

OBSERVING THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNSPEAKABLE VIOLENCE IN SUMGAI, AZERBAIJAN

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 26th observation of unspeakable violence in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, I proudly stand with the Armenian community of Massachusetts in remembrance and mourning of the loss of innocent lives.

Anti-Armenian aggression in Sumgait in the early months of 1988 gave way to violent death and destruction. Thousands of Armenians were forced to flee their homes as refugees.

Today, the families of those who lost their lives, or were displaced by this violence, still seek resolution and justice.

Over decades, many displaced Armenian families have sought refuge in America, and are now making vital contributions in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. Proudly, our diverse district is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the nation. Together, our community is a thriving example of strength and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity.

Like the persecution of too many other peoples before it, the lessons of Sumgait must not be forgotten.

As diverse families of the Commonwealth, and as Americans, we have a moral obligation to promote tolerance and justice, and we have a duty to recognize the atrocities that have kept us from our common goal.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT "HARRY" ROGERS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers who passed away on January 16, 2014, at the age of 84. As the founder of Rogers Helicopters Inc., Harry saved countless lives in firefighting, salvage, and search and rescue operations. His kind heart, talent, and tireless service to the Central Valley will be greatly missed.

Harry was born on March 28, 1929, in Clovis, California. As a child, Harry dreamed of flying and was inspired by his father, Robert, as well as other local pilots.

After graduating from Clovis High School in 1947, Harry attempted to join the Air Force but was unable to do so because of an injury he suffered while playing football in high school. However, this setback did not stop Harry from following his dream to fly and serve others. After attending Reedley College, Harry worked as a pilot and mechanic for several helicopter companies before founding his own operation.

In 1962, Harry and his wife, Wanda, founded Rogers Helicopters Inc. in Clovis. The operation remained in Clovis for three decades before moving to Fresno Yosemite International airport. Over the years, Harry and his pilots flew tens of thousands of hours in operations throughout the state of California.

Harry was an authority on flying in the Sierras, which is characterized by treacherous summer winds, icing in the winter, and few places to make emergency landings.

Many people relied on Harry's expertise and services including sheriff's deputies, park rangers, and search and rescue crews. Harry and his choppers worked tirelessly to rescue and recover stranded hikers and climbers, investigate wildfires and mountain utility lines, and transport emergency supplies to the needy.

Harry exemplified selflessness and was always dedicated to helping others. In 1965, the U.S. Army awarded Harry with a citation for flying in dangerous weather to deliver supplies to flood victims in Northern California. In one incident, Harry's chopper crashed in a river canyon, and Harry was quick to rescue his passengers seconds before the aircraft exploded.

In 1969, Harry achieved the tremendous feat of being the first person to land on top of Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the continental United States.

In his spare time, Harry liked to share his passion for flying with others. In the 1960s and 70s, Harry often took Clovis High School cheerleaders for a ride before dropping them off on the football field. Throughout his career, Harry regularly flew news crews over the Central Valley so they could photograph the beautiful scenery and was especially partial toward the Kings River in Fresno.

Harry cherished his time with family and friends. He was a devoted husband to Wanda, a loving father to his sons, Rory and Robin, and he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Robby and Randy.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Robert "Harry" Rogers, a Central Valley pioneer in rotary-wing aviation.

HONORING MOUNT ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable rural town sanctuary, Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church.

"If you desire to eat for a year, plant rice. If you desire to be remembered ten years later, plant a tree. If you desire to save future generations, educate a child. But, if your desire is to preserve mankind, plant rice, a tree, educate a child, and build a church."

It was with this philosophy, spurred by the divine inspiration of God, that the Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church was organized. The year was 1864. Worship services began under a brush harbor on a two acre plot of land given to the church by Mr. Bolton and was originally known as Bolton Baptist Church. The first pastor was Rev. Bob Sanders.

During this time, there were many ladies who were strong believers in God, so they joined the church to help manage its affairs. By now, the Sunday school was beginning to play an important role in the church and Mr.

John Williams was elected the first Sunday School Superintendent. The church was making progress and everyone turned to it as the last phase of life and hope.

In 1918, at the tender age of 54 years, Bolton Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, but with Mrs. Elizabeth Brown and other determined people, a portion of the building that the congregation now worships in was rebuilt and named after her. This changed the name from Bolton Baptist Church to Mt. Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Since the year 1864, the church has been a symbol of strength.

