

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, in my District—North Carolina's 12th Congressional District—many people in my community struggle to consistently put food on the table.

According to Feeding America, Mecklenburg County has over 165,000 individuals that are considered food insecure, including over 49,000 children.

Overall, the 12th district ranks 11th in the nation and 2nd in the state for the most food insecure congressional districts.

Over the past year, the single biggest food insecurity issue that constituents share with my office is that SNAP benefits are not enough to help seniors and families in need put food on the table through the end of the month.

For this reason, in May of this year, I introduced H.R. 5215, the Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016.

This legislation strengthens the SNAP program for seniors, families, and individuals looking for work.

This legislation has been endorsed by Feeding American, FRAC, Mazon, and the National Council on Aging.

As we observe Hunger Action Month, I would encourage all members to cosponsor this important piece of legislation to help those that are hungry in their community put food on the table each month.

RECOGNIZING THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ARISTOCRAT OF BANDS MARCHING BAND AND THE SOPHISTICATED LADIES MAJORETTES FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the Tennessee State University (TSU) Aristocrat of Bands marching band and the Sophisticated Ladies majorettes for their performance at the White House reception for the grand opening ceremony of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. TSU has an over 100-year-long history as a historically black university and, as the first historically black university band to appear on national television and the first to march in an Inaugural Parade for President John F. Kennedy, it was fitting for the Aristocrat of Bands to perform in Washington, DC during this historic event in our nation's history.

The TSU Aristocrat of Bands began in 1946 as a 100-piece ensemble. Since that time, the band has become world-renowned for its performances across the country. During the late 1940s, the marching band performed twice in

Washington, DC in the Washington Classic, a national competition for top historical black colleges and universities. Under the direction of Frank T. Greer, the marching band became the first historically black university band to appear on television when it performed during the half-time show of a Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Rams football game. The band went on to perform during nine half-time shows between 1956 and 1978, including the New York Giants vs. the Chicago Bears National Championship in 1963 at Wrigley Field.

Between 1979 and 2014, the band was directed by Edward L. Graves—a former Aristocrat under Director Greer who marched during the 1961 inauguration of President Kennedy. Under his tutelage, the band continued to perform for half-time shows, had a spot in the 1981 CBS television movie *The Concrete Cowboy*, recorded for television ads and traveled abroad to perform in Tokyo, Japan. In 1993, the Aristocrat of Bands returned to Washington, DC to march in President Bill Clinton's Inaugural Parade.

The Aristocrat of Bands performed several songs for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opening reception, including *No Problems* by Chance the Rapper, *Signed Sealed Delivered I'm Yours* by Stevie Wonder, *Gin and Juice* by Snoop Dogg and TSU's fight song, *I'm So Proud*. The Aristocrat of Bands and the Sophisticated Ladies represented TSU well and, like TSU students who are proud of their school and marching band, I was proud to watch the band perform on the South Lawn of the White House. I congratulate Director Dr. Reginald McDonald, the men and women of the Aristocrat of Bands, and the Sophisticated Ladies for being selected for this honor and putting on a performance worthy of the school's legacy.

TRIBUTE TO BP AGENT MANUEL
"MANNY" ALVAREZ

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Border Patrol Agent Manuel "Manny" Alvarez.

Agent Alvarez entered duty as a member of the Border Patrol Academy Class of 557 on July 17, 2003. He was a dedicated agent who strove to be his best each time he put on the uniform.

Agent Alvarez dutifully served our country in the Border Patrol for 13 years. During that time he became well known for his commitment to excellence, warm personality, and humble demeanor. He was a man who looked out for his fellow agents and did what was necessary to ensure the optimal performance of his team. He was always willing to take time to teach or train newer agents or share what he had learned.

On August 11, 2016 Agent Alvarez was killed while on duty on the Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation just south of Sells, Arizona. Even after over a decade of service, Manny's love and drive for his work was as strong as the day he entered the Border Patrol.

Agent Alvarez was only 37 at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Jeanine, and

four children, Analysis, Yaslyne, Julian, and Gabriel, and was deeply committed to his family. He also was an avid runner and had a natural talent for drawing.

There's no doubt that such a tragic loss is felt across our entire community and by the Border Patrol Agency to which he gave so much. On behalf of Southern Arizonans, I thank Agent Alvarez for his service to keep our country and communities safe, and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends on the loss of one of our community's finest.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Paul, Minnesota's Central High School on its 150th anniversary. Dedicated faculty and staff of Central have been educating and inspiring generations of Minnesota's future leaders since it was founded in 1866 as the first public high school in our state. As the largest public high school in Minnesota, Central is well-known not only for its rich history and traditions, but also for its commitment to academic excellence, diversity and inclusion.

Saint Paul Central High School was established in response to student-driven demand for a high school in Minnesota, to allow students to continue their education beyond elementary school. Since then, this commitment to students has remained a core part of Central's mission and identity. The first graduating class of Saint Paul Central High School consisted of two students who each received a hand-printed sheepskin diploma in 1870. As the years went on, the school began to grow, moving to a new space in 1872 and again in 1883. In 1912, it moved to a new location, where it stands today, and adopted the Minuteman as its mascot in recognition of its address on Lexington Avenue.

