

the problems ailing their industry. A total of 22 Black publications from 16 cities, including Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago, were represented. This gathering was the birth of what is now known as the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which even today is widely considered as the most powerful and influential Black organization in the United States.

For seven decades, the NNPA has succeeded in championing the concerns, dreams, and triumphs of African Americans in this country. While there have been many successes, there is much work to be done. We need the Black press today as much as ever. They remain our champions in the fight for economic opportunity, affordable health care, quality education, and political representation.

Madam Speaker, I recognize the contributions of the NNPA, which represents over 200 publishers in the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The NNPA has made an important contribution to democracy by ensuring that the voices of African Americans are heard. I invite my colleagues to honor the legacy of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and their enduring contributions to this country's publishing industry, the African American community, and to the nation.

HONORING STEVE SCHMIDT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Steve Schmidt for being a 2010 inductee into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Coach Schmidt serves as the Head Men's Basketball Coach at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. There will be a salute to his achievements at the college tomorrow.

Steve Schmidt became the Men's Head Basketball Coach at Mott Community College in 1991 and over the past 19 years he has led his team to 3 national championships in 2003, 2007, and 2008. During this time they have never posted a losing record and have won 25 or more games in the last 15 seasons. Under Coach Schmidt's leadership his teams have won 12 conference titles, 7 state championships, and 6 regional championships. At the end of the 2009–2010 season Coach Schmidt's career record is 504–119. He has been named the National Junior College Athletic Association Coach of the Year 3 times, has coached 3 NJCAA Players of the Year and 15 All-Americans.

Coach Schmidt began his coaching career at Lansing Waverly High School and Lansing Community College working without pay. At the age of 28 he was given the job as Men's Head Basketball Coach at Mott Community College and his success with the team has been recognized throughout the community. Three years ago he was inducted into the Greater Flint Sports Hall of Fame and a year ago the gymnasium at Ballenger Fieldhouse was named in his honor.

He credits teamwork as an integral part of his success and has said, "The fact of the matter is I've not won a single game by myself. I've been part of a team. All of this is

possible because of the efforts of all these players. That's a perspective I've never lost."

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding the work of Coach Steve Schmidt's work and dedication to his players. I commend him for his skill, his enthusiasm, and his respect for the players. I wish him continued success in his career coaching men's basketball.

TRIBUTE TO THE ELM SPRING BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the Elm Spring Baptist Church of Holden, Missouri, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

The Elm Spring Baptist Church has undergone many changes since the church's first pastor, George Minton, led the 15 founding members in worship for the first time in July of 1860. Pastor Minton led the congregation until the Civil War disrupted their worship services for six years. After this brief disruption, the church resumed services and constructed the first building on land graciously donated by the Jonathan Newman family. As the congregation has grown, so too has the church's campus; today, the original building is joined by an educational building, a baptistery, and a parsonage. The newest structure is a Fellowship Hall built in 2000.

In recent years, members of the church have focused on serving communities across the United States and the world. To this end, the congregation has led mission trips to Pittsburgh, Orlando, Greenville, and Palissa, Uganda. For 150 years, the Elm Spring Baptist Church has been "Growing the Family of God," and they show no sign of stopping.

Madam Speaker, I trust my fellow Members of the House will join me in congratulating the Elm Spring Baptist Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and in wishing its members the best of luck in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING 235TH BIRTHDAY OF U.S. ARMY

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 286, recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army. I rise today to commemorate the birthday of the Army, and the service of every man and woman who has served our country and kept its citizens safe. From the twenty-thousand-man Army first authorized in June of 1775 to the more than half a million in the Army today, millions of soldiers have sacrificed for our Nation. In addition to recognizing this birthday of the Army, I rise to thank and salute all of those in uniform, whether in the active forces, the Reserves, or the National Guard, and the civilian support staff that makes their missions possible. I thank their families as well for the sacrifices they have made.

