Welcome...

The Thompson Report is an electronic newsletter published to keep so that we can stay connected. You can also stay in touch with me through any of my social media sites on page 6 of this eNewsletter. If you want to send me an email you can do so from my website.

Spread the word, share this newsletter. [Click here](#) to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter.

Thank you.

Bennie G. Thompson

Federal Resources Workshop

Winning an election as a municipal leader means the majority of local citizens believed that person is the best one for the job. Next comes the head scratching chore of how to get the job done. I’ve held the positions of alderman, mayor, county supervisor, and now a US Congressman so I understand what it takes. That is why in this workshop I brought federal and state agencies in to allow attendees to hear from representatives about programs and services they offer from helping with strategic planning to environmental issues to say the least.

Many of the municipalities, big and small, in the district have issues with economic development, surplus property, shortage of decent and available housing, economic development and much more. Some of the agencies that attended included the MS Planning and Development Districts, USDA Rural Development, and HUD.

In March 2018, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson hosted a district wide Federal Resources Workshop for elected officials at Mississippi Valley State University. Mayors, Alderpersons, and City Clerks were among the attendees. The workshop was designed to allow attendees to hear from representatives of both federal and state agencies about programs and services available to help elected officials in their duties and responsibilities back in their local municipality.

(Photos Courtesy of Al White)
District Calendar of Dates

MAY
18th 2018 College and Job Fair
Online Registration Open
To Register Click Here
Call: Dr. Timla G. Washington
(662) 335-9003

JUNE
1st National Park Service Civil Rights Sites Deadline to Comment
Call: Dr. Timla G. Washington
(662) 335-9003

Annual Dates
FEBRUARY 1st - OCTOBER 31st
Congressional Nominations for Military Academies - Applications Accepted
Call: Mr. Cedric Watkins
(662) 741-9003

October 5, 2018
2018 College and Job Fair

Contents
Page:

1 Federal Resources Workshop
2 District Calendar of Dates
   Congressional Offices Contact Information
3 Legislative Updates
   Coahoma County Town Hall: Legislative Updates
   2018 Congressional Records Monthly Categories
   BIG DEAL for MS Civil Rights Sites: National Park Designation
4 You Need to Know...
   • MDA Business Development Trip to Morocco
   • SBA Disaster Loans for Drought
   • Americorps NCCC Project Proposals and Putting People to Work
   • The U.S. Census Bureau Mails Economic Census Surveys
5 You Need to Know...
   • Delta Electric Refunds to Members Amount to $5 million
   • Veterans Home Purchase Board: Home Loans and Grants for Veterans
   • Library of Congress Surplus Book Program
   • Congressman Thompson’s Medgar Evers National Monument Act Passes House
6 Grants and Funding Opportunities
   BIG DEAL for MS Civil Rights Sites: National Park Designations con’t
   Projects Funded in the Second Congressional District
7 Marks Mississippi Celebrates
8 Constituent Services
   Words of Thanks...
   Stay in Touch - Social Media

Offices
Washington Office
2466 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5876

107 West Madison
P.O. Box 610
Bolton, MS 39041
Phone: 601-866-9003
In State: 800-355-9003

910 Courthouse Lane
Greenville, MS 38701
Phone: 662-335-9003
Legislative Update

These updates are provided to keep you informed of legislative activity in Washington, DC...

1. Letter: Congressman Thompson signed on to a letter forcing Pres. Trump to sign an Executive Order to protect social safety net programs such as SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid.

2. Co-Sponsored: H.R. 159, authorizes the Department of Interior to award grants to wildlife and veterinary institutions to create additional clinical and research positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians.

3. Co-Sponsored: H.R. 2358, supports the Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Medal Act, which directs the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to make appropriate arrangements for the awarding of a single Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II for their dedicated service during the war.

BIG DEAL for MS Civil Rights Sites: National Park Designation

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson supports Public Law 115-31, which authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to Conduct a Special Resource Study on Civil Rights Sites in the Second Congressional District and across Mississippi. Sites chosen will be those most deserving of being recognized for their national contribution to civil rights in America and earned the designation of being a “National Park.”

What could that mean for your local community? It means economic growth, an increase in entrepreneurial opportunities, more visitors coming to town and spending money, job creation, and an increase in social and cultural activity, and you get to tell your story.

