

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. SAMUEL HOWARD SMITH ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS SENIOR PASTOR OF THE MOUNT HOREB MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent and longtime friend Reverend Dr. Samuel Howard Smith on his 50th anniversary as the Senior pastor of the Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Smith is a father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a loving husband. He received Christ at the age of 22 and answered the call to the ministry at the youthful age of 27 in October of 1957. Due to a strong belief in God and an outstanding delivery of the Good News of Christ, Dr. Smith was led to Pastor the Morning Star Baptist Church of Houston, Texas in 1959. This uncompromising man later became the Pastor of Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, also in Houston, Texas in 1964 where he has remained God's servant for 47 years.

Dr. Smith is a well known and respected teacher, preacher, and evangelist. His commitment to serving the community has taken the Gospel beyond the walls of the church and into the streets. He is known as "God's Street Man," where no one on the streets is a stranger nor is anyone off limits to him. He believes that where every man is, so is his soul, and that each man must choose where he wants to spend eternity.

Dr. Smith is a Korean War veteran and has held leadership positions on the Evangelical Board of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gregory Lincoln Educational Center's "I Have A Dream", is a national instructor for the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, a member of Houston's Baptist Ministers' Alliance, Houston Baptist Pastors and Ministers Fellowship and Ministers Against Crime.

Dr. Smith is a prolific man of God with a passion for street ministry and winning souls. He is the author of "Taking IT to the Streets," a book on Christian Evangelism that emphasizes the importance of street evangelism in Christian Outreach ministry. Dr. Smith is an inspiration to all by setting remarkable standards for others to follow.

I take great pride in recognizing and honoring the Senior Pastor of the Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Samuel Howard Smith on the occasion of his 50th Pastoral Anniversary. Dr. Smith continues to shine to let God's glory shine through his solid leadership in the community. His tireless efforts to impact our world, and inspire others to do the same is deserving of the respect, admiration and commendation of the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to unexpected flight delays, I was detained from voting on Monday, June 23 and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 339 and rollcall vote No. 340. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both. I was also detained by a meeting with constituents on the evening of June 24 and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 350. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the thousands of mixed status families in Houston and Harris County, Texas who have needlessly been torn apart by our nation's broken immigration laws and call for this House to pass comprehensive immigration reform in 2014.

Nearly one year ago today, the United States Senate passed bipartisan immigration reform, S. 744, that would strengthen border protection and deter unauthorized crossings while providing a pathway to normalization and citizenship for those who have resided in our country for many years and met several requirements, including learn English, pay back taxes, and not commit any serious crimes.

This is not, as some opponents of reform have claimed, amnesty. This is earned normalization—earned through a long and documented commitment to becoming an American. The requirements and length of time necessary to obtain a green card in the Senate bill and its House companion, H.R. 15, are far more stringent than those set in the 1986 immigration reform that was signed into law by President Reagan.

Our district office in Houston handles hundreds of heart-wrenching immigration cases a year, including stories of high school valedictorians and military service veterans deported because they have no recourse and the system does not provide any discretion to consider their value to our society.

Comprehensive immigration reform, Mr. Speaker, is not only pro-family. It is also pro-jobs and pro-deficit reduction. The Congressional Budget Office found that enactment of CIR would reduce the deficit by nearly a trillion dollars and increase economic growth by 3.3 percent in 2023 and 5.4 percent in 2033. CIR would also add several years to the funds available in the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds.

These findings verify what immigration reform experts have said for years—that reform would help grow the economy and create jobs for all Americans, native born and naturalized.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with American families, American businesses, and our nation's cherished

history as a land open to immigrants, and call for a floor vote on immigration reform this year.

AMERICA'S PREMIER YOUTH BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, Spirit of America is a not for profit public service organization established in 1995, in Mentor, Ohio. Spirit of America exists primarily to serve our nation's youth with America's Premier Youth Boating Safety Education Program.

