

I would like to offer special congratulations to Owner Steve Mittman, President and CEO Crans Baldwin, Vice President of Operations Gregg Arrington, CFO and Controller Steve Wilt, Vice President of Design Phillip Jeffries, Director of Supply Chain Mark Peterson, and Showroom Managers Annie O'Connell and Joanna Mon.

Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman is a loyal, reputable and truly American company that has contributed to High Point's reputation as the Furniture Capital of the World. I am proud to congratulate EF/LM on its "2013 Best: Made in America Award."

**CONGRATULATING METROPOLITAN
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
(AME) CHURCH ON ITS 175TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, also known as "The National Cathedral of African Methodism," on its 175th anniversary, and for its contributions to the District of Columbia.

Founded in 1838, Metropolitan AME Church has a long history of notable activities and events. The church was a safe haven to runaway persons who were enslaved, and pioneered the Bethel Literary Society, which enriched the civic, cultural and intellectual lives of African American citizens. Through the years, Metropolitan AME Church has hosted a number of prominent speakers, such as Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mary McLeod Bethune, Eleanor Roosevelt, Joel Elias Spingarn, E. E. Just, Alain Locke, Mordecai Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey, Jesse Jackson, and Bishop Desmond Tutu, among others. The church was also the site of memorial services for Frederick Douglass, A. Philip Randolph and Rosa Parks. This historic landmark was also the location of both President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore's inauguration prayer services. In recent years, President Barack Obama and the First Family have worshipped at Metropolitan AME Church.

Members of the congregation are committed to charity. Together, they rose over \$56,000 in money and goods for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Metropolitan AME Church also supports social justice initiatives that aim to improve the lives of all citizens of the District of Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions. The church has worked with ex-offenders, who are reentering society and most recently, the church has focused on initiatives to "Stop the Pipeline to Prison" and "Ending Gun Violence."

Metropolitan AME Church is committed to preserving the architectural and cultural heritage that distinguishes the District of Columbia. The church received the designation as an historical site and has renovated the church (\$4.5 Million) to maintain its edifice as a part of AME history. Just recently, the church was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the Partners in Preservation to restore the stained-glass windows surrounding the recently restored episcopacy windows on the church's primary facade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Metropolitan AME.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my statement is to inform the House that my absence last week, from July 8 to July 12, and on Tuesday of this week, July 16, was due to a necessary surgical procedure called anterior cervical disc fusion, performed by an outstanding team of professionals. With recovery underway, I'm eager to get back to work alongside the rest of my colleagues.

**SECOND MAJOR UNANSWERED
QUESTION ABOUT THE TER-
RORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor to announce that in the remaining legislative days before the August recess, I will be speaking out daily to remind the American people about the key questions that remain to be answered. I will also be sending a series of letters to a number of agencies responsible for the failures leading up to, during and in the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks.

Yesterday, I raised the question of why no survivors, whether State Department, CIA or private security contractor employees—have been asked to testify publicly before Congress. Today, I am raising questions about whether there were intelligence failures in the vetting of the Libyan militias hired to provide security for the consulate, which agency official was responsible for vetting these militias and which insider source provided the terrorists with details about the U.S. compound in advance of the attack.

These are serious questions that deserve clear answers. After nearly a year of committee investigations, I believe the House should be able to provide this information to the American people. Additionally, to the best of my knowledge, no official has been held accountable for any intelligence failures with regard to vetting the loyalty of the Libyan militias.

I raise these questions today in the context of the piece recently published by Vanity Fair, which is an excerpt from one of the books being written by the Benghazi survivors who have yet to appear before Congress. The book, *Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi*, provides a blow-by-blow account as seen from the eyes of the Diplomatic Security Service agents on the ground that night. The take away: this was a well-planned attack by terrorists who knew what they were doing and who clearly had help from the local militias contracted to provide "security."

How else, as the piece points out, would the attackers seem "to know there were new, uninstalled generators behind the February 17

Martyrs Brigade command post, nestled between the building and the overhand of foliage from the western wall, as well as a dozen jerry cans full of gasoline to power them." This gas was used to set the fires in the compound.

