

Since its founding, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has played a pivotal role in seeking justice for African-Americans. From leading anti-slavery efforts and harboring runaway slaves to providing AIDS awareness and registering voters, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has always been on the forefront of transformative change.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church serves as a sanctuary to all, providing not only a place for worship but also a safe haven. For 177 years, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has met the needs of the community and has influenced the civic, cultural, and intellectual lives of African-Americans.

Their walls hold the memories and wisdom of illustrious guests like Frederick Douglass and Eleanor Roosevelt who addressed the most pressing social issues that plagued our growing nation. Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has hosted numerous historic events including the official pre-Inaugural prayer services for President William Jefferson Clinton in 1993 and 1997—thus becoming the first African-American church to ever serve in such a capacity. Likewise, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church hosted the National Memorial Service for Mrs. Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern American Civil Rights movement.

Most recently, Metropolitan A.M.E. Church opened its doors to the community in the aftermath of the June 17, 2015, church shooting at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, South Carolina. Hundreds came to Metropolitan A.M.E. Church to honor the nine victims and to seek comfort in the church's warm embrace.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church follows in the rich tradition and mission of its parent denomination, the historic African Methodist Episcopal Church. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in protest of slavery and racial discrimination in 1787, after members of the Free Africa Society were forced off their knees as they prayed at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was at this moment that the members of the Free African Society realized that when it came to the American Methodist Church, their shackles had not yet been removed.

Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and other free blacks established the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a refuge from racism—a safe place to worship in spite of the opposition they received as members of St. George's Church. Their journey to establish a new church denomination was not easy, but the seeds they planted soon grew. In the waning days of the Confederacy, the membership of the African Methodist Episcopal Church grew rapidly, as the Union army permitted church members to recruit newly freed slaves.

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church rose out of this rich legacy, and became a powerful agent for change in its own right. Metropolitan A.M.E. Church has played a vital role in our history, standing tall as a cornerstone of its community through the test of time. This tradition continues today, and will continue well into the future.

On a personal note, I am pleased to serve as the keynote speaker for the 177th Anniversary Service on July 12, 2015. It is a high honor to have the opportunity to celebrate the 177 years of contributions and exemplary service of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. It is a privilege to stand in the same pulpit as es-

teemed guests such as Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dorothy I. Height. As a life member of the historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, Alabama, I can truly say that it was the support of my church family and the teachings of African Methodist Episcopal Church ministry that helped me grow into the woman I am today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the 177th Anniversary of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church on this distinguished occasion. May the glory of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

AFRICA'S DISPLACED PEOPLE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last year, nearly 60 million people were displaced worldwide. In fact, one out of every 122 people on Earth today is either a refugee, internally displaced in their home country or seeking asylum in another country.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are more than 15 million displaced people. Of that total, 3.7 million are refugees and 11.4 million are internally displaced. These disruptions of normal life in Africa are caused by conflicts such as in Somalia, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Burundi, Western Sahara and elsewhere. These disruptions not only affect those who are displaced, but also the people in whose communities these displaced people are relocated.

African refugees and internally displaced people face numerous issues—from security in the places in which they seek refuge, to death and mayhem trying to reach places of refuge, to conflict with surrounding populations to warehousing that consigns generations to be born and live in foreign countries.

A hearing I held yesterday examined the various issues displaced people face and the U.S. response to these conditions in order to determine the effectiveness of our government's efforts to help and to determine whether course corrections are necessary.

The terrible plight of African refugees has been much in the news in recent months because of the death of thousands trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea and attacks on refugees in South Africa reportedly caused by xenophobia.

On the South African case, I sent two members of my staff to southern Africa last month to look into the incidents of violence against refugees in South Africa. What they found was appalling. Despite a very generous set of laws and programs to enable immigration into South Africa, refugees were often refused medical service at hospitals that supposedly offer free medical care to all people.

