

first paramedics. On June 24, 1986, he was assigned to acting sergeant position and maintained that post through June 21, 1988. Ronald McClain received several other promotions throughout his career, including promotion to Firefighter on April 18, 1992, Lieutenant on July 5, 1994, Fire Captain on July 31, 1998, Battalion Chief on July 1, 2002 and Chief of Operations on October 21, 2003. In addition to these promotions, he also received the Outstanding Firefighter of the Year Award in 1991 and the Fire Chief's Award in March of 2002. Ronald McClain retired from the Sterling Heights Fire Department on February 29th of this year after nearly 29 years of dedicated service. He has continued his public service by becoming the chief of the South Lyon Fire Department.

George Binno became a Sterling Heights firefighter on January 9, 1978. In 1982 he became certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. In July of 1989, he was named Sterling Heights Fire Department's Employee of the Month. Throughout his career, George Binno was promoted three times: Fire Lieutenant on June 21, 1994, Fire Captain on August 16, 1997, and Battalion Chief on January 18, 2001. He received the Fire Chief's Award for his involvement in the implementation of the ICS and Radio Committee, and received the 5-Year Safe Driver Award in 2003. George Binno retired on February 29th of this year after 30 years of dedicated service.

Fred Golda became a Sterling Heights firefighter on September 5, 1989. Over the years he was an ardent participant in the fire department's Open House. He also assisted with facilitating and coordinating the department's Civilian Fire Academy. Fred Golda received the Fire Chief's Award four times for letters extolling above and beyond responses to several incidents. Throughout his career, Fred Golda was promoted several times: Fire Sergeant on July 27, 2002, Lieutenant on November 10, 2003, and Fire Inspector on January 21, 2005. He was honored with the 5-Year Safe Driver Award and the Meritorious Unit Citation for quick actions in the extrication of a DPW worker from a trench in November of 2003. Fred Golda retired on September 4th of this year after 19 years of dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these three heroes who have dedicated their lives to serving the public with valor, commitment, and honor.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES
EDWARD WALKER, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend James Edward Walker, Jr., for 35 years as the pastor of Faith Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ. Reverend Walker will be honored at a dinner on September 27th in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Reverend Walker was called to the ministry in July 1972. He was installed as the pastor of Faith Gospel Temple Church of God in Christ the following January. For the past 33 years he served under Bishop P.A. Brooks in the Northwest Michigan Diocese, and Reverend

Walker was elevated to Superintendent in the Church of God in Christ in 1984. In this capacity, he oversees 3 churches in Flint and Saginaw.

Two passages of Scripture embody Reverend Walker's ministry, Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" and Luke 6:35 ". . . do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again." In his work with Flint Community Schools, the homeless, persons in need, the hungry and persons facing life crises, Reverend Walker strives to help everyone with both temporal and spiritual assistance.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Reverend James Walker, Jr., for 35 years of spreading the joy of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the distressed and needy. May he continue his ministry for many, many years to come.

INTRODUCTION TO LEGISLATION
TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT
CENSUS AGENCY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill with my colleagues Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WAXMAN to establish an independent Census agency. It is indispensable to the basic principles of democratic representation that the decennial census is seen by the American public to be completely independent and nonpartisan. Elevating the Census Bureau to the status of an independent agency is a powerful statement to the American people and their leaders that the decennial census and the other critical surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are protected, and that our Government will summon the best demographers, statisticians, scientists and managers we can find to lead this vital agency.

HONORING FREDRICKA D. WANZA
ON HER, 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate a dear constituent of mine, Ms. Fredericka D. Wanza on her 90th birthday. As members of my community gather to celebrate Ms. Wanza, I take this opportunity to convey to her warm wishes on this milestone occasion.

Fredericka D. Wanza was born on September 28, 1918 to Fredrick Dean and Gladys Ward-Dean in Overtown-Miami, Florida.

Her parents died when Fredericka was a very young girl and she and her five sisters were cared for by her Grandmother and then her Aunt and Uncle in Miami and Ocala, Florida.