In 1954, when the State Highway Department began construction on New Highway 80, Mt. Elizabeth was moved from its original site to about one-fourth mile south of Highway 80. In 1964, the State Highway Department began construction on Interstate 20. At the age of 100 years, the church was moved a second time from one mile north of the town of Bolton to one mile south of Bolton, where it stands today.

Down through the years, the church was blessed with leaders, men who walked and talked with God and have kept the church moving for the past 150 years. Some of those who delivered their sermons from the pulpit were Rev. Bob Sanders, Rev. J. C. Lambert, Rev. Richard Patton, Rev. Jack Anthony, Rev. Cassidy Buckley, Rev. John C. Hunter and Rev. Wilbert Owens. Some moved on while others passed on.

In 1984, God saw that the congregation was struggling to stay together without a shepherd to lead them. God answered their call and sent to them a humble and loving Christian man, Rev. Bernard McKinley, Sr. A number of deacons and mothers were instrumental in assisting the aforementioned leadership carry on the church business, ultimately helping the congregation to grow were Deacons: Deacons Dave McCray, Edmond Jefferson, Elic Watts, John Williams, Busher Mitchell, Jim Gooden, Robert Miles, Sr., Isiac George, Marshall Richmond, J. W. Wilburn, Dave Wilkins, Van Green, Sr., Jack Bennett, David Keys, Frank Johnson, L. C. Barber, William Johnson, Thirley Lewis, Sr., Ronald Mack, J. C. Malone and Clyde Montgomery, Sr.; Mothers: Magaree Garner, Callie Green, Katie Jordan, Louise Keys, Lucille Keys, Ruth Bell Lewis, Bernice Miles, Mary Porter, Frankie Reese, Ocey Richmond, Lillian Rollins, Minerva Rollins, Lee Ann Ross, and Frances Wilson; Sunday School Superintendents: Rev. William Levi, L. J. Myles, Jesse Burns, Jr., Johnnie M. Thompson, Thirly Lewis, Jr., Kenneth R. Lewis, Deloide Lewis, Susie J. Carter, and Jimmie Lewis, Sr.; Sister Rosie Patterson served as Church Clerk/Sunday School teacher; and Brother James Malone served as musician for many decades. Under the leadership of Rev. John C. Hunter, an outdoor baptismal pool was built. In 1977 under the leadership of Rev. Wilbert Owens, indoor bathrooms, three classrooms, a pastor's study and kitchenette were added.

During the span of 30 years, the church has undergone many changes, both in physical and spiritual growth, including the purchase of an additional acre of land for a cemetery plot. In 2005, the church underwent a major renovation project, which included the addition of an indoor baptismal pool, fellowship hall (with kitchen, restrooms, and classrooms), a foyer with additional restrooms and storage spaces, and pavement of the previous dirt and gravel parking lot.

Presently, the leadership of the church encompasses Pastor Bernard McKinley, Sr.; Deacons: Steve Adams, Tywon Alexander, Sr., Jesse Burns, Jr., Michael Green, Albert Lewis, Sr., Kenneth Ray Lewis, Terrence Sanders, and Bernard McKinley, Jr.; Deaconesses/Mothers: Linda Adams, Earnestine Alexander, Ola Cotton, Flora Green, Fannie Lewis, and Alberta Williams; Trustees Susie Carter, Edward Cotten, Wayne Gaddis, Vera Gaddis, Bobby Kirksey, and Mollie Bell McCray; Church Secretary, Sister Carolyn G. Price; and Sunday School Superintendent, Sister Johnnie M. Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church for serving as a pillar of steadfast dedication, providing an ever growing spiritual place of worship within the Bolton community for 150 years.

CONGRATULATING SUGAR LAND PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on being named the Texas Recreation and Parks Society's "2014 Texas Gold Medal Award Winner" in the 50,000 to 100,000 population category. This award recognizes communities who excel in resource management, park planning, and coordinating community programs and events.

Over the past three years, Sugar Land Parks and Recreation has gone above and beyond to improve our community. It established the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation to facilitate park project donations, doubled programmable space for seniors, and acquired 281 acres for future parks. Sugar Land commissioned an "Art in Parks and Public Spaces" program for community enjoyment and updated the Hike and Bike Trail Plan to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Sugar Land Parks and Recreation also opened the City's first Indoor Recreation Center, featuring space for classes and events, as well as a gymnasium, kitchen, exercise rooms, and activity space. This award is a testament to the hard work of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation employees and their dedication to making Sugar Land a better place for all.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, it's an honor to recognize Sugar Land Parks and Recreation on earning this prestigious award. We are all very proud of your hard work.

