

York where he lived with his wife, Freda. His political career began at the local level where he served as Queensbury Town Supervisor and Warren County Supervisor. He then served six years as New York State assemblyman.

Jerry successfully ran as a Republican for Congress in 1978 and steadily gained in popularity in his home 22nd Congressional District of New York. In 1990, Solomon received more votes than any other New York state congressman.

His was a familiar voice for House Republicans on matters regarding veterans and our national defense. And I was honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with him in support of our men and women in uniform and to protect the American flag.

Jerry was a true patriot and personified what is to be an American. I am proud to have called him a colleague and personal friend.

RECOGNIZING FORT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their distinguished educational program.

Fort Washington is a school with a rich history. Fort Washington Elementary Union School District formed on July 6, 1874 and consisted of one school, Lincoln Elementary Union School, a one-room school, formed January 21, 1909. On March 3, 1945, the two schools merged after the original Lincoln School burned down. A new Fort Washington Lincoln School, consisting of five classrooms, was built in 1957 at the site of the current school. On December 22, 1959, the new district elected to join eight other rural elementary school districts to form the highly acclaimed Clovis Unified School District. Since then, the school has added over one dozen classrooms, a staff lounge, multi-purpose room, administrative offices, outdoor amphitheater, and a blacktop area. Clovis Unified built another elementary school on the site of the original Lincoln School in 1977. This new campus was named Lincoln Elementary. Fort Washington-Lincoln School was then changed to Fort Washington Elementary School, proud home of the Patriots.

Over 750 students are currently being served by 67 dedicated staff members. In June of 1986, Fort Washington was selected as one of 210 exemplary public schools from across the nation as part of the United States Department of Education's First National Recognition Program for elementary schools. In 1997, the school was recognized as a California Distinguished School. During the 1998-1999 school year, the school accomplished a feat that has only been attained by two percent of the schools in the United States; Fort Washington received the honor of being designated a National Blue Ribbon School for the third time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fort Washington Elementary School for their renowned educational program. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Fort Washington Ele-

mentary School many more years of continued success.

TURKEY CONTINUES TO DEEPEN ITS DEMOCRATIC VALUES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, we have been debating in this body for some time now how to achieve the appropriate balance, in war and in peace, between protection of the state and protection of the individual liberties that are so important to a healthy democracy. As we wrestle with the aftermath of September 11th, we begin to see the same debate and the same concerns echoed in other democracies around the world.

One debate, not much focused on, has occurred in our ally and good friend, Turkey. That nation, which has lost over 30,000 of its citizens due to terrorist attacks, and which has suffered great hardship as a result of their support for our policy of economic sanctions against Iraq and others in the Middle East, has nonetheless conducted a vigorous public debate about what kind of democracy should flourish in Turkey. That debate has ended with a series of constitutional reforms, reforms that the State Department says "embodies the values that the international coalition is defending."

These reforms are broad ranging. In some cases, they expressly limit the power of the state to stifle freedom of expression, or to pry into the private lives of citizens, even those who might be suspected of criminal behavior. Others enshrine individual rights to gather, to protest or to form political parties. Still others aim for a more inclusive society by allowing use of languages other than Turkish. A group of the reforms seek to place an economic floor of support below the citizens in order to help assure opportunities for economic betterment. Finally, a group of reforms seek to streamline government and make it more responsive to the citizenry.

More than 30 constitutional reforms were adopted. Once implemented, they should go a long way toward erasing any opposition to Turkey's entry into the European Union.

It is also important to note that these reforms have been made in a Moslem nation. Turkey has always believed it important to protect the secular nature of its society, often at the risk of being criticized from within and without. Turkey's reforms, indeed its impetus to reform, is living proof that democracy and Islam are compatible.

Mr. Speaker, there are two other things about these reforms that are remarkable. First, Turkey moved boldly on many fronts to examine past practices and seems willing to make large changes to enshrine democracy. Second, despite economic pressures, political pressures, and the exigencies of the current war against terrorists, it never wavered in its pursuit of a democratic ideal. Turkey, and the entire community of democracies, should feel justly proud of what has been accomplished to date.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HILDAGARD (CHIEF) ALEXANDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember an honorable and distinguished man who proudly served his nation for twenty years in the United States Army. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Hildagard (Chief) Alexander.

