

U.S. Senate resolution honors first African American senator, Mississippi Republican Hiram Revels, elected 150 years ago

Press Release
Tuesday, February 25, was the 150th anniversary of the swearing in of Mississippi Republican Hiram Revels, the first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate. On Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced a resolution in the Senate commemorating that historic day in 1870. “Hiram Revels was an extraordinary Mississippian and American whose legacy extends far beyond breaking the color barrier in Congress,” Senator Roger Wicker said. “He used his platform to fight for equality and reconciliation in a nation divided by race and the Civil War. The broad bipartisan support for this resolution demonstrates the deep respect and apprecia-

tion Americans still have for Hiram Revels’s service.” “Hiram Revels is worth remembering today both as a pioneer of black office-holding and as a refutation of outdated stereotypes,” said noted historian Eric Foner, who along with W.E.B. Du Bois, John Hope Franklin, and other scholars redefined the role of African Americans during Reconstruction. Foner was the keynote speaker at a recent ceremony in Jackson honoring Revels. The program was held in the House chamber of the Old Capitol—the same room where in 1870, members of Mississippi’s first biracial legislature elected Revels to the U.S. Senate. Prior to 1913, U.S. senators were chosen by state legislatures

rather than by popular vote. Hiram Revels’s great, great, great grandson and granddaughter were in the audience. On Feb. 25, 1870, after Mississippi was readmitted to the Union, the U.S. Senate voted to seat Revels.

Attorney General Fitch appoints Mississippi’s first solicitor general

Press Release
Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced on Monday, February 24, the appointment of Kristi Haskins Johnson of Brandon as Mississippi’s first Solicitor General. As Solicitor General, Kristi will be the State’s lead advocate for appellate litigation and will be a key part of the Attorney General’s team for crafting strategy for sig-

After the expiration of his Senate term, Revels became the first president of what is now Alcorn State University—the oldest black land-grant college in the United States—and served briefly as Mississippi’s Secretary of State. When Reconstruction was violently overturned and the era of Jim Crow began, Revels became a teacher at a historically black college now known as Rust College in Holly Springs, where he also

pastored a church. Revels remained active in his church until his death in 1901. Since 1870, only four other African Americans have been elected to Congress from Mississippi. “The greatest lesson of Reconstruction is that rights, even when inscribed in the Constitution, can never be taken for granted,” Foner said at the Jackson event. “If the election of Hiram Revels and hundreds like him seemed to augur a permanent

change in our democracy, the subsequent abrogation of those rights in the South, with the acquiescence of the rest of the nation, reminds us that, to alter a celebrated observation of Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘the arc of the moral universe’ does not always ‘bend toward justice.’” Watch the Feb. 11 program on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A45VcbZXKLk&>



MARYE LOWE EDWARDS
Marye Lowe Edwards (95) was a lady, and a lady always knows when to take her leave. She passed peacefully away on February 29, 2020. Ree, as she was known by all, was the second daughter of Walter and Nannie Lowe of Tchula, MS. She graduated from MSCW in Elementary Education and went on to teach school in Columbia, MS. Always trying to outwit an alarm clock, the principal would occasionally send over a child to make sure she made it in to work. She married Col. Earl William Edwards of Cruger, MS, in 1947 after he returned from the war. Married to a career military officer meant lots of travel including a stint in Beirut, Lebanon. They went on to have three children before they retired back “home” to Tchula, MS. Ree and Earl forged a close-knit family with faith in God, a strong work ethic, a competitive spirit, and lots of teasing on the side. On a tight budget in the early years, Ree’s creative spirit came through with numbered Christmas presents, adult Easter Egg hunts, mystery family vacations, and funeral birthday parties. Ree was preceded in death by her husband, Earl William Edwards, her parents, Walter and Nannie Lowe, and her

sister, Nan Long. She is survived by her children, Lyn Montgomery, Bruce (Ava) Edwards, and Mark (Susi) Edwards. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Clay (Valerie) Montgomery, Chris (Amy) Montgomery, Paige (Travis) Dunn, Anna Edwards, Savannah Edwards, and Matthew Edwards. She also had seven great grandchildren. Visitation was held at Wilson & Knight Funeral Home in Greenwood, MS, on Tuesday, March 3rd beginning at noon with the funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Interment followed in Pinecrest Cemetery in Tchula, MS. Chaplain Gary Briden officiated. Pallbearers were: Clay Montgomery, Chris Montgomery, Matthew Edwards, Travis Dunn, Crawford Logan, and David Flemming. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Pinecrest Cemetery care of Bruce Edwards P.O. Box 417 Tchula, MS 39169. Wilson and Knight Funeral Home is in charge. Online guest book may be signed at www.wilsonandknight.com
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MR. LARRY HARRELL
Mr. Larry Harrell passed away Friday, February 21, 2020 at his residence in Beech Bluff, TN. Burial was at Reformation Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Carthage, MS.



POPULAR SPRING
Popular Spring M.B. Church, 6008 Hebron Road, Lexington, will host its Pastor 37th Appreciation Service on Sunday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m.
2-27;3-5

BEULAH BAPTIST
Beulah Baptist Church on Hebron Road, will have a garage sale on March 6-7, at 7 a.m.
2-27;3-5

WORKER REUNION
Employees of the former Lexington Elementary School will meet for their annual luncheon at Harvester Restaurant on Wednesday, march 11 at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is on your own.
2-27;3-5

SUNNY MOUNT
Sunny Mount M.B. Church in Lexington will host Spring “Revival” Services from Tuesday, March 10 through Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 nightly. There will be a different speaker each night.
2-27;3-5

EAST JONES CHAPEL
East Jones Chapel Church in Lexington, will host its pastor and first-lady’s 17th

Year Anniversary on Sunday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m.
2-27;3-5

GREENSBOROUGH
Greensborough M.B. Church in Durant will hold its Youth Revival, March 11-13 at 7:15 nightly.
2-27;3-5

HC BEAT ONE
Holmes County Beat One will host a town hall meeting about the upcoming U.S. census on Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m. The meeting will be at the fire station on Rosebank Mt. Olive Road (Acona).
3-5

SWEET HOME M.B.C.
Sweet Home M.B. Church will celebrate its third pastor anniversary service on Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m.
3-5,12

ROSE HILL DISTRICT
The Rose Hill District Baptist Association Joint Board Meeting & Annual Planning Session will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington. This event is free and open to the public.
3-5

CENTRAL HOLMES
Central Holmes Christian School will host its annual Spring Auction on Thursday, March 19 at Berman Gymnasium. The silent auction is at 5 p.m. and the live auction at 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti plates will be available from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Contact the school if you would like to purchase plates. There will also be a frozen/homemade food booth.
3-5,12

THURMOND CEMETERY
The Thurmond Cemetery Club will be holding its annual business meeting on Saturday, March 14 at 12 noon, at Sunny Mount Baptist Church on Wash Bailey Road in Lexington. All members and individuals who have family members buried at Thurmond Cemetery are asked to be in attendance.
3-5,12

HOLLY GROVE M.B.C.
Holly Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will celebrate its Pastor and Wife’s 27th Year Anniversary on Sunday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m.
3-12,19

LEXINGTON F.B.C.
Lexington First Baptist

Church will have revival Sunday, March 15 through Wednesday, March 18. On Sunday, March 15, revival is at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Lunch will follow the 11 a.m. service. Revival will be at 7 p.m. March 16-18.
3-5,12



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