reasons: (1) everyone in the family picked and chopped cotton, and (2) his financial policy of saving money. The children all knew their earnings went to their parents to help provide for the family and save for college. Berna went to Tuskegee Institute in 1950 in Tuskegee, AL. Berna graduated before he died. He was able to see the first of his children to get a college education. His daughter, Berna remembers her father and mother faces as they watched her graduate with all her sisters and brothers watching as well. They knew they had to do it too. Berna went on to become a self-employed, self-made millionaire. She started her own company “Scrubbles Janitorial Service” in her home and grew it to become a multi-million dollar company in Washington, DC. She was able to live that better life because of her fathers' determination to clear the path.

Mr. Gunns didn't live to see another one of his children to go to college, he died in 1954 but he had already planted the seeds for success. Everyone in the family knew their place and role. Mrs. Gunns, his wife and eldest daughter, Berna carried on his mantra for every child of his going to college. Mrs. Gunns continued to work as the cafeteria manager and cook for the Shaw Colored School.

Tommy, his eldest son, became the father figure for his siblings. Since his father had taught him the carpentry trade, Tommy was able to get his father's job at the Shaw Lumber Yard. It was a year later in 1958 that he got the job because graduating from high school was priority in 1957. The family never missed a check; he knew the money was going to help pay for his siblings to finish high school and attend college. Tommy eventually went to college in 1959 by getting a job with Mississippi Vocational College (now called Mississippi Valley State University-MVSU) driving the school bus picking up students in Bolivar and Sunflower County. That was one of the ways he was able to pay his way through college, as well as it served as his transportation to and from the College. The other way was when Dean Isaac offered him a work study job to help build other buildings on campus (i.e., the auditorium, and campus maintenance) because he had seen his work as a student. As a requirement for graduation, Tommy had to build something to show he had mastered his trade. But the requirement was reconsidered when he drove his instructor to Shaw and showed him the house he built along with the blueprint he had drawn. When asked how, Tommy told him “My Dad is a master carpenter and he taught me this stuff a long time ago.” That house was for his best