

MOORESTOWN ECUMENICAL
NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT, INC.

improve the lives of the residents of Burlington County.

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development, Inc. (MEND), a non-profit MR. organization celebrating its 35th anniversary of service to the low and moderate-income citizens who have been and still are in need of affordable housing in Burlington County, New Jersey.

The Federal Government has worked hand-in-hand with this organization, a significant contributor to the vitality, diversity and growth of southern New Jersey, helping it meet the region's affordable housing needs.

On October 15, 2004, MEND will celebrate its 35th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner Dance. This private, non-profit, faith-based corporation was founded in 1969 by 9 Moorestown churches to provide affordable rental and for-sale housing to low and moderate income individuals, families, senior citizens and the disabled.

The concerned people of MEND who strive to help their Burlington County neighbors are deserving of recognition for their selfless concern for those in need, and for their efforts to

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH
BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF OAK-
LAND PARK

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of Oakland Park, Florida as its residents celebrate their city's 75th birthday.

Originally named Floranada, Oakland Park was incorporated with its current name in June of 1929. The official census of the time reported the budding town's population at only 562 residents. In those days, the town was so eager for growth that one could get a free lot in Oakland Park just by buying a 30-day subscription to Miami Movie Magazine; it was thought that the town would soon become a home for all the stars of the "Motion Pictures."

While the city has grown up a lot since the 20's, now boasting a population of over 30,000 residents, small town values have always been a fundamental part of living in Oakland Park. As late as the 1950's and 60's, residents always left their keys in the ignition, and only locked their houses during hurricanes to keep the doors from blowing off.

Even today, though these practices do not persist, the values they embody make Oakland Park a great place to live and work. This is perhaps owing to the many community related programs and activities the residents of Oakland Park have organized, all of which have grown and evolved along with the city. For example, the Oakland Park Recreation Center opened its doors in 1960 with only two part time employees supervising children's activities. Today, the center maintains a staff of over 50, who are in charge of overseeing the care and maintenance of all parks and athletic complexes. Beyond activities for children, citizens can now partake in a wide variety of activities, from youth T-ball, to adult tennis, to ceramics for seniors.

Today, Oakland Park continues to grow and thrive. Recently the city embarked on a \$19 million facelift plan to be completed in 2008. The redevelopment is designed to further the friendly "small town" atmosphere that has always belonged to Oakland Park. The primary goal of the plan is to compliment Oakland Park's already safe and attractive neighborhoods and good schools with all of the social, cultural, and business opportunities of a city.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the City of Oakland Park in the U.S. House of Representatives, and extend my best wishes to the Mayor, Commissioners, and residents of Oakland Park as they celebrate their first 75 years.