Chief Alexander has witnessed some of the most frightening scenes in American war history. The Chief enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was soon in the thick of battle landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Chief Alexander went on to serve in the Korean War before being discharged in 1962. It is my privilege to acknowledge Chief Alexander for the sacrifices he made so future generations can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that shape the American way of life. Furthermore, I wish to honor Chief for his role as a community leader in Colorado's Western Slope. Perhaps others best remember him as the children's representative for the Shriner's Hospital. He dedicated much of his time toward bringing joy and happiness into the lives of children. Chief was a proud man whom many had deep respect for. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Alexander will be especially missed by his wife, Margaret, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. As family and friends mourn his passing, Chief's compassion will shine through the hearts of those closest to him. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to his family during this time of remembrance. Chief Alexander will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE D. TABLACK

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a George D. Tablack.

Mr. Tablack was a lifelong resident and a well-respected leader of the Mahoning Valley. He was a Korean War Veteran, a steelworker at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and later an accountant with the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Mr. Tablack served in the Ohio House of Representatives from May 1970 until 1978. In 1979, he was appointed to the Ohio Environmental Review Board by then Governor James A. Rhodes and also sworn in as Sheriff until 1981. He later went on to pursue a successful career as a lobbyist and political consultant until 1995, when he became the Mayor of Campbell.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Tablack for his outstanding accomplishments while serving as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He, along with then Ohio Senator Harry Meshel, will be regarded as two of the greatest lawmakers in Ohio's history.

I send my deepest regrets and sympathy to his wife and to his family. May God bless them.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois.

From the beginnings of holding prayer meetings at the home of Mother Jennie Thomas, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church began.

As the prayer meetings grew, a mission was begun and larger facilities became necessary. Mother Thomas, along with Charlie Green and Belle Aikens, obtained a building site at 10th and Cook Streets in East St. Louis. On April 4, 1901, Mt. Zion was organized with the Rev. Allen Aikens as its first pastor, Brothers Woodard, Sandy Sherrod and William Easterly as Deacons; Brothers W. Jones and Prince as Trustees and W. Belle as Secretary. The membership grew under Rev. Aikens' leadership.

As the congregation grew, a larger place of worship was required. Though their resources were limited, the congregation was able to purchase land at 13th and Tudor. Construction on the new church started soon thereafter. Mt. Zion met in the basement of the building until it was completely built.

In 1919, Rev. BJ Smith was the pastor and under his leadership, a sanctuary was added and overall construction became complete. Following Rev. Smith, Rev. Lemon Johnson and Rev. JJ Olive came to serve as church pastors from 1931 to 1935. Under Rev. Olive, a baptismal pool was added to the church.

Following this period in the church's early growth, the Rev. B Haney became pastor, soon followed in 1947 by the Revs. Ephraim Thomas and James Clayborne. In 1947, Rev. WB Rouse became pastor at Mt. Zion. During his pastoral duties, membership of the church greatly increased. The church building became enlarged in 1951 and again in 1955. The sanctuary was expanded, classrooms were added and an organ and church furnishings were acquired.

At this time a parsonage was also added to the Church holdings at 919 Bond Avenue. In 1964, the Illinois Department of Transportation needed easements to assist in the construction of the Poplar Street Bridge, the church then purchased additional property at 24th and Bond Avenues in East St. Louis which became the church's present location.

In 1966, the Rev. C Cedric Claiborne was received as the new pastor of Mt. Zion. Under his tenure, the new church was constructed at a cost of \$450,000 and the first worship service was held there in 1968. In 1972, however an explosion damaged the eastern wall of the church. A makeshift cover was used to protect the building up until 1974 when the cornerstone was laid for the new wall.

Activities initiated by the Rev. Claiborne include city-wide graduate services of Metro-East graduates and a Sunday evening broadcast via WESL. The church then employed a full-time church cemetery and a church publicity Director. In 1975, Rev. Rouse took over pastorate of Mt. Zion under his leadership a mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1979.

