

Nicholas Church. The pastor at that time was Father Basil Beretz. The people who were members of the parish had actually initiated plans for a church of the Byzantine Rite Catholics a number of years before that time. St. Nicholas' founders emigrated from a region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which is today the easternmost part of Czechoslovakia and arrived in Lorain, Ohio in the last part of the 19th century and the beginning of the twentieth century. They attended St. Michael Hungarian Byzantine Rite Catholic Church and for a brief time services were held in Kohlmyer's Hall in Lorain.

The church history characterizes the years from 1900 to 1914 as the formative years of St. Nicholas Parish: "In 1905 a committee of Byzantine Rite Catholics of Rusyn origin sought the advice and counsel of the late Bishop Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland. In 1907 the faithful of the future St. Nicholas Parish solicited funds for the purchase of lots on Toledo Avenue, Lorain, the former site of the church and rectory. The parish would then relocate in 1982 to 2711 W. 40th Street, the present site of the St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church complex. An historical mural retained in the old church for many years contained the list of the following contributors for the lots: Andrew Kakos, Andrew Ksenich, Andrew Karahuts, George Ksenich, Michael Lascisky, Michael Rusinko, George Demchik, John Danko, George Vajda, Vasil Pavelvach, Peter Yureck, John Kocak, Joseph Kokinda, Peter Kekel, John Taraka, Stephen Lascisky, Elek Ksenich, John Kvasnak, Nicholas Ksenich, Vasil Teleha, Peter Hazlak, Mike Rericky, Peter Hrinda, George Maczik, Mike Kizak, Jacob Andraska, John Jeresko. Stephen Ksenich, Joseph Suster, John Moroznak, George Tomcso, Frank Kablinka, John Szalag, Daniel Demjanovich, Mike Koscs, Mike Koczak, Joseph Szasz, Joseph Gluvna, John Naaymik and John Maylik. The purchase of the aforementioned lots was consummated through the Cleveland Chancery in the name of Bishop Schrembs and held by him in trust for the St. Nicholas Parish. In this manner St. Nicholas Parish was constituted as a Catholic parish under a Catholic bishop."

The church continued to grow and expand, both physically and in membership. A rectory was added in 1919 and a second story of the original church was dedicated on July 16, 1928, by Bishop Basil Takach, the first bishop of the Byzantine Rite Catholic Exarchate of Pittsburgh. Renovations continued and in 1946 the mortgage was paid off.

Under the stewardship of Father Andrew Pataki who later became the bishop of Parma, a parochial school was built. On Sunday, June 12, 1960, a festival was held and Bishop Nicholas T. Elko blessed a newly renovated St. Nicholas Church and the new St. Nicholas School. Sisters under the Order of St. Basil the Great came to Lorain to begin teaching at the school in 1962. A small house was purchased nearby and remodeled by parishioners as a convent.

On Dec. 14, 1964, St. Nicholas' celebrated its golden jubilee with bishop Nicholas T. Elko officiating at the pontifical Divine Liturgy assisted by the former pastors Fathers Andrew Pataki and George Simchak.

By the late 1970s it was apparent the church had outgrown its original buildings and, in "a beautiful testimonial to the generosity and the love that our parishioners have for

their church" according to the history, the substantial funds needed to build a new building were raised. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, Jan. 25, 1981. During the ceremony, the history notes, "the sound of axes could be heard ringing from the nearby woods. The St. Nicholas wood-chopping crew had a lot of land to clear and they did not have time to attend the ceremony. Additionally, a "heartly band of volunteers worked throughout the year of 1981 and painted the entire interior of the complex, laid all the floor tiles (estimated at over 10,000 tiles), sanded and stained all the woodwork and contributed thousands of cost-free hours of labor. As a result of their physical contribution, the interior of the convent was finished as well as many other items that were not in the original contract. By early spring, the new complex was nearing completion and an appeal was made for volunteers to purchase the pews, certain kitchen items and the appointments in the church. The response was overwhelming. The parishioners of St. Nicholas, the Greek Catholic Union Lodge, the Russo-Slav Club and other fraternal organizations associated with the church had come through once again.

The church history records that "the last service to be held at the old St. Nicholas Church was on Palm Sunday, April 4, 1982, and many a tear was shed as the last song was sung. Finally, on Holy Thursday evening, April 8, 1982, Father Felock blessed the new altar and church and the first service was held." The life of the parish continued in its new location through the 1980s, 1990s and into the new century. The school was closed in 2007 and the parish embarked on a mission of renewal as the new century dawned.

Today, the members of St. Nicholas Church's focus is on its future even as they honor its past. Standing on the shoulders of its founders and the families who established the parish as a cornerstone of its community, the parishioners of today's St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church are proud of its rich history. Yet, as they celebrate a century of parish life, the congregation of St. Nicholas' looks toward the next century with hope and faith. Onward!

