

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DENBIGH
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, First Baptist Church Denbigh in Newport News is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The story of First Baptist Church Denbigh begins in July 1862 as the Civil War raged. A Recognizing Council was called to meet at the old Denbigh Baptist Church. They chose Rev. Peter Banks to lead the congregation. Rev. T. G. Wright became the second pastor, serving from 1863 to 1869. During his administration, the white community returned to claim their church building. Rev. Wright and congregation moved to the current location, building a small house of worship.

During the tenure of Rev. T. G. Nettles (1870–1881), a larger house was built to accommodate increased membership and the church was renamed to "First Baptist Church of Warwick County." Other ministers were Reverends Watt Talton (1882–1883), J. B. Whiting (1883–1887), Robert H. Nazareth (1887–1912), T. C. Williams (1912–13), A. A. Hudgins (1913–26), Isaac Daniel (1926–32), J. D. Atkins (1933–40), and Joseph H. Brown (1941–48), all of whom added to the church in both physical form and spiritual leadership. During this period, the church was renamed "First Baptist Church Denbigh."

For the next ten years, the church received sermons from Reverends B F. Burton and I. L. Buie along with other leaders. Later ministers were Reverends Samuel Fladger (1959–63), T. T. Brown (1963–67), and Albert L. Hill (1968–73), who initiated a bond sale to build a new air conditioned facility, with an indoor baptismal pool, which held its first services in 1972.

Rev. Herbert A. Hill, Jr. began his pastorate in 1974 and gave the church the strength to endure though a tragic fire in 1986 which destroyed the church edifice. For a time, services were held in schools and other places in the community. In 1987, Rev. Hill's tenure as pastor ended and associate pastors provided guidance to the flock.

In 1987, Edward Talton, a deacon for more than 40 years, was called into the ministry. Rev. Talton preached only two sermons from the pulpit before his death, but his life was a sermon in itself. In 1988, Rev. Haywood Barnes was voted to serve as interim pastor. Since 1988, Rev. Ivan T. Harris has led services, assuming the full-time pastorate in October 1991. Through Pastor Harris' efforts, the church's 25 year mortgage was burned on October 9, 1994—after only 6½ years.

Over the years, the First Baptist community has continued to flourish. Successful fund-raising has afforded the church handicap-accessible transportation, a new Church Bell, an Education Center, Child Development Center,

Family Life Center, and modern technologies. In addition to Sunday prayers, the church offers Summer Bible School, The Bible Institute, and GED, Homebound and Short Term Suspension programs. It provides over 30 ministries and is home to several choirs. The Church leads charitable causes including the The Hunt Food Locker, Food Mobile, Summer Feeding Program, an Outreach Center for women's transitional housing, a Clothes Closet, and the adoption of a low-income neighborhood.

Perhaps the most notable activity of the church is their African Village Adoption Project, initiated in 2005. Members have selected a native from Benin, Africa for adoption. The Church as a whole has provided a water well, microbanking program, motorcycles, books, a Christian School, and medical and worship facilities.

As First Baptist Church Denbigh gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate Pastor Harris and all of the 2,500 members of First Baptist Church Denbigh on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

GARTH PATTERSON—FRIEND OF
THE FISHERMEN, FRIEND OF
MASSACHUSETTS, AND MY
GREAT FRIEND

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have never had to learn more about an issue in my life than when I learned in 1992 that the City of New Bedford and its fishing industry was included in the new Congressional district that I have proudly represented. New Bedford is one of the most successful fishing ports in the county, and in fact for the 12th consecutive year New Bedford had the highest-valued catch of any port in the United States. Fishing is not only a vital part of the economy of the region, but an integral component of its culture and social makeup. I could not represent the needs of such a unique community without a talented staff, and I am honored that my long-time aide, Garth Patterson, is the recipient of the 2012 Friend of the Fisherman Award recognizing his exemplary work.

