

## TRIBUTE TO TIM SESSOMS

**HON. MARK WALKER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Tim Sessoms has served his community for more than thirty years.

His life is an example of a rare instinctive trait that actually puts others first. I have personally witnessed the vast amount of people who regularly reach out to Mr. Sessoms for guidance or help.

From the senior adult in the elderly care center to the child in need, Tim Sessoms finds a way to solve the problem or meet the need.

His work as Mayor of Summerfield was another way that Mr. Sessoms chose to give back to his town. His vision and his ability to execute has moved Summerfield to a better place for years to come.

Our community owes the Honorable Sessoms a debt of gratitude. His friends and neighbors know that he walks the walk with integrity and grace. We all owe him a "thank you" for a lifetime of putting his fellow man first.

AIKEN NAMED MAIN STREET  
COMMUNITY**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, Aiken was named a Main Street Community—one of only two communities to receive this honor from Main Street South Carolina. The Main Street Community designation provides Aiken with a comprehensive training and assistance to revitalize their downtown through a three year boot-camp program. Aiken joins Orangeburg as the second community in South Carolina's Second Congressional District to receive the Main Street Community designation.

After a competitive application process, the city of Aiken was recognized for their work in promoting historic and economic development downtown. In the next few years, they will work with Main Street South Carolina to identify the goals of its community and to provide residents, business owners, and local leaders with key resources to enhance the local economic development.

I am grateful to Mayor Rick Osbon, former Mayor Fred Cavanaugh, City Manager John Klimm, and the entire Aiken City Council for receiving this great honor. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this will bring to Aiken.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL  
LITTLEJOHN**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Samuel Littlejohn's 50th anniversary as a spiritual leader and Pastor of Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Reverend Littlejohn was born in Tyler, Texas, to a Baptist minister and a family dedicated to the church. As a young child, his mother, father, and grandfather all instilled an abiding love for and sustaining commitment to his religion. He was baptized at the age of seven at the Greater Hopwell Missionary Baptist Church in Tyler, where he remained a member until he moved to Fort Worth to pursue seminary studies.

In 1951, Reverend Littlejohn moved to Fort Worth and joined Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church. He served as the Superintendent of the Sunday school, participated in the Senior Choir, and acted as the President of the #2 Usher Department.

Reverend Littlejohn continued his seminary education by earning a missionary degree from Southwest Theological Seminary and Bishop College. In November 1960, Reverend Littlejohn was ordained and gave his first sermon in front of Pilgrim Valley church.

He served the Pilgrim Valley community until 1965, when he was called to pastor Shining Light Missionary Baptist Church, where he has served for the last 50 years.

Along with his work in his church communities, Reverend Littlejohn has continued to be an active and vocal participant in the community. Pastor Littlejohn has worked with the Community Action Agency (CAA), was an organizing member of the first Ministers and Police Taskforce and served as a member of Parent, Preacher, and Principal organization which worked with Fort Worth Independent School District to encourage children to stay in school.

Most notably, Pastor Littlejohn was the driving force behind the Stop Six Community Health Center. Reverend Littlejohn was a founding member of the Stop Six Community Corporation and much of the success of the organization can be attributed to the Reverend. His work greatly impacted the DFW community and is now used as a model in other cities.

Earlier this year, the Black Pastors, Clergy and Ministerial Group Association of Texas, Inc. presented Pastor Littlejohn with the "Living Legend Award" and recognized him as one of the honorable senior pastors in Fort Worth.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD AND  
MARYANN BRYAN**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Leonard and Maryann Bryan of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on

the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1965.

Leonard and Maryann's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Steven, Traci, and Cari, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Bryans that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING  
OF SOUTHLAKE'S SENIOR ACTIV-  
ITY CENTER**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the City of Southlake's grand opening of the Southlake Senior Activity Center.

The history of the Southlake senior center began in 1998, when Mayor Gail Eubanks, Southlake's first mayor, donated the original facility to the city to serve as the activity and social center for the growing senior community in Southlake. Since the opening of the original senior center, the population of Southlake has nearly doubled in size. To accommodate the needs of this growing community, plans were developed and approved for the construction of a new community recreation center. On September 27, 2014, the City of Southlake broke ground for the construction of the new, state of the art, recreation and senior center known as The Marq.

The Marq contains over 20,000 square feet of multipurpose space which includes a senior lounge, senior wellness room, game room, banquet hall, and amphitheater. In it, the new Southlake Senior Activity Center will serve the community by providing programs and services to Southlake area seniors, enhancing their lives and fostering a sense of community among the city's residents.