Apparently, no matter what the law in South Africa says, staff who screen patients often simply refuse to allow people they consider foreigners to receive medical care. According to refugees who spoke with my staff, this has meant that refugee women have had to give birth on the floor of hospitals while hospital staff refused to provide services.

As for those refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean to seek sanctuary in Europe,

more than 1,800 people have died making that trip this year as of early June. On the cover of the April 25th issue of *The Economist* magazine, the failure of the nations of Europe to devise a workable, humane policy toward those fleeing to their continent was described as “a moral and political disgrace.”

Many of the refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean are Eritreans, who also have fled persecution and repression at home through the Gulf of Aden and also through the Sinai Peninsula, where they are often at the mercy of ruthless Bedouin groups, who traffic them or hold them for ransom. Eritrea is a closed society, so our knowledge of conditions there comes mostly from refugees, but one has to ask how bad must conditions there be if so many Eritreans are willing to risk their lives and well-being to find refuge almost anywhere else?

Unresolved conflicts have forced many refugees to experience protracted stays in foreign countries. For example, refugees have not only had children but also grandchildren in camps in Kenya and Algeria. After more than two decades, the situation in Somalia remains unresolved, and Somali refugees are unable to resume their lives in their homeland. Yet they face an increasingly hostile Kenyan environment in which the government is unwilling to allow Somalis to establish financial independence outside refugee camps.

In Algeria, Sahrawis, refugees from the Western Sahara territory under the control of Morocco, have lived in camps in western Algeria since being chased out of the territory by the advance of hundreds of thousands of Moroccans in 1975. The Government of Algeria not only provides a home for the Sahrawis, but also supplies access to free education and health care. Still, income-generating activities by Sahrawis are discouraged to prevent competition with local Algerians.

Internally displaced persons also face serious challenges. In Nigeria, for example, more than 1.5 million people from northeastern Nigeria have fled attacks by Boko Haram and resulting Nigerian military activities. However, Nigeria is a patchwork of 36 states whose creation over the years has inflamed ethnic and religious tensions as state majorities became minorities suddenly. The Nigerian IDPs are generally living in communities rather than camps. The longer they remain in their current areas, the greater the chance their presence will inflame new unrest as the ethnic and religious balance in their new areas is again changed abruptly.

The United States and the rest of the international community face serious challenges in addressing the displacement of so many people. According to U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, the “international response capacities are overstretched by the unprecedented rise in global forced displacement.” We must carefully consider the U.S. role in meeting the increasing challenge of Africa's displaced people, taking into consideration our moral imperative to help those in need, as well as strategic interests in preventing the kind of neglect that makes terrorist recruitment among displaced people easier than it should be.

CONGRATULATING KURT ZWIKL

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a community leader who has worked tirelessly to transform the Schuylkill River Heritage Area into a prime destination for outdoor recreation as well as a definitive source of historical information about the significance of this scenic waterway, which flows from the heart of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal region to the City of Philadelphia.

Kurt Zwikl has spent the past 12 years as executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. He retired from the Pottstown-based non-profit organization on June 30th.

Thanks to his ability to foster community partnerships and his tireless advocacy, Kurt has expanded the number of miles available to bikers and walkers along the Schuylkill River Trail. Eventually, families and residents will be able to enjoy a unified, 130-mile trail system stretching from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia.

A partnership with neighboring Montgomery County Community College enabled the Schuylkill River Heritage Area to open the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center in Pottstown in 2012.

Students from local schools and tourists from around the world can view exhibits and discover how the Schuylkill River has helped secure our independence, fueled our prosperity and inspired stewardship and a deep appreciation for preserving irreplaceable natural resources.

And earlier this month, nearly 200 outdoor enthusiasts paddled 112 miles from Schuylkill Haven Island to Philadelphia during the "Schuylkill River Soujourn." This is an event that has grown each year under Kurt's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude for Kurt Zwikl's tremendous accomplishments as executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area—all of which have improved the public's access to and appreciation of the river and reinvigorated community pride in this amazing natural resource.

IN HONOR OF CONCORD POLICE
SERGEANT BUCKY SIMPSON**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Concord Police Sergeant Richard Howard "Bucky" Simpson, who passed away peacefully on June 24, 2015.

Sergeant Bucky Simpson was born on July 31, 1942, in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Susan Phillips Simpson of Concord; his children, Chad D. Simpson of Concord; Phillip A. Simpson and his wife, Jane Blackley Simpson, of Harrisburg; and his grandson, Garrett Parker Simpson.

Bucky was a distinguished Army Vietnam veteran who received many awards including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. As a Concord Police Sergeant, he worked for 17 years

as a Juvenile Officer and helped implement the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

One of Bucky's greatest qualities was his ability to teach and help youth in the community. Bucky supervised the hiring of school crossing guards who were known as "Bucky's Angels," and he patiently taught Bike Safety and BB Gun Safety Training to hundreds of kids at Camp Spencer. He also faithfully served on the Board of Directors at the Boys and Girls Club where he once received the "Father of the Year Award." For his continued dedication to helping youth in Concord, Bucky once received the L.T. Williams Award from the North Carolina Officers' Association for being the "Most Outstanding Juvenile Officer" of the year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating former Concord Police Sergeant Bucky Simpson's life as a dedicated husband, father, and public servant.

IN HONOR OF MIKE ROOS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of our friend, Mr. Mike Roos. I had the great honor of working with Mike as colleagues in the California State Assembly along with several other current and former members of this House. I count myself fortunate to call him a good friend.

In 1999, Mike founded Mike Roos and Company, a public affairs firm that Mike shaped specializes in government relations, corporate issues management, media relations, and ballot measure campaigns. Prior to establishing Mike Roos and Company, Mike served as President and CEO of the Los Angeles Alliance for Restructuring Now, a coalition of business and civic leaders from the Los Angeles Area dedicated to implementing systemic reform and restructuring within the Los Angeles Unified School District. His significant efforts in this capacity have undoubtedly changed countless lives of children in the Los Angeles area for the better.

Mike's distinguished Assembly career began in 1977. He earned the love and respect of both his Democratic and Republican colleagues. His own caucus chose him Majority Floor Leader in his second term, a position he held until his 1987 election as Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore. He had the reputation as a genuine legislator—someone who used the power of lawmaking to make the lives of the People of California better. Perhaps his most well known achievement is the Mello Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 and the Roberti-Roos Weapons Control Act of 1989. Mike authored the strictest laws to date protecting the confidentiality of HIV patients, as well as the law creating the Alternative Test Sites Program, which established centers where individuals could receive free, anonymous testing for the AIDS antibody. He consistently fought for a better education for all, authoring legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in California's educational institutions.

Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Mike served as the Executive Director of the

Coro Foundation, a leadership training program for future leaders in public service. Thanks to his substantial experience and insight, he continues to be a valuable consultant to civic and educational organizations, speaking on topics ranging from education reform to the legislative process in California politics.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Mike for his years of service on behalf of the people of California. I know he looks forward to spending time with his family, including his four daughters Shelby, Melissa, Catherine, and Caroline. I wish him nothing but success and happiness.

CONGRATULATING CAMDENTON
HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE
MEDAL AWARD**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Camdenton High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Camdenton High School for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCIPAL OF
THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEE FOR
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Principal of the Year Award nominee for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from the Washington Post. Nominated principals must demonstrate the ability to:

Manage effectively
Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation

Foster cooperation between the school and the community

Maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff

Keep abreast of developments in the field of education

Encourage team spirit

Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment

Continue to play an active role in the classroom

Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2015–16 school year

Participate in the five day 2015 DELA Seminar to be held July 2015

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2014–2015 nominee, Joyce Stockton of Philip Michael Pennington Traditional School, for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the year award.