

Simmons for 25 outstanding years of service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and a lifetime of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

#### RECOGNITION OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Baptist Church of Republic, Missouri, for the celebration of their 50th anniversary on October 28, 2016.

Calvary Baptist has been an integral part of Republic, Missouri, since 1966. From very humble beginnings in an old schoolhouse to the large modern facilities, Calvary has been involved in enriching and aiding the people of Republic. Over the decades the small group that started Calvary Baptist has now grown to over 1,700 people that comprise the membership of Calvary Baptist Church.

Over the years, hundreds of men, women, and children have placed their faith in Christ through ministries of Calvary Baptist Church. For 50 years, Calvary has been a leader in the church community by reaching out to those in need physically and spiritually and by providing food, finances, and counseling as well as caring for the hurting, grieving, and lonely.

Calvary Baptist has been very involved in sharing the good news of Jesus with many in other countries as well. Every year several groups travel from Republic to other states and foreign countries to perform work-related projects on facilities, orphanages, and rehabilitation centers and to conduct Bible programs for children, teenagers and medical and sports camps.

Mr. Speaker, Calvary Baptist deserves this body's utmost respect for its desire to be an integral part of the Republic community and providing an outlet for so many to help others. I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending to the church our deepest appreciation for their efforts which have contributed so greatly to the people of southwest Missouri, other states, and around the world.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LASKER 'LAS' BELL

##### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' greats in the entertainment industry, Lasker 'Las' Bell, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 88.

Las moved to Camden, Arkansas in search of work, and after an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army was hired to host El Dorados KJWH radio's first soul music radio show.

Moving to television, he pitched his American Bandstand-like show the Las Bell Variety Show that became part of the weekly lineup on KTVE. At the time, Las was the only Black

television host between Memphis and Dallas, and became the first Black interviewer for Channel 10 News in Arkansas.

Las was also involved in the community, serving on the executive board for the Arkansas Council on Human Relations in Ouachita County. He was also appointed to the Human Resources Commission by Governor David Pryor, and reappointed under Governor Frank White.

Las left a lasting impact on our state and will be greatly missed by all of Arkansas.

I extend my respect, affection and prayers to his family and loved ones.

#### IN HONOR OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our Nation's farmers and the Farm Credit System as we mark its 100th anniversary.

Since Congress established the Federal Farm Loan Act in 1916, many farmers and producers have relied on the Farm Credit System for access to capital and financial opportunity.

With this incredible program comes more freedom, opportunity, and prosperity for the agriculture community across our nation. It's a critical piece of our duty to help ensure we can keep farmers on their farms.

Back home in North Carolina, we know how important it is to have a prosperous and productive agriculture industry. We respect and admire the men and women who toil our lands and work incredibly hard to provide food and products we depend on in our daily lives. The Farm Credit System is a vital part of this chain, and it ensures we can continue supporting the prosperity of agriculture producers of all sizes and types.

Across North Carolina, more than 14,800 farmers and producers rely on the Farm Credit System to borrow the capital they need to make their businesses successful and provide food and fiber to our communities. Many of these people are young and just starting out in the agriculture industry or are on small farms.

As we commemorate a century of service, we say thank you to our farmers and producers for their hard work to ensure our agriculture community remains strong, both now and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to watching the Farm Credit System continue to serve our rural and agriculture communities for the next 100 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. GRACE VANDERWAAL

##### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, an inspiring young woman and this year's winner of America's Got Talent.

Grace is a 12-year-old singer-songwriter from Suffern, New York, who started writing music at the age of three when she would make up songs with her wireless microphone. She was introduced to ukulele music by a family friend, and then decided to use her birthday money from her 11th birthday to buy her own ukulele. A true musical prodigy, Grace mastered the ukulele within a year, now owning five ukuleles, as well as a piano and a saxophone.

Grace began performing at local establishments for small audiences, but had never played before a large crowd until this past summer. She shared her amazing talents with the world when she auditioned for Season 11 of America's Got Talent and played her original song, "I Don't Know My Name," a song about finding who you are and where you fit in, while playing the ukulele. Grace impressed the judges so much she was sent straight to the "Live Shows." Grace continued astonishing audiences, performing original pieces as she advanced in each round of the show, and on September 14, was crowned the first prize winner, taking home a \$1 million prize, a Las Vegas show date, and a record contract. Before the Las Vegas show, Grace will return home to Suffern for a Saturday, October 1 parade and celebration with her family, neighbors, and schoolmates.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my extremely talented constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this achievement.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY SMITH

##### HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Betty Smith, who passed away on April 24, 2016.

Betty spent most of her life in Knightsen, California preserving the rich farming culture of East Contra Costa County.

She began contributing to her community at a young age. While attending Liberty High School, she co-wrote the lyrics to the school's anthem, which is still used by the Liberty Lions today. After high school, she studied at University of the Pacific in Stockton, and worked at Fiberboard in Antioch.

Betty continued her service by teaching preschool for many years and participating in the Knightsen Garden Club and 4-H Club.

Betty and her husband, William R. Smith, continued the family farm started by her parents. As a multi-generation family farm in Knightsen, Smith Family Farm is known for many varieties of stone fruits, tomatoes, zucchinis, apples and cruciferous greens. Each year, the Farm holds a Tomato Festival and Pumpkin Harvest Festival to celebrate the fresh crops of East Contra Costa County.

Over the last 25 years, Betty greeted visitors from near and far when they arrived at Smith Family Farm to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables during the U-pick season. She engaged the visiting children with her barn show and taught them about farming, nature and local history using songs, stories, and

music. Betty was the matriarch and heart of Smith Family Farm.

Betty showed devotion to her community through many years of service to the children and families that came to the farm. Her love of the arts, dedication to education, and commitment to others is an inspiration for our community.

