

Over the past century, Aunt Kathleen has been a public servant in the State Liquor Department and Hamilton County Juvenile Sheriff's Department. She has been a ballet teacher to a generation of young dancers in Cincinnati. She has been a proud supporter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and a faithful parishioner at Holy Cross-Immaculata. She has been the loving mother of seven children, grandmother of 21, and great-grandmother of 36.

Though she was born ten years before women in America had the right to vote, Aunt Kathleen has her whole life embraced and extolled the importance of civic involvement. Whether working the polls or attending presidential inaugurations, advocating to save Cincinnati's streetcars or offering her own brand of political advice, Kathleen remains an example of the sort of concerned and active citizenship we too seldom see. As a public servant, I draw inspiration from her undimmed interest in governance and community.

We can be certain in coming weeks to see Aunt Kathleen at the Immaculata church festival or making the rounds at the Delhi Senior Center. And so, on her 100th birthday, we not only reflect on her life's journey thus far, but we look forward to the days ahead.

Happy birthday, Aunt Kathleen.

THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST.  
JOHN'S A.M.E. CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a storied institution of faith in the Third Congressional District. This year, Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church is celebrating its 170th anniversary, and I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church and its contribution to our community.

St. John's was organized in 1840 within the old Cumberland Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Norfolk. The land where the church now stands was purchased for just \$450 in 1848. The church disconnected from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1863 and was formally received into the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1864. Elder John M. Brown was the Church's first pastor.

The church grew rapidly. Additional land to erect a parsonage was bought in 1865, and the church was enlarged twice between 1868 and 1888. In 1888, the present church building on Bute Street was erected. St. John's exterior has stood nearly unchanged since then.

St. John's flourished in Norfolk during the turn of the century. The church was the first African-American congregation in Norfolk to install a pipe organ. The parsonage was completed, and in 1908 St. John's had reached such a level of prominence as to host the General Conference of the entire African Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. John's continued to grow in the early twentieth century. Its membership grew to over 1000, and two new churches grew from it. This rapid growth helped the church burn its mortgage after just 46 years in 1915. Along with its internal growth, St. John's was also active in the community. The church estab-

lished the first African-American Boy Scout Troop in Norfolk in 1930 and the first African-American Girl Scout Troop in 1935.

The growth of St. John's in the second half of the century mirrored our country's growth. The church building underwent a massive renovation in 1956. The church's growth helped it to pay off the mortgage of the parsonage, install air conditioning, and buy buses, pianos, organs and robes for new choirs.

Over the last 25 years, St. John's has continued to both grow and stay relevant in the community. The church has started many new ministries to address the needs of both its members and its Downtown Norfolk neighborhood. An education building conceived earlier was finally built, and the church created a Social Service Outreach Program, the Hope Outreach Ministry, and the Medical and Wellness Ministry. In 1986, St. John's A.M.E. was registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark. St. John's has taken care to develop programs for the next generation of its members, recently revitalizing its Children's Choir, and establishing both a Nursery and Young Adult Choir.

St. John's has had numerous pastors over its history, and many members have left St. John's to enter the priesthood and to preside over congregations of their own. In addition to First Pastor Rev. Brown, a selected list of pastors includes: Rev. W.D. Cook; Rev. J.R. Johnson; Rev. Walter L. Hildebrand; Rev. A.R. Powell; Rev. Walter C. Davis; Rev. L.W. Knight, Sr.; Rev. Larry S. Hinton; and the current pastor, Rev. John D. Burton.

As St. John's gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on the future knowing in the words of Rev. Burton that "Everything is going to be alright!" I would like to congratulate Rev. Burton and all of the members of Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of their 170th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO NELLE HARPER LEE  
AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HER PULITZER PRIZE WINNING  
NOVEL "TO KILL A MOCKING-  
BIRD"

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, July 2010 marks the 50th Anniversary of Nelle Harper Lee's novel "To Kill a Mockingbird."

First published on July 11, 1960, "To Kill a Mockingbird" has since sold over 30 million copies and has been published in over 40 languages.

During the past 50 years the world has seen many changes but one thing still remains constant—"To Kill a Mockingbird", the novel that inspired children and adults in 1961 is still inspiring a new generation of children and adults today. Few novels have such timeless and universal appeal.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" has received numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 and the film adaptation received three Academy Awards and three Golden Globe Awards in 1962.

