

The Parent Coalition—with Ms. Thompson as its leader—has three overarching goals: to work for a better future for people with developmental disabilities and their families through systems advocacy, to organize parent training workshops, and to inform families in King County, Washington about the developmental disabilities system at all levels. Under Ms. Thompson's leadership, the Coalition has accomplished its goals—and much more.

Madam Speaker, Margaret-Lee Thompson is a leader, an advocate, and a social entrepreneur. She's helped thousands of developmentally disabled individuals in King County and influenced thousands more policy makers, community leaders, and residents. After 20 years of leadership and advocacy, Ms. Thompson has finally received the type of recognition she so richly deserves. She's a selfless humanitarian, Madam Speaker, and I'm honored to call her a constituent, thank you.

#### OVERBROOK SCHOOL

#### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Overbrook School in Nashville, Tennessee. This year, Overbrook was named a National Blue Ribbon School, a tremendous honor from the U.S. Secretary of Education acknowledging Overbrook's outstanding scholastic achievement.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools for excellence in academic achievement. Overbrook is one of only 304 schools nationwide to receive 2010 Blue Ribbon designation and is the only Nashville area school to be honored this year. Overbrook is also the first Catholic elementary school in Nashville to receive the coveted award.

Since it opened in 1936 as a co-educational, Catholic school, Overbrook students have pursued academic, cultural, and spiritual growth. Situated on the Dominican Campus in the heart of Nashville, students from kindergarten through eighth grade thrive in an environment that promotes academic excellence and a life of faith. Overbrook School is an institution that values a well-rounded education in a nurturing setting.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Overbrook School for being named a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the students, teachers, parents and staff who have helped Overbrook School set a standard of excellence for elementary schools across middle Tennessee.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF FALLS CHURCH

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Second Baptist

Church of Falls Church for its 140th anniversary, themed "celebrating 140 years of service to God through prayer, worship and praise."

Founded shortly after the Civil War, the Second Baptist Church has grown from a small two-room cabin to a two-story church on "Baptist Hill." Not only has the Church served as a symbol and source of faith for the congregation, but it has also acted as a community center, opening its doors to various groups such as Girl and Boy Scout troops, nursery school classes, and other community organizations. The Second Baptist Church also has served the Falls Church community by founding the Food Bank and the S.H.A.R.E. Food Network.

This past week the Church hosted a series of worship services and community events to honor this momentous occasion. It will host a celebratory dinner on October 3 with a concert to conclude the week's events.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 140th Anniversary of the Second Baptist Church of Falls Church. For 140 years the Second Baptist Church has served the community through prayer, worship and praise. I would like to extend my congratulations and thank the Church for its commitment to faith and to the community.

#### ON THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIFTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 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, the Fifth Street Baptist Church is celebrating its 130th anniversary, and I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church and its contribution to our community.

Fifth Street was organized in 1880 and first worshiped in the old Odd Fellows Hall on East Franklin Street. The church acquired land for a sanctuary on Fifth Street in 1882, and became known as Fifth Street Baptist. The first pastor, Rev. Henry Haywood Mitchell, served for 2 years. Under the pastorate of Rev. A.P. Dunbar, the new house of worship was completed and dedicated in 1886.

Fifth Street grew rapidly under the leadership of its third pastor, Rev. Wesley Paul Graham. At the end of one revival, Rev. Graham singlehandedly baptized 285 people in one afternoon. It was under his direction that the first Baptist Young Peoples Union in Virginia was established at Fifth Baptist. This Union was influential in the plans to consolidate Richmond Theological Seminary and Wayland Seminary of Washington, DC into one institution—Virginia Union University. Rev. Graham served Fifth Baptist for 17 years, with the highlight of his pastorate being the 1900 Session of the National Baptist Convention hosted at Fifth Street Baptist.

Fifth Street flourished in Richmond during the turn of the century. Under the leadership of its fourth pastor, Rev. Thomas J. King, the

first Deaconess board in the city was organized, and hundreds of new members were added to the church. It was also during Rev. King's ministry, on July 4, 1926, that a new sanctuary was dedicated at 705 North Fifth Street.

The Great Depression brought with it a share of challenges for Fifth Baptist. In response, the church called a pastor who had already built a church in Philadelphia and was proven as a skilled leader. On the first Sunday in February, 1930, Rev. Christopher Columbus Scott became the fifth pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church, and he served the church for 36 years. During his years of service, the church celebrated the burning of its mortgage in 1946, installed a new 22 rank pipe organ in 1955, and led the city-wide celebration of Emancipation Day for many years, bringing nationally known speakers and rallies for civil rights to the church.

Changes in the city of Richmond brought changes to Fifth Baptist under the leadership of its sixth pastor, Rev. Henry Clayton Gregory III, who assumed leadership of the church in August 1967. New expressway construction and other municipal developments had geographically split the Jackson Ward/Navy Hill community. In response, the church rededicated its efforts to the community, serving as a command post for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Poor People's March and establishing a Federal Credit Union for members. Fifth Baptist also looked to serve the world at large, building a medical clinic in Karnal, India.

In January 1974, Rev. Roscoe Dennis Cooper, Jr. was installed as the seventh pastor of Fifth Baptist. It was under his leadership that the church undertook the biggest change in its history. Citing growing problems with the location in Downtown Richmond, the church took the bold step to move 37 blocks away to a new property on Third Avenue. On Sunday, October 5, 1975, the church members marched these blocks to the church's new home in the Highland Park Community.

The church's eleventh and current pastor is Rev. F. Todd Gray. At the church's new location and under his leadership, Fifth Street has continued to minister to the needs of the community. Coming together with community neighbors, the church helped found the North District Community Development Corporation. Under this organization, the church, in conjunction with the Southern Tip Civic Association, The United Way, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, and other community groups, has provided numerous programs to the community including: computer training, test prep, job training, summer jobs for youth, and medical services. In 2005, the church dedicated a new Community Empowerment Center known as the G.R.A.C.E., God's Redemptive And Community Empowerment, Center.

As Fifth Street gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on the future continuing to "bring the Kingdom to the Community!" I would like to congratulate current pastor Rev. Gray and all of the members of the Fifth Street Baptist Church on the occasion of their 130th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR SAM E. MANN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SAINT MARK UNION CHURCH AND UNITED INNER CITY SERVICES

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Rev. Doctor Samuel E. Mann, an individual who has dedicated his life to helping the underserved in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, the District that I am honored to represent. This weekend, Reverend Mann is retiring, after 40 years as Pastor Administrator of St. Mark Union Church and executive director of United Inner City Services. In that capacity, he oversaw a budget of \$1.5 million annually, a sixty-two member staff and programs that included: child and family development, social services, and community development and street organizations and violence prevention.

He is a native of Eufaula, Alabama and a graduate of Birmingham Southern College, BA; Duke Divinity School, M. Div., and St. Paul School of Theology, D. Min. He is married to Dr. Beverly J. Brown, and is the father of three children and grandfather of seven.

Remarkably, Rev. Mann was a local preacher at the age of 15 years old at the First Methodist Church of Eufaula, Alabama; he was later the Associate Pastor of St. John United Methodist Church of Kansas City, Missouri, and sometime later, the Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Peculiar, MO, and Director of the Young Adult Projects, Inc. Rev. Mann was dismissed from both churches because of his views on race and peace.

As a long-time civil rights activist, Rev. Mann marched in numerous demonstrations, including the march for the garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee, the march against the war in Vietnam, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was part of the U.S. delegation that visited with South Africa ANC leader Dr. Nelson Mandela shortly after his release from prison. Dr. Mann has also been jailed on several occasions for his participation in these activities. He served as a key participant in the national effort to respond to the burning of black churches in America. He has traveled to Nicaragua and China for various humanitarian efforts.

Rev. Mann was instrumental in the formation of Operation Break and Build, a street outreach organization that evolved out of the Urban Peace and Justice Summit in 1994. Its purpose was to assist street organizations, gangs, with transforming their lives via crisis intervention, education, economic development, addressing women's issues, and criminal justice.

He has been the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Harold Holiday Award; the John M. Swomley Human Rights Award, the Elder Statesmen of Kansas City award, the MO Jazz award, the Sam Eason Award presented by Niles Home; the Black Archives of Mid-America award; the Beta Omega PSI PHI Fraternity Inc.'s Citizen of the Year Award; and many, many more. He is co-founder of the project "Reframing the Dialogue on Race in America." Through this national project, he attempts to address the problem of

race by focusing on the issues of white supremacy and white privilege. Through training, he seeks to inspire ministries to address racism in their congregations.

His most recent project was the building of the \$4 million child care center, the St. Mark Child & Family Development Center, located at 2008 E. 12th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. St. Mark's is a state of the art child care facility that annually serves approximately 225 low-income families through its early childhood education program, before- and after-school program, and summer camp. Nearly 100 percent of the children are African American, with many living in single parent households in one of Kansas City, Missouri's poorest neighborhoods.

Rev. Mann is presently a leader working in concert with other agencies in making Kansas City a Zone Seven site to provide additional services in the urban core for the education of children. I am proud of the federal funding I helped secure for St. Mark.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege for me to recognize my friend, and colleague, the Reverend Doctor Sam Mann for his efforts to improve the education and quality of life in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. It is with great pride that we honor Reverend Doctor Mann today for his commitment to the residents of Missouri. On behalf of the people of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish this thunderous preacher and fearless prophet a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN INGLEWOOD, CA

### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Highland Elementary School in Inglewood, California, located in my district. Highland was recently named a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education, a coveted award recognizing high-performing and improving schools across our country. This year, Highland shares this distinction with 304 other schools among the thousands of schools in the United States.

Highland and its teachers, administrators, staff, students, parents and community members have really been on a roll. In addition to the Blue Ribbon award, the school was also named a California Distinguished School, and Highland is a two-time Title One Academic Achievement School and California Business School of Excellence.

I am very appreciative of the efforts by this Congress and this Administration to focus on education and the future of our young students. We must remain committed to improving schools and providing opportunity for all Americans to learn.

In my district, like many communities in urban America, test scores are below average, buildings are in disrepair, and graduation rates are too low.

I was so encouraged to hear about Highland's honor because one of the two ways to qualify for the Blue Ribbon award is by having schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improve student performance to high levels.

Improving test scores early on is crucial to getting kids on the right path to a solid education and key to securing critical resources that will help our schools turn around.

I want to particularly honor Highland principal Susan Ippongi and Inglewood Unified School District superintendent Gary McHenry for their leadership and their dedication to schoolchildren in Inglewood.

I am looking forward to meeting them in November when representatives from the Blue Ribbon schools come to Washington to be formally recognized for their achievements.

I am very proud of Highland's ability to excel over adversity, and particularly proud of the young boys and girls who are studying hard for a bright future. They are giving Highland Elementary School, our community, our city and our country a good name.

HONORING ZOILA A. QUIÑONES

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor one of south Florida's finest community leaders, Zoila A. Quiñones.

Zoila was born in the city of Cabana, Peru and completed her studies at the prestigious Colegio Nacional Mercedes Cabello in Lima, Peru and graduated as a Commercial Accountant. She then went on to work at one of Peru's finest engineering and architecture firms, Graña y Montero, S.A., for 26 years.

In 1986, Zoila came to the United States from her native Peru to join her mother and brother in Miami, Florida. She started a career in the cargo industry and eventually founded her own company, Cabana International Corporation. She also began her activism within the Peruvian American community of south Florida and is today one of its most influential leaders. She is involved with various civic and business groups including the Peruvian American Coalition, the Chamber of Commerce of Florida, the Ancashina Association and the Peruvian Civic Unity.

For nearly 23 years, Zoila has also taken an active role in the democratic process by educating policymakers at all levels of government about issues important in the Peruvian American community, working to ensure that the United States and Peru strengthen diplomatic ties, and helping shape legislation and policy towards Latin America. She has also been instrumental in fighting for small businesses, advancing economic growth in the United States and working towards free trade with Peru.

Zoila has earned the respect and trust of many in our community, dedicating herself to advancing the needs of the Hispanic community in the United States. I ask that you join me in honoring and thanking my good friend Zoila A. Quiñones, a true leader who loves and values freedom and works so that others may enjoy it.