Submit sites to be considered and voice your concerns before June 8, 2018. Your input becomes part of the NPS report to congress. Click here to Comment Now and share your thoughts. See pictures on page 5.
You need to know...

Read the latest news below to stay in touch with what’s happening from the federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit levels.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
TRIP TO MOROCCO

Do you want a chance to trade with other countries? The Small Business Administration is teaming up with the MDA's International Trade Office to offer business owners a chance to travel to Morocco on a business delegation trip. Grant assistance is available to help businesses with costs. Deadline to register is July 13, 2018. The trip is September 24 - 28, 2018. For more information call or email Aggie Sikora (asikora@mississippi.org / 601-359-2952).

DISASTER LOANS FOR DROUGHT

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses, and most private nonprofit organizations who suffered a financial loss because of the drought that began December 12, 2017. Counties in the 2nd Congressional District are Claiborne, Hinds, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo. To apply online go to SBA or call 800-254-2955 or (800-877-8339) for TDD.

PROJECT PROPOSALS AND PUTTING PEOPLE TO WORK

Do you have a community or organizations project planned for next year? Apply for a team to come help. And if you know someone between ages 17 and 24 who likes to help, learn, travel, and get paid, tell them to apply for one of AmeriCorps programs. Call or email Tamika L. Eatmon (teatmon@cns.gov / 601-630-4072) to ask how to apply for a team. To learn about the different programs to join go to AmeriCorps Programs.

THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU MAILS ECONOMIC CENSUS SURVEYS TO BUSINESSES BEGINNING MAY 1, 2018

Every five years, the U.S. Census Bureau collects extensive statistics about businesses through its official count known as the economic census. Information collected serves as the foundation for measuring U.S. businesses and their economic impact, and for understanding the American economy. Nearly four million businesses, large, medium, and small all across the U.S. will receive a survey. Look for your survey in the mail beginning May 1, 2018.
**You need to know...**

Read the latest news below to stay in touch with what’s happening from the federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit levels.

---

**Delta Electric**

**REFUNDS TO MEMBERS AMOUNT TO $5 MILLION**

Delta Electric will begin mailing capital credit refund checks to members who paid their bills in 1993, 1994, and 2017 beginning May 11, 2018. Unlike an investor-owned utility company, that operated for a profit Delta Electric is a cooperative and does not operate for a profit. When members pay their monthly bill, any money left over at the end of the year goes into a capital credit fund and it's disbursed among members.

---

**Veterans’ Home Purchase Board of the State of MS**

**HOME LOANS AND GRANTS FOR VETERANS**

Mortgage loans are available for Mississippi veterans, current active duty military personnel, members of the MS National Guard or Reserves with over six years of service. Loans are provided by private lenders while the VA backs a portion of the loan. VA Guarantee Grant Program offers up to $67,000 in funds to disabled veterans needing home modifications. To learn more click here [VA Home Purchase Board](#).

---

**Library of Congress**

**SURPLUS BOOKS PROGRAM**

The Library of Congress donates free books to eligible organizations and institutions (e.g., schools, museums, boys and girls clubs, public libraries, and more). The purpose of the program is to help build the collection of books in public libraries. To learn more about this program and how to get books click here [SBP](#) or call Joseph Mahar at 202-707-9524.

---

**CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON’S MEDGAR EVERNS NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT PASSES HOUSE**

H.R. 4895: “This legislation is of great personal importance to me,” Thompson said. “I like, many others, was inspired by the magnitude of determination Mr. Evers showed by dedicating himself to others and fighting against adversity. The designation of his home is an everlasting tribute to his legacy. I am honored to have authored this legislation to honor the sacrifice of not only Mr. Evers but also his widow, Myrlie.” The bill had bipartisan support... now makes its way to the U.S. Senate for a final vote.

---

**Picture Source:** Library of Congress, Prints & Photograph Division, NYWT&S
Grants and Funding Opportunities

Grants are competitive. Grants have deadlines set by the agency who has the money. Below are current grants. Visit each one for more information. Click this link to see a compiled list of other Grant Resources.

