

the passing of Robert Hicks, a lion in the Louisiana civil rights movement whose legal victories helped topple segregation in Bogalusa and change discriminatory employment practices throughout the South, passed away Tuesday, April 13, in his home at the age of 81.

Born in Mississippi, but moved to Bogalusa at a young age, Robert Hicks was the youngest of three children born to Quitman and Maybell Hicks in 1929. He graduated from Central Memorial High School, where he played on the school's State champion football team. He later played offensive guard on The Bushmen, an all-Black semipro team.

Mr. Hicks began his civil rights work as a member of the local NAACP before working with the Voter and Civic League. He helped organize daily marches to protest racial discrimination by merchants and city government in a crusade that thrust Bogalusa into the national spotlight. The Hicks family opened their home to White civil rights workers and national figures. Because of this, the family was targeted by the Ku Klux Klan, which in turn motivated the formation of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, an armed band of African-American men who stood guard at the Hicks' home and protected civil rights workers in the city. The 2003 Showtime movie "Deacons of Defense" was loosely based on the group.

As fellow civil rights worker Peter Jan Honigsberg wrote in his memoir recalling his experience volunteering in Bogalusa in the summers of 1966 and 1967 about Hicks, "Even today I still think of him . . . He was determined to do what he had to do to change the South." Mr. Hicks filed a landmark lawsuit against the city and police department of Bogalusa, obtaining a Federal court order requiring the police to protect protest marchers, and a lawsuit that overturned officials' refusal to allow protest marchers. In 1967, Mr. Hicks filed a suit against the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing, which resulted in the prohibition of the construction of public housing in segregated neighborhoods in Bogalusa.

Mr. Hicks began working at Crown Zellerbach, the local paper mill, at a time when few Black people were employed there and eventually he served as president of the Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers. After fighting Crown Zellerbach for years in Federal court, Mr. Hicks became the company's first African-American supervisor, a position he held until his retirement.

Mr. Hicks and his wife Valeria had six children during their 62-year union. With his wife, Mr. Hicks traveled the country, spreading the word about the conditions for Black people in the South and encouraging people to travel to Bogalusa and other Southern cities

to campaign for civil rights. Besides his wife, thoughts and prayers go out to his survivors, including a daughter, Barbara Maria Hicks; three sons, Robert Lawrence, Gregory Vince, and Darryl Hicks; a sister, Grace Berry; 17 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. The work of Robert Hicks will be forever remembered by the Bogalusa community, which is renaming a street and holding a ceremony in his honor.●

2010 CAVE CITY WATERMELON FESTIVAL

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the residents of Cave City in my home State of Arkansas as they celebrate the annual Cave City Watermelon Festival, a time-honored tradition that commemorates watermelon growing and its importance to the local community.

Home to the "world's best watermelons," Cave City is a close-knit community located in Northern Arkansas. Since the 1930s, Cave City residents and other Arkansans have gathered to take part in the Watermelon Festival.

Sponsored by the Cave City Area Chamber of Commerce, this year's event will take place August 12-14 and will feature a variety of music, games, a parade, and a beauty pageant.

Mr. President, I salute the entire community of Cave City as they celebrate this annual event. I commend them for keeping the history and heritage of their community alive.●

2010 HOPE WATERMELON FESTIVAL

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the residents of Hope in my home State of Arkansas as they celebrate the annual Hope Watermelon Festival, a time-honored tradition that commemorates the history and technique of watermelon growing and its importance to the local community.

Home to the world's largest watermelon, Hope is a thriving community in southwest Arkansas. Since the 1920s, Hope residents and other Arkansans have gathered to take part in the Watermelon Festival.

According to event organizers, the early Watermelon Festivals bear little resemblance to those in recent years. During the 1920s era, citizens served ice-cold watermelon to passengers on the many trains that stopped in Hope. These early festivals brought upwards of 20,000 people in a day to Hope. The end to the first festivals came around 1931 when the city, suffering from the effects of the Depression, could no longer accommodate the crowds.

In 1975, the city of Hope celebrated its centennial anniversary, which prompted local residents to consider staging the Watermelon Festival once again. Since the 1970s, the festival has

continued to grow, attracting approximately 50,000 visitors to Hope over a 4-day period each year.

I am looking forward to attending this year's Watermelon Festival, which will take place August 12-14 at Fair Parkin Hope. Sponsored by the Hope-Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce, this year's event features southwest Arkansas's largest arts and crafts show, live music, a 5K run/walk, games and children's activities, food, an antique car show, and of course, ice-cold Hope watermelon by the slice.

Mr. President, I salute the entire community of Hope and Hempstead County as they celebrate this annual event and enjoy "a slice of the good life." I commend them for keeping the history and heritage of their community alive.●

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PULASKI COUNTY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate staff members and volunteers of the Humane Society of Pulaski County as they celebrate the 10-year anniversary of their current shelter. I commend them for reaching this milestone.

The mission of the Humane Society of Pulaski County is to rescue, care for and find homes for abandoned, abused, homeless and unwanted animals. The group provides access to healthy animals for people seeking to adopt pets. In 2009, the Humane Society of Pulaski County adopted out almost 1,000 animals.

The Humane Society of Pulaski County is supported solely by donations, fund-raisers, bequests and grants. The group has achieved a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, which means the smallest percentage of donations is allocated for administrative costs.

As a part of the "Puppy Love" program, the Humane Society also works throughout the community, taking animals to visit residents of nursing homes, retirement centers, and women's shelters. Puppy Love makes approximately 40 visits to local facilities each year.

Mr. President, I again congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Humane Society of Pulaski County as they celebrate this anniversary. I wish them the best in the years to come.●

ARKANSAS SPORTSCASTERS AND SPORTSWRITERS HALL OF FAME

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate this year's inductees to the Arkansas Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame. These sports journalists represent the best in their field, and I commend them for this prestigious honor.

This year's inductees are:

Former Razorback place-kicker Pat Summerall, legendary sportscaster of CBS and FOX television.