There are additional concerns about the security guards outside the consulate who left in a car moments before the assault on the consulate began. According to the *Vanity Fair* piece:

The feeling of security was enhanced at 2102 hours when an SSC (Supreme Security Council—a coalition of individual and divergently minded Libyan militias) patrol vehicle arrived. The tan Toyota Hilux pickup, with an extended cargo hold, decorated in the colors and emblem of the SSC, pulled off to the side of the road in front of Charlie-1. The driver shut off the engine. He wasn't alone—the darkened silhouette of another man was seen to his right. The pickup sported twin Soviet-produced 23-mm. anti-aircraft guns—the twin-barreled cannons were lethal against Mach 2.0 fighter aircraft and devastating beyond belief against buildings, vehicles, and humans. The two men inside didn't come out to engage in the usual small talk or to bum some cigarettes from the guards or even to rob them. The Libyan guards, after all, were not armed.

"Suddenly the SSC militiaman behind the steering wheel fired up his engine and headed west, the vehicle crunching the gravel with the weight of its tires.

"Later, following the attack, according to the (unclassified) Accountability Review Board report, an SSC official said that 'he ordered the removal of the car 'to prevent civilian casualties.' This hints that the SSC knew an attack was imminent; that it did not warn the security assets in the Special Mission Compound implies that it and elements of the new Libyan government were complicit in the events that transpired."

Why, indeed, did the SSC guards not notify the consulate that an attack was imminent? And why were they allowed to leave as the terrorists gathered outside the compound? Again, these questions are essential to learning exactly who was responsible for the attack on the consulate.

According to an article by Eli Lake published in *The Daily Beast* earlier this year, the CIA was "responsible in part for one major failure the night of the Benghazi attack: his officers were responsible for vetting the February 17 Martyr's Brigade, the militia that was supposed to be the first responder on the night of the attack, but melted away when the diplomatic mission was attacked."

The article continued, "Another U.S. intelligence official . . . said the failure for the CIA at Benghazi was the mistaken assumption that the Zintan tribe in Benghazi—that provided many of the fighters for the February 17 Martyr's Brigade—would have the same loyalties as the Zintan tribe in Tripoli, which had protected several senior U.S. officials including Hillary Clinton in her visit last year to Libya. 'The CIA failed at mapping the human terrain,' this official said. 'They did not understand the politics in Benghazi and we paid the price.'"

These are important issues for the Congress to address and we have an obligation to ensure that reforms are made to prevent similar failures in the future. However, to the best of my knowledge, neither the State Department nor the CIA have disclosed who was responsible for vetting the militias, whether there was an intelligence failure or what reforms may have been implemented in the way of the militia's betrayal last September.

To summarize, I ask my colleagues if the Congress can answer these questions and, if not, why?

Was there an intelligence failure in vetting the true loyalty of the Libyan security guards for the U.S. consulate? Which agency was responsible for vetting the militias?

Who provided the terrorists with details of the consulate property? Was it the security guards or someone in the Libyan government who was notified about the ambassador's visit?

Why did the guards in the car outside the consulate not warn the U.S. staff of the gathering terrorists as they drove away a minute before the assault began? Were they complicit in the plot?

When the Congress departs for the August recess in two and a half weeks, will the American people know why, after a year of investigations, who provided the terrorists with insider information about the consulate property and the ambassador's location?

Again, this is why I believe a House Select Committee is the best way forward to ensure that these and other unanswered questions are resolved. To date, 160 House Republicans—nearly three quarters of the entire Republican Conference—have cosponsored H. Res. 36 to create a Select Committee on Benghazi to ensure the American people learn the truth.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,177,765,933.41. We've added \$6,111,300,717,020.33 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries, an organization devoted to the service and shelter of homeless families in Arizona. Since 1964, they have provided the state of Arizona with the highest quality of service, providing families and individuals with temporary and permanent housing, medical care, child care, and education to rebuild lives traumatized by desperate circumstances.