EPA Types of Brownfields Grant Funding provides direct funding to help with Brownfields projects. Click Here

Veteran’s Home Purchase Board offers mortgage loans to veterans, current active duty military personnel, or current members of the MS National Guard or Reserves with over six years of service. Click Here

BIG DEAL for MS Civil Rights Sites: National Park Designation cont’...

EPA Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
A second round of funding is available for water infrastructure projects. Letters of Intent due by July 6, 2018. Click Here

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The United States Department of Health and Human Services through the Health Center Cluster Program has awarded over $800k in discretionary funds to health care facilities in the Delta.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Comprehensive Health Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$223,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center</td>
<td>$267,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.A. Carmichael Family Health Care Clinic</td>
<td>$312,977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Appalachian Regional Commission has awarded grant funds for water system improvements in the district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Duckhill</td>
<td>$209,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marks Mississippi Celebrates

Marks has two things to celebrate, the 50th Anniversary of the Mule Train, and opening of the Northwest MS Regional Amtrak Station.

Marks was once the face of poverty in America in 1968. Scenes of poverty tugged at the heart of Senator Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Ms. Marian Wright when they visited. In 1968 the Mule Train, full of citizens from Marks MS and around the Delta, loaded their wagons pulled by Mules and headed for Washington D.C. on a “Poor People’s Campaign” to bring attention to prevailing poverty, social, and political abuse. Now, fifty years later Marks remembers the campaign and its contribution to the civil rights movement in a “Rebuild the Dream” symposium.

For 20 years, Marks has been working on making history again. The reopening of a new Amtrak train station for travelers, going between Chicago and New Orleans, can now consider Marks as place to board and deboard. Amtrak will provide daily stops in Marks at its new location of 285 Cherry Street. Manuel Killebrew, President of the Quitman County Board of Supervisors said, “There are many elected officials and community leaders to thank who lobbied for this regional project that will provide passenger rail service to over 200,000 residents living in the seven surrounding cities.”
Constituent Services

Constituent Services is about being available and willing to assist you when you need it. Below are just some of the ways I can help. If you have trouble with any of the links below on my website, call Ms. Stephanie Booker at 601-866-9003.

HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY

Sometimes dealing with federal agencies can be overwhelming. If you live in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi you can call my office for assistance with a federal agency. We will do our best to help you. I cannot guarantee you a favorable outcome, but I guarantee you my office is willing to try. Click here to fill out a Privacy Authorization form.

VISITING WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C. is a beautiful place to visit with lots of educational and tourist attractions. I think everyone should visit the nation’s capitol and see how government is operated. If you are planning to visit Washington D.C., my office can assist you with tours of the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Please call my Washington D.C. office at 202-225-5876 at least three months before arrival. On My Website I have suggested some sites to visit.

FLAG REQUESTS

If you would like to order a U.S. flag through my office, click here to print and fill out a Flag Order form. Here you can calculate the price and shipping cost. You may choose to have your flag flown over the U.S. Capitol which comes with a certificate that can be personalized at your request.

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Every year I have the opportunity to nominate a limited number of qualified young people who live in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi to the Military Service Academies. One of the benefits is that graduates come out as commissioned officers in a branch of the military or reserve. Applications are accepted every year beginning February 1st through October 31st. For questions call Mr. Cedric Watkins in my Mound Bayou Office at 662-741-9003. Visit the Military Academies Nominations page on my website.

WORDS OF THANKS...

SSG Anthony E. Pittman
United States Army - Retired
Disabled Veteran
Yazoo County MS
“Sir, I personally want to take time to thank you for taking the time to help me. I am so glad that you are my Congressman. As of today, I am medically retired thanks to you, Mr. Thompson. Although my retirement is currently temporary, I am certain that with the will of God that my retirement will be permanent... [after] 12 years of loyal service to the Army... I would have received the appropriate help and care for a disabled veteran.”

Ms. Peggy Diane Brown
Bolivar County MS
“I’ve always dreamed of finishing my college degree but my fear of student loan debt kept me from pursuing my dream. Then one day I made up my mind and went back believing God will make a way. After graduating with my BS Degree in Early Childhood Education, I called your Greenville office and spoke to Dr. Timla G. Washington. She told me about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. With her help, I applied and was approved. Thank you so much Congressman Thompson, and yes you are the one we need in this Delta.”