He received this award from the fishing community of New Bedford because of the high quality of the work he has done to provide the kind of first-rate public service and advocacy that is so essential to the continued survival of the fishing industry. In some cases, our advocacy can be uncomplicated, but there are also cases where mastering a very complex body of data is essential if we are to do our job right. Garth provided me with an extraordinary degree of technical expertise, practical knowledge, political savvy, and an ability to understand all viewpoints and articulate his own. He has been an enormous asset not only to me, but also to those concerned with the survival of the fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I join the fishermen in thanking Garth. He is a tireless advocate for the com-

munity, and his nearly quarter century of public service is the quintessential model of how constituent relations should be conducted. I am proud that he is receiving this award, proud of his hard work for the people of Massachusetts, and proud to call him my friend.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAT STROH

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize Dr. Pat Stroh, the Director of the Family and Children's Services Program in Contra Costa County and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement.

Dr. Stroh earned her Master's Degree from Ball State University and her Doctorate in Education Early Childhood Focus from Walden University. Prior to coming to Contra Costa County in 1998, she served as Director of Head Start in Lexington, Kentucky and directed a U.S. Army Child Development Program in Europe.

Over the years, Dr. Stroh's outstanding work in public service has demonstrated her strong commitment to the children and families of Contra Costa County. Under her leadership, Contra Costa's Head Start Child Development Program's enrollment more than doubled and expanded from a part-day, part-year schedule to close to a full-day, full-year program. In addition, during very difficult economic times, Dr. Stroh was also able to more than double the program budget.

Dr. Stroh's interest and influence extends well beyond our county's borders. As a member of the Board of the National Head Start Association as well as the California Head Start Association, she has worked diligently to enhance and expand the collaborative efforts of these organizations. Pat has also served as Validator and Mentor with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. As a result, the United States Congress was quick to recognize Dr. Stroh as the 2008 California Head Start Association Administrator of the Year for Invaluable Service to the Community.

Our community and Dr. Stroh's colleagues have honored her numerous times, recognizing her passion for children and her ability to develop programs that improve their chance of success in the world. As we well recognize, the success of our children bodes well for the success of our families and our entire community.

Today, we invite our colleagues to join us in honoring Dr. Pat Stroh once again for her dedicated service to the families and children of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join her family, colleagues and friends in congratulating her on a long and highly successful career and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

VA MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION AND EXPIRING AUTHORITIES EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this long overdue legislation. Among many worthy projects included in this legislation, this bill authorizes the uncompleted construction on the operating rooms at the Miami VA Medical Center.

Every month this construction is delayed, the VA has to pay an additional \$500,000 for a portable operating room. Since this was first brought to our attention in May, that will be over \$2.5 million as of the end of this month. That is \$2,500,000 that could better be spent on the veterans of Florida for their care and comfort.

This project is over 95 percent completed. This bill needs to be passed now.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Veterans' Committee, Mr. MILLER for his help in getting the issue included in a vehicle that could pass both the House and the Senate. There is a dire need for this Medical Center to be whole, with veterans from all over the State of Florida traveling there for treatment.

The original plan for this project was to divide the operating room in half and renovate it in stages. When I visited the Medical Center in June, I heard directly from the administrators of the facility about the project. The planners on the ground realized soon after the construction began that patients could have been put at risk due to contamination of the operating room by the construction on the other side of the room.

Veterans health was being put at risk, and rather than let that happen, it was decided, by those who know veterans health the best, those at the health facilities, to combine the projects into one and rent the portable operating rooms.

It is time for Congress to pass this bill and finish the construction in Miami that our veterans deserve through their service protecting the freedoms this nation hold so dear.

HONORING JOHN LOWRY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Rep. MIKE THOMPSON to recognize the outstanding career of John Lowry. John is retiring after 28 years of service with Burbank Housing. His inspirational leadership in providing affordable housing in Sonoma County, California has given thousands of disadvantaged and low-income Sonoma County residents a place they can call home.

Originally from New York City, John graduated from New York University and holds BA and MA degrees with majors in economics, politics and history. He later decided to obtain a general contractors license and build his

own home. This sparked his interest in self-help housing, which he would later incorporate into Burbank Housing's Homeownership Program.

