

League Baseball. They must realize that their guidance and support helped guide Roberto to his great career and that they, too, deserve recognition as he is inducted into baseball's most elite and hallowed club.

I am sure that the joy of winning the World Series twice was quite indescribable for Roberto, but the thrill of being inducted into the Hall of Fame must be just as sweet. It is a fitting end to a great career. Along with the rest of the baseball world and millions of Puerto Ricans on the island and in the 50 states, I applaud Roberto Alomar and look forward to seeing his plaque placed among baseball's other legends.

Mr. Speaker, induction into the Hall of Fame is more than the highest honor a player can receive—it is how fans and lovers of organized baseball are able to say 'thank you' to their heroes. Thank you, Roberto, for so many wonderful memories. Thank you for pushing the sport to new heights. Thank you for giving millions of people so many reasons to smile and celebrate and feel joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues now join me in saying thank you to Roberto Alomar, a player whose character and quality we may never see again.

#### SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE ACT

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce as my first bill in the 112th Congress H.R. 212, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, with the support of 54 original cosponsors. My bill will simply define human life as beginning with fertilization and guarantees the constitutional right to life in each human being.

The right to life is our most important fundamental right. Unfortunately, the judicial branch through court decisions has created a complex formula of when life can be taken. My bill makes clear that section two of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits any state from depriving any person of life without due process of law, affords the right to life of each human being at conception.

As a physician, I know on the basis of medical and scientific evidence, that human life begins with fertilization, and I hope other Members of Congress will join me in supporting the Sanctity of Human Life Act.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. The Church began commemorating its 200th anniversary year last year at its 2010 Homecoming Celebration.

The Park Avenue Christian Church began as a group of nine members of the Ebenezer

Baptist Church who branched off to form the Disciples of Christ on October 10, 1810. This makes them one of the oldest Disciples of Christ Churches in America. They were able to establish themselves as a permanent fixture on Manhattan's Upper East Side as the Park Avenue Christian Church in 1945, at a site that formerly housed the South Dutch Reformed Church and later the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Park Avenue Christian Church has since become a blessed sanctuary for Disciples of Christ and a familiar and beloved institution in the community.

The Church's design by Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue & Frank Ferguson provided a church of the purest gothic revival style, inspired by the famous Sainte Chapelle in Paris. It is constructed of local New York stone, salvaged from the construction of Central Park, with its spire surmounting the edifice, arches and fluted pilasters supporting the rounded ceiling that covered three naves, a wide cornice extending around the nave and at the middle height of the apse, soaring stained glass windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, a majestic 52-rank William Jackson Jarman Memorial Organ, and an impressive approach of church-wide steps. The building's cornerstone at 1010 Park Avenue at the corner of East 85th Street was laid in 1909, and the new Church was completed two years later.

The Park Avenue Christian Church remains a thriving, vibrant institution to this day, offering spiritual sanctuary, education, social services, and a wide range of other programs to the people of our Nation's greatest city. In 1963, the church opened a day school, which has since become a top private nursery school in the area. Its "Camp Ten Ten" has provided children from diverse backgrounds with a safe and educational summer programming experience. The Church's lively musical programming, including several choirs, concert series, and other musical ensemble performances provide a wonderful outlet for community members. Its Saturday Community Lunch Program provides hot meals and warm companionship to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Park Avenue Christian Church's interfaith program with the Temple of Universal Judaism has provided an invaluable forum for interfaith discussion and relationships. Under the able stewardship of the Reverend Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, the Park Avenue Christian Church continues to uphold its proud and historic tradition of seeking justice, embracing diversity, and inspiring the imagination.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions to the civic and spiritual life of New York City made by the historic Park Avenue Christian Church and its parishioners, past, present and future.

#### AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reading of the American Constitution on the Floor of the House of Representatives. Our founding fathers spent nearly four months debating the original Constitution dur-

ing the summer of 1787. They spent the following two and a half years securing the support of each of the thirteen original colonies. Since the constitutional convention in Philadelphia, the Constitution has been debated and successfully amended a total of 27 times. Today, we take an important step by recognizing this important history of debate and change.

