

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP T. LARRY  
KIRKLAND FROM THE AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make note of the retirement of The Right Reverend Theodore Larry Kirkland, Sr. from active service after over a half century of ministry, as he steps down at the African Methodist Episcopal Church Fifth District General Conference today.

Bishop Kirkland's ministry of over 50 years has often placed him in the public eye and in the company of dignitaries. For example, he presided over the Homegoing Services of Deaconess Rosa Parks at Brown Chapel AME Church in Montgomery, Alabama, an event broadcast worldwide, and he welcomed then-Senator Barack Obama to the Ninth District's observance of Bloody Sunday, in Selma. He is the author of several books on church growth and he has become known for developing strong relationships across denominational and cultural lines.

Educated at Alcorn State University, University of Mississippi, Claremont School of Theology, and California School of Theology, Bishop Kirkland was the founding pastor of Brookins Community AME Church in Los Angeles, California. Arriving in 1977, he grew the congregation from twelve early members to over eight thousand during his twenty-year tenure.

Elevated in 1996, he became the 114th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His first assignment was to the Seventeenth Episcopal District encompassing the countries of Zaire, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi and Zimbabwe. In 2000 he returned to appointment as Ecumenical Officer for the Denomination, served a term as President of the Council of Bishops, and from 2002 led the Ninth Episcopal District in Alabama, where he sought to support the community beyond the pulpit through a range of programs including computer literacy training and high-quality health services for the needy.

For the past eight years, Bishop Kirkland has presided over the Fifth Episcopal District which includes fourteen western states. During this time, Bishop Kirkland has focused on inspiring ministry and serving the greater community. I would like to salute Bishop Kirkland and his family, especially his wife Mrs. Mary Kirkland, and thank him for his service to the faith and the community.

HONORING MICHAEL IRWIN SEARS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Irwin Sears. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Irwin Sears for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SUMGAIT, AZERBAIJAN

**HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, February 27 marked the 28th anniversary of harrowing violence against the Armenian community in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

I am proud to stand today with the Armenian-American community, including many of my constituents in Massachusetts, in remembrance and mourning of this unspeakable tragedy.

In February of 1988, anti-Armenian rallies through Azerbaijan gave way to waves of ethnically-motivated violence, death and destruction. In the aftermath of these terrible events, Azerbaijan's Armenian community all but disappeared, with thousands displaced, culminating in a war against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were forced to flee their homes. And to this day, those who lost their lives or were displaced by this violence still seek resolution and justice.

Many displaced Armenian families have sought refuge in America, and are now making vital contributions in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. Proudly, our diverse District is home to one of the largest Armenian communities in the nation. Together, our community is a thriving example of strength and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity.

Like the persecution of too many others before it, the lessons of the Sumgait Pogrom must not be forgotten.

We have a moral obligation to promote tolerance and justice, and we have a duty to recognize the atrocities that have kept us from our common goal.

RECOGNIZING KIRK ADAMS FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND, INC.

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kirk Adams, President and CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc., for

his contributions and service to the blind community as he brings his leadership to his new role as President and CEO of the American Federation for the Blind.

In 2008, Kirk became the first blind CEO and President of the Lighthouse for the Blind, an organization which provides independence and self-sufficiency through employment for people who are blind, deafblind, and blind with other disabilities. During his tenure as CEO, Kirk oversaw significant growth of the Lighthouse for the Blind's footprint across the country by expanding to eleven new locations. Each location added to the sustainability of the Lighthouse, while also empowering new groups of individuals to be gainfully employed.

Prior to his executive role at the Lighthouse for the Blind, Kirk served as the General Manager of Administration and as the Director of Public Relations and Resource Development at the Lighthouse. Kirk is credited for crafting the Lighthouse's successful fundraising strategy, which has greatly magnified their range of services offered and the number of individuals who are lifted up through employment opportunities.

Outside of his work at the Lighthouse for the Blind, Kirk is deeply involved in the community. He is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Disability and Employment and the Seattle Public Library's Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. He has served on the boards of the Aerospace Futures Alliance, the Association of Washington Business, and the American Federation for the Blind. He is also the former Treasurer and member of the Board of the National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind.