I am extremely appreciative of the City of Southlake and the Southlake Senior Activity Center for continuing to address the needs of the community by enhancing the quality of their infrastructure and the lives of its seniors. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Southlake and the Southlake Senior Activity Center on the grand opening of their new facility.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ASSOCIA-  
TION FOR TALENT DEVELOP-  
MENT**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Association for Talent Development (ATD) as the largest association dedicated to the training and talent development

profession, recognizing them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held December 7th through the 11th, 2015.

ATD's members come from more than 120 countries and work in public and private organizations in every industry sector. ATD supports talent development professionals who gather locally in volunteer-led U.S. chapters and international member networks, and with international strategic partners.

Established in 1943, ATD is a leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals make sure an organization's best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth. ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 7th through December 11th, 2015, as "Employee Learning Week" and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

#### HONORING PATRICK McCORMICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

Whether through his service through the U.S. Air Force, New Cumberland Army Depot, or his leadership roles as Director of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution's Current Operations and Logistics Operations, his tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he worked with to be the best.

Through numerous promotions and awards Patrick has left an enduring legacy of service. In particular, by earning the Department of Defense (DOD) Distinguished Civilian Service award, the highest award available for career DOD civilian employees, he demonstrated an exceptional devotion to duty. Through hard work and leadership Patrick's record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens is truly outstanding.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Patrick McCormick on his retirement after more than 38 years of service to the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA CITY

#### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the in-

corporation of California City, a residential nexus for mining, aerospace and desert tourism in Eastern Kern County.

California City began with a dream worthy of its namesake: the foundation of a suburban metropolis to rival Los Angeles. Sociologist and developer Nat Mendelsohn found in the wide spaces of Kern's High Desert the chance to build a completely planned community from scratch, free of parochial interests. He bought 80,000 acres of desert in 1958, carved out a gigantic Central Park featuring a 20 acre lake, and by 1965 had arranged for the incorporation of a massive, 203 square mile township. Overnight, California City became the third largest city in the state.

For generations before Nat Mendelsohn ever gazed upon the High Desert, mule teams carted the bounty of stranded mines to the railheads at Mojave. This traffic expanded in the 20th century, as neighboring Boron grew to produce half the world's supply of borax. Meanwhile, huddled around ancient dry lakes just a dozen miles from town, America's premier jet aircraft test center—Edwards Air Force Base—began to expand into a permanent institution, with hundreds of employees needing homes and services. Even tourism brought jobs to California City, as the surging popularity of dirt bikes and off-roading drew thrill-seekers through town on their way to the wonders of the interior: Jawbone, Death Valley, Red Rock Canyon, and the Trona Pinnacles. California City grew by leaps and bounds, fed by the steady currents of desert commerce.

Today, as the city celebrates its Jubilee, we have a chance to draw lessons from its history. California City would never have existed without the vision and drive of one entrepreneur, willing to bet everything on a dream. In Kern County—as in America—we are dependent both on the enterprising spirit of our people, and on the power of our communities to persevere when they are united. I am proud today to congratulate the people of California City on this 50th anniversary, and look forward to California City's next 50 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE AND CATHERINE ROSS

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate George and Catherine Ross of Essex, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

George and Catherine's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Ross family that make me proud to call myself an Iowan and represent the people of our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Vote Number 692, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call Number 692, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY HOLMES ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE LARRY HOLMES STATUE IN EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Holmes, who reigned as World Boxing Council Heavyweight Champion from 1978 to 1983, and who will be honored with the installment of a bronze statue depicting the Champ about to strike a punch. His accomplishments not only made the City of Easton known nationally, they also inspired others to strive to be their best, to be a champ.

The statue unveiling held on Sunday, December 13 commenced with a Championship Parade that began on 3rd Street in front of the new Easton City Hall and continued onto the Drive named in the Champ's honor and down to the statue's location in Scott Park on the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers.

"The Easton Assassin" grew up in the projects. At the age of 13, he dropped out of school to support his family. At the age of 19, he started boxing and pursued a legendary career. His left jab is rated among the best in boxing history. An impressive 44 of his 69 wins were from knockouts. Holmes was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2008.

Larry Holmes is not just a champ for his boxing; he is a champ for his service to the community. After retiring from boxing, Holmes became a businessman and invested in his hometown. He is noted to have employed more than 200 people through his various business holdings at one time including Larry Holmes Enterprises, a real estate and property management company; two restaurants; a training facility; and an office complex. Over the years, he has been a role model for young fighters, and he has supported various charities and youth groups throughout the Lehigh Valley, in particular the Easton Area Community Center (EACC), which used to be known as St. Anthony's Youth Center—the place where he first learned to box. Later, and thanks to Holmes, the EACC's annual fundraiser became well-known as an event attended by boxing champions. Holmes can often be seen at community events and performing with his band.

It is an honor for me to recognize Larry Holmes. He has been a good son to Easton. Through this statue, visitors for generations will see the heart of a legend.