The Mockingbird Players, an amateur theater group, perform the dramatization of "To

Kill a Mockingbird" every April and May in Monroeville, Alabama, Lee's hometown. The players have performed at both home and abroad including performances in Chicago, Washington, D.C., the United Kingdom and Israel.

One of the novels best known quotes is, "Lawyers, I suppose, were children once." This quote and her character, Atticus Finch, have inspired lawyers for the past 50 years, including myself.

For those who have read "To Kill a Mockingbird" you may remember Scout's first grade teacher was Miss Caroline Fisher. On Scout's first day at school, Miss Caroline Fisher introduced herself proudly saying, "I am Caroline Fisher. I am from North Alabama, from Winston County." Being born and raised in Winston County, which is a small rural county in North Alabama. I remember being surprised to see my home county mentioned as I first read the book as a law student at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. From that day forward "To Kill a Mockingbird" has been a favorite of mine, not only because my home county was mentioned but most importantly because the message the book articulates.

Nelle, as she is affectionately known by her friends, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 5, 2007 by President George W. Bush.

Besides "To Kill a Mockingbird," Lee also penned "Christmas to Me" and "When Children Discover America" for McCall's Magazine in the 1960s.

Miss Lee is a national treasure and I am proud to cosponsor and vote for Mr. BONNER's resolution, H. Res. 1525, honoring the 50th anniversary of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2010 National Scout Jamboree that concluded at Fort A.P. Hill, near Fredericksburg. Thousands upon thousands of Boy Scouts, Troop masters, and other staff and family descended on the greater DC area to join together and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America make positive contributions in every community around the United States. Boy Scouts volunteer many hours to improve their communities, enhance the environment, and help those in need. In their dedication to service to others, Scouts never shy away from a challenge.

I trust the Jamboree that just concluded was a successful and joyous one, Madam Speaker. The Boy Scouts of America, as an organization, has a lot to be proud of and celebrate. Every former and current Scout should be proud of their contributions to humanity and their community. The Jamboree encouraged participants to "Be Prepared" as they anticipate the challenges of life and continue to act as leaders at home and school. Ultimately, Madam Speaker, the Jamboree "Inspire[d]" every participant to return to their home, troop, chartered organization, and community telling

the story of the freedom that is ours and the greatness of the United States of America.”

I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Boy Scouts of America on their very special 100-year milestone. Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America prepare our young men for lives of leadership and selflessness. I applaud the organization for its longevity and commitment to service.

#### HONORING THE SWISHER FAMILY, ARKANSAS FAMILY OF THE YEAR

##### HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Swisher family, who have been named Arkansas Family of the Year by the state Knights of Columbus council.

Brian and Gail Swisher have persevered and sacrificed to allow their son Michael the opportunity to accomplish his dreams and goals, specifically gaining Eagle Scout status, despite his cerebral palsy, which he was diagnosed with at birth. The Swisher family truly deserves recognition for being the Knights of Columbus Family of the Year because of their resiliency and passion in teaching their son that no matter what physical condition he is in, he can still accomplish whatever he tries at, even though he has been confined to a wheelchair since he was a little boy.

Michael Swisher is an inspiration to all of us with his determination to overcome his ailment and complete the tasks necessary to become an Eagle Scout. Michael Swisher and the entire Swisher family are an inspiration and a heartfelt story that should be commemorated throughout the nation for their passion, commitment and desire. They truly are deserving of the recognition Arkansas Family of the Year.

#### COMMENDING BILL DAVIS FROM TIFTON, GEORGIA

##### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Bill Davis from Tifton, Georgia.

For 20 years, Bill Davis owned a Sonny's barbeque franchise in Tifton, Georgia. After his 22-year license for the franchise expired in 2007, Mr. Davis met with corporate officials to discuss a new condition of their agreement. The company asked Davis to initiate the selling of beer, wine, and liquor drinks in the restaurant in order to fully comply with corporate standards. Davis refused, claiming that his restaurant was family-oriented and suggesting that the initiation of alcoholic sales could detract from the family environment. It was the first of a philosophical divergence. More would come.

On October 18, 2008, an individual from the corporate office visited the establishment. There, he found the employees wearing white T-shirts with an American flag logo and the words “I Pledge . . . I Pray” written on them.