Fredericka D. Wanza married James Willie Wanza, former Northwestern Sr. High School Coach, approximately 35 years ago and out of this union, a daughter Theta Wanza Shipp and James Willie Wanza II were born. Today,

Fredericka Wanza has 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Fredericka Wanza was educated in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and matriculated from Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, Florida.

Fredericka Wanza was the first African American visiting teacher for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, she retired in 1975. From 1976–1982 she managed her own real estate company; servicing Miami-Dade, Broward and Leon counties. In 1982 she opened her own day care center in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Fredericka D. Wanza is the Founder and Director of Wanza and Braxton Day Care Center, where she dotes on the young children and instills good behavior all while preparing them for primary school.

Fredericka D. Wanza is a life-long member of St. Agnes Episcopal Church and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The 17th Congressional District of Florida is blessed to have a leader and role model like Fredericka D. Wanza.

CELEBRATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGUDATH ACHIM, OF
ALTOONA PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to congratulate and celebrate the congregation of Agudath Achim of Altoona, Pennsylvania, on their 125th anniversary. Agudath Achim which translates to "a union of brothers and sisters" began its long and rich history in 1883 when its members began meeting in the homes of their neighbors and fellow worshipers.

It was through this humble beginning that the men and women of Agudath Achim were able to pool their resources, their faith and their effort into the construction of their first wooden synagogue in 1895. This wooden Shule sat on the site of the congregation's second synagogue which dates back to 1925 and has served as the congregation's home ever since.

The contribution made by the Jewish people to Pennsylvania and our national heritage cannot be understated. In 1746 the first man to explore what is now Blair County and the home to Agudath Achim was a Jew named Colonel Conrad Weiser. He was followed in 1754 by Stephen Franks, founder of Frankstown, Pennsylvania. In 1778 General Daniel Roberdeau, a Jew from York, Pennsylvania and a member of the Continental Congress became aware of the presence of lead mines in central Pennsylvania. At his own expense, General Roberdeau traveled to our region and built a fort in what would one day become Altoona to begin mining and processing much-needed lead ammunition to General Washington's troops at Valley Forge.

These early pioneers were part of a larger group of hardworking and devout Jews that helped lay the foundation for the Pennsylvania we know and love today. The men and women of Agudath Achim carry with them this heritage and they have given tirelessly and

unflinchingly of their energy, time and finances to enrich and improve their community.

The congregation of Agudath Achim is an extended family who shares in the celebrations, joys and sorrows life brings. The Agudath Achim membership is proud of their heritage and with God's help will grow in strength and continue to be an inspiring factor in the lives of its membership and to the larger community of Blair County and the city of Altoona.

Over the past 125 years, the members of Agudath Achim and Jews throughout the world have born witness to immense transformations of their people. They have endured the horrors of intolerance and inhumanity brought on by the Holocaust. They have been uplifted by the formation of the State of Israel and they have seen their community flourish through Jewish immigration from post-war Europe. Through it all, the congregation of Agudath Achim endured and provided a stable foundation on which to grow.

The fact that we are able to commemorate Agudath Achim's 125th anniversary is a testament to the character of its members and the congregation's success is a testament to all of the men, women, and children who have made the Agudath Achim Synagogue the paramount focus of their lives. I would like to congratulate Hazzan G. Michael Horwitz, Dr. Elliott Bilofsky, Joel H. Hollander and the synagogue's past presidents of both the Synagogue Boards and the Sisterhood and all of their past and present members who have guided Agudath Achim's destiny over the past 125 years. I have no doubt that the members of Agudath Achim will continue their path of excellence as they begin to write the next chapter of their history.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK STATEMENT

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, it was my great pleasure to serve this year as the Congressional Co-chair for the House of Representatives for National Bible Week, November 23 through November 30, 2008.

The Bible was foundational to the development of our country. The English Puritans came to the New World to follow the Bible according to the convictions of their own consciences. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 24 had what today would be considered Bible college or seminary educations. Only a few years later, in 1782, Congress itself authorized the printing of the Bible.

The Bible has found its way into everything from casual conversation—expressions like “by the sweat of your brow” and “the salt of the earth” and myriad others all come from Scripture—to the landscape of America. From Corinth, Maine to Bethel, Alaska, the Bible has marked our national map.

