

Hill and Rocky Mount, where 30 percent of the city was underwater, to communities on higher ground that served as refuges for newly homeless neighbors, nearly every person in the eastern North Carolina experienced the Flood in a real way. But one of the hardest hit communities was Princeville, North Carolina. Princeville was completely submerged for more than a week—people's homes were underwater and the business community was virtually leveled.

Princeville, originally called Freedom Hill, is the oldest town incorporated by African-Americans in the United States. It was settled in 1865 by newly freed slaves on low and soggy swampland across the Tar River from the town of Tarboro. It had survived smaller floods over the years, but The Flood of 1999 nearly killed this historic town. With water up to the rooftops, FEMA offered the people of Princeville a buyout to abandon the town.

Though a difficult decision, the town rejected the offer 3–2. At the time, Mayor Delia Perkins said, "Rebuilding is staying with your heritage. We plan to stay."

The community's struggle to rebuild attracted the attention of many people, including then-President Bill Clinton. President Clinton issued Executive Order (EO) 13146, tasking an interagency President's Council with developing "assessments and recommendations to repair and rebuild Princeville, and, to the extent practicable, protect Princeville from future floods." Hosts of other national figures visited and lent their support. Today, much of the town is rebuilt, though a handful of flooded homes still await demolition.

Today we remember the devastation caused by the Hurricane Floyd flood of 1999. The scars are still seen on the sides of buildings and in the hearts of people, but these communities have overcome and continue to work toward full recovery after these 10 years.

EDGAR BRIDGES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and accomplishments of a scholar, a leader, and a pillar in the community, Mr. Edgar Bridges.

Mr. Edgar Bridges' extensive scholastic record is an excellent testament to his belief in the power of education both for himself, and for the advancement of his community as a whole. He began his scholastic career in Lawrence County Public Schools. Later, he attended Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute. He then attended Pacific Training School in Los Angeles California. Mr. Edgar Bridges' scholastic achievements culminated when he received a Bachelor's in Science Degree in Religious Education from The Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

Mr. Bridges' aforementioned education afforded him the opportunity to realize the importance of education for everyone. Thus, he became a champion for the educational development of children and improving life experiences for youth as a whole, serving as Executive Director of The Lawrence County Education and Recreation Association, president

of the Lawrence County Educational Convention, member of the Board of Trustees for McCullough High School (Monticello, MS), and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Five County Child Development Program Inc.

Mr. Edgar Bridges' record of service to his community, church, and participation in civic activities are exemplary of a person who truly cares about the community, and believes in "giving back" to them through tireless effort and dedication. He served as co-chair of the Home Health Care Agency at Lawrence County Hospital and Superintendent of the Mission for the Lawrence County Baptist Association. He also contributed to the community by becoming a member of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Bridges' phenomenal record in education and service was recognized in the form of awards, accolades, and citations. He received the Medgar Evers Award for Outstanding Leadership, the Labor and Industry Award from the NAACP for being an outstanding contributor to Head Start, and was Emeritus Grand Master of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge of Mississippi, an accomplishment in which he was most proud.

Once again, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the lifetime and accomplishments of The Honorable Mr. Edgar Bridges. I am honored to salute such a champion for academics, a true leader, and a pillar of the community.

CONGRATULATING THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I extend my strong support to H. Res. 215, which congratulates the Minority Business Development Agency for its accomplishments on its 40th anniversary.

For forty years, the Minority Business Development Agency has fostered the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in America. Since the agency's founding in 1969, it has assisted 625,000 minority businesses and helped them secure more than \$25 billion in loans and bonding. In 2008, it served 25,000 businesses and contributed to the creation of over 5,000 new jobs. The Minority Business Development Agency is the only federal agency dedicated to minority business enterprise and works to achieve entrepreneurial parity so that minority businesses are represented proportionally to the minority population in this country.

While the number of minority businesses in the United States has grown today to 4 million from only 322,000 in 1969, the growth of minority firms has not kept pace with the growth of the minority population. Minority groups represent 26 percent of the country's population, but own only 12 percent of the nation's businesses and receive only 6 percent of total sales.

Nevertheless, minority enterprises account for \$668 billion in total annual sales receipts

and employ 5 million people. By 2042, minorities in America will become a numerical majority. Based on this population shift, it is clear that the success of the American economy is directly linked to the success of minority businesses, which are in a unique position to support the vibrancy of local communities. Supporting minority businesses is not only beneficial to minority enterprise, but to communities and people who depend on those businesses as well.

As the Minority Business Development Agency enters its fifth decade, I urge the agency to continue its efforts to help minorities achieve entrepreneurial parity, contribute to the health of the national economy and communities across America. I am proud to celebrate the achievements of the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 215.

HONORING RAYMOND H. DUNLAP, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr. for 21 years broadcasting the "Hour of Power" Radio Program. Bishop Dunlap will be honored this weekend by the congregations of Bethlehem Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith and New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

After attending the West Virginia Institute and Aeon Bible College, he served in the US Armed Services for two years. He was discharged in 1952, married Lillian Thomas in 1953, and accepted his call to preach the Gospel in 1954 under the direction of his father, Bishop Sandy Dunlap.

He moved to Flint, Michigan in 1966 and founded The Eliezer Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was elevated to District Elder and then Junior Bishop. In August 1983, he was ordained a Bishop and currently presides as Diocesan of the Northern Diocese of Michigan; he is the former Diocesan of Minnesota. Bishop Dunlap also serves as the establishmentarian of Berea Bible College. He has directed the establishment of 13 churches of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Michigan and 3 churches in Minnesota. In addition to being heard daily on the "Hour of Power," Bishop has reared more than 46 ministerial sons and Eliezer Church operates the Hope Academy School.

Bishop Dunlap and his wife, Lillian, have been blessed with 6 children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr. He has devoted his life to bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Flint, Michigan. His radio broadcasts are a source of comfort and joy to his listeners. I pray that he will continue for many years to inspire and elevate the spiritual life of the community and bring his message of hope to those with the most need.

INFORMATION FOR PROCLAMATION OR CONGRATULATORY LETTER FOR BISHOP RAYMOND H. DUNLAP, SR., D.D. THA.A B.A.

Two (2) day City Wide Celebration Honoring Bishop Raymond H. Dunlap, Sr., for 21