He also noticed a Jesus souvenir sitting behind the counter. The patrons and staff of the restaurant were accustomed to the display, claiming that it allowed them to exhibit their patriotism and religious affiliation. The corporate employee, however, was less than pleased, perceiving the actions as a breach of the conditions and the typical practice of the franchise owners. An extension on license agreement was signed, and both parties agreed to extend through November 30, 2009.

This past October, Davis received a letter stating that his franchise agreement would end on December 31.

Rather than altering the atmosphere of his establishment to conform to the politically correct request of the corporation, Davis decided to “stand up for God” and continue the demonstration of his beliefs, despite the attempts of the company to silence them, so he parted ways with Sonny's. True to his word, he stuck with his convictions, and the display of American patriotism and religious faith are still a part of the restaurant's atmosphere today.

While the basic restaurant has changed, Mr. Davis is no longer a franchise owner, but a sole proprietor. The restaurant is now called “The Smokehouse Restaurant.” Davis affirms that, aside from the name change, everything at the establishment will remain in place. I commend Bill Davis for “standing up for God,” and I also support Sonny's right to set the rules for their franchise. They have a contractual right to set the rules, but sometimes, as businesses grow and become prosperous, they have to play it safe, conforming to political correctness and avoiding anything that could potentially raise an eyebrow. Thus, the straightjacket of public opinion and the murky center of legal conformity play an increasing role in decision-making. Some corporations, such as Graco, Domino's, and Chick-fil-A, have stood tall and should be commended.

The decision to run family friendly and patriotic operations is what makes America thrive. It seems as if Davis' decision to stick to these values will likely pay off, as many local patrons have insisted that they will continue to dine at the restaurant on a regular basis.

#### HONORING RUDY AND EVA LEON AND LONNIE AND MARILYN KILGORE

##### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unyielding commitment of two families to caring for and improving the lives of foster care children in Arizona.

Rudy and Eva Leon have been licensed foster care parents for 45 years and were recently honored by former Governor Janet Napolitano for being the longest serving foster parents in the state of Arizona. They have spent the past 17 years serving the children of Devereux Arizona. The Leons have selflessly provided over 200 children with a safe and loving home environment.

Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore began their service assisting foster care children in the Juvenile Court Foster Care Program of Arizona. Since that time, they have been licensed with Devereux for the past 16 years, during which they have cared for 47 children.

Foster care parents such as the Leons and the Kilgores recognize that all children deserve a home that will shelter them from the trauma and stress of their young lives. These families have made it their mission to provide these children with the opportunity to move on from their often difficult pasts and benefit from caring and supportive guardians. This foundation truly creates the groundwork for a meaningful, enriching life.

Organizations like Devereux have proven enormously successful at changing the lives of some of our state's most at-risk youth, helping them find stable homes and setting thousands of children on the right path in the face of tremendous difficulty.

I would like once more to thank Rudy and Eva Leon and Lonnie and Marilyn Kilgore for their hard work, deep commitment and determined sacrifice to the children of Arizona. Their long-standing dedication to the future of children and impact on their communities are an example of selfless dedication to us all.

#### HONORING CARL MESCHER

##### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Mescher of Metropolis, Illinois. Mr. Mescher will turn 90 on August 12, 2010. A reception to celebrate his birthday is being held in Metropolis on August 8, 2010.

Mr. Mescher grew up on the family farm, where he still raises cattle and crops. He served in the United States Navy from June 1940 to July 1946, where he achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He was assigned to the USS Pennsylvania, which was in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Mr. Mescher manned the telephone connected directly to the bridge during the attack.

On December 20, 1941, the USS Pennsylvania was sent to San Francisco for repairs of damage caused during the attack with Mr. Mescher on board. He then served as an observation plane radioman-gunner and participated in missions to retake the islands. He was awarded the Air Medal for courageous action in the Pacific theater at Makin, Kwajalein, and Eniwetok Atoll.

I am honored to thank Mr. Mescher for his service to our nation. May God bless him with continued health and happiness.

#### IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2480, THE TRUTH IN FUR LABELING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

##### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 28, 2010*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the Truth in Fur Labeling Act of 2009. This bill will amend the Fur Products Labeling Act of 1951 to close the loophole that allows the sale of products containing a relatively small quantity of fur or fur that is valued at \$150 or less.

The current loophole denies consumers the right to know what their garment is really