

apolitically and unapologetically. David Addis, a former Trib reporter who worked with CB in the late 1970s, last week described him like this: “Even then, Chris’ strongest point was that he simply cared about the story, and the people behind the story. He was the most apolitical reporter I ever worked with—he didn’t give a tinker’s damn about the office politics, city politics or any higher sphere of politics. It’s probably why people came to trust him. He was honest, considerate, compassionate and simply wanted to get it right.”

That was true until the end. As former Trib reporter Mike Scott put it, “CB was the heart and soul of the Tribune Chronicle for decades . . . and a great reporter and mentor for generations of reporters.” What may be most disheartening is to consider all the new, young reporters that will join us going forward who never will have the benefit of working with CB. Sure, we will publish a newspaper every day. We will move forward, because we must. But it won’t be easy, and this newsroom will never be the same. Rest in peace, my friend.

HONORING JIMMY “DUCK”
HOLMES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON, of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a talented man, Mr. Jimmy “Duck” Holmes. Jimmy has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to be a trailblazer.

Jimmy “Duck” Holmes was born to sharecroppers Carey and Mary Holmes in 1947, the year before they opened the Blue Front Café. He was one of ten children and his parents also raised four children of Mary’s deceased sister.

Jimmy “Duck” Holmes is the proprietor of one of the oldest juke joints in Mississippi, the Blue Front in Bentonia. In the mid-2000s he began performing blues actively after many years of performing casually, and has already garnered several awards and many accolades. He is a practitioner and conscious advocate of a distinctive blues style from his hometown whose most famous proponent was blues pioneer Skip James.

Holmes, who never met Skip James, studied the music of Owens, learning songs including “Cherry Ball”, “Hard Times”, “I’d Rather Be the Devil”, but didn’t perform very actively until relatively recently. He promoted blues through the founding in 1972 of the Bentonia Blues Festival, which took place annually until the mid-’90s and was revived in 2006. He took over the Blue Front in 1970 after the death of his father, and beginning in the ’80s the café became a popular destination for blues tourists, including annual visits by busloads of Japanese fans. In 1995 a commercial for Levi’s 501 jeans was filmed there.

Various blues researchers including Alan Lomax recorded Holmes beginning at least in the ’70s, but until recently his only vocal appearance on record was one song, “Devil’s Blues”, that he performed together with Cornelius Bright and which appeared on the Austrian Wolf label compilation album “Giants of Country Blues” Volume 2. In 2006 the St. Louis-based record label “Broke & Hungry” released Holmes’ debut CD “Back to Bentonia”.

He was joined on the record by Spires and drummer, Sam Carr, and in addition to some original songs, Holmes also covered the Bentonia standards “Hard Times” and “I’d Rather Be the Devil”.

The CD was well received, and garnered several Living Blues Awards and to multiple festival bookings, including the Chicago Blues Festival and the Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival. Holmes, who normally works as an educator, has traditionally been a somewhat reluctant performer, but has enjoyed the opportunity to share his music and talk about the Bentonia tradition. “You don’t get nervous when you’re doing your hobby,” he says of performing.

In 2007 “Broke and Hungry” released a second CD, “Done Got Tired of Tryin’”, which followed a similar formula, and included James’ “Cherry Ball”. The CD was nominated for a 2008 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Album of the Year, and National Public Radio listed it as one of the “Top 10 Blues Albums” of the year. Holmes also received national publicity in August 2007 when a Mississippi Blues Trail historic marker was dedicated in honor of the Blue Front Café.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jimmy “Duck” Holmes a talented and creative Blues Guitarist & Vocalist.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 133. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

A TRIBUTE TO BRENT MACKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brent Macke for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brent has the determination and drive to be successful in anything he does, and his exemplary work with Holmes Murphy & Associates is a testament to that. As an account executive and shareholder with Holmes Murphy & Associates, Brent realizes the importance of giving back to the community. He has dedicated his time and talents to serve others through organizations like Junior Achievement

of Central Iowa, Variety—The Children’s Charity, the Ankeny High School mentorship program and Easter Seals of Iowa. In all aspects of his life, Brent is a leader and an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brent in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brent on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

IN HONOR OF DR. BARRY
SHEPHERD’S CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Barry Shepherd for his faithful service as the Superintendent of the Cabarrus County School system in the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina.

When Dr. Shepherd became Superintendent in 2008, he brought a unique vision that transformed Cabarrus County Schools during many challenging years. In spite of reductions in funding, Dr. Shepherd continually emphasized the value of people and his students.

As a result of this approach, students from Cabarrus County Schools are scoring higher on end-of-year assessments, graduation rates have increased, and the school system was able to open eight new schools during his tenure.

Today, Cabarrus County Schools boasts some of the most unique learning experiences offered in the country. Specifically, Cabarrus County Schools has a partnership with the Center for International Understanding at the University of North Carolina called Confucius Classrooms. This program features a reciprocal agreement where teachers and administrators from Cabarrus County visit schools in China to fine tune best practices in education. As part of this program, Chinese educators come to Cabarrus County Schools to learn from their successes as well.

Dr. Shepherd is a native of Wilkes County, North Carolina, and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He went on to receive his Doctoral Degree in Education from Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Shepherd served as Superintendent of Elkin City Schools and as Assistant Superintendent in the Mooresville Graded School District before arriving in Cabarrus County. He also held various administrative positions in the Iredell-Statesville Schools, Lexington City Schools, and Thomasville City Schools.

It is truly an honor to extend these remarks congratulating Dr. Shepherd on his retirement and to thank him for his esteemed service to our local community as a visionary educator.