

IN RECOGNITION OF BENEVOLENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 162ND ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church in Randolph County, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 162 years. The congregation of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church celebrated this very significant anniversary on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the church near Cuthbert, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the pre-Civil War era, the church was founded in 1853 when a group of former slaves set off from their landowners' church and boldly founded their own place of worship. This establishment would stand the test of time, becoming Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church.

The Reverend Green McCarthy served as the first pastor of the new congregation, Jake Knighton served as the first deacon, and Dan Knighton served as the first usher. Since none of the members could read or write, Brother T.J. Coram served as records keeper until an African-American member, Brother Phelm Knighton, could become clerk.

From the beginning, members paid what they could. Ideally, this was ten cents—raised to twenty-five cents in 1890—but when chickens, eggs, or vegetables were all people could come by, these were accepted instead. What mattered most then, as now, was not the money. It was the people—the people who overcame oppression, the people who took a risk in founding a new institution, and the people who renewed a community. So long as they remained united in their faith, they remained unshakeable to the core, and the details would be arranged in time.

This ardent community of believers has extended its circle to include more and more members as the years have gone by, though it has never lost its essential character. Today, the spirit and faith of its people are manifested through four choirs, a Sunday school, a Mission and Vacation Bible School, a Trustee Board, and Junior and Senior Usher Boards. That same faith and spirit shine on even as light from the new stained glass windows paints churchgoers in colored, living vibrancy. And this faith and spirit extend beyond the church doors, in the presence of members who give fully of themselves wherever they go.

Throughout the years, many ministers have been licensed or ordained from the church, and a number of pastors, deacons, and clerks have contributed to its legacy. The Reverend J.L. Kegler serves as the current pastor, alongside deacons Roy Burks, Richard Lee, Rodney Burks, Allen Steve White, and William Harrison, and clerks Yvonne Mitchner, Keisha Burks, Donella Knighton, and Monica Harris.

The story of Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church, which recounts a long history of a group of believers coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and wor-

ship the Lord, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Benevolence Missionary Baptist Church in Randolph County, Georgia for its congregation's enduring commitment, despite adversity, to each other and to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May their actions continue to inspire the community in courage, in dedication, and in faith.

RECOGNIZING MR. W. SCOTT REITZE

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. W. Scott Reitze for his lifelong public service to Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reitze has been a member of the Middletown Township Fire Company since 1965. Throughout his tenure he has held positions of Chief Engineer, the Chairman of Company Apparatus Committee, and Fire Chief for the Company for 14 years. He was named Fireman of the Year in 1970 and 2002. Scott now sits on the Board of Directors. He is a retired engineer with the Kimberly Clark Corporation.

Over the last 50 years, Scott Reitze has put others before himself and he continues to do so. His years of dedicated service are a testament of what the Middletown Township community means to him. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Mr. W. Scott Reitze and thank him for his service to Pennsylvania.

REMEMBERING EARL HARRIS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and sincere admiration that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest legislators, State Representative Earl Harris of East Chicago. On Monday, March 23, 2015, Earl, a member of the Indiana House of Representatives for the past thirty-three years, passed away at the age of 73. Remembered by his colleagues and constituency as a consummate gentleman and champion for Northwest Indiana, Earl will be deeply missed by his devoted family, beloved friends, and the citizens he so faithfully served.

Earl Harris was born in Kerville, Tennessee, on November 8, 1941. Following his graduation from Woodstock High School in 1959, he relocated to Northwest Indiana to further his education. Earl attended both Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet, located in Northwest Indiana, as well as the Illinois Institute of Technology. Although he was well-known for his career in public office, Mr. Harris's lifetime of service to his fellow citizens predates his election to the Indi-

ana General Assembly. To those who knew him, it is no surprise that, as a young man, Earl spent six years as an enlisted member of the Navy Reserve. Throughout his life, Mr. Harris was also a small business owner, an employee of Inland Steel, and a fixed assets administrator for the School City of East Chicago.

Since his election to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1982, Representative Earl Harris proved himself to be, first and foremost, a devoted public servant. His colleagues in Indianapolis will forever remember him as a true visionary, a tireless advocate for the people of Northwest Indiana, and the finest of role models for any young legislator to emulate. Among his legislative accomplishments was the creation of a Lake Michigan marina development commission intended to promote economic development along the lake. This idea later got folded into the Marquette Plan that the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority is now implementing in Lake and Porter Counties.

His constituents will remember his kindness and his willingness to help in any way he could. I will miss working with Earl, as I have for many years, but will never forget his warmth and his compassion, as well as his relentless desire to leave Northwest Indiana, and the entire state, better than he found it.

While he was tirelessly committed to the people of Indiana, Earl Harris leaves to cherish his memory the most important people in his life, his devoted wife, Donna, and loving son, Earl Jr., as well as his extended family and the many people who were fortunate to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to one of Indiana's finest, State Representative Earl Harris, for his outstanding leadership, devotion to his community, and commitment to improving the quality of life for residents of Northwest Indiana and throughout the state. His dedication to his family, friends, and those he so faithfully served is worthy of our admiration. I am proud to have called him my friend.

PASON SYSTEMS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Pason Systems for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

Pason is a leading global provider of specialized data management systems for drilling rigs. The company's solutions, which include data acquisition, well site reporting, remote communications and web-based information management, enable collaboration between the rig and the office.