Throughout the years, many students who walked the halls of Central High School would go on to inspire, connect, and change our community and world. It has been the alma mater to the likes of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to pilot a trans-Atlantic flight, Charles M. Schulz, the creator of the beloved Peanuts gang, and Jawed Karim, co-creator of YouTube.

Today's Central High School students are no less impressive. Recent graduates have gone on to earn Rhodes Scholarships and win Olympic medals. Students come from racially and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds, and are supported by a dedicated community of teachers, parents, and friends. Their hard work, innovative thinking, and close community relationships lead to success, with the vast majority of students going on to attend college. By offering both International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses in addition to a plethora of extracurricular activities, it is little wonder that Central has earned rankings on "Best High School" lists and Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, it has become widely recognized as a model for quality public education.

The story of Central High School is not limited to Saint Paul or to Minnesota. It embodies the spirit of our nation, one rich in historical tradition and a commitment to progress. It is the story of inspiring teachers and passionate students, blazing new trails and breaking down barriers. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to honor 150 years of excellence in public education in Minnesota, and to the next 150 years of high quality education at Saint Paul Central High School.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN AND DENNY
ZIMMERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Helen and Denny Zimmerman of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 14, 1966 at Prescott Methodist Church in Prescott, Iowa.

Helen and Denny's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

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 and in wishing them nothing but the very best.

HONORING DAN COHEN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Cohen for his service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Dan is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Dan for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF PREPARE ALL
KIDS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Prepare All Kids Act—important legislation to strengthen the availability of high-quality prekindergarten for families across the country.

In my home city of New York, we have more children enrolled in full-day pre-K than 49 states as part of our effort to guarantee universal pre-K for all families. But across the country too few families have access to good prekindergarten programs that will help their children enter elementary school ready to learn and succeed.

That is why I have introduced the Prepare All Kids Act along with Senator BOB CASEY. This bill would authorize a Prekindergarten Incentive Fund to award grants to states that establish, expand, or enhance full-day pre-K programs. These grants will help states launch or expand high-quality programs that are proven to help children excel in school and help working families succeed.

I am proud of President Obama's commitment to these goals, by expanding Head Start and Early Head Start, and making early childhood education a priority. Congress must build on these efforts by passing legislation to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality prekindergarten.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DANIEL
SIMMONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to Pastor Daniel Simmons, leader of my church home, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Pastor Simmons will be celebrating 25 years of outstanding ministry to Mount Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

A native of Cairo, Georgia, Daniel Simmons was born to the late Mrs. Pinkie Norwood Simmons and the late Reverend Perry Simmons,

Sr. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Albany State College, now University, in 1977. He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from the University of Georgia in 1985 and a Doctorate of Ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama in 1991. Pastor Simmons worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Georgia Department of Rehabilitation Services for seventeen years. He also worked as a Community Development Specialist.

Pastor Simmons began preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in June 1984. He pastored Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Dawson, Georgia and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shingler, Georgia. In 1991, the Lord called him to lead Mount Zion Baptist Church. In his 25 years of leadership, Mount Zion has expanded its Ministry services, increased its membership tremendously to the point where a second worship service was added, and moved into its new state-of-the-art facility on 109 acres of land at 901 South Westover Boulevard in 2010.

But most importantly, Pastor Simmons has led Mount Zion Baptist Church to become a pillar in the community, known for ministering to those in need. Pastor Simmons welcomes anyone and everyone into the church and its members make it their duty to ensure that every soul is taken care of and prayed over. With a congregation of over 3,000 members and 54 ministries, including radio, television, and live-streaming, Mount Zion is truly "reaching the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Mount Zion Baptist Church is celebrating another happy occasion—its 151st anniversary. The church was founded in 1865, the same year that the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery was passed by Congress and ratified by the States. Nearly a century later, many of the rallies during the Albany phase of the Civil Rights Movement were held at Mount Zion. To commemorate those struggles, the church donated the building to the Albany Civil Rights Museum which is currently housed there. Mount Zion has seen many ups and downs but God's will and our members' perseverance have shaped it into the expansive and successful place of worship it is today.

Jeremiah 3:15 says, "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Pastor Daniel Simmons is one such shepherd and a man of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. Over the 20 years I have been a member of the church, I am proud to call Mount Zion my church home and Pastor Daniel Simmons my pastor. As an ordained Deacon and Trustee, I have personally witnessed the unshakeable faith Pastor Simmons has for the Lord and the profound exegesis he conveys in his sermons. My wife, Vivian, and I are grateful that we can always count on Pastor Simmons' wise counsel and sage advice.

Pastor Simmons has achieved many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife and First Lady of the Church, Diane Davis Simmons, and his two children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in thanking Pastor Daniel