

well as cooperation with a dozen nations on the development of a truly international space station. When we read reports of the difficulties that United States-Russian cooperation in space is encountering, it is well worth remembering how far we have come from the days of a dangerous rivalry, and how much we are trying to accomplish together. Space is not the province of a single nation—it is the province of all humanity.

In sum, we have accomplished much in the 40 years since that tiny metallic globe circled the Earth for the first time. We cannot predict with any great confidence what the next 40 years will bring. However, if the past is any guide, we can look forward to our future in space with anticipation, hope, and a sense of wonder.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR T. CURRY, PASTOR OF NEW BIRTH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a distinct honor and privilege to pay tribute to one of Miami's great leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry. I want to echo the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 10,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami lifted up to Almighty God this past weekend to celebrate his sixth pastoral anniversary.

Bishop Curry, 37 years old, truly represents the best and the noblest of our community. As bishop, senior pastor, and teacher of New Birth Baptist Church, he is remarkably leading his congregation in the ways of God and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good government based on our God-given conscience and responsibility.

It is indeed fitting for those of us who subscribe to the Judeo-Christian faith to pause and reflect on the important role that Bishop Curry plays in the day-to-day affairs of our community. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work he is doing in constantly guiding not only the members of New Birth Baptist Church, but the entire community. He has truly exemplified the example of Christ as the Good Shepherd, and has led his flock of believers, sharing with them the words of God's wisdom and the good news emanating from the Gospel.

His motto, "From Vision to Victory," has impacted the lives of countless people, propelling him into one of our Nation's charismatic televangelists par excellence. Along with many others in our community, I am indeed a fortunate beneficiary of Bishop Curry's televised teachings and radio ministry through the church-owned Radio WBBM-1490 AM, especially in his advocacy to demonstrate both by way of word and example our unconditional love for and commitment to the children and the elderly, the poor, the disenfranchised, and the least fortunate among us. I have learned from him the very centrality of God in our daily lives, conscious of the fact that the mandate of our faith must characterize our attitudes toward those who could least fend for themselves.

In its laudatory recognition the Miami Times aptly described him as "a forceful, courageous, and visionary leader not only of the religious community but also of our wider society * * * with the recognition that our churches are part of a larger network of institutions that are the pillars of our community." Bishop Curry is fully living up to his vocation as a genuine pastor. His standards for learning, caring, and achieving, especially among the youth has won for him the accolades of our ecumenical community. Public and private agencies have oftentimes cited him for his untiring consecration to the truth and his uncompromising stance on justice and equal opportunity for all.

Moreover, his crusades in teaching many a wayward inner-city youth has become legendary. He has gained the utmost confidence of countless parents and teachers who see in him a no-nonsense motivator. They are wont to entrust him with the future of their children, fully cognizant and genuinely confident that they would learn from him the tenets of scholarship and the pursuit of scholastic excellence under a conscientious commitment and rigorous discipline.

Our community is deeply touched and comforted by his undaunted leadership, compassion, and personal warmth. As head of one of the fastest growing churches in Florida, Bishop Curry preaches and lives by the adage that under the grace of God's Providence our common quest for personal integrity and professional achievement is not beyond the reach of those who are willing to dare the impossible. As a man of God and as an indomitable leader in our community, he has rightfully earned our deepest respect and genuine admiration.

This is the great legacy Bishop Victor T. Curry is unselfishly sharing with all of us. I am greatly privileged indeed to have his friendship and his confidence, and I am grateful that he continues to teach us to live by his noble ethic of always loving God and serving our fellowmen.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS RE-AUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2261, the Small Business Programs authorization. H.R. 2261 incorporates the provisions of H.R. 2429 which reauthorizes the Small Business Technology Transfer Program as reported by the Science Committee.

First, I want to say it has been a pleasure working with the Small Business Committee in this legislation.

During the Technology Subcommittee's hearing on the STTR program we heard strong bipartisan support for this small business, university, government partnership.

