



**August 20, 2012**

**Marion Berry, Rep. Ross, Arkansas AG, Postsecondary Ed Official  
to Speak at MSCC Building Dedication on Friday**

Marion Berry, U.S. Congressman Mike Ross, Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education David Bergeron, and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel will speak Friday at the dedication of Mid-South Community College's newest high-tech facility.

The college will formally dedicate the \$9 million Marion Berry Renewable Energy Center at 10 a.m., and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

A ticket-only tribute dinner for Berry will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Southland Park Gaming and Racing Event Center. To reserve space at the event, go to [www.mbrec.org/media/table-reservations](http://www.mbrec.org/media/table-reservations) and fill out the Table Reservation form or contact Patti Coleman, MSCC Director of Advancement, at 870.733.6764 or [pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu).

Proceeds from the ticket/table sales will go toward the establishment of the Marion Berry Scholarship at Mid-South Community College.

The Center, located on MSCC's North Campus on the east side of College Boulevard in West Memphis, is named in recognition of the longtime First District Congressman who fueled efforts to direct more than \$55 million to Eastern Arkansas for educational and economic development.



At the groundbreaking ceremony, long before he knew the building would be named in his honor, Congressman Berry said it represented a historic step forward for the region.

“It will revitalize our workforce by training individuals for new skills that will be in high demand,” Berry said. “Our region will be uniquely qualified to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce. I appreciate all of the people who not only had the vision but the tenacity to implement their vision for a brighter future for Arkansas.”

The Marion Berry Renewable Energy Center provides a world-class facility to support entrepreneurs, workforce training, and applied research in the utilization of renewable agricultural outputs to create value chains which support creation of new businesses and jobs across the region.

Berry ran for Congress in 1996 and won with a strong majority. As a member of the House Agriculture committee from 1997-2002, he fought for the interests of family farmers in Arkansas and across the country. Berry was instrumental in passing the 2002 Farm Bill that gave farmers the safety net they needed to continue producing the safest and most bountiful food and fiber supply in history.

In 2003, he accepted an appointment to the House Appropriations Committee. He was also chosen by Democratic leadership to serve as vice chair of the Steering and Policy Committee and as a member of the Leader’s Senior Whip Team.

From the time he arrived in Congress in 1997, Berry placed national security and supporting our military servicemen and women at the top of his agenda.

Prior to his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Berry served in the Bill Clinton Administration as the Special Assistant to the President for Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance in 1993. During this time, Berry also advised the President and other Administration officials as a member of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

His first foray into public service began in 1977 when he won election to the Gillett City Council. From 1986 to 1994, he served on the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission and in 1992 was selected by his colleagues to chair the commission.

Born August 27, 1942, Berry grew up in the Bayou Meto community near DeWitt. He graduated from DeWitt High School in 1960 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy.

After graduation, he worked as a pharmacist at the Argenta Drug Company in North Little Rock and, later, at Don's Pharmacy. From 1968 to 2005, Berry grew rice and soybeans on the family farm in Gillett.