John began his career of providing affordable housing to Sonoma County California as a project manager on Burbank's first two projects. He was their second employee. Under John's leadership, the non-profit has grown to 140 employees who build, manage and maintain 2,700 affordable rental units as well as helping another 750 families own their homes.

John's work has been lauded by his peers, including being named an Inspirational Non-Profit Leader. The Sonoma County Housing Coalition has honored him with both their Lifetime Achievement Award and their Housing Hero Award.

John also serves our community by working with the California Coalition for Rural Housing and the Home Builders Association of Northern California. He has served on the board of Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California as well.

In retirement, John plans to continue working to influence state and local housing policies. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank John Lowry for his many years of service on behalf of the people of Sonoma County. He has worked tirelessly to demonstrate his unwavering belief that low-income people of all ages, backgrounds and special needs deserve to live in decent, affordable housing. For this, he deserves our appreciation.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR
GENERAL PETER J. BOYLAN

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Major General Peter J. Boylan who is celebrating his twentieth year as President of Georgia Military College (GMC), and is the longest serving President of the college since its founding in 1879. General Boylan has worked wonders for GMC as he is responsible for restoring the reputation and financial stability of the school, which is now ranked one of the best community colleges in the nation. Through his unwavering determination, he planned and secured funding to rebuild and renovate every structure on the GMC-Milledgeville campus, made possible the addition of previously non-existent athletic fields and facilities, and renovated, relocated, or established-as-new every GMC distant learning and extension center in the state.

Not only is General Boylan a tireless leader and a staunch champion of the academics, he is also a distinguished military retiree himself. He served for more than thirty years in the United States Army which included two tours in the Republic of South Vietnam, and he also participated in the invasion of Grenada with the 82nd Airborne Division. General Boylan's devotion to his country led him to later work with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon and eventually as Deputy Inspector General of the Army. His list of achievements is monumental, which is a testament to how blessed

the student body, staff, and faculty of GMC are to have him as President. Some of his most notable awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart amongst many others.

General Boylan's academic accomplishments are equally as impressive. He has a Masters degree in engineering from the University of Michigan as well as a Doctor of Laws from Flagler College. For much of his tenure at GMC, General Boylan has stressed that character building is an integral part of a good education. Having also served, I understand the importance of teaching our youth these traits, and couldn't be more supportive of General Boylan in his efforts. Moreover, General Boylan still finds the time to be an active community servant and a faithful family man. He has been honored with the Floyd Harrington Community Leadership Award, he served on the Committee for the Selection of White House Fellows (New York Region) and was appointed by the Governor of Georgia to the Board of Directors for the Department of Juvenile Justice. Most importantly, he and his wife, Kathleen, have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

I know that GMC, the entire state of Georgia, and this nation are forever grateful to General Boylan for his unwavering love for his country, his dutiful service within the military, and his constant willingness to give back to our nation's youth. I am honored to stand here today and congratulate him on twenty years as President of Georgia Military College.

IN TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL E. TRAIN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Russell E. Train, one of our country's most influential and accomplished environmentalists, who died on September 17, 2012 at age 92.

Russell Train was instrumental in developing our nation's environmental policies. He served under Presidents Nixon and Ford as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Under his leadership, the nation made large strides in protecting our air, water, and wildlife, including the adoption of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substance Control Act, the Clean Air Act, coastal zone management, national land-use policy, environmental impact statements and the Endangered Species Act. During his tenure, EPA banned four extremely toxic farm chemicals—aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor and chlordane—and instituted automobile emission limits.

Mr. Train developed the concept and promoted the establishment of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage program, which provides vital protection to 730 cultural and natural sites around the world and builds on the American national park concept.

Mr. Train's passion and dedication for conservation and the environment were strengthened by travels with his wife Aileen to Africa. In 1961 he founded the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and in 1965 he resigned as a United States Tax Court judge to become