More than any map, however, the Bible has marked who we are as a people. Earlier generations of Americans almost inhaled the words of Scripture as they inhaled the air. To read the inaugural addresses of our Presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush, is to read repeated allusions to or quotations of biblical texts.

The Bible speaks to the uniqueness of man—that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. It speaks of the greatness of God—that He is the object of true worship, the fount of all blessings, and the Redeemer, Lawgiver, Friend, Savior and Judge.

Historically, we have been a people of the Book. We lose our allegiance to and our reliance on the Bible to our grave peril.

The Bible can be hard to understand. Yet as the theologian R.C. Sproul has written, “We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work.”

And it is worthwhile work. There can be nothing nobler than seeking not only to know the Bible's teachings but also to know the Bible's God.

It was President Lincoln who said, “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.” Or, as Jesus Himself remarked, “Search the Scriptures . . . for they testify of Me.”

Today, Madam Speaker, I echo Abraham Lincoln's comments and urge my colleagues and all Americans to reacquire themselves with the Bible. As literature, it is unmatched. As philosophy, it is unparalleled. And as truth, it will make you free.

I commend the National Bible Association for its outstanding work to bring the Bible to the attention of all Americans of every faith and creed. And I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in such a way as to draw attention to this most precious of books.

HONORING JEANNE ANN WHITMIRE FOR HER ADVOCACY OF ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ISSUES

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Jeanne Ann Whitmire for her commitment and dedication to Arkansas children. Jeanne Ann, an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Human Services in Van Buren, has placed hundreds of children in both foster care and adoptive homes throughout the Third District of Arkansas.

She has an outstanding record of fighting for adoption and foster care issues. Not only is she proactive in placing children in loving homes, but she practices what she advocates, sharing her love with an adopted daughter.

Jeanne Ann's efforts were nationally recognized by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute through its program Angels in Adoption, which honors the good work of the American people who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans in the United States and abroad.

I thank Jeanne Ann for the unselfish work she does on behalf of children. Jeanne Ann is a true hero and a champion for Arkansas children, showing them there are people who care and finding them a place they can call home.

HONORING DR. SURESH ANNÉ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Suresh Anné. Dr. Anné is the President of the Genesee County Medical Society. He will be honored at the Genesee County Medical Society and Genesee County Medical Society Alliances Presidents' Ball on November 1st in Flint, MI.

After graduating from the Andhra Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, India, Dr. Anné practiced medicine in India. He was the Resident Medical Officer for a construction company in Amman, Jordan before coming to the United States. After completing a residency in Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and a fellowship in Allergy/Immunology at the State University of New York, Dr. Anné returned to Flint and established a practice in the Flint area. He belongs to numerous professional associations and has received many awards for clinical research. Dr. Anné is currently involved in a treatment study for hereditary angioedema.

In addition to his practice, Dr. Anné is an open consultant at the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, sees patients at the five hospitals in the Flint and surrounding areas, and teaches at the NRI Academy of Sciences Medical School and Hospital in Andhra Pradesh. He also cofounder of “Medical Office Management Systems, Inc.” a company dedicated to helping physicians manage the business and patient sides of their practices. Dr. Anné is also enthusiastic about cricket, and during 2006 helped to create the first cricket grounds in the Flint area. Married 25 years to Dr. Aruna Anné, the couple have a daughter, Lajari.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the work and life of Dr. Suresh Anné. His dedication to the field of medicine is to be commended, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

HONORING ZAKA SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an Israeli organization that has dedicated itself to assisting the victims of terrorist attacks and other life-threatening situations, and making sure that those who pay the ultimate price receive a proper Jewish burial.

ZAKA Search and Rescue is an organization of 1,500 volunteers who live and work throughout the State of Israel. At a moment's notice, they are prepared to drop everything and rush to the scene of a traffic accident or terrorist incident. Wearing their trademark yellow vests and weaving through traffic jams on motor scooters, ZAKA volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene. They provide first aid to victims until emergency medical personnel arrive on the scene. When an incident results in fatalities, ZAKA volunteers perform the grim but necessary work of collecting and