Spirit of America combines the resources of traditional and non-traditional education activities to provide a place and a way for students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions. They empower our youth to develop responsibility, confidence, self esteem, teamwork, and safe boating practices.

Furthermore this organization proves that advancing community boating where Spirit of America programs are located spurs other economic and social benefits, while continuing to provide a resource for the marine industry.

FUTURE BOATERS = FUTURE BUSINESS

The Spirit of America Foundation has placed and graduated tens of thousands of young people over the past 19 years. In recognition of their efforts and to promote awareness, Spirit of America has coined and created the "National Take Our Youth Boating Week"®. This special event will be held/celebrated annually the second week in July, beginning this July 4th–12th. There will be a great deal of promotion amongst their partners including the United States Coast Guard (USCG), manufacturers of the marine industry, and other educational non-profit organizations whose mission is similar to theirs. The Spirit of America Foundation would like to have the event recognized on the national level by July 2015 but appreciates our acknowledgment for 2014 in the mean time.

The plan is that all interested parties will participate in the mission of getting more youth on the water.

NO CHILD (WILL BE) LEFT ON THE DOCK

Education and safety are of the utmost importance and Spirit of America is changing the way that the world views boating, in particular with young people. In 2013 the lowest number of fatalities were recorded since the USCG has been recording data. They plan to have this program available in all 50 states in the future. Please get involved by visiting the website for a location to participate, or contact them directly for information about opening a program in your area. www.SpiritofAmerica95.org

JULIE GEISER CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Geiser of Alamosa, Colorado.

After 18 years of service as the Director of the Alamosa Public Health Department, Ms. Geiser is retiring to spend time with her family and friends.

Ms. Geiser has had an exemplary career, leading her department with vision and passion. Under her guidance, the Alamosa Public Health Department has doubled in size, while continuing to maintain a standard of excellence that meets the needs of her community. In 2008 Ms. Geiser provided crucial leadership during a salmonella outbreak, prioritizing public safety by ensuring that the public remained informed. During this tenuous time she worked with local officials to locate and terminate the source of the outbreak and limit its spread. Instances like this demonstrate the important role Ms. Geiser has had in ensuring the health and vitality of her community. Ms. Geiser was recognized by the Nightingale Luminaries in 2014 for demonstrating outstanding leadership, advocacy, and innovation in her community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Geiser's hard work and dedication to serving her community are commendable. I stand with the residents of Alamosa County in thanking Ms. Geiser and congratulating her on a lifetime of service. Although she is retiring from her current post, I am confident she remain a valuable part of her community, and I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING GUNNAR ALLISON

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rogersville High School sophomore Gunnar Allison for winning the Class 3 Discus State Championship.

Gunnar threw 167' 11" to clinch his first state championship. Gunnar also won second place in the shot put competition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Gunnar's Head Coach Doug Smith and Athletic Director Rod Gorman for their dedication and leadership.

I wish Gunnar the best in the rest of his track and field career. I am honored to recognize Gunnar Allison for his Class 3 State Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALAN RAY JORDAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Alan Ray Jordan. Alan was a bright light whose flame was extinguished far too early. Born and raised in Georgia, Alan moved to Orlando later in life.

Soon after Alan moved to Orlando, he met Billy Manes. Alan and Billy knew, almost immediately, that they had found someone special in each other. Billy described Alan as "a charmer who looked like a black-and-white film star and talked like John Wayne."

In 2003, Billy was asked to run for interim Mayor of Orlando. Alan was Billy's biggest supporter, becoming his campaign treasurer and coach. Alan was the rock behind Orlando's first openly-gay candidate for Mayor. Billy's candidacy, with Alan's help and support, would change Orlando's political landscape.

Alan's friends recognized his selfless commitment to Billy through his celebration of Billy's accomplishments. He was Billy's partner in helping to highlight the inequalities that gay couples faced in making lives together.

Alan's health began declining in 2006, forcing him to go on long-term disability. With the help of Billy, Alan was able to stay active and take care of his family despite his ailing health. Billy and Alan decided that they needed to protect themselves in a state that refused to recognize their union.