For more than two centuries, the U.S. Army has protected our borders, responded to threats to our homeland, and helped the people of America in times of need. I am honored to have served in the U.S. Army, and I am proud to represent Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and their surrounding communities.

Born fully twelve years before the Constitution was written, the Army has proven to be our Nation's most enduring institution. North Carolina's tradition of military service, patriotism, and respect for the military goes back to those earliest days. In fact, the Second District's first Representative was an Army veteran, Hugh Williamson. I am honored to continue that tradition.

Even better than "Happy Birthday" is "Welcome Home". We rejoice every time our soldiers return home from their service safely. This fall, we anticipate that the entire 82nd Airborne will be home in North Carolina for the first time in many years. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these daily individual returns while we celebrate the institution and its history as a whole.

As we honor this U.S. Army at this significant milestone, we cannot forget that there is a greater need for commitments than for congratulations. I call on my colleagues who join me today in support of this Joint Resolution to also commit to continued support for the funding the Army needs for its ongoing missions, and to support for TRICARE, mental health care, higher education, and military family needs as these heroes return home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and in celebration of the continued success of America's Army.

THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINIS- TRATION REFORM ACT OF 2010

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Federal Housing Administration Reform Act of 2010 (H.R. 5072). This legislation will help ensure the availability of affordable home loans while safeguarding the interests of the American taxpayer.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has played a crucial role in stabilizing the nation's housing market during the current recession. Since the financial crisis and credit crisis that followed, nearly 40 million qualified Americans became homeowners and arne insurance through the FHA. The FHA was critical to keeping mortgage loans flowing to credit-worthy home buyers during the foreclosure crisis. As private lenders fled the housing market, the insurance provided by the FHA helped prevent the housing decline from becoming even more severe.

The FHA Reform Act of 2010 will strengthen the FHA loan insurance program and help keep credit available and affordable to responsible homebuyers. Over the last year, the FHA implemented a number of policy changes aimed at curbing risk and increasing its capital reserves. This legislation builds on these reforms and helps reduce risk by increasing net worth requirements for FHA loan originators

and providing the FHA with authority to prevent fraudulent lending. In addition, this bill increases accountability by requiring the FHA to modernize its reporting systems to better manage risk and to provide transparent data to the public and Congress.

This legislation helps restore fiscal accountability by reducing our deficit by \$2.5 billion over five years.

The Federal Housing Administration Reform Act of 2010 makes essential reforms to strengthen the financial footing of the Federal Housing Administration and stabilize the mortgage market. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS
101ST ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 101st anniversary of the Na-

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, which was founded on February 12, 1909. Throughout its existence, the NAACP has faithfully promoted equality in all areas of American society, from suffrage and public accommodation to justice in our Nation's courts and equality in employment.

For nearly a century, the NAACP has pressed for an inclusive American society, one that would grant all people the equality they deserve, regardless of the shade or color of their skin. The NAACP's principled efforts towards the advancement of people who were long denied their rightful place at work, school, and the ballot box have continued to come to fruition with the Civil Rights Acts, the Fair Housing Act, and other breakthroughs in the establishment of justice and quality in this country.

A key component of the success of the NAACP has been the implementation of a nonviolent approach to achieve equality and justice. Its efforts include the promotion of understanding and education, to the eradication of race and other problems that have long plagued our society. The NAACP has helped put students through college, give the vote

back to the voiceless, and ensure that the American people will not continue to be divided by differences, but rather be brought together by mutual compassion and kinship.

The mission of the NAACP continues today and the Saint Paul Branch of the NAACP continues to work towards equality, education and justice for all. My local NAACP chapter is well known for its tireless work addressing the injustices affecting individuals and the diverse communities of Minnesota.

It is with great admiration that I commend the NAACP on this occasion of their 101st anniversary. The necessity of the continued push for equality and justice for all citizens presents a great burden that we bear collectively, but the work of groups such as the NAACP gives our society the necessary guidance and reminder of our responsibilities towards one another.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the courageous and guiding history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on this day of their 101st anniversary.