When it was originally drafted, the American Constitution laid out a framework of government that reflected their best of understanding of the world as it existed in 1787. That document included many important insights and compromises, but the drafters realized that the Constitution—and the great Nation it created—would only last if the Constitution could adapt and change to meet the challenges of the day. That is why the drafters included a mechanism in the Constitution to change the very document they spent months crafting.

As we are all aware, the first exercise of this amendment mechanism concluded in December 1791 when our young Country ratified the Bill of Rights. Those ten amendments embody some of our most important protections from government power including the freedom of speech, protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, and the guarantee of due process.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries the American people amended the Constitution by adding to Congress's express constitutional powers and ensuring Congress has all the tools necessary to address national problems and protect the rights of all Americans. Shortly after the U. S. Civil War, the Constitution was amended to abolish slavery, guarantee the equal protection of the law to all Americans, and guaranteeing the right to vote. With these changes, "We the People" expanded the power to Congress to protect the promises of freedom and equality for all Americans.

I could go on, but my point is not to give a history of the Constitution but to explain how the Constitution has changed for the better. Without these changes, a Chinese-American woman, like me, would never be able to vote in this Country much less serve as a member of Congress. With these powers, Congress has not only been given great power by the American people, it has also been given great responsibility. That responsibility includes ensuring that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, creed, gender, gender identification, or sexual orientation, have the opportunity to pursue their own version of happiness.

I welcome this reading today as a symbol of the Constitution as a living document. Our understanding of the Constitution is constantly changing and evolving just as the words of the constitution have changed over time. If anything has remained constant, it is the principles espoused by that great document. Those principles ensure that we will have a representative government, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and that this government will protect the core values of liberty, equality, and opportunity. I look forward to working with my friends across the aisle to ensure this Congress uses its broad powers to promote these values.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF REV. DR. NELSON "FUZZY"  
THOMPSON

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great pleasure of recognizing the remarkable achievements of Reverend Doctor Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson. Rev. Thompson is a minister, community activist, humanitarian, and resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I proudly represent.

Rev. Thompson graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry at St. Paul School of Theology.

"Fuzzy," as he is affectionately known, has represented the Fifth District of Missouri in an exemplary manner locally and nationally. In service to our community, Fuzzy was an original Board Member of Black Adoption Program and a member of the Executive Committee of the Kansas Children's Service League, showing a commitment to our community's youth. During my term as Mayor, he also served as member and chair of the Human Rights Commission. "Fuzzy" now serves as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City.

Politically, Rev. Thompson served as a Regional Coordinator for Rev. Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign in 1984 and Missouri State Coordinator for Rev. Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. Furthermore, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from 1984–2000.

Reverend Thompson has also represented our nation on an international platform. At the request of Bishop Desmond Tutu, President Nelson Mandela, and the South African Council of Churches, he was one of 22 U.S. ministers that traveled to South Africa on a fact-finding educational exchange. Reverend Thompson traveled to South Africa a second time as an official observer for the first election held in South Africa granting the right to vote to all races. He called the experience humbling, as he watched people line up for blocks in order to exercise their right to vote for the first time. He was also one of three U.S. ministers to conduct Easter services for hostages being held in Tehran, Iran.

As well as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, he is just as strong an advocate for civil rights and economic rights within our community. When South Africa was a nation which practiced apartheid, Dr. Thompson helped organize a protest against a Frank Sinatra concert. The purpose was to draw attention to American celebrities who performed in racially exclusive venues. He has organized pickets in opposition to monies from the local school district awarded to contractors who had failed to include minority contractors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Reverend Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson for serving the State of Missouri and our nation. He is a true role model to the citizens of our country and his successes serve as a stepping stone for many others eager to serve. I offer this small token of appreciation to an exceptional civil servant for all of the work he has done, taking strength

from the many lives he has touched throughout our community.

REMEMBERING FORMER CON-  
GRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCH-  
FORD

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman William Ratchford who passed away on Sunday at the age of 76. He served in this body for three terms from 1979 to 1985 representing Connecticut's fifth congressional district. Bill was born in Danbury, Connecticut in 1934 and led a remarkable life that was most notable for putting public service first. His father was a hat-factory worker and Bill went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut and then to Georgetown University Law School. After graduating from law school, he became a lawyer in Danbury and served in the Connecticut National Guard. He was first elected to office in 1962 as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly where he served for six terms and rose to the position of Speaker of the House during his last four years. While in the State House, he became involved in the issue of aging, which came to define his legacy. He made a tremendous contribution to the state as chairman of the Governors' Blue Ribbon Committee on Nursing Homes, and in 1977 he was tapped by Governor Ella Grasso to become the state commissioner on aging.

In 1979, Bill won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the Fifth Congressional District in Northwestern Connecticut. During his three terms in Congress, he served on the committees on appropriations, transportation, education and labor, and interior. Bill continued to have an active career after leaving Congress, remaining involved in government and teaching at Georgetown University. He was appointed by President Clinton to be assistant administrator at the General Services Administration where he served until 2001.

Bill Ratchford was an honest public servant who cared deeply about making the world around him a better place and advocating for the issues that he passionately cared about. He will always be remembered for his focus on senior citizens and children and will be missed by all who knew him. I offer my deep condolences to his wife Barbara of 53 years, his three sons, and to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING JEAN HARPER  
ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Harper on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Jean was born on January 14, 1921 to David and Alda Sims Hart in Avondale, North Carolina. At a young age, Jean relocated to her home of Washington, District of Columbia.

For thirty-two years, Jean served as a diligent employee at Freedman's Hospital as a Dietitian. While working at Freedman's Hospital, Jean met the love of her life, James "Jimmy" Harper. The couple soon married and had one daughter, Barbara Jean. In 1954, Jean and Jimmy moved to Taylor Street where she currently resides. Jean is a proud member of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church where she serves as a missionary and works actively in the Pastor's Aide Club.

In addition to working enthusiastically in her church, Jean devotes the majority of her time to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her daughter, her grandchildren, and her great grandson. Jean enjoys traveling, shopping, cooking, and socializing with friends and extended family.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her Nation, it is my privilege to wish Jean Harper a very happy 90th birthday.

IN TRIBUTE TO QUEENSVIEW ON  
THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queensview, a cooperative apartment complex in the borough of Queens in the district that I represent. Queensview celebrated its 60th anniversary last month.

Initially organized as the Joint Queensview Housing Enterprises Inc., under the Redevelopment Companies Law of New York State, Queensview was created as a model of middle class housing. The co-op's founders were a group of public-spirited New Yorkers, including Louis H. Pink, who was then president of the New York State Housing Board and State Superintendent of Insurance, and Gerard Swope, former president of General Electric and former chairman of the New York City Housing Authority.

Queensview's first Board of Directors included Mr. Pink (who was President of Queensview), Mr. Swope (Chairman of the board of Queensview), and such prominent citizens as Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of RCA; Mary K. Simkhovitch, director emeritus of Greenwich House; Thomas J. Watson, vice-president of IBM; Howard S. Cullman, chairman of the New York Port Authority; Bernard Gimble, president of Gimble Brothers; Howard C. Shepard, president of National City Bank (now Citibank); the Very Reverend E. Roberts Moore, formerly of the New York City Housing Authority; Mrs. Yorke Allen of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council; Albert Lasker of the Lasker Foundation; Beardsley Ruml, chairman of the Board of Macy's; and G. Howland Shaw, president of the Welfare Council of New York.

The complex, which opened its doors on November 14, 1950, is comprised of 14 buildings, with 52 apartments per building (726 apartments in all). Each building has 4 apartments per floor, meaning that every tenant can enjoy a corner apartment, with views in two directions. The buildings are situated on 9