Between the years 1977-2001, several pieces of property were acquired, including a parking lot directly located across from the church, the church office, ground adjacent to the office building, the Jewish temple, Sunday school complex and an area east of that facility. In addition to expanding their land holdings, vehicles were secured over the years to help transport parishioners to the church. In 1976, two 60 passenger buses were purchased, in 1986, a utility van and two trucks were bought; in 1981 three vans were purchased; 1989 two additional vans were bought and from 1989 to 1999, additional vans and bus were acquired, bringing the church's fleet of vehicles to five.

Pastor Rouse holds workshops and institutes for members of the community. In 1977, the Nursing Home Visitation Team was organized and continues to go into the various nursing homes in the region providing spiritual guidance to their patients. Mt. Zion continues to be active in the needs of senior citizens. The Voices of Zion held its first concert at Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis, Missouri in July 1983.

Mt. Zion continues to serve the community by providing Thanksgiving meals. During the South End Flood, church facilities were used by the Red Cross to feed flood victims. Mt. Zion also operates a food pantry, which is open to the public twice weekly.

Mt. Zion's membership continues to grow. Under Rev. Rouse, he has also ordained some 16 new ministers. In 1994, the New Day Jail ministry was started going into various correctional facilities. They are responsible for providing spiritual guidance to inmates as well as providing Christmas gifts to children of the incarcerated.

The church's bookstore opened in 1996 and the Inspirational Voices Youth Choir finished their first CD recording out of the church itself. During this year, a ground breaking was held in June in preparation for the construction of new Classroom and administrative buildings.

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist continues to grow and prosper, providing the spiritual needs and guidance for many people in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100 years of service of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and salute the members of the church's congregation both past and present.

TRIBUTE TO WYNN PRESSON

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader of the Kansas City community, Mr. F. Wynn Presson, who will retire as Vice Chairman of the Board of Health Midwest, on November 30, 2001.

Wynn has served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Health Midwest since 1993; prior to that he served as President and Chief Executive Officer. Health Midwest employs over 17,000 people, and has over 100 care/delivery sites, including 15 hospitals with over 3,295 licensed beds. The system has 40 primary care physician practices employing over 150 physicians, 8 occupational medicine clinics, and 60

corporations. The Health Midwest system links together acute and ambulatory care, physician affiliations, education, occupational health, mental health, long term care, contracted clinical and support services, wellness and fitness, and patient transportation systems. Wynn Presson was the founder and visionary of the Health Midwest system, having served for a total of 24 years with Health Midwest and its predecessor organizations.

Just as important, though, is the literally thousands of hours that Wynn Presson has devoted to serving our community and the entire Kansas City metropolitan area during his 24 years with us. The list of his current community leadership positions is impressive: member of the Blue Valley School District Educational Foundation; member of the Executive Committee [and former Chairman of the Board of Directors] of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City; Chairman-elect of the Board of Directors of the Full Employment Council; member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission; member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Labor-Management Council; Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mayor's Corps of Progress; and member of the Board of Directors of the Minority Suppliers Council, among others.

Equally as important and valuable have been Wynn Presson's contributions to the Kansas City area in years past, through his dedicated service in positions including: former Chairman of the Board of the Greater Kansas City Area Chamber of Commerce; President of the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Club; member of the Board of Directors of the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City; Colonel in the Kansas Cavalry; member of the Executive Committee of the Kansas City Area Development Council; Co-Chairman of the Public Policy Committee of the Mainstream Coalition; and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Bioethics Center.

Mr. Speaker, Wynn Presson is an excellent example of the kind of public-spirited, community-minded citizen who does so much to foster our communities. As this far-from-complete listing of his many public service activities demonstrates, he has been a vital participant in countless civic and charitable activities in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I commend him for his distinguished record of performance with Health Midwest and for his peerless history of community service.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my constituents in Kansas' Third District in wishing Wynn Presson an enjoyable and most well-earned retirement, although I anticipate he will not shirk from further opportunities to be of service.

HONORING LARRY BLACK UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM BAYFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, those who seek to improve the lives of others in the community play a very important role. Larry Black is such a person and upon his retirement from