In addition, I would like to commend the Department of Veterans Affairs for their work in facilitating UMOM's outstanding service. The VA, since 2011, has awarded grants to 319 deserving organizations in all 50 states, Puer-

to Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia as part of their Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. In July, 2013, for use in the upcoming year, they awarded \$300 million that will help approximately 120,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. UMOM has been awarded an SSVF grant in all three years the program has been active.

One of UMOM's Veterans housing facilities is in my district, and I am thrilled that such an organization is raising the level of care provided to my constituents—the veterans who have given so much to our country. I would like to encourage UMOM and other such organizations to continue serving the most in-need and deserving of Arizona residents with such admirable dedication.

UMOM is a wonderful representative of the non-profit organizations across the country serving our Veterans with the efficient help of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing United Methodist Outreach Ministries for beginning to pay the debt we owe our most honored Veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 354 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 355 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 356 I was not present due to a flight cancellation and subsequent late arrival.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES IN RECOGNITION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of a place of history and a cornerstone of Los Angeles culture: Chinatown.

Chinatown today is a dynamic neighborhood where the old and new come together harmoniously to create a unique destination point for Angelinos and newcomers alike. It spans 24-city blocks with a bustling commercial district and active residents. When walking down North Broadway, you can see the well-preserved historic architecture and cultural celebrations alongside innovative commercial developments that protect the integrity of the Chinese American community's history in Los Angeles.

Understanding how Los Angeles' Chinatown found a home opens a fascinating window into

the quest for dignity and opportunity for Chinese Americans. That journey did not start with the creation of Chinatown in its current location. In fact, it began in 1852 when the first Chinese settled around El Pueblo Plaza. By the 1870s, it had grown to 200 people, mostly male, who made their living as laborers working in laundry, gardening and ranching.

It was during this time of growth that the Chinese community experienced one of the most serious incidents of racial violence in Los Angeles' history, the Massacre of 1871. This horrific event occurred when a mob of over 500 white men entered Chinatown to attack, rob and murder Chinese residents of the city. Despite such severe discrimination, the people of Chinatown persevered and found a way to prosper. Chinatown grew to over 3,000 people, boasting a Chinese Opera theatre, three temples, a newspaper, even a telephone exchange. As the town thrived, residents formed family organizations and church missions.

Even as the Chinese community continued to make significant contributions to Los Angeles and the nation, sadly there was an increase in anti-Chinese sentiment. State laws prohibited the Chinese from owning property and the federal Chinese Exclusion Act barred others in the future from emigrating to the United States. America made life difficult for its people of Chinese heritage.

And it added to the adversity that Old Chinatown in Los Angeles confronted. Starting in 1913, Chinatown faced a continuous threat of relocation as the City of Los Angeles decided that the best location to build Union Station, it's sparkling new railroad station, would be Old Chinatown. After decades of living with the threat of eviction, the Chinese community was forced to relocate in 1931. The residents of Old Chinatown, who had built their lives in this neighborhood, were displaced with no compensation or relocation plans to rebuild their homes and businesses. They were scattered throughout the city.

Hard times were no stranger to the residents of Chinatown. And so, on April 22, 1937, Peter Soohoo brought together a group of 28 prominent Chinese Angelinos for an organizational meeting. They drafted a proposal for a new neighborhood that would combine elements of Chinese design with modern American architecture. This architectural vision would reflect the Chinese American identity that this community had worked so hard to establish.

According to the plan, a private association would wholly manage the project including the financing of it. Thus, the Los Angeles Chinatown Project Association was born. On June 25, 1938, eighteen businesses opened their doors to the public in the New Chinatown, one of the first malls in America and the nation's first modern American "Chinatown."

The Chinese American community continued its impressive growth in Los Angeles. The sons and daughters of these pioneers helped build Chinatown from three buildings on North Broadway into a dynamic commercial district and residential area frequented by both tourists and locals. It is one of Los Angeles' cultural treasures that we must nurture and celebrate.

I commend the hardworking citizens of New Chinatown, some of whom are descendants of its original families, for their dedication to advancing the area, while protecting its history and cultural significance. Their contributions are invaluable and must be applauded.