

served as a focal point for community life near Adamsville. Just like its congregation, it has grown over the years to better serve its membership.

One hundred and fifty years ago, on September 15, 1866, Reverend Robert Young and approximately 70 people came together to organize the Mt. Sharon Society, Gilchrist Community of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Originally a log structure, the Church was located southwest of Snake Creek on land of Cornelius Gilchrist. Brother T. F. Wilson, Brother Cornelius Gilchrist and Brother John L. Groves were chosen as ruling elders.

In the 1890's the log structure was replaced by one made of lumber that included a bell tower and in 1957, a new brick structure was completed. The following year, the Church added a porch, and in 1959, a steeple.

At a dedication service in September 1959, the morning bulletin read, "Let us remember that the job was completed only through time, talents and love of over 300 people and gifts from Presbyterian churches from Tennessee, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lansing Michigan and far beyond."

Forty years later, in 1989, the Church added additional dining space which still exists today and an outdoor basketball court was completed. Three years later, the Church purchased a manse with 4.5 acres.

The Church celebrates its anniversary on the third Sunday in September.

TRIBUTE TO DEBI DURHAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debi Durham for being named a 2016 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 17 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area. Ms. Durham has devoted her life to confronting challenges many others might avoid. She has spent countless hours on various boards while blazing a trail for others to follow. She was selected for the chosen field of expertise, the lasting impact on the community, involvement with civic or non-profit organizations and being seen as a role model because of her lofty achievements and high ethical standards.

Debi Durham has the determination and drive to be successful in anything she does, and her exemplary work with the Iowa Economic Development Authority is a testament to that. Ms. Durham works with Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to maintain the Iowa Economic Development Authority as a public-private partnership to improve Iowa's delivery of Iowa's economic services. Prior to leading Iowa's economic development initiatives, Debi Durham served as president of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, serving communities in northwest Iowa. In all aspects of her life, Debi Durham is an example of hard work and service who makes Iowans proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Debi Durham in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Debi Durham on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Ms. Durham a long and successful career.

IN HONOR OF NEW MT. ZOAR BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the New Mt. Zoar Baptist Church, which is celebrating 150 years since its founding, as well as its pastor, Reverend Spencer F. Isaac, who is celebrating his 20th anniversary of leading this great congregation. I would like to personally congratulate this institution for its continued role in fostering a sense of community in Manassas, Virginia. This Church represents our nation's values through dedicated worship, as well as willingness to serve the community.

The New Mt. Zoar Baptist Church has grown exponentially since its foundation in 1866, when a former slave followed the Union Army from Louisiana to Fairfax, Virginia. The once small congregation of 33 individuals has now flourished into over 300 members whom meet and worship together regularly. Pastor Isaac has been a staple to the church since 1996, guiding all those who seek a stronger spiritual purpose in life. This is a clear testament to the outstanding work and commitment to the community which is conducted by this admirable congregation and they are deserving of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me immense pride to recognize such a fine group, and I sincerely hope that we all can live up to their tremendous example. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New Mt. Zoar Baptist Church for 150 years of existence and Reverend Spencer F. Isaac in his 20th year as Pastor of the church. I wish them all the best and hope that they remain devoted to their faith and Virginia's 10th District for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MRS. NATIVA WOOD UPON HER INDUCTION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mrs. Nativa Wood upon her induction as the president of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). Nativa spent 35 years as a court reporter in the Dauphin County Courthouse in my district, serving as the chief court reporter for the last 11 years of

her service before retiring in 2015. Through her decades of public service and involvement with various associations and foundations, she has continually set an example of hard work and dedication for all professionals in my district and has helped to inspire the next generation of selfless public servants.

Nativa joined the Dauphin County Courthouse in 1977 after graduating from Central Penn College. She has been involved with the Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association since 1983 and was the president from 1990 to 1992. She served as the chair of the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the charitable arm of the NCRA, which works to educate legal professionals with informational programs and introduce prospective court reporters to the profession. Nativa has also served as the chair of the Council of the Academy of Professional Reporters and the Committee on Professional Ethics.

Mrs. Wood also understands that her current endeavors can help leave a lasting legacy for future generations of court reporters. She is a proud member of the NCRF's Legacy Society, which coordinates estate planning so that the NCRF can act as a beneficiary of an individual's will in order to continue giving back to the profession for decades to come. Nativa's commitment to the profession and her community will always be remembered. February 18 has been declared "Nativa Wood Day" in Dauphin County in honor of her distinguished career and exemplary professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mrs. Nativa Wood upon her induction as the president of the National Court Reporters Association. Her husband, Jerry, and son, Patrick, have played an important role in her success and continue to inspire her dedication to the profession. I wish Mrs. Wood the best in her new role and look forward to seeing her continued contributions to court reporters across my district, state, and our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO HONGWANJI BETSUIN'S ANNUAL BAZAAR

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Hongwanji Betsuin's Annual Bazaar. As our community gathers to showcase and celebrate Japanese food and culture, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable festival.

The Sacramento Buddhist Church is one of the oldest Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches in the continental United States and, as such, is one of Sacramento's richest cultural gems. In 1947, the church hosted its first bazaar in an effort to encourage strength and identity within the Japanese-American community. In its 70th year, the bazaar is now a treasured and highly-anticipated Sacramento summer festival. With attendance in the tens of thousands, the bazaar no longer attracts only the immediate community of the church's congregation, but serves to educate and engage the larger Sacramento community on Japanese culture.

