

is the seventh of eight children of the late Freddie and Lillie Davis Givens, Sr. Mr. Givens is 67 years old. He is currently employed with MINACT, Inc. as the Business & Community Liaison at the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center in Batesville, Mississippi, partially named after one of his mentors, the late civil rights leader, Dr. Aaron E. Henry and Governor Cliff Finch.

Givens accepted his current position after a distinguished career with the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (now Mississippi Department of Employment Security). He retired from the Commission in 2004 as the first African-American State Director of the Employment Service Division.

Givens is currently serving in numerous local, state and regional organization positions, continuing his life long practice of serving his community. He is recognized amongst his family, his colleagues, and his community as a man of service and passion to help those in need and improve his community. Givens and his wife of ten years are now residents of Grenada, Mississippi. He is the father of three daughters and grandfather of seven. He is a member and Deacon of the Greater Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Gore Springs, Mississippi.

Givens attended and graduated from Hunter High School in Drew, Mississippi. After high school he attended and graduated from Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He continued his education at Jackson State University receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1969. Immediately after receiving his degree, Givens assisted his parents in accomplishing a long time goal of moving off a Sunflower County plantation to Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Because of the Coahoma Community College president's knowledge of Givens and three other siblings, Givens' father was given a job at Coahoma Community College by the president upon a request by Givens and his older brother. While assisting his parents complete the move, Givens was hired as a Counselor by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission in Clarksdale. Being married to his hometown girlfriend while in college, Givens also assisted his mother-in-law and five in-laws move off the same Sunflower County plantation to Clarksdale.

Givens left the Mississippi Employment Security Commission after four months to teach in the Clarksdale Public School system. Since the school district was desegregated in the middle of the year, Givens was not immediately offered a contract for the next year because the school district was required to seek a balance of white-black teachers. He returned to the Employment Commission for the summer and committed to stay after a full time position was offered.

After only one year in Clarksdale, Givens mother-in-law passed and he and wife accepted the responsibility of caring for the five in-laws left without parents. The in-laws, along with Givens three daughters, remained in the household together until each completed high school or moved on to join the workforce or military.

After three years in Clarksdale, Givens lost his father to a heart attack. Givens committed to remaining in Clarksdale to be near his mother. Also, his work in the community, to include the Head Start program and the local chapter of the National Association for the Ad-

vancement of Colored People, was well under way and close ties had been developed with many local officials. The community involvement and encouragement from local officials, including Dr. Aaron Henry, resulted in Givens becoming active in state, regional and national advocacy groups for Head Start. He served several terms as President of the Mississippi Head Start Parents Association and was a founding member and two terms President of the National Head Start Parents Association.

After working in a non-status position with the Employment Security Commission for approximately three (3) years, in 1972 Givens became the first African-American to receive a permanent status position in the Clarksdale office. In 1975 he was selected to enter the agency's Counseling Masters Program at Mississippi State University. The same year he was promoted and selected to start and be Coordinator of the Employment Security Commission's Ex-Offender Placement Program based at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. He received his Masters degree in Counseling from Mississippi State University in 1978.

In 1980, Givens became the first African-American to be appointed the State Monitor/Advocate/Complaint Specialist. He relocated his family to Jackson to work in the Employment Security Commission's headquarters.

In 1986, Givens was appointed the Manager of the Greenwood Employment Office, the first African-American to manage an office in the Mississippi delta. Within months of relocating his family from Jackson to Greenwood, Givens' family started receiving telephone threats from callers identified as the KKK advising him to leave the city because the position of manager was for whites. Acts of violence and damage to his home were committed in the following weeks. The threats and violence ended after an investigation by the local law enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During the same year Givens' co-workers elected him the first African-American to be president of the Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). During his term as president, the Chapter improved in employee participation and service to members, obtaining an international ranking of number 6, the highest in Chapter history. During his five years as the Greenwood Employment Office Manager, Givens was deeply involved in community organizations as the Chamber of Commerce and the Greenwood Voters League.

In 1991, Givens was appointed the Employment Security Commission Area Supervisor for the Mississippi delta, the first African-American in the state to hold an Area Supervisor position. Partially, because of Givens commitment to staff development and equal opportunity, the minority office managers in the delta increased from 0 out of 9 to 6 out of 9 during his tenure as Area Supervisor. After a reorganization of the Employment Service Division in 1996, Givens supervisory responsibility was expanded to include all of north Mississippi.

Givens was appointed State Director of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission Employment Service Division in 2001. During his tenure in the position, he continued his commitment to staff development, teamwork, customer service and equal opportunity. This resulted in broad support within the Employment Service Division and a noticeable in-

crease in minorities in management positions throughout the state.

In 2005, after retiring from the state, Givens was hired by MINACT, INC., a minority owned company based in Jackson, Mississippi, upon the recommendation of a senior MINACT official, who was a former Head Start employee aware of Givens years of community involvement and career with the state. Givens considered it a blessing to be in a position to use the experience and knowledge from his life long career and community service to help the Finch-Henry Job Corps Center accomplish the mission of preparing youth and young adults for the workforce and life in general.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Roger Givens for his dedication to this great state.

TRIBUTE TO BRIANNE
FITZGERALD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brianne Fitzgerald for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As the marketing and communication director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa Brianne has utilized her expertise in the marketing field to raise awareness of the message Big Brother and Big Sisters is trying to bring to the community. She works tirelessly to provide resources to those who need them most, so that they too have the opportunity to become successful. Her dedication and passion for serving others and strengthening the Des Moines community is a true testament to her character and it has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brianne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Brianne on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.