

Associations a truck driver. However in his nearly 35 years at the Co-Op, he has held more than a half dozen positions in nearly every capacity. In March 2004, Don became manager of the Co-Op, a position he earned through his hard work and lasting commitment to help his customers and their farms.

While he is retiring from his position as General Manager, I imagine we will continue to see Don active in the agriculture world for many years to come. Whether it is through his work with the Connecticut Poultry Association or the University of Connecticut's agriculture programs, Don's commitment to agriculture and the farm families across Connecticut will never tire. I want to extend my heartiest congratulations to Don on his retirement and ask my colleagues to do the same.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
MUSTANGS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Midland Christian School Mustangs on a tremendous football season. On December 3, 2011, the Mustangs defeated the Tomball Concordia Lutheran Crusaders to win the TAPPS Division II State Championship.

The Mustangs finish the season with a 12–2 record, winning 12 consecutive games to finish the season and capture the state championship.

I want to congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work. This remarkable season was capped by a thrilling state championship that was a fight to the finish. Throughout the ups and downs of this year, the Mustangs persevered and clung together as a unit, ultimately winning state. I applaud their dedication and hard work.

Coach Greg McClendon, as well as the young men on the team, deserves recognition for the accomplishment. This victory marks the fifth 11-man state championship for the Mustangs—an outstanding accomplishment. I encourage them to enjoy this achievement to the utmost.

It is my honor to represent the Midland Christian School Mustangs and their state championship football team. Again, I congratulate the Mustangs on an outstanding season.

IN HONOR OF CONNIE COKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in a loss we are only just beginning to feel, Connie Coker stepped down as Rockland County Legislator at the end of 2011. To me she typified the Rockland spirit of enthusiasm, common sense, hard work, and intelligence. She cared for people and worked hard to help them in any way a legislator could. To top it off, she is a

genuinely nice person and I'm happy to call her a good friend.

Connie came to the legislature in April, 2006, winning a special election and then winning her re-election in 2007. She was tireless in advocating for clean air and water, affordable housing, green space, clean energy, a fair tax structure, and against overdevelopment and the dangers associated with Indian Point.

In the County Legislature she served as Chair of the Environmental Committee, Vice-Chair of the Multi-Services Committee and the Special County Comprehensive Plan Committee, was a member of the Public Safety Committee and the Solid Waste Authority Board, and served as the Legislative Liaison to the Fire Advisory Board, to the Volunteer Counseling Service, and to the Environmental Management Committee.

She is a Registered Nurse and a Licensed Midwife and her legislative agenda was based on her commitment to the health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Rockland County.

Connie lives in South Nyack with her husband Erik Larsen, a doctor. They have two daughters: Keah Larsen, a graduate of Nyack High School and SUNY New Paltz with a degree in Women's Studies; and Anika Larsen, also a graduate of Nyack High School who attended SUNY Delhi-Culinary Arts and Rockland Community College.

I will miss seeing Connie at the events we both went to. I will miss far more the wise counsel she had to offer and her sound advice about the areas we both represented. By happy coincidence we both represented a 17th District. She is a good and gracious person who represented her constituents wisely and well. We are all better for knowing her.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BURKE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the newly invested chief of the Suffolk County Police Department, James C. Burke. A dedicated law enforcement officer, Chief Burke has devoted his career to the service and protection of his community.

Chief Burke began his service at the New York City Police Department in January of 1985, before moving to the Suffolk County PD in July of the following year. During his time with the department, Burke has served in a variety of leadership roles, including supervising the patrol and detective divisions.

In addition to commanding the Organized Crime Bureau of the SCPD, Chief Burke has, since 2006, served as the chief investigator for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. Burke also has demonstrated a commitment to law enforcement education and is frequently called to give lectures to groups around the country.

On January 1, 2012, James Burke was promoted to Chief of the Suffolk County Police Department, the pinnacle, but by no means the end, of a long and distinguished career.

Chief Burke will continue to serve his community as the highest ranking uniformed officer in the county, upholding the high standard for which the SCPD has become known.