#### OPPOSITION TO THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to express my opposition to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or BDCP. The BDCPs comment period closed at the end of July and California state officials reviewed comments from stakeholders throughout California as it determines the best route going forward. The result: the state has delayed implementation of the BDCP.

Since being elected to Congress in 2006, I've expressed concerns with this proposal. Building two tunnels that make it easier to ship Delta water south does nothing to address California's larger water issues. We need to focus our investments on recycling, desalinization, conservation, and storage—both above and below ground. Becoming better managers of our water resources will help prepare our state for wet and dry years.

As evident by the BDCPs delay, this flawed plan is based on unreasonable assumptions instead of sound science and has raised red flags from various federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is why I offered an amendment to the FY15 Energy and Water Appropriations Act to ban the government from funding tunnels taking our water. We must focus our finite federal resources on initiatives that will result in increased water supply and storage capacity, not waste it on projects that take from one region of the state and send it to another.

The BDCP is not a plan that reflects the interests of all Californians; I along with my Delta colleagues remain willing to work with all parties on a statewide solution that considers all stakeholders interests.

#### HONORING ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan Merten and his wife, Sally. In June, I had the pleasure of attending a dedication naming the university's new senior administration building "Alan and Sally Merten Hall."

Dr. Merten served as George Mason University's president for 16 years, stepping down in 2012. This dedication is a fitting tribute to the Mertens, a pair who worked tirelessly for the better part of two decades promoting, growing and improving George Mason University. As a result of Alan and Sally's efforts, the university has become one of Virginia's greatest schools, as well as a nationally and internationally recognized center of academic and research excellence.

Current George Mason President Angel Cabrera honored the Mertens' service to the George Mason community at the June 23 ceremony. President Cabrera and former Board of Visitors rector, Edwin Meese III, lauded the Mertens' contributions to the school and to the community, and I was allowed to offer a few words as well. I always enjoyed working with Dr. Merten and was grateful for the opportunity to speak on my relationship with Alan and Sally, as well as my appreciation for their commitment to the school and leadership in the community.

As stated in the resolution used to enact the dedication, the Mertens' legacy includes four endowed scholarships and numerous gifts to university building and program funds. There is no doubt that George Mason is a better institution for the Mertens' efforts. I hope they will remain active in the George Mason community for many years to come.

I respectfully submit George Mason University's "Resolution to Rename University Hall" and the following news article from George Mason University on the ceremony.

#### RESOLUTION TO RENAME UNIVERSITY HALL IN HONOR OF ALAN AND SALLY MERTEN

Whereas, George Mason University President Emeritus Dr. Alan G. Merten led the university with distinction for 16 years, during which time he launched an ambitious

and successful program to build the school into a major teaching and research university; and

Whereas, under Alan Merten's leadership, George Mason University became the largest research university in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with increasingly nationally and internationally highly ranked programs; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sally Merten, the former first lady of George Mason University, was instrumental in bringing the community and the university closer together, serving on several community nonprofit boards during her husband's tenure as president, including Fall for the Book, as well as several university advisory boards; and

Whereas, Sally Merten actively participated in university life, especially employee recognition events; and

Whereas, together Alan and Sally Merten have been generous donors to the university, establishing four endowed scholarships: the G. Louise and Anthony J. Otto Endowed Scholarship in Creative Writing; the Eric G. and Melissa H. Merten Endowed Scholarship; the Ruth A. and Gilbert E. Merten Endowed Scholarship; and the Kathleen A. Lieder and Lloyd C. Fell Student Scholarship Endowment in Music Performance/Vocal Studies; and

Whereas, the Mertens have made significant gifts to a number of other university funds, including the Patriot Club, the Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, and Mason arts programs; and

Whereas, the Mertens remain active and engaged members of the surrounding community, thus continuing to serve as "ambassadors" of the university; Now, be it therefore

*Resolved* that the building on the Fairfax Campus now known as University Hall be named Alan and Sally Merten Hall in recognition of the Mertens' many contributions to George Mason University; be it further

*Resolved* that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the George Mason University Board of Visitors this day, May 7, 2014.

(SEAL)

C. DANIEL CLEMENTE,  
*Rector, George Mason University*  
*Board of Visitors.*

GEORGE MASON UNVEILS ALAN AND SALLY  
MERTEN HALL

(By Preston Williams)

On Monday, George Mason University dedicated Alan and Sally Merten Hall in a building renaming ceremony attended by hundreds of members of the Mason community and several integral figures from the university's history.

Alan Merten was Mason's fifth president, serving from 1996 to 2012. Merten Hall is the new name for what formerly was called University Hall, one of many structures erected during the Mertens' dynamic 16-year tenure.

"When I travel around the region, the country or the world and people ask me what I'm most proud of with respect to what's happened at George Mason," Alan Merten told the attendees, "the answer is always I'm proud of the pride that people have in this institution as a result of what we've all done."

