

MS branch, for twelve years. He served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention for ten years, and the Community Services Association and the Hinds County Community Action Agency, Jackson, MS for eight years. Dr. Brown honorably served his community as a community voter registration coordinator, advisor, civil rights activists, social worker, and community organizer.

He was a pastor of three other churches: Orange Hill Baptist Church, Bolton, MS; Rock of Ages Baptist Church, Vicksburg, MS; and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Lorman, MS. He was in the ministry for over 30 years. His loving and devoted wife, Mrs. Lucille Brown, supported Dr. Brown in all of his efforts. Their union was blessed with six children, four girls and two boys.

Under his leadership, the members altered the way services were conducted. Instead of posting the Order of Service on the wall, printed programs were disseminated to the congregation. The practice of roll call (where each member's name was called and one stated the amount of his tithes/offering) was eliminated and the practice of distributing envelopes was implemented. In 1987, land was purchased and donated to the church, which were forty-seven lots (North side of the church) to be used for additional parking. In 1993, two more additional corner lots were purchased. Also, the wooden steeple on the church was replaced with a fiberglass steeple. In 1996, the church van was purchased due to the increased attendance in Bible class. Ceiling fans were also purchased and installed in the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

In January 9, 1999, Pastor Casey D. Fisher was elected pastor of Greater Grove Street a M.B. Church. At the time he began this ministry, the church had a membership of approximately sixty-five souls. Soon after becoming pastor, Rev. Fisher adopted his motto, "Making this church the best church this side of Heaven," and his theme, "This is the Church where the gospel is preached, love is practiced and people are changed." Under his leadership, the church congregation has grown from the initial sixty-five members to over six hundred. Pastor Fisher began his ministry in September of 1998, which he was ordained under the pastorate of Reverend Willie L. Lewis of Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Greater Grove Street M. B. Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2015 I was absent for recorded votes #268 and #269 due to the passing of my mother.

I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were here: On Roll Call #268 I would have voted No, On Roll Call #269 I would have voted No.

IN RECOGNITION OF CYNTHIA
SIMMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cynthia Simms who is retiring as the Superintendent of the San Mateo-Foster City School District after a remarkable career in education that spans more than four decades. She has been an educator for 43 years and a superintendent for 27 years, 14 of them in California. Dr. Simms' outstanding leadership, vision and communication skills have benefited thousands of students, parents, teachers and the community as a whole.

Dr. Simms was the Superintendent of the San Mateo-Foster City School District for four years overseeing the largest elementary-middle school district in San Mateo County with 20 schools, 12,000 students and 1,200 employees. She hired 13 of 20 current school principals and three district administrators. Her priority has been to provide the best possible education for each child to prepare her or him for a successful life as a responsible, contributing citizen. She instills a wonderful sense of community by making every staff member feel appreciated through their significant role in accomplishing this mission.

During her tenure, four schools were honored as California Distinguished Schools and eight school programs received J. Russell Kent Awards. Dr. Simms focused the school district on equity for all students by supporting and growing magnet school program choices for parents including STEM, STEAM, spearheading the transition of Horrall Elementary School to LEAD Elementary School, and expanding the Montessori program. She also adopted the Common Core State Standards that are designed to turn students into critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborators and innovators. Always looking to the child's future, the district formed important partnerships with the San Mateo Union High School District, St. Mary's College and California State University East Bay.

Dr. Simms understands that children cannot thrive academically if they don't feel safe or are unhealthy. This is why she implemented consistent safety protocols across the district that include security fencing, cameras, intrusion alarms and Columbine lock sets. The schools work closely with local police departments on gang resistance training.

All students take music classes and healthy food is served at breakfast and lunch. There even is a growing number of vegetable gardens at the schools. Under Dr. Simms' leadership, the San Mateo-Foster City School District cares for and about the wellbeing of its students on every level.

Dr. Simms is credited with developing extensive communication inside and outside of the schools. There is a weekly letter to all staff, a monthly newsletter to parents, collaboration with city councils and local legislators, and quarterly reports mailed to every resident and business in San Mateo and Foster City. Collaboration, partnership and inclusiveness are core values in Dr. Simms' philosophy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives rise with me to honor Dr. Cynthia Simms, an extraordinary educator who is

deeply committed to our community and to the future of our children. She tirelessly strived for excellence, harmony and the success of her students. Her expertise, energy and enthusiasm will be missed as she enters her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING XANDER
MCPHEETERS

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Xander McPheeters of Salem, Indiana.

I want to congratulate Xander on receiving the Hobie's Hero Award. Xander received this award as a result of heroic actions he took to save his father. James McPheeters was clearing brush from his farm near Salem, Indiana when he was suddenly struck by a falling tree. James was knocked off his tractor where he lay unconscious with multiple serious injuries. His son Xander, being the only person to see the accident occur, rushed to help his injured father. Xander proceeded to turn off the key to the runaway tractor and run to his nearest neighbor's home who called 911. The emergency response team arrived and saved James McPheeters life as a result of Xander's decisive actions.

The Hobie's Heroes Award is presented to young people, 18 years or younger, who perform heroic actions in the spirit of self-sacrifice, without consideration of personal gain, for the benefit of another in significant need. Being that Xander was five years old when he performed these lifesaving actions, I know that he is the epitome of what the Hobie's Heroes Award represents.

Xander will be the sixth Hobie's Hero Award recipient and he is the youngest recipient to date. Xander is an inspiration and role model for Hoosiers across Indiana. It is an honor to rise today and highlight Xander's fearlessness, and congratulate him on receiving the Hobie's Hero Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote yesterday because of the death of a close friend. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Roll Call #270—AYE
Roll Call #271—NO
Roll Call #272—AYE
Roll Call #273—AYE

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that I was unable to vote