Mr. Speaker, I honor James Burke for his invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that his tenure with the department will be a credit to him and the officers he now oversees. I look forward to working with Chief Burke and supporting the department in its mission to keep Long Island safe and secure.

POVERTY IN CUBA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following regarding the culture of poverty in Cuba under the Castro regime.

[From the Jersey Journal, Dec. 31, 2011]

CUBA'S CULTURE OF POVERTY PERSISTS

(By Roland A. Alum)

The Fidel-&-Raul Castro regime marks 53 years this Jan. 1. The brothers unquestionably enjoyed extraordinary popularity in 1959, but the enthusiasm soon vanished as they turned Cuba into a financially and spiritually bankrupt Marxist anti-utopia.

As a result, nearly two million Cubans of all social backgrounds have fled, many of them settling in Hudson County.

By the 1950s, Cuba was a regional leader in numerous social indicators, notwithstanding instability and corruption during the republican era (1902-1958). But since 1959 the island-nation has become a backward, closed society beleaguered by unproductivity and rationing.

Sociologist Tomas Masaryk noted that "dictators 'look good' until the last minutes"; in Cuba's case, it seems particularly fine to certain U.S. intellectuals. Comfortably from abroad, apologists contend that most of the socioeconomic problems that traditionally afflicted the prior five and a half decades were eliminated after 1959. Yet, fact-finding by international social-scientists challenges this fantasy.

An early, little-known account uncovering some effects of the Castros' regimentation came from research in Cuba in 1969-'70 by U.S. cultural-anthropologists Oscar Lewis and Douglas Butterworth. They intended to test Lewis' theory that a culture of poverty would not exist in a Marxist-oriented society. They had naively presupposed that the socially alienating conditions that engender such phenomena could develop among the poor solely under capitalism.

The Lewis-Butterworth early on-the-ground scrutiny validates many accounts by respected experts and the much vilified exiles. There exists a culture of poverty in Cuba, although it is not necessarily a survivor of the old times, but seemingly a by-product of the Castros' totalitarian socialism. There were always poor Cubans, and some version of the culture of poverty might have existed before; but in my communications with Butterworth, he reconfirmed another discovery. The researchers could not

document a case for a pervasive pre-1959 culture of poverty. The authorities must have suspected the prospective conclusions because the scholars were abruptly expelled and their Cuban statistician imprisoned.

Upon the 53rd anniversary, the old Lewis-Butterworth analysis invites renewed reflection. Apologists customarily replicate propagandistic clichés by blaming failures on external factors, such as the ending, two decades ago, of the multibillion-dollar subsidies from the defunct Soviet Bloc.

The anthropologists' undertaking, however, revealed that life for average Cubans in the Castros' first decade was already beset with corruption and time-wasting food lines. Likewise, Butterworth described how ordinary people were engaging in what sociobehavioral scientists now call "everyday forms of resistance." Cubans were already undermining the police-state through black-marketeering, pilfering and vandalism, as we hear that they continue to do decades later.

After more than half a century of oppression and poor quality of life, one hopes for a

transition to an open society with equal opportunities for every Cuban.

**CONGRATULATING THE GREATER
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
ON THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church on their 80th anniversary. This is truly a historic occasion, and I want to commend the Church on this special anniversary for its ardent commitment to service and community outreach.

The Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church's beginnings were humble. The Church was first organized in 1932, under the auspices of Dr. C. C. Choice. Dr. Choice, along with thirty-five members of the Bethlehem Baptist Church,

had a vision of growing the church through good works in the community and being stewards of their faith.

Over the years, their numbers did grow. As their numbers grew, so did their charitable acts. The Church has been devoted in their commitment to serve people from all walks of life in Dallas. They offer many services to church members and the public, including providing health care workshops and screenings, ministries to youth and young adults to cultivate their spiritual and leadership skills, and a performing arts troupe, For His Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church's congregation. The Church's decades of commitment to our community has improved the lives of so many. Throughout the years, the Church has continued to bless the lives of countless people. May God continue to bless the congregation with many more years of continued prosperity.