

TRIBUTE TO JAMES HADLEY

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(House of Representatives - February 25, 2010)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, and a friend of many of those who knew him, who passed away a few days ago, and whose visitation services are being held even at this moment as I speak. While I was not able to be at those services, I am able to take the floor and pay tribute to Mr. James Hadley, a businessman, a banker, community advocate, a civic and church leader, and a friend to all of those who knew him.

For most of his adult life, James Hadley spent it building financial and business enterprises in low, moderate income, and disadvantaged communities. And Jim worked with many, many programs and projects, business ventures, and financial institutions.

And while he worked with many throughout the City of Chicago, I believe that that which gave him the greatest sense of pride and accomplishment was the work that he did with the Community Bank of Lawndale, where he, Cecil Butler, Diane Glenn, Reverend Shelvin Hall, and others pioneered the development of a community-owned bank, which has changed its name and is now named the Covenant Bank, and is under the leadership of Pastor Bill Winston of the Living Word Christian Center.

James Hadley and I both grew up in Arkansas not very far from each other, I in a little town Parkdale, and he in another town, Warren. And I really didn't know him at that time. But as fate would have it, we both migrated to Chicago. And as I got to know Jim, he became a role model for me. He was seriously committed to every endeavor to which he was a part of. He was loyal to whatever he was engaged in. He was a great family man, dedicated to his family, had a comprehensive approach to life, and was just a pleasure to know, to be around, and to work with.

As a matter of fact, I commend James Hadley for a life well lived, take note of his many contributions, and thank him for helping to make the world a better place in which to live.

As a matter of fact, he served on the board of many not-for-profits, the hospital board, Mount Sinai Hospital, was an active member of the Carter Temple CME church, worked with the Boy Scouts,

worked with the male initiative in his church, and was simply known as a good man to all of those who knew him.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I extend condolences to his wife Gloria, his daughter, and all of the James Hadley family, and trust that there will be others who will come along like him, who was willing to give of himself continuously for the benefit of others.

James Hadley, he lived a good life. Well done.