In 2007, Alan joined Billy in testing the legal limits in gaining rights as a same-sex couple. Alan allowed his life with Billy to be detailed in an Orlando Weekly article in an effort to examine the injustice faced by gay couples seeking marriage equality. Alan's courage in helping to reveal the struggle that same-sex couples face, helped to give fuel to the marriage equality movement in Florida.

Alan's health took a turn for the worse in 2011, and despite Billy's heroic efforts to stop his decline Alan would ultimately take his own life in the spring of 2012.

Alan Ray Jordan was a gift to our community. His support of one of Orlando's foremost advocates for equality, peace, and justice and his own voice and struggle for the community have made the world a better place.

I am honored to recognize Alan's commitment and sacrifices for our community and lament the fact that he is no longer with us. Alan Jordan's legacy will be one that inspires generations to come and helps to remind all of us of the human toll that inequality and prejudice will take if not corrected.

On behalf of Billy Manes and the Central Florida community, I am proud to honor Alan Ray Jordan, during LGBT Pride Month.

HONORING LEROY MCGINNIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leroy McGinnis from Cuba, Missouri for his achievements and years of service at McGinnis Wood Products. I also would like to congratulate him, and the rest of the staff at McGinnis Wood Products on receiving the SHARP Safety and Health Recognition Program award.

In 1968 with only one stove mill on 16 acres of land, Leroy McGinnis started McGinnis Wood Products. Now, 46 years later, McGinnis Wood Products operates with four stove mills on 56 acres, employing over 150 people.

McGinnis Wood Products is a perfect example of a family operation. Leroy married Ovia Marie 64 years ago, and they now have six children together. Leroy now has not only children, but grandchildren working with the family business.

Leroy not only serves as the CEO of McGinnis Wood Products, but also serves his

community in many ways. Mr. McGinnis is a member of Cuba's Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of Missouri's Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of Missouri Enterprise, Associated Cooperage Industries of America, Missouri Forest Products Association, and Associated Industries of Missouri. In 1992, Mr. McGinnis co-founded the Missouri Wood Industries Insurance Trust. Leroy was also the recipient of the Cuba Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Award in 2010. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievement before the House of Representatives.

H. RES. 109

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Committee on Foreign Affairs approved House Resolution 109 condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. The resolution received wide bipartisan support in the Committee.

This resolution is of particular interest to me. The Baha'i people practice a religion entirely of peace that strives to create a society of global unity and oneness. The City of Cincinnati, Ohio is greatly enriched by the presence of the Baha'i Community. Their place of worship in Cincinnati is located about a mile away from my home. As a neighbor to the community, I have been witness to the gentleness and compassion of the Baha'i people.

The Iranian regime continues to persecute those of the Baha'i faith by charging, imprisoning, abusing, and murdering individuals on trumped up charges including alleged "propaganda against the state." Human Rights Watch says, "These transparently political charges make it painfully clear that authorities have targeted the Baha'i people not for any crime, but because of their religious beliefs."

The followers of the Baha'i faith are denied the constitutional rights that others of the Iranian society are granted. In Iran, the Baha'i do not have the freedom to practice their religion, and their marriages are not recognized by the Iranian government. The rights of the Baha'i community are continually being violated in Iran.

The Baha'i faith is truly a religion of peace. The Baha'i is the youngest of the independent world religions, founded by Bahá'u'lláh in 19th century Iran. At the heart of Bahá'u'lláh's teaching, is the unification of all mankind and the building of a peaceful, global community. Bahá'u'lláh once said, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." The practice of the Baha'i encourages the dedication of one's life for humanity and the friendship with followers of all religions. The Baha'i seeks to establish equality of women and men and to eliminate prejudices.

Since the beginning of its existence, the Baha'i community has carried out the peaceful teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, and has strived to created a wholesome and inclusive society for all people. They have worked to enable individuals to contribute to the betterment of humanity by practicing acceptance and harmony.