Close to 700 volunteers come together to facilitate the bazaar, which funds scholarships, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and the Dharma School supported by the church. The Sacramento Buddhist Church's Annual Bazaar has been invaluable to Sacramento in its promotion of cross-cultural understanding and unity in Sacramento's diverse community.

Mr. Speaker, as the community of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Hongwanji Betsuin gathers to celebrate the 70th anniversary of their Annual Bazaar, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring their commitment to preserving and sharing the rich traditions of Japanese culture with the wider community.

**CELEBRATING THE 70TH
BIRTHDAY OF GARY BROGAN**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th birthday of Gary Brogan. A proud veteran and devoted family man, Gary is a pillar of the Round Rock, TX community.

A son of the American heartland, Gary was born September 8, 1946 in Winfield, Kansas. It was there he learned the values of hard work and integrity that made him the man he is and that he has used in service to others.

Gary felt the call to serve and joined the U.S. Navy in 1966. He soon volunteered for combat duty and spent a year in Vietnam, earning a Vietnam Campaign Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and an Honorable Discharge. Like many of those brave warriors who served, Gary was never given a proper welcome upon his safe return to our shores. He was even advised not to wear his uniform in public to avoid the scorn of protestors.

Following his move to Round Rock in 2007, Gary has become a beloved citizen of my home town. He and wife Vicki have been supporters of the Heart to Heart Gala, which benefits the Sacred Heart Community Clinic as well as supporting local high school booster clubs and numerous charities in Round Rock. Both are proud and devoted members of St. Williams Catholic Church.

Gary's family and friends are making sure he gets a celebration befitting a hero. On August 6, the Legion Hall in Round Rock will be packed with well-wishers saluting a great man who has both served his nation and positively impacted his community.

Gary Brogan's commitments to freedom, community, and family reflect the best values of Central Texas. I join all lucky enough to know him in wishing him a happy birthday and best wishes for the years ahead.

HONORING MS. DANA SIMON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dana Simon, who is

being honored today by the Napa County Office of Education as a 2017 Napa County Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Simon grew up in Lafayette, California and completed her Bachelor of Arts in English at the University of Southern California. After completing her English teaching credential at San Francisco State University, Ms. Simon began teaching at Pleasanton Middle School in 1996, and has worked with middle schoolers ever since. She completed her Master of Science in Education focusing on Curriculum and Instruction in 2007, and has been working with students at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in St. Helena, California since 2010.

Ms. Simon makes her classroom a creative and fun environment to inspire students to become engaged learners. She sets high expectations for her students and provides them with the support and encouragement they need to achieve great results. Outside the classroom, Ms. Simon is a member of the school's Technology Committee and the Advancement Via Individual Determination Site Team, ensuring all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Even with her busy teaching schedule, Ms. Simon has found time to engage with important civic causes. She serves as a member of the Napa Family Law Justice Center's Strategic Planning Committee, and she previously sat on the board of Congregation Beth Shalom.

Mr. Speaker, Dana Simon has dedicated two decades of her career to inspiring students in our community to learn and strive for excellence, both through her engaging work in the classroom and as a community leader. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,481,571,141,221.67. We've added \$8,854,694,092,308.59 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOE
HOCKEY, THE AUSTRALIAN AM-
BASSADOR TO THE UNITED
STATES**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Honorable Joe Hockey, the Australian Ambassador to the United States, who has become the honorary patron of Washington DC Youth Rugby.

The Embassy of Australia has been a partner with Washington DC Youth Rugby for the past six years, reaching out to underserved youth in the District of Columbia's inner city, promoting health and physical fitness, and teaching valuable life skills through the international sport of rugby.

Recognizing rugby as the fastest growing sport at the youth level, the Embassy hosted over 300 guests at a sports diplomacy reception on August 25, with proceeds benefiting Washington DC Youth Rugby. That evening, Ambassador Hockey will be highlighting the participation of the Australian Wallabies and USA Eagles in the Olympics for the first time since 1924.

Founded in 2004 with just seven players to field a team, Washington DC Youth Rugby has grown from a summer-only touch program in Northeast DC to sponsoring a tackle program for high school boys and girls at Bell Multicultural High School in Columbia Heights. While using rugby as a vehicle for social inclusion and youth development, Washington DC Youth Rugby is offering flag rugby in over 20 District elementary and middle schools in physical education classes and afterschool program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking the Embassy of Australia for showcasing sports diplomacy in DC and making a difference for the youth of our city in terms of health, self-esteem, teamwork and social skills development. I would also like to thank the coaches, volunteers, donors, partner schools, students, parents and alumni of Washington DC Youth Rugby on their steady growth and accomplishments over the last 12 years.

**HONORING BERKELEY MT. ZION
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located in Berkeley, California upon its 70th Anniversary as a strong religious pillar in the East Bay community.

Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1946 by Reverend Neal Lee Peterson, Deacon Fred Williams, Brother Harrison Williams, and Sisters Mattie Mae Peterson, Lula Williams, Ethel Mae Posey, Nora Sargent, Morrell Posey, Maxine Lyons, and Thelma A.J. Upchurch, who met at the home of Sister Maxine Lyons to fulfill the vision of Reverend Peterson.

During its early years, Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church met in the homes of various members, and held services at the Codornices Village Recreation Center.

In 1949, Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was able to purchase its property on Camelia Street and establish its first permanent position. Services were held there for 12 years. As time passed, the church outgrew the small space, and in January 1961, the church moved into its newly-completed home on Eighth Street.

In 1966, Reverend Doctor M.T. Thompson answered the Lord's call to Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where he led the