

The founding families of Saint Peter Lutheran Church of Afton held tightly to their faith and, as their numbers grew, they recruited a travelling missionary, Reverend Horst, to conduct services from the homes of worshipers. Shortly thereafter another clergyman, Pastor Rolf, took over duties, regularly travelling 15 miles from Saint Paul by foot to preside over the parish.

On December 27th, 1863, the congregation was formally organized into the "The Evangelical Lutheran Saint Peter's Church of Afton Township, Washington County, Minnesota." During the next two years, three acres of land were purchased and on it built the first church from a reconstructed mill that had been abandoned in the area. The first service in the new Saint Peter's church was held on August 12, 1865 and it stood intact for nearly sixty years.

Ultimately, the original structure was converted into a schoolhouse in 1898 and a replacement church was erected beside it, both remaining until they burned down in 1924. The following year saw the completion of a replacement building on the grounds, today known as the 'old' church.

Saint Peter Lutheran Church continues to play a central role in the lives of many Afton families, serving both spiritual and physical needs. Through its strong support of local food shelves and clothing drives, the congregation is directly helping to feed and clothe families in need. The congregation's growth is a tribute to the generosity and commitment of six generations who have built on the foundation laid by those early German settlers. Saint Peter Lutheran Church has blessed the Afton area with its dedication to good deeds for 150 years.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Saint Peter Lutheran Church of Afton, Minnesota, I am pleased to submit this statement to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING IAN MORBY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Morby. Ian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 663, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Morby for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 588, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 2061.

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

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE A. ANDERSON

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Louise A. Anderson who at the end of this month will be retiring as Director of the West Central Indiana Area Health Education Center in my district.

A nurse by vocation, she has been passionate about ensuring that Hoosiers have access to quality healthcare in their communities by recruiting and training the next generation of healthcare providers. In addition to her professional engagements, Ms. Anderson remains a very active volunteer in professional and community organizations holding several board and committee positions at the local, state, and national levels. Her commitment to the citizens of West Central Indiana for the last three decades has been exemplary through her service as a provider, teacher, and educator. May we all live such a rich and distinguished life of service.

HONORING DR. STEPHEN T. BARTLETT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. Stephen T. Bartlett, a close friend and accomplished surgeon and respected professor, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

A specialist in kidney and pancreas transplantation as well as vascular surgery, Dr. Bartlett has taught and practiced medicine at the renowned University of Maryland since 1991. He is a Peter Angelos Distinguished Professor and chairs the Department of Surgery at the university's School of Medicine. He also serves as Senior Vice President and Surgeon-in-Chief at the University of Maryland Medical System.

Dr. Bartlett earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He continued his training at Northwestern University and taught at the University of California Davis. He was then recruited to Maryland and revitalized the university's transplant program. The school's kidney transplant program is now the second highest in volume in the country. Under his leadership, the surgical department ranks among the highest in the country in National Institute of Health grant funding.

While Dr. Bartlett's accomplishments are too numerous to list in their entirety, it bears mentioning that he has been recognized as a "Top Doctor" by Baltimore Magazine. The National Kidney Foundation recently named him one of its 2013 "Kidney Champions" for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of kidney research and transplantation. He has authored more than 230 peer-reviewed journal articles and 11 book chapters.

Of particular note, Dr. Bartlett led an effort that recently resulted in the most extensive full face transplant completed in the world to date. In addition to historic projects like this, he continues to spearhead basic scientific research always with the singular goal of improving patients' quality of life.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Bartlett—as well as his wife, June, and three children—on a personal level for many years. I am impressed with his dedication to his family. He may receive distinguished accolades for his medical breakthroughs, but his commitment to his wife and children come first.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Dr. Stephen Bartlett. His service and dedication to the University of Maryland is an asset to the state. It is with great pride that I wish him the happiest of birthdays and many more to come.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF BRAMWELL, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, nestled in a picturesque valley setting, amidst gently sloped green hills, complete with a meandering river is the town of Bramwell, West Virginia, which celebrates its 125th birthday tomorrow.

Coal was very much a part of the genesis of Bramwell. It is a town that was home to many coal mine owners and operators. So much so in fact, this small town was once able to boast of more per capita millionaires than any town in the country. Entrepreneurism still reigns in Bramwell, although today it is not as much of the pocketbook as it is of the heart. Many of the town's grand homes have been painstakingly and lovingly preserved by homeowners.

Throughout the year, the town hosts a number of festive events that celebrate its coal heritage. Every Christmas, homes are opened for tours and period costumed, well versed and pithy witted interpreters will guide visitors through a domestic lifestyle enjoyed in yesteryear. Each spring, home tours welcome the new season just as cordially and each fall, the Bramwell Oktoberfest is not to be missed.

However, any day of the year is a good day to visit this homage to history. Visitors will be met with a sincere pride in our coal heritage, the heritage of our families and of our State. That sense of pride is just as alive and kicking as ever. For everyone in Bramwell, history is not a thing of the past; it is a prologue to the future. In fact, the future of this temperate region fittingly dubbed Four Seasons Country, is bright, largely due to the efforts of communities like Bramwell.