This program has been very successful at linking the research capabilities of universities and national laboratories, with the business sense and drive of our Nation's small business community.

A number of amendments have been drafted to the original legislation and I would like

to call the attention of my colleagues to one amendment in particular.

From reviewing the STTR awards made during the past 3 years, I became concerned that the majority of awards are made to only a few States.

Therefore, I suggested a provision that would require SBA to develop an outreach program to under represented States. Under represented States are defined as those which receive less than 20 awards during the prior 2 year period. During fiscal years 1995-96 only 8 states received more than 20 awards.

During the Technology Subcommittee's hearing it seemed clear that other States have fully qualified small businesses, universities, and nonprofit labs to enable them to compete successfully in the STTR program. However, in many States the program is not well-known nor does the business community know how to apply to the program. The goal of these provisions are to expand participation in the STTR program.

I want to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member BROWN of the Science Committee and Chairman TALENT and Ranking Member LAFALCE for including these specific provisions in H.R. 2261.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2261.

HONORING CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR ITS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring the Calvary Community Church on its 50th year of unselfish dedication to the community.

For 50 years, Calvary Community Church has provided a comfortable space for worship and social gathering for residents of Norwalk, Downey, Whittier, and other neighboring cities. Founded in October 1946, the church was officially established in April 1947, when Rev. Dale E. Hundsdoerfer was named its first pastor.

In 1949, Calvary Community Church purchased property on the corner of Pioneer and Mapledale, in the city of Downey; holding services in a tent while constructing its permanent building. On April 4, 1950, the church held its first service in its new chapel. A larger sanctuary was built in 1956 to facilitate the growing congregation.

Calvary Community Church has emerged as a revolutionary church providing service for the hearing impaired, initiating food and clothing drives for the needy, holding weekly services at the California Youth Authority facilities in Norwalk, bringing SHARE, a low-cost food program, to Los Angeles County, and for the past 10 years cosponsoring summer camps for abused and neglected children. In addition, the church currently provides support for 15 missionaries and provides weekly programs for boys (Royal Rangers), girls (Missionettes), teenagers, and adults of all backgrounds.

I would also like to recognize and thank the pastors for their selfless devotion to Calvary Community Church: Rev. Dale E. Hundsdoerfer 1947-62, Rev. A.J. Sovern 1963-77, Rev. Dennis Millat 1977-87, and

Rev. Sam Miller 1987–91, Rev. Jim Knutsen 1991–95, Rev. Gary Jeffery 1995–96, and Rev. Siegfried Manntai 1996–present.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting, thanking, and honoring the pastors and congregation of Calvary Community Church for its 50 years of dedication and service to the community.

ANTHONY SCIBELLI OF SPRINGFIELD, MA, LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY SERVING STATE LEGISLATOR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to a constituent of mine who was recently recognized by the National Conference of State Legislators as the "longest continuously serving legislator in the United States of America." Anthony Scibelli, a friend, neighbor, and staple in the Springfield political arena, has for 47 years served his constituents in the 10th Hampden County district with dedication, commitment, and honor.

Representative Scibelli's political career has been extensive. Tony began his life of public service in his native Springfield by serving for 12 years on the city council. In 1951, he began what has proven to be a successful career by becoming a State representative and member of the Massachusetts General Court. And over the years, as he has earned the title of "Dean of the House," Anthony Scibelli has never forgotten where he has come from and the people who have elected him.

Strongly committed to the concept of education for all, Scibelli's dedication is best embodied in the halls and classrooms of Springfield Technical Community College. As someone who has fought for opportunities for all, his devotion to this ideal has been enjoyed by every child and family who has ever swum in the Emerson Wight pool. A former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Scibelli has been a vital participant in the State's legislative process.

Anthony Scibelli currently serves on the Joint Ways and Means Committee, House Ways and Means Committee and Transportation Committee. He also proudly serves as a distinguished member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Eagles, the Sons of Italy, and the Longmeadow Country Club. While his memberships and affiliations describe some of his personal qualities, perhaps Anthony Scibelli can best be understood by reviewing his personal philosophy. As he says about himself, "I never ignore or dismiss even the smallest request from people. Very simply put, I feel good about being in a position to help those who need it."