"What kept me going—what keeps us all going—is stamina, passion and a caring attitude. That's what got George Mason going. That's what will keep George Mason going," Merten added before exiting to a standing ovation at the outdoor ceremony on the grounds outside Merten Hall.

Merten's successor as Mason president, Ángel Cabrera, hailed the Mertens' leadership of making "one smart decision at a time" and said that renaming the building in

their honor was symbolic of their many contributions to the university.

"It is a reminder of how much these two individuals gave of their time tirelessly and how they helped George Mason be what it is today," said Cabrera, whose office has been relocated to Merten Hall, on the north end of the Fairfax Campus.

Two guests in particular added historical insight to the Mertens' tenure. Virginia Congressman Frank Wolf, who taught at the university in the late 1970s, and the former Board of Visitors rector, Edwin Meese III, cited the joint efforts of the Mertens as crucial to the university's growth, not only in size and enrollment but in stature as the largest public research university in the state.

"It's become one of the great universities in the commonwealth and one of the great universities in our country and it's all because of the great work—and they work as a team—Alan and Sally have done," Wolf said.

Meese's first year on the Board of Visitors coincided with the Mertens' first year in office. They built a strong partnership.

"It is said that a great institution is the length and shadow of its leadership," said Meese, the former attorney general under Ronald Reagan. "And that's certainly true in this case. . . . The beneficial shadow of your leadership is now permanently inscribed in the form of this building. You've made [the university] the knowledge and cultural centerpiece of Northern Virginia."

The current Board of Visitors rector, C. Daniel Clemente, read aloud the board resolution that formally proposed renaming the building Alan and Sally Merten Hall.

The Mertens remain active on campus and serve in a variety of roles for the university. They have endowed four scholarships.

#### HONORING DORIS KRASICK GOLDBERG QUEEN ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Doris Krasick Goldberg Queen, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on September 28, 2014. She is a long-time constituent whose family I have known for more than 20 years.

Doris was born on September 28, 1914 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1939, she married Lewis Goldberg and together they were the proprietors of a longstanding Philadelphia neighborhood grocery store and butcher shop called "Lew's Thrifty Market." They had two children, Arlene Sockel (spouse Richard) and Robert Goldberg (spouse Hedy), four grandchildren, Bonnie Sockel-Stone (spouse Elliot, son of former United States Senator Richard Stone), Iris Sockel Mitrakos (spouse Steve), Lewis Goldberg (spouse Morgan) and Ellen Goldberg, and six great-grandchildren (Lily, Elizabeth, Jason, Stella, Ivy and Oliver).

Following the passing of her husband Lewis in 1971, Doris married widower Jesse Queen in 1973. Together they retired to Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, where they shared many vibrant years together, enjoying the company of family and friends. Jesse passed away in 1992, but Doris remains active and engaged in her current home of Tamarac, Florida.

It gives me great pride to honor Doris on the occasion of her 100th birthday. I wish her all the very best for many years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CAREER OF DR. CLIFFORD DEBAPTISTE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste of Chester County, Pennsylvania on his 90th birthday, 60 years as owner and proprietor of the DeBaptiste Funeral Home, and for his incomparable record of community engagement.

Clifford DeBaptiste first came to West Chester, Pennsylvania on a visit in the 1940's. After serving in the U.S. Army, he graduated from mortuary school and married his lovely wife, Inez Manning. They then opened the DeBaptiste Funeral Home in 1954 and, in 1965, moved the business from its original location to 25 South Worthington Street where it may be found today.

In addition to running a successful business for 60 years, Dr. DeBaptiste has made numerous other invaluable contributions to the Greater West Chester community and beyond, including serving as West Chester's first African-American Mayor from 1994–2002. Additionally, he has been honored by the NAACP for his business leadership and by the National Purple Heart Association for his service in the U.S. Army. In 2014, Dr. DeBaptiste was also coronated a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, the Thirty-Third and last degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Further, Dr. DeBaptiste chaired the Pennsylvania State Board of Funeral Directors for 13 years, received its President's Medallion for Service in 1991, and an honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree from West Chester University in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the 60 years of his incredible business record and service to the community, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Clifford DeBaptiste, one of Chester County, Pennsylvania's most valued and respected citizens.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JERRELL AND VERA MCNUTT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Jerrell McNutt who have been married 59 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Jerrell and Vera McNutt married on September 2, 1955, at Needham Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Mr. McNutt, a World War II veteran, earned three degrees and for the past 48 years has taught graduate-level Theology using the experimental method Clinica Pastoral Education (CPE). He has also served as CPE Supervisor for over 27 years at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mrs. McNutt has served as chief nurse in a Psychiatric Facility, Labor and Delivery and Geriatric Care.