HONORING THE CAREER OF RON WHITEHEAD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ron Whitehead the city manager of Addison, Texas, who is retiring today, February 28, after nearly 32 years of service for the Town of Addison and over a decade more in other Texas municipalities.

Mr. Whitehead was raised in Orange, Texas, where he learned about city management from his father who was a city councilman and mayor. He participated in student government and graduated Stark High School in 1967. After graduating from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, with a degree in Government in 1971, he started interning for the City of Beaumont and eventually became the assistant director of personnel. Mr. Whitehead began work as the administrative assistant to the city manager in Irving, Texas, in 1974 and in 1977 became the assistant city manager for administration. He earned his Masters in Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas in 1980 and became the general supervisory assistant city manager in Irving the following year.

In June of 1982, Mr. Whitehead became the city manager of Addison and he has served that role until today. Over the decades, Mr. Whitehead helped Addison transform from a small town with a handful of businesses to a bustling center with approximately 1,600 registered businesses. In 1982 there were 200 family households in Addison, and today the population numbers 15,000. Today Addison has 260 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$60 million. As city manager, Mr. Whitehead helped build up the modern city with multiple projects such as Wheeler Bridge, Addison Circle, Vitruvian Park, and the Addison Airport Toll Tunnel. The Dallas North Tollway came through Addison during his tenure as well. Future projects that the city will continue to develop include work on Addison Airport, a pedestrian connectivity effort, and underground utilities along Belt Line Road.

His long-standing passion for people, service, and making a difference have earned Mr. Whitehead many board positions and awards during his 32 years in Addison. In 2006 he received the Texas City Management Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009 he was named Metrocrest Citizen of the Year by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, which represents Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Addison, Texas. He earned the William J. Pitstick Regional Excellence Award in 2013 and was commended for his strong commitment to regionalism and collaboration with neighboring cities with regard to transportation, services, art, and planning. Mr. Whitehead has also been the recipient of a distinguished alumni award from the University of North Texas, the L.P. Cookingham Award for Career Development from the International City Management Association (ICMA), as well as recognition from the ICMA on his 35th anniversary of municipal service. Among his roles in numerous associations, he has been particularly active in the Greater Dallas Planning Council, the North Texas City Management Association, the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and the Metroplex Mayors Association.

Mr. Whitehead has been married to his wife Donna for 27 years and they have two daughters, Maxey and Lauren. Donna is an elementary school music teacher in Good Shepherd Episcopal School and also plans to retire soon. They are involved in church and civic activities, and intend to travel together in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Ron Whitehead on his 32 years of serv-

ice as city manager of Addison and wishing him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIOGA STATE BANK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Tioga State Bank. Reaching this milestone is a testament to the hard work and commitment displayed by the Fisher family, which has operated the bank for five generations since its inception in 1864.

Over the past 150 years, Tioga State Bank has been a beacon of excellence in our community. It has continuously displayed steadfast dedication to providing financial services, creating local jobs and contributing to a vibrant economy while faithfully serving the needs of its constituents. The bank has also embraced community service, demonstrated by a recent \$20,000 donation to local food pantries in New York's 23rd Congressional District.

A core principle contributing to the success of Tioga State Bank is the commitment to "financially conservative" banking practices. This standard has enabled Tioga State Bank to stand the test of time through changing cultural and economic conditions. The business's proven track record of local job creation and economic impact has enabled Tioga State Bank to open new branches and expand into neighboring regions.

I once again congratulate Tioga State Bank on achieving 150 years of banking, service and commitment to caring for the local community. The bank is a strong example of entrepreneurial spirit and a small business's ability to blossom into an established and respected institution. I am proud to recognize this great achievement and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of Tioga State Bank.

HONORING NEW GREEN GROVE CHURCH OF FAITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, New Green Grove Church of Faith of Greenwood, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi was founded in 1909. It was founded by a dedicated group of people who wanted a place to worship. Services were held each fourth Sunday. In 1965, Green Grove M.B. Church was destroyed by fire and was completely rebuilt 1½ years later.

Since the church's inception, it has served under nine pastors and several outstanding officers. Reverend Milton L. Young, the eighth pastor, served for a period of fifty-four years. Reverend Young was a wonderful pastor. Under his leadership many souls were brought to Christ.