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend, my friend, Representative Anthony Scibelli, on this unique and well-deserved national designation and for the vital role he has assumed in Springfield. I am proud to join with the citizens of the second congressional district in offering a most heartfelt congratulations.

HONORING PASTOR AMOS G. JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Pastor Amos G. Johnson of Pontiac, MI. On Saturday, October 4, the congregation of Pontiac's New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will honor Pastor Johnson for 40 years of dedicated service to the community in the name of the Lord.

I wish the circumstances that brought Pastor Johnson to Pontiac from Clinton, MS in 1957 had been more pleasant. Even degrees from Jackson State College and American Baptist Theological Seminary could not protect him from persecution and harassment based on the color of his skin. Following a divine voice, Pastor Johnson left Mississippi for Michigan, and 2 weeks later became the head of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. In those 40 years, the New Bethel congregation has grown from 50 to more than 1,500 under Pastor Johnson's leadership. The church has moved from their original building to a beautiful new facility directly across the street. The original church still stands as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry-Shelter for the homeless, servicing 161 families and 288 children.

Pastor Johnson's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. The pastor has been affiliated with and has held leadership positions in groups such as the Greater Pontiac District Association, Wolverine State Congress, Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to name a few. He has also been honored with an honorary degree from the Urban Bible Institute in Detroit.

Pastor Johnson's deeds in the name of the Lord are just as remarkable as his deeds on behalf of the Pontiac community. In addition to the Outreach Center, he has served as chaplain at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac, and has worked tirelessly to aid those struggling with substance abuse. Counting strong relationships with young people as a major accomplishment, Pastor Johnson can often be found working with student and teachers in the Pontiac School District.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow Members of the 105th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Amos Johnson. I also ask that you acknowledge the contributions made by Marjorie, his wonderful wife of 49 years, who has been with him every step of the way. Self evident in their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. Our community is a much better place because of Pastor and Mrs. Amos Johnson.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the in-

corporation of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. On October 2, 1957, the sheriffs of the State of Florida, with the best interests of our young men and women in mind, saw fit to organize the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch along the banks of the Suwannee River. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch has been in continuous operation for the last 40 years and has served as the foundation for programs ranging from statewide child care programs to nationally accredited, community-based, family counseling services; independent living skills; parenting classes; and family life education.

The ongoing work of these rewarding programs and their dedicated staff have given over 30,000 young men and women the chance to resolve personal conflicts and the opportunity to live as lawful, productive assets to society. Their efforts have helped to rebuild the American family and combat juvenile crime at the source, encouraging our youth to act as responsible citizens and to pursue more rewarding pastimes and activities. Their hard work and dedication to the youth of the State of Florida is most commendable, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you join me in honoring the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches on this, their 40th anniversary.

DEDICATION OF KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the Members' attention to the dedication today of an important memorial in Kootenai County, ID. I am proud to say that the Kootenai County Veterans Memorial Plaza being dedicated today represents the gratefulness that the people of Idaho have for our Nation's veterans from the Revolutionary War up to the Persian Gulf war. The chairman of the county commissioners, Dick Compton, and Commissioners Richard Panabaker and Ronald D. Rankin echo the sentiments of the great people of Kootenai County in their appreciation for the great sacrifices these veterans made. The State of Idaho has a proud history of support for our Nation's armed services and for our Nation's veterans. Idaho has also stood strong for the founding principles that have made this country great. The Veterans Memorial Plaza stands as an important monument for our Nation's veterans and for these great principles which they stood for with such courage, willingness, and sacrifice of life and limb. I applaud the people of Kootenai County for the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza. I would encourage each of the members to read the heartfelt words from Commissioner Rankin's dedication below.

DEDICATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

(By Commissioner Ronald D. Rankin)

In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."