Pason expanded from 37,000 to 52,737 sq. ft. in Golden's Coors Technology Center. The company hired an additional 11 employees after the facility was complete, bringing employment to 254 people.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pason Systems for their well-deserved Business Recognition Award.

# RECOGNIZING JOB CORPS' 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

## HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Job Corps' 50-year anniversary. Born in 1965, Job Corps was designed as a collaboration between public agencies and private sector businesses and employers to help poor and unemployed young people gain the credentials and employment skills to build careers. Fifty years later, more than 3 million jobless and under-educated youth, employers and local communities have benefitted from this successful model—a comprehensive residential, academic and career preparation program. Each year, more than 50,000 at-risk youth obtain the employment and life skills necessary to start a career. More than 80 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education, or enter the military.

Furthermore, Job Corps facilities play an important role in their local communities. With 125 campuses across America, Job Corps represents a base of economic activity in American communities that is particularly important during challenging economic times. For example, 228 local jobs are directly or indirectly supported by the average Job Corps campus each year, and \$1.91 in local economic activity is generated by each dollar invested in Job Corps. The Pine Knot Job Corps in McCreary County, Kentucky and the Carl D. Perkins Job Corps Center in Floyd County, Kentucky are two successful Job Corps facilities in my district that have made important contributions to their communities.

Each year, more than 50,000 high school dropouts, homeless young adults, young parents, students with learning disabilities, and youth aging out of the foster care system enroll in Job Corps because it provides everything they need to start successful careers and become financially independent. Job Corps' open-entry, open-exit model allows dedicated academic and vocational professionals to create self-paced work plans for youth. Counselors, academic and vocational instructors, and residential advisors work with students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, not only on career pursuits but also on life skills, such as financial literacy and responsible citizenship.

I thank Job Corps for its dedication to changing the lives of America's at-risk, jobless and disenfranchised youth. Job Corps remains a community-changing program that affects thousands across the United States. Job Corps continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our youth, businesses and economic conditions and I appreciate their continued dedication.

# HONORING THE PASSING OF MRS. BARBARA CROWTHER STUART EDWARDS

## HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the passing of Barbara Crowther

Stuart Edwards. Mrs. Edwards passed away peacefully on March 5, 2015, at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond, Virginia. She is survived by her four children, Charles Edward Stuart III; Anne Ruth Stuart and Elizabeth Stuart Valentine; and The Hon. Richard Henry Stuart and their grandchildren, as well as her brother Rudolph Prosser Crowther and several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Edwards was a loving mother and grandmother, who enjoyed spending time with her family. When she wasn't with her family Mrs. Edwards was either teaching or serving as a devoted member of Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church. Mrs. Edwards will be missed by members of her community, students, and family.

# MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

## HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on March 26th, the House passed H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. H.R. 2 will repeal the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and replace it with a bipartisan agreement to improve the Medicare payment system and return stability to physician payments.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created SGR in an attempt to control spending in the Medicare program, and it was adopted for TRICARE as well. For years, this methodology has consistently produced unrealistic expenditure targets that trigger untenable reductions in payment rates to doctors providing services to Medicare patients.

Congress has repeatedly buried the true cost of this policy through annual Congressional overrides of these scheduled cuts. Each of these short-term "doc fixes" has achieved the important goal of averting an immediate crisis in access to physicians for Medicare beneficiaries, but has exacerbated a longer-term crisis in Medicare financing.

Continued reliance on short-term patches creates instability in the health care system and the economy as a whole. Doctors have been hamstrung by yearly doubt about what reimbursement rates will be, and patients have had to pay the eventual price in uneven, sub-standard quality of care. Enactment of H.R. 2 will bring stability back to our health care system.

I voted for H.R. 2 because this legislation not only repeals the SGR, but also preserves and extends the Children's Health Insurance Program and provides funding for Community Health Centers through 2017. These programs are important in ensuring that those who need it most have access to health care. I remain concerned that the bill included an unnecessary provision restating current law on abortion coverage restrictions. The Hyde Amendment language, which has been included in annual appropriations bills since 1976, restricts women's access to health care and disproportionately discriminates against women of color, immigrants, and young people. Moving forward, we must work to ensure that women get access to health care, not continue policies that limit it.

Medicare has guaranteed essential health protections to seniors and certain disabled persons for nearly four decades. Fixing the physician Medicare reimbursement system is important to ensuring continued high quality care for Americans. I believe Medicare is more than just a program; it is a covenant that exists between the government and the American people, and I supported H.R. 2 to keep that covenant.

# TRIBUTE TO MS. ERMELLE SMART CREW WILLIAMS

## HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 88 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams was born on March 23, 1927 and today she is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Williams has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she is a member of Turner Chapel Baptist Church and a sister in the local Prince Hall Order of Eastern Stars; and

Whereas, Ms. Williams is celebrating her 88th Birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in Georgia, she celebrates a life of blessings; as a Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, friend, community servant and leader; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; an advocate, faithful matriarch and a community leader; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 88th birthday in Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all, now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 23, 2015 as Ms. Ermelle Smart Crew Williams Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of March, 2015.

# COORSTEK

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud CoorsTek for their community leadership and economic contribution to Jefferson County.

CoorsTek develops, manufactures and sells engineered solutions for a multitude of industrial and commercial applications that incorporate advanced materials such as technical ceramics, engineered components, assemblies and systems.

CoorsTek origins lie in cookware and pottery when in 1910, Adolph Coors, a board