It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Betty Smith and her lifetime of service.

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CELEBRATING THE DAYTON  
RURITAN CLUB'S 75 YEARS OF  
SERVICE

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**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, fellowship, good will, and community service. These are the characteristics that Ruritan National clubs across the nation strive to achieve, and the principles that the Dayton Ruritan Club has embodied for the past 75 years.

Chartered on September 30, 1941, the Dayton Ruritan Club is celebrating 75 years of service to the Dayton, Virginia, community. In rural areas across the country, neighbors look out for one another and help each other in good times and bad. Those principles are why the Dayton club came about—to help provide a hand up for friends and neighbors in need. A group of citizens saw a need in the community and worked to raise money and provide volunteer labor to help address those needs. Now, 75 years later, these men and women play an ever important role, having contributed over \$700,000 and 180,000 volunteer hours to their community.

In Dayton, Ruritan National Club Number 126 carries on this rich tradition of serving others and keeping it local. Every penny they raise through numerous fundraising events each year, including a bluegrass concert, pancake breakfast, and sandwich sales, goes towards projects to improve the place where they live. Whether it is providing dictionaries to every fifth grade student in Rockingham County or donating teddy bears for first responders to give to children, the projects have made a lasting impact on the community. Members are also actively working to mold the next generation of leaders by forming a Ruri-Teen Chapter at Turner Ashby High School and Wilbur Pence Middle School.

While much has changed around them over the years, the Dayton Ruritan Club remains committed to the community they call home. Seventy-five years of service is a remarkable achievement, and I applaud the members of the Dayton Ruritan Club for their devotion to service. On October 13, members and friends will come together to celebrate their accomplishments and this milestone at the 75th Anniversary Banquet. I wish them many more years of success as they serve the Town of Dayton.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA AND SCOTT  
SHOOK

**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 Brenda Shook and the late Scott Shook, of Guthrie Center, Iowa, for being selected as Guthrie County's 2016 inductees into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Scott was an active leader for the Guthrie County 4-H program. He was known for his unwavering guidance during the 4-H Extension Office summer programs and was instrumental in the success of Farm Safety Days. For three years, he was a leader with the SESS Sport Group. An avid hunter, Scott believed children should respect wildlife, gun safety, and all the wonders of the great outdoors. Guiding members through livestock projects, his passion for the world of agriculture was the legacy he passed on.

Brenda grew up in 4-H and was an active member from elementary school through her high school years. She led the U.S. Sunshine 4-H group and was co-leader to the Trailblazers. Brenda served on the 4-H Youth Committee, spending countless hours educating the community about agriculture while helping children prepare exhibits for static judging and livestock projects.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Scott and Brenda's efforts exemplify the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Shook family for their outstanding achievements.

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RECOGNIZING STAX MUSIC ACADEMY FOR ITS PERFORMANCE AT THE "FREEDOM SOUNDS: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION" FESTIVAL FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

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**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the young men and women of the Stax Music Academy (SMA) in Memphis, Tennessee for their outstanding performance on the main stage at the "Freedom Sounds: A Community Celebration" festival on the National Mall for the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Students from SMA have performed around the world and it was fitting for the school to be invited to perform in Washington, DC for this historic event in our nation's history.

The Stax Music Academy began in 2000 at Stafford Elementary School as a Soulsville Foundation after school and summer music learning center. SMA is now located next to Stax Museum where the historic Stax Records was founded. Under Presidents and CEOs of

the Foundation, including Memphian and celebrated jazz saxophonist, Kirk Whalum, SMA developed a program that has served more than 4,000 students in the studies of vocals, instruments, music writing, music theory and music production. SMA students have performed for and alongside world-renowned artists, including Isaac Hayes, Mavis Staples, Stevie Wonder, Brandford Marsalis, Ben Cauley of the Bar-Kays and many more. Additionally, SMA students have opened for BB King at his annual BB King Homecoming Festival and Concert, performed at the Levitt Shell in Memphis's Overton Park opening for Booker T. Jones and sang backup for Faith Hill during the 2008 Freedom Awards Dinner and Ceremony hosted by the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Stax Music Academy students have also traveled the country and world sharing their talents for all to hear. Audiences have included Oprah Winfrey and President Bill Clinton as well as the U.S. Ambassador to Australia during performances in Australia and the U.S. Ambassador to Germany during the grand opening of the "Memphis Exhibition Berlin" in Berlin, Germany. SMA students have traveled to Porretta Terme, Italy for the Porretta Soul Festival in Rufus Thomas Park, performed at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC for a July 4th performance and participated in the Smithsonian Institute's Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in 2011. In addition to excelling in the performing arts, since 2008, every SMA senior has been accepted to a college or university.

I was very happy for Stax Music Academy when I learned that its students were scheduled to perform in Washington, DC for the opening festivities of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The students performed several legendary songs by Stax recording artists, including "I've Been Loving You Too Long" by Otis Redding and "Walking the Dog" by Rufus Thomas, and covered songs by Stax artists Sam and Dave and the Staple Singers as well as songs by Prince and Queen. The performers represented Stax Music Academy, the city of Memphis and Memphis's musical legacy well, and I am proud of this latest milestone in the Academy's storied history.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 2016, I returned home to Milwaukee to address the medical emergency of my son and, as a result, missed all votes on September 21 and 22, 2016.

Had I been present to vote, I would have voted the following way on the bills considered by the House for those days that I missed.

September 21, 2016.

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. I would have voted NO.

H. Res. 875. I would have voted NO.

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. I would have voted NO.

H. Res. 876. I would have voted NO.

H.R. 3957. I would have voted YES.

H.R. 5659. I would have voted YES.