

Bakary, Juan Carlos Nielo Uy, Stojanco Krstevski, Sandy Yuliana Meza De La Torre, Joan John Dordea, Rocio Galvan, Jose De Jesus Hernandez, Javier Julian, Mahnoush Nikki Malekan, Olama Ziyad Mohammed, Oliberio Ortiz, Jorge Ortiz, and Bernardino Perea.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2011, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate and welcome them.

THE BLACK AND GOLD IN THE ATL

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, since its founding, the Black and Gold in the ATL has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for reuniting people who have migrated from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, over the past 20 years, the Black and Gold weekend celebration has been held to support the Pittsburgh Steelers and to fellowship with family and friends from Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, the Black and Gold in the ATL weekend has always promoted the concept of One Community—One Goal by working with and for individuals of all walks of life to make Atlanta a place where Pittsburgh natives are seen as well as heard; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community by being productive citizens; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the members of the Black and Gold in the ATL, our district is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 25, 2011, as The Black & Gold in the ATL Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of June, 2011.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK BRIDGE BRUINS MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge Bruins Men's Tennis team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Championship on May 26.

These young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the 2 A Tennis Championship to their school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Bruins for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN T. HARDIN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the distinguished 27-year career of Captain John T. Hardin in the United States Coast Guard. Captain Hardin has served in the United States Coast Guard with distinction throughout his career, in particular as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, which is located in the First Congressional District.

Captain Hardin graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut on May 23, 1984 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering. His first duty station was aboard the USCG Sherman where he served as Engineer of the Watch, Auxiliary Officer, Electrical Officer, and Fueling Officer. Captain Hardin went on to attend Naval Flight Training and received his wings in May of 1987.

Captain Hardin's diverse career took him to multiple locations including Miami, San Diego, and San Francisco. During these assignments Captain Hardin served as Morale Officer, Public Works Officer, Aviation Material Officer, Rotary Wing Assistant Engineer, Aircraft Salvage Officer, HH-65A Instructor Pilot, Engineer Officer, and even President of the Flight Examining Board. Captain Hardin became dual-qualified in the HH-65A helicopter, the first qualified copilot in the HU-25C Air Interceptor, and earned a Master's of Business Administration in Technologies Management.

Captain Hardin's connection to Elizabeth City, North Carolina began in 1999 with his first assignment as the HU-25 Product Line Manager at the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center. Later, in 2002, Captain Hardin transferred to the Engineering Industrial Supply Center as the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center Chief Engineer. In 2003, Captain Hardin became the commanding officer of the C-130J Aircraft Project Office, and his career culminated in July of 2008 when he assumed command of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City.

Captain Hardin has dutifully served our country for the past 27 years, and eastern

North Carolina for over 10 years while stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. It brings me great joy to honor the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to duty demonstrated by Captain Hardin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Captain John T. Hardin on his retirement from the United States Coast Guard and offer my sincere appreciation for his many years of service to the United States of America.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN OPEN DOOR CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to congratulate An Open Door Church on its 25th anniversary. In honor of this momentous milestone, a celebratory reception will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at An Open Door Church in Hammond, Indiana. For 25 years, An Open Door Church has been committed to the spiritual and social conditions of residents living in the Hammond area as well as in the greater Northwest Indiana community.

Founded on July 6, 1986 in South Holland, Illinois, by Doctors and Pastors Meredith and Marilyn Shackelford, An Open Door Church began as a small congregation in the basement of the pastors' home. Quickly outgrowing this small space, the church began to rent space, and, after eight years, it was able to purchase its first building in Hammond. The church's congregation continued to grow and the church moved to its current location on Hohman Avenue in Hammond, Indiana six years ago. Currently, the church has an impressive membership of more than 350 congregants.

The church and its parishioners follow a visionary motto, "reaching people to reach the world," which is carried out through the church's various ministries and programs that work to support change in the lives of others. An Open Door Church places a strong emphasis on the family unit, and has built its organization around the belief that strong families build strong communities. The church's dedication to the welfare of residents in Northwest Indiana is demonstrated through its many outreach projects which include: a summer concert series at Harrison Park where school supplies are distributed to children in need; Wee Care, a child development ministry; a food pantry ministry that feeds over 75 families per month; Give God a Chance, a marriage ministry; a prison outreach ministry; various children and teen ministries; and the Christian Academy, which provides education for grades kindergarten through grade eight. In addition, the church has partnered with numerous community organizations in order to improve the quality of life for countless individuals. These organizations include Calumet Project, Interfaith Worker Justice, and Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance. An Open Door Church, its founders, and its ministry directors show uncompromising loyalty to the community of Northwest Indiana and they are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in

honoring An Open Door Church for its exceptional community service ministry and to congratulate the organization on its 25th anniversary. The founders and congregation of this truly admirable organization continue to touch the lives of numerous people, and for this selfless, lifelong service they are to be commended.

HONORING MAJOR CAMILLE MACK

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Camille Mack, United States Army, on the occasion of her departure from the Army House Liaison Office to pursue a Master's Degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Institute at Bolling Air Force Base. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with her over the past three years as she served as a part of the U.S. Army Office of Legislative Affairs and as a Liaison Officer in the Army Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives. Major Mack served in my personal office and was an essential part of my staff during that time.

In 1999, after completing Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning Georgia, Major Mack was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps Branch.

Major Mack's initial assignment was to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where she served as a Psychological Operations Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in 4th Psychological Operations Group. She deployed on two consecutive tours in Iraq in support of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Psychological Operations Battalion.

For 22 months, Major Mack commanded the 45th Sustainment Brigade stationed in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While in command, her unit was dispersed to three locations throughout Iraq. Upon her return to the United States, Major Mack served on division staff as the network operations Officer in Charge (OIC) and then later was selected as a Congressional Fellow and served a year in my personal office. During her time as a Fellow in my office, Major Mack showed great leadership and dedication; the very qualities that have helped her make this chamber, our U.S. Army and our nation a better place. She embodies the very core values of our armed services. I was honored to have her become such an integral and important part of our team.

Following her fellowship in the House of Representatives, Major Mack was assigned to the Army House Liaison Office. I have come to know Major Mack well during her assignment to the House of Representatives through her time working as a fellow in my Washington D.C. Office and as a regional liaison in the Army House Liaison Office. She has never failed to impress me with her energy and dedication to Soldiers, their families, and the United States Army. She is a superb representative of Army values.

Camille's personal contribution to our nation on behalf of not only the United States Army but also all of our armed services represents the finest of our military professionals.

Camille's service is a remarkable example of patriotic and selfless service.

It is my great honor to congratulate Major Camille Mack on her service to the Army and our Nation and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of this Soldier, citizen, and friend.

IN HONOR OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Westlake, Ohio, in recognition of its bicentennial celebration. Since 1811, Westlake has been a shining community within Northeast Ohio.

In 1811, 16-year-old Leverett Johnson became Westlake's first resident when he began clearing land for a log cabin. This cabin served as lifelong home for him, his wife Abigail, and their nine children. Johnson went on to have a distinguished career in government, serving as a justice of the peace, township treasurer, Cuyahoga County Commissioner, and Ohio State Legislator.

Now, 200 years later, Westlake is a successful, vibrant community known for its unique appeal to both businesses and families. The City of Westlake is continuing to make improvements to the community; St. John Medical Center is being renovated, Cuyahoga Community College's new Westshore campus is near completion, and plans are underway for the construction of a new high school.

The residents of Westlake have planned a series of events to celebrate their city's rich history and vibrant future. Several events, such as a fence dedication, historic cemetery tour, marker dedication and time capsule burial will take place at the historic Evergreen Cemetery. The Evergreen Cemetery was founded around 1820 by Leverett Johnson and several other early settlers. Today it serves as their final resting ground and one of Westlake's most historic locations. Other planned festivities include an art show, concert, Mayor's Ball, a 4th of July parade and fireworks and a Bicentennial Ball Drop on New Year's Eve.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the City of Westlake, Ohio as its residents celebrate the city's bicentennial. I extend my sincere congratulations to all members of the Westlake community.

IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER ANTON KCIRA'S RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Father Anton Kcira, a leader in Michigan's Albanian American community for

the past 22 years and a fierce advocate for the rights of Kosova Albanians around the world, on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of ministry in the Catholic Church.

As the son of a town mayor in Kosova, Father Anton learned at a young age the value of service to his community and the importance of standing up for one's own beliefs. Early in his life, Father Anton heard the call to serve his community as a priest in the Catholic Church and went on to serve several parishes for over two decades following his ordination. As a servant of the Church during the years of communist rule in Yugoslavia, Father Anton took great personal risk to provide spiritual guidance and leadership to the Kosova Albanian Catholic community during a time of great uncertainty.

As a community leader, it is clear that Father Anton believes strongly in the power of dialogue to bring his community together. During his time in Kosova he took it upon himself to step out into the community to resolve issues between brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors. He even took it upon himself to step in between the warring sides of blood feuds and brought peace between families who had been fighting for generations. Father Anton even reached out to Albania's Muslim community and through his skillful dialogue built an understanding and mutual respect between Albanian Muslims and Catholics.

After his many years of service to the Albanian community in Kosova, Father Anton was forced to flee his homeland to avoid persecution by Yugoslavia's communist government. Father Anton arrived in Michigan in 1989 and was appointed administrator of St. Paul's Albanian Catholic Church by the Archdiocese of Detroit. He brought with him the same sense of community that had served his parishioners so well in Kosova and under his administration St. Paul expanded its congregation from 50 families to over 1,100 members. Under his leadership, St. Paul's also found its new home in Rochester Hills and built an extraordinary place of worship, which has allowed its members to better practice their spiritual fellowship.

Much as he did in Kosova, Father Anton has continued to play a central role within the community he serves. Father Anton rallied the Albanian community to support the many Albanian refugees who arrived, first fleeing from communism and then from genocide in the Balkans. In an even greater show of leadership, Father Anton called upon his parish to meet the challenges its brothers and sisters were facing in the Balkans and the St. Paul's parishioners responded by raising over one million dollars to help the wounded in Kosova. In addition, Father Anton has been an unwavering international voice for the needs of Kosova, advising Members of Congress, U.S. Presidents and world political and religious leaders on the need to support Kosova's ethnic Albanian minority. In 1999, he even sat as a member of the Rambuje Delegation which developed the peace that has allowed Kosova to become the independent nation that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating a true leader, statesman and humanitarian as Father Anton Kcira celebrates his retirement after more than 40 years in the service to the Catholic Church. Father Anton has truly been a father to a community that has faced so much adversity and contributed immensely to improve the lives of millions