For the same pioneering spirit that established deep roots here, the same productive

mindset that grew this small town into a considerable per capita national asset; the same soul that said our best days are yet ahead; this town, with its share of Bluestone, is seeing more and more blue skies each day. And the word has spread. From Hatfield and McCoy Trail riders, from national and international Boy Scouts of America and their families, to even our neighbors here in the Virginias, Bramwell has become a distinctive, desirable destination in and of its own right. Of that we are most proud.

I take great pride myself in playing a role in bringing the federal resources to bear so that the Bramwell story can be told and retold 1,025 years from now. From Coal Heritage funding to supporting funding for VISTA to help staff the new Farmer's Market, Bramwell is one heck of a good, sound federal investment. And, boy, that's a story we can share with the world.

It's a story that exceeds the fame and infamy of the fabled fortunes of coal barons. It's a tale with far broader implications than a slice of living history romanticized for a few days of entertainment. It is nothing short of a life's lesson, of a people not giving up nor giving in. And it is proof positive of the productivity that comes from a close knit group of people who work together for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, the work and achievements this town's citizens have forged constitute nothing short of a model for the country.

I hope my colleagues will take note of this national investment and take time to visit soon. They may feel completely free to share this treasure of a town with their constituents. Bramwell welcomes all.

To all my good friends in Bramwell, I wish you a very Happy Birthday and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 587, due to a previously scheduled, important event in my district with my constituents that could not be rescheduled, I was not present for this vote.

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

HONORING RYAN A. MCCOY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan A. McCoy. Ryan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Ryan

has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan A. McCoy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on November 18th, I was attending a funeral and missed rollcall No. 589, on H.R. 272. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 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 \$17,192,878,839,268.39. We've added \$6,566,001,790,355.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN CELEBRATION OF LOTTIE ALBERT'S 98TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to wish my dear friend Lottie Albert a very happy 98th birthday. Lottie was born on December 25, 1915 to Eva and Louis Wernick in New York, New York. In 1936, she married Sol Albert and shared 55 wonderful years of marriage with him. They had two daughters, Harriet and Doreen. Now, Lottie is a grandmother of Eric, Glenn, and Lowell, as well as a great-grandmother of Kyle, Samantha, Heather, and Seth.

Lottie has been a resident of Broward County for 40 years and lived in the City of Sunrise for the past 12 years. She is an amazing individual who has selflessly dedicated herself to helping so many throughout South Florida, and for that I am truly grateful.

Her work with the Ann Storck Children's Center, The Elderly Interest Fund's MEDIVAN Program, and the Alzheimer's Family Center was honored on March 25, 2012 with her induction into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame. Additionally, in 1988, she was inducted into the Area Agency on Aging's Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame. Furthermore, in 2005 Broward County named November 12th as "Lottie Albert Appreciation Day."

Mr. Speaker, Lottie exemplifies the ideals of civic engagement. Her compassion and tire-

less devotion to her community are a shining example for us all. She has been a wonderful friend to me for so many years, and it is my distinct honor to wish her a happy birthday.

HONORING ARGO MARKETING GROUP ON BEING AWARDED THE 2013 INC. HIRE POWER AWARD FOR JOB CREATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argo Marketing Group as it celebrates being awarded the 2013 Inc. Hire Power Award as the number one job creator in Lewiston, Maine.

Argo Marketing Group was founded in 2003 by Jason Levesque, a veteran of the United States Army. It provides quality third-party customer service to its clients' customers around the world. In the past 10 years, the firm has grown from being the brainchild of one determined individual to a fast-growing industry pioneer with three Maine offices.

This year, Argo Marketing Group has invested \$2.4 million in turning a dilapidated building in Lewiston's downtown into a 25,000 square foot headquarters with space for 250 jobs. With the addition of the new Lewiston facility, Argo Marketing Group expects to have a total of 350 call center seats and 500 employees. For these efforts, the firm placed first on the 2013 Inc. Hire Power list of job creators in Lewiston.

Throughout the Group's rapid expansion, it has remained devoted to community service. It has lent its support to groups including the Lewiston Public Theater, Sand Castle preschool, and Maine's National Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Program. Founded by a veteran, the firm is committed to giving back to Maine service members by offering hiring bonuses to military veterans, active members and veterans of the Maine National Guard and Reserve, and their spouses.

Argo Marketing Group is truly a testament to the creative and dynamic spirit of Maine. As a job-builder and community member, its efforts help make Maine a great place to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Argo Marketing Group on being awarded the 2013 Inc. Hire Power Award for their outstanding job creation in the city of Lewiston, Maine.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the first Douglas Youth Leadership Development Forum that will be held this week in Southern Arizona.

The theme of this forum is "Speaking Truth to Power" and it is being held in conjunction with national, state and local observations of Rural Health Day.