

Through its rich history, the church has served the community by providing a place to make great memories that range from baptisms to weddings. To honor the church's 150 year celebration Zionist Methodist has planned various events such as a church picnic, potluck suppers, and culminating with a special gala dinner in the fall.

This yearlong celebration will truly be a remarkable experience to the Zion Methodist congregation and all those who participate. A true prominent staple to the area, I wish the Zion Methodist Church of West Walworth many more years of service and success.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES VERMEULEN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Vermeulen, Sr. upon his nomination to the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

Having served as President of the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, and currently serving as a Kiwanis Foundation board member, Vermeulen has striven to help children. But he has done much more. Vermeulen has held the post of Director for the Salvation Army, in which capacity he has endeavored to assist all who are less fortunate than he. Indeed, every December, Vermeulen is instrumental in raising money through the Salvation Army's bell-ringing project. Whether serving with the Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army, or simply helping a neighbor in need, Vermeulen has demonstrated exemplary compassion and leadership.

Let us commend James Vermeulen, Sr. for his dedication to bettering our community and our country, and for his induction into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING GREENBLUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Irving Greenblum for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Irving Greenblum was born in 1929 in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and moved with his family as a young boy to the City of Laredo. He graduated from Martin High School in 1946 and later graduated from the University of Texas in 1950 with a degree in Latin-American economics.

Mr. Greenblum has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Banco BCH, Laredo Philharmonic, Children's Museum, San Antonio Manor Home for the Aged, Ruth B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center, Congregation Agudas Achim, and the DeMolay Masonic Children.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Greenblum has served on the boards of Inter-

national Bancshares Corp. and International Bank of Commerce. He currently serves as president and founding member of the Laredo Area Community Foundation. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Irving Greenblum, and I thank you for this time.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP BAY CITY BRANCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bay City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it celebrates 50 years as a dedicated champion of civil rights. On June 2, 2006 the members of the Bay City Branch will come together to revere its founding members and renew its commitment to justice for all.

Roy Wilkins chartered the first branch of the NAACP in Bay City in 1918. This was at a time when the NAACP was instrumental in convincing President Woodrow Wilson to publicly denounce lynching. The Branch was disbanded but it was re-chartered in 1938 by Attorney Oscar Baker Sr. and chartered a third time in 1946.

In 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery Alabama bus and one of the largest grassroots civil rights movements was born. The NAACP was at the forefront of this struggle and Reverend Obie Matthew, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, organized the present Bay City Branch the following year on October 8, 1956. 50 years later the Branch is still fighting for equality of all citizens.

The Bay City Branch has led the fight against discrimination in housing, education, employment, healthcare, and the criminal justice system. Some of its notable fights were the Migrant Negroes from Georgia Case, the Bay County Skating Rink Case in the 1960s, the Woolworth 5 & 10 Store Sit-in, the hiring of the first African American teachers by the Bay City School District, and the inclusion of a Black History Class in the Bay City Central High School curriculum. The Branch has given away more than 70 scholarships to high school students. They have supported CORY Place, sponsored a summer USDA Food and Activity program for children, and worked with other local agencies to improve the living conditions in Bay City.

The hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900. In it he wrote, "Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won." Under the current leadership of President Idella White, the Bay City Branch is marching on in the fight to remove barriers to racial equality. The Bay City Branch remains committed to educating citizens about their constitutional rights, and the adverse effects of racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Bay City Branch of the NAACP for 50 years of commitment to social justice. The members are to be commended for their steadfast fight against racial hatred and I pray that together we will eliminate this scourge from our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EDDIE O. REED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mayor Eddie O. Reed, who is retiring as Mayor of Midwest City after many years of public service.

In this country we are fortunate to have public servants of Mayor Reed's caliber. All too often we take such individuals for granted. Most of the rest of the world is not so lucky, so I take this opportunity to praise a man who as Mayor of Midwest City has been an excellent public servant who has made life better for his community and its people.

Eddie Reed has been Mayor of Midwest City since 1993. As Mayor, he has improved public safety, city streets, and drainage in Midwest City. Indeed, building on the work of his father, who also served as Mayor of Midwest City, Eddie Reed has transformed his city, making it an engine of economic growth in our state. All of his many successes have resulted from his skill at building partnerships and bringing people together.

Mr. Speaker, under Mayor Reed's leadership, many quality of life improvement projects have been completed. These include the Marion C. Reed Baseball Complex, the new Senior Citizens Center opened in 1999, and the renovation of the John Conrad Regional Golf Course. Mayor Reed has also improved Midwest City's infrastructure including a new water tower, a widened Post Road between SE 29th Street and 15th Street, and a reconstructed intersection at East Reno and SE 15th Street.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of Mayor Reed's, over the course of his distinguished career, was his successful role in the BRAC process. The importance of his work in protecting Tinker Air Force Base, and the impact that has for the economy of Midwest City and for all of central Oklahoma, simply cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by giving the Mayor the highest compliment anyone can ever give a public servant: After 13 years as Mayor, Midwest City is in even better shape at the end of his term than it was at the beginning. That is the best monument to his achievements. I wish him and his wife, Julie, the best in their new life.

INTRODUCTION OF "NETWORK NEUTRALITY ACT OF 2006"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Network Neutrality Act of

2006." Joining me today as original cosponsors of this important legislation are Rep. RICK BOUCHER, Rep. ANNA ESHOO and Rep. JAY INSLEE.

Broadband networks, Mr. Speaker, are the lifeblood of our emerging digital economy. These broadband networks also hold the promise of promoting innovation in various markets and technologies, creating jobs, and furthering education. The worldwide leadership that the U.S. provides in high technology is directly related to the government-driven policies over decades which have ensured that telecommunications networks are open to all lawful uses and all users. The Internet, which is accessible to more and more Americans with every day that goes by on such broadband networks, was also founded upon an open architecture protocol and as a result it has provided low barriers to entry for web-based content, applications, and services.

Recent decisions by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and court interpretations, however, put these aspects of broadband networks and the Internet in jeopardy. The corrosion of historic policies of non-discrimination by the imposition of bottlenecks by broadband network owners endanger economic growth, innovation, job creation, and First Amendment freedom of expression on such networks. Broadband network owners should not be able to determine who can and who cannot offer services over broadband networks or over the Internet. The detrimental effect to the digital economy would be quite severe if such conduct were permitted and became widespread.

This network neutrality bill has essentially three parts. The first part articulates overall broadband and network neutrality goals for the country, and spells out exactly what network neutrality means and puts it into the statute so that it will possess the force of law. The second part embodies reasonable exceptions to the general rules, such as to route emergency communications or offer consumer protection features, such as spam blocking technology. And the final part of the bill features an expedited complaint process to deal with grievances and violations within thirty days.

The legislation states that a broadband network provider may not block, impair, degrade or discriminate against the ability of any person to use a broadband connection to access the content, applications, and services available on broadband networks, including the Internet. It ensures that broadband network providers operate their networks in a non-discriminatory manner. The bill also ensures that consumers can attach any device to the broadband operator's network, such as an Internet phone, or wi-fi router, or settop box, or any other innovative gadget invented in the coming years. Moreover, in order to prevent the warping of the World Wide Web into a system of "tiered service," the legislation will prevent broadband providers from charging new bottleneck fees for enhanced quality of service or the prioritization of bits.

Finally, if a broadband provider chooses to prioritize data of any type, it requires that it do so for all data of that type and not charge a fee for such prioritization. For instance, if a broadband provider wants to prioritize the transmission of bits representing a VOIP phone call for its own VOIP service, it must do so for all VOIP services so as not to put its competitors at an arbitrary disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of Internet time until August of 2005, the Internet's non-discriminatory nature was safeguarded from being compromised by Federal Communications Commission rules that required non-discriminatory treatment by telecommunications carriers. In other words, no commercial telecommunications carrier could engage in discriminatory conduct regarding Internet traffic and Internet access because it was prohibited by law.

In August of 2005, however, the Federal Communications Commission reclassified broadband access to the Internet in a way which removed such legal protections. And how did the industry respond to this change? Just a few weeks after the FCC removed the Internet's protections, the Chairman of then-SBC Communications made the following statement in a November 7th *Business Week* interview: "Now what they [Google, Yahoo, MSN] would like to do is use my pipes free, but I ain't going to let them do that because we have spent this capital and we have to have a return on it. So there's going to have to be some mechanism for these people who use these pipes to pay for the portion they're using. . . ."

In a December 1, 2005 Washington Post article, a BellSouth executive indicated that his company wanted to strike deals to give certain Web sites priority treatment in reaching computer users. The article noted this would "significantly change how the Internet operates" and that the BellSouth executive said "his company should be allowed to charge a rival voice-over-Internet firm so that its service can operate with the same quality as BellSouth's offering." Meaning, that if the rival firm did not pay, or was not permitted to pay for competitive reasons, its service presumably would not "operate with the same quality" as BellSouth's own product.

Finally, on January 6, 2006, the CEO of Verizon, in an address to the Consumer Electronics Show also indicated that Verizon would now be the corporate arbiter of how traffic would be treated when he said the following: "We have to make sure [content providers] don't sit on our network and chew up our capacity."

I think these statements should give pause to those who might argue that we shouldn't do anything to enact strong network neutrality provisions because currently no harm is being done.

Do we really have to wait till these corporate giants divide and conquer the open architecture of the Internet to make that against the law? These telephone company executives are telling us that they intend to discriminate in the prioritization of bits and to discriminate in the offering of "quality of service" functions—for a new fee, a new broadband bottleneck toll—to access high bandwidth customers, we cannot afford to wait until they actually start doing that before we step in to stop it.

Once they start making money by leveraging that bottleneck position in the marketplace, will a future Congress really stare them down and take that revenue stream away?

Mr. Speaker, if we don't protect the openness of the Internet for entrepreneurial activity, we're ruining a wonderful model for low barrier entry, innovation, and job creation. Broadband network owners should not be able to deter-

mine who can and who cannot offer services over broadband networks or over the Internet. The detrimental effect to the digital economy would be quite severe if such conduct were permitted and became widespread. The deterioration of significant policies of non-discrimination by the imposition of artificial bottlenecks by broadband network owners imperil economic growth, innovation, job creation, and First Amendment freedom of expression on such networks.

The Network Neutrality Act of 2006 offers Members a clear choice. It is a choice between favoring the broadband designs of a small handful of very large companies, and safeguarding the dreams of thousands of inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. This legislation is designed to save the Internet and thwart those who seek to fundamentally and detrimentally alter the Internet as we know it. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill and urge the House to take a decisive stand in favor of network neutrality.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and I thank my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Payne, for his leadership on this issue—it is one of the critical moral issues of our times.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. It is long overdue, and I hope that we remember that passing this bill is not the end of our country's moral obligation to Darfur—merely a starting point for our nation to begin addressing some of the serious problems in that part of the world.

This legislation arrives on the floor of this House not a moment too soon—at time when famine and war have already killed between 200,000 and 400,000 people and displaced over 2 million more Sudanese. It is nothing less than a humanitarian disaster—and unfortunately one that appears to be getting worse.

Among the many tragedies is that, put simply, it did not have to be this way. With the end of the civil war in southern Sudan, these last six months ought to have been an opportunity for progress in Darfur.

Instead, we have seen only more war, more famine, more despair. According to the latest reports, the latest wave of attacks has found thousands of people being chased from dozens of villages by government-backed militias, with death-squad attacks on civilians in Darfur and violence now spilling over into neighboring Chad as well.

And while the African Union forces—numbering only 7,000—are doing what they can, they simply do not have the resources to carry out such a broad mission—particularly with the Sudanese government appearing to be actively obstructing their work. Indeed, one senior U.N. official recently predicted "massively increased mortality" unless effective peacekeepers are installed.

And unfortunately, that has proven increasingly difficult. After two years of sanctions and countless resolutions adopted by this Congress and by the United Nations, the government of Sudan continues to defy the will of the