Kirk graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Economics from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. He earned his Master's Degree in Not-For-Profit Leadership from Seattle University, and is working toward his doctorate in Leadership and Change at Antioch University.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Kirk Adams for his admirable leadership and congratulate him on his role as President and CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. His unrelenting dedication to the blind community serves as an example of the tremendous impact one person can have.

HONORING MATTHEW C. GAGER

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew C. Gager. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader and has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the

Arrow. Matthew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Matthew installed a concrete pad under a shelter house in a city park in Smithville, Missouri, and worked with the Smithville Parks Board and the Smithville Board of Alderman to secure funding for the project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew C. Gager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF PATRICIA  
BRESEE

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Patricia Bresee, a highly respected and recognized expert in juvenile law, who has served on the Board of Directors of the California Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for nine years as a remarkable leader with exceptional integrity and the capacity to inspire everyone around her. Pat Bresee's devotion to children is unmatched and she has dedicated her entire professional life to advocate for those in need. We are very fortunate that she will continue her advocacy for children in the dependency system through service on the Board of Directors for National CASA.

Pat served as a Superior Court Commissioner in San Mateo County for 15 years. She was assigned to sit as a Juvenile Court Judge, handling dependency and delinquency issues and adoptions and guardianships. She was one of the original members of the California Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee and served as the chair of the Juvenile Law Rules and Forms Committee. She teaches at the California Center for Judicial Education and trains attorneys and judicial officers in Juvenile Delinquency Law. She still manages to find time to be a regular presenter at Beyond the Bench and fills in as a judge at the Juvenile Court in San Mateo County.

Her commitment to fight for justice is unwavering and she has freely volunteered her expertise and time to a number of organizations including the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, the Peninsula Community Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Mateo County First Five Commission, and most importantly, California CASA. I had the great honor and pleasure of working with Pat in her role at the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the San Mateo County Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Both commissions made recommendations on ways in which the courts could improve safety, permanency, well-being and fairness for children and families in our state.

Pat's outstanding work has been proclaimed by the California Judges Association in 1994 when she was named Juvenile Court Judge of the Year and again in 1998 by National CASA as Judge of the Year. Judge Bresee graduated from Purdue University and earned her law degree from San Francisco Law School.

She was admitted into the State Bar of California in 1972. When she is not fighting for justice, Pat likes to travel, attend the theater, read and lift weights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the truly remarkable legal career of Patricia Bresee who continues to dedicate her life to advocate for children and thereby improves society as a whole. She is an outstanding example of a person with a moral compass who brings out the best in others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in order to attend a funeral of a dear friend. I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote numbers 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted NAY on roll call votes 106, 107, and 109.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted AYE on roll call votes 108 and 110.

HONORING GEORGE ANTHONY  
DONNELLI

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Anthony Donnelly. George is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

George has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years George has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, George has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending George Anthony Donnelly for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent during the roll call on final passage of H.R. 4557 because I was meeting with constituents from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YES."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 103 and 104, I was unable to vote, as I was attending a memorial program honoring Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Antonin Scalia, who was a constituent and neighbor of mine. Roll no. 103 was H.R. 136, which designated a post office at Camp Pendleton, CA as the "Camp Pendleton Medal of Honor Post Office"; and Roll no. 104 was H.R. 3735, which designated a post office in Winston Salem, NC as the "Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office".

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on both.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRED SCHEA

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of dedicated community service.

Fred Scea of New Britain Township has been a fixture in local banking for decades, but is equally as recognizable as a champion of Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County and an advocate for its mission of providing affordable housing for those in need.

It is with great pride that I recognize him as the recipient of Habitat for Humanity's Lifetime Achievement Award. This well-deserved recognition highlights Fred's staunch support for the organization's laudable mission as well as his commitment to countless other community and civic organizations that benefit from his involvement.

Congratulations to Fred on this tremendous accomplishment and I thank him for his years of selfless effort.

HONORING ETHAN ALLEN  
VENTRESS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 7, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ethan Allen Ventress. Ethan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ethan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ethan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably,