

HONORING SAMUEL HUGH  
MATTHEWS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor long-time newspaper editor and community member, Samuel Hugh Matthews, who announced his retirement after more than 60 years of service.

After serving in the United States Army, Mr. Matthews devoted himself to a career in the newspaper business. He started at the Tracy Press in 1957 and quickly became co-publisher in 1964, transitioning to editor in 1967. When it was sold to Golden State Publishing Co. in 2012, Sam remained on staff as a columnist and reporter. His extensive commitment to reporting in his community and his devout integrity made him fundamental to the success of the Tracy Press.

Throughout Sam's years of accomplishments and experiences, he has had the loving support of his wife, children, and grandchildren. In addition, Mr. Matthews has been recognized numerous times, both locally and statewide, for his service and philanthropy.

During his career, Sam displayed an avid commitment to his community through various positions in local activities and newspaper organizations. His unwavering dedication to the community extends beyond his impressive news career and his work as a civic servant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Samuel Hugh Matthews for his many years of service, devotion, and outstanding contributions to his community. We wish him continued success in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF NEW ORLEANS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OPERATOR GREGORY J.  
HOWARD, SR.

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of New Orleans Fire Department Operator Gregory "G" Joseph Howard, Sr., a New Orleans, Louisiana native, who passed away on August 26, 2017 at the age of 36.

Mr. Howard was born on October 20, 1980 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was raised in the 7th Ward and graduated from Sarah T. Reed High School in 1999. He was a nine year veteran of the New Orleans Fire Department. He spent most of his career with the fire department at the Engine 6 station on Old Gentilly Road, in the Desire neighborhood.

Mr. Howard went to Memphis, Tennessee, with his colleagues, to compete in the Memphis Finest Hoops Fest basketball tournament for first responders and law enforcement. While out with some of his colleagues after the first set of games, Mr. Howard was struck by a stray bullet and died instantly.

Mr. Howard loved the city and the people of New Orleans. His legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. We can-

not match the sacrifices made by Mr. Howard, but surely we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Operator Gregory "G" Joseph Howard, Sr. survivors include his wife Dominique Howard, two sons: Gregory J. Howard, Jr. and Dillion J. Howard; his parents: June Howard and Gregory Newman, Sr., his sister Brittney Howard, a host of siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Operator Gregory "G" Joseph Howard, Sr. a beloved husband, father, and son.

#### GRADUATE FEEDER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**HON. AL LAWSON, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many students have the aspiration to further their education with graduate school, but do not have the means to enroll. Florida A&M University provides qualified students with an opportunity to further their education through the Graduate Feeder Scholars Program (GFSP).

The success of the Graduate Feeder Scholars Program has enabled Florida A&M University to lead the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the number of students who acquire post-graduate degrees.

The program is celebrating 30 years of excellence at this year's 2017 Graduate Feeder Scholars Conference, which will take place Wednesday, September 6 through Friday, September 8, on FAMU's campus. I would like to commend everyone who has worked tirelessly and diligently in making sure our children have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and advance their education.

It is time to expand the Feeder Scholars program to more HBCU's and I know Florida A&M is ready to assist in the process.

I am proud to support this wonderful program and acknowledge Florida A&M's hard work over the years. Again, congratulations on 30 successful years and to many more to come.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARKTOWN

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I recognize the 100th anniversary of the historic neighborhood of Marktown in East Chicago, Indiana. In honor of this special occasion, the Marktown Centennial Celebration was held at the Marktown Community Center Park on August 19, 2017. Events included a remarkable exhibit, "Marktown—The First 100 Years," as well as a walking tour of this noteworthy community.

In 1917, Marktown was constructed by Clayton Mark and designed in the English Tudor Revival style by renowned architect Howard

Van Doren Shaw. The neighborhood was built as a planned housing community for the people who worked at Mark Manufacturing, one of the first mills along Indiana's shoreline. Marktown is largely known for its distinctive design in which the cars are parked on the sidewalks and the streets are purposed for pedestrian walkways. While only part of the original design was built, the community met the needs of the American workforce and their families in the Indiana Harbor. The concept of Marktown is truly innovative and a shining example of American ingenuity in the early part of the 20th century. In 1975, the community was added to the National Register of Historic Places, capturing Marktown's historical and cultural significance from the industrial growth period in the Calumet Region. The importance of the Marktown neighborhood contributes to the history and culture of Northwest Indiana and our nation.

Today, the residents of Marktown, as well as the members of the Marktown Preservation Society and its president, Paul Myers, focus their efforts upon the preservation of the historic homes in this community. The people who live in Marktown today are very proud and protective of their neighborhood. Many of the residents descend from generations of family members who grew up in Marktown, and they continue to fight for the restoration and preservation of this unique community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating the historic neighborhood of Marktown on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Marktown historic community is a significant piece of the region's past and will always be remembered and admired. The commitment to preservation and the unwavering dedication of the Marktown residents and members of the Marktown Preservation Society, and Paul Myers are truly admirable, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to instruct the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to deem areas within the District of Columbia as empowerment zones. This bill would effectively reauthorize the tax incentives for business investment in the District, which expired in 2011, yet are timelier than ever today. These were the only tax incentives for a big city that were not extended, even though they were initially created by Republicans, with a few Democrats. The wisdom of these bipartisan, modest, targeted tax incentives has been amply and visibly demonstrated in the economic resurgence in many parts of the nation's capital. However, the D.C. tax incentives were cut off before the poorest neighborhoods were ready to make use of them.

Congress has recognized that the benefits of incentives for investment in economically

distressed communities outweigh their costs as it has continually extended the national empowerment zone program. The positive effects of the D.C. tax incentives are apparent throughout the city. Among the most visible are the vibrant area around the Verizon Center, which is now surrounded by offices, restaurants and nightlife, and the Penn Quarter neighborhood, which had limited residential, commercial, and retail spaces and is now a popular mixed-use neighborhood. Before the business tax incentives, the city found it difficult to retain, much less attract, businesses. However, one of the business tax incentives enabled the city government to issue more than \$155 million in tax-exempt bonds on behalf of for-profit and non-profit entities for capital projects.

The federal government's decision to build facilities in the District's poorest ward, Ward 8, lays the groundwork for revitalization there. The new headquarters for the U.S. Coast Guard is now open in Southeast D.C. in the city's lowest income ward, the first in a complex of buildings Congress has authorized for the federally-owned West Campus of the St. Elizabeths Hospital. The tax incentives, particularly in areas where the federal government is expanding, as it did in NoMa, have demonstrated that they can revitalize such neighborhoods. Withdrawing the D.C. incentives, particularly after they had proven to be effective in other areas of the city, left the nation's capital with essentially half of a revival, and was tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, are ready for redevelopment.

Except for having no representation in the Senate, there is no good reason why the D.C. tax incentives were not extended like those of similar cities. Like the fiscal health of many other cities, the District's overall fiscal health has improved since the tax incentives were established in 1997, but not in the poorest wards and in neighborhood pockets elsewhere. The incentives are particularly indispensable for ensuring that lower-income areas of the city are part of the city's economic progress. It would be tragic to continue to single out the nation's capital as the only empowerment zone not to be renewed just as the eastern, low-income sections of the city are about to develop. As essential as the federal incentives have been, their costs have been de minimis compared to the measurable benefits they have demonstrated they can generate.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### SIXTH MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH SESQUICENTENNIAL

**HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church was founded in 1867 by the Reverend John Jasper in an abandoned confederate horse stable on Brown's Island, along the shores of the James River. Credited as the first church in Richmond organized by an African-American preacher, it relocated to its current space in downtown Richmond in 1869.

Jasper's charismatic ministry drew increasingly large crowds, and his sermon "De Sun

Do Move" became well-known both in the United States and internationally. His speaking talents and powerful faith brought flocks of black and white Richmonders alike to the church, listening and celebrating together.

Six more pastors have led Sixth Mount Zion during its long history, including Dr. Augustus Walter who served for over forty-three years until his death in 1967. Greatly admired for his leadership and faithful dedication, Dr. Walter was instrumental in defending the church from destruction when Interstate 95 was built in downtown Richmond in 1957.

Sixth Mount Zion is one of the nation's pioneers in the field of religious historic preservation, and opened its John Jasper Memorial Room and Museum in January 1926. It contains bibles, books, paintings, clothing, ceremonial artifacts, and furniture from the church's rich history. Among these items are a golden bust of Jasper made in 1904, a rare stone from Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and a quilt commemorating the church's 130th anniversary.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has recognized the church's rich history with two highway markers—one at the church site and another in Fluvanna County near John Jasper's birthplace. Residing within the historic Jackson Ward District, the church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. In 2004, the Richmond City Council honored the church with a special designation as a local "historic district" encompassing the 3 acres of land on which it stands, the only black church in Richmond to receive this distinction.

For 150 years, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church has been a central institution in Richmond and Virginia, supporting its members and the wider community through growth and hardship. It has addressed the social concerns of the city's residents, and was one of the first black churches to have an organized charity with a staff social worker to administer to the indigent of the city. It continues to assist individuals and families with the resources necessary to overcome obstacles that prevent them from achieving personal, social, and economic goals.

**JOSEPH R. D'ARCO**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Joseph R. D'Arco, whose family and friends celebrated his 80th birthday on August 31, 2017.

Joseph R. D'Arco was born on August 31, 1937, at Passaic General Hospital. As a child, he was raised in Clifton's Historic Botany Village and attended the Clifton Public Schools. In 1957, Joseph volunteered to join the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged in 1959.

In 1961, Joseph joined the Clifton Fire Department. For the first half of Joseph's fire career, he graciously worked two jobs in order to provide for his four sons—Joseph, Michael, Steven, and David—to have the opportunity to attend private schools. During his 34-year journey with the Department, Joseph ascended through the ranks, and inspired many people,

earning him the Clifton Jaycees' Fireman of the Year Award. During his tenure as Deputy Chief, Joseph served as the Department's Administrative Officer, his first assignment away from the streets of Clifton. Joseph represented Clifton with Passaic County's Mutual Aid and was additionally an instructor at the Passaic County Fire Academy. Joseph always kept the best interest of his men and the department in mind, which gained him the respect of his men and city officials.

During his working term with the Clifton Fire Department, Joseph received his Bachelors of Fire Science from Jersey City State College. Furthermore, he taught as an Adjunct Professor of Fire Science at Passaic County Community College to give back to the educational forum.

One of the greatest examples of Joseph's passion for ensuring the safety of our public servicemen is advocating for legislation that would allow E.M.T.s the use of portable defibrillation units. This piece of legislation passed, allowing the use of these units to become widespread throughout the state and now the country. The passing of this legislation has significantly helped save countless lives, which is ultimately Joseph's foremost concern.

Joseph and his wife, Patricia, currently reside in St. Lucie, Florida. Even during his retirement, Joseph continues his service for his community, remaining an active life member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, as well as the Clifton Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association. Joseph is also notably a member of both the Board of Directors for Deborah Heart and Lung Center since 1995, and the Deborah Hospital Foundation Board of Directors since 2002. He has continued to be a conscientious advocate for healthcare, spreading the word of Deborah's cardiac testing for First Responders, an initiative of "A Gift from Captain Buscio" program.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving the people. Joseph's commitment to public service is truly commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues to celebrate the 80th birthday of Joseph R. D'Arco, in which we can appreciate his accomplishments.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMLINE CHURCH DINING HALL

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 5, 2017*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 120th Anniversary of the Hamline United Methodist Church Dining Hall at the Minnesota State Fair.

As one of the nation's oldest state fairs, and the largest state fair by attendance, Minnesota's "Great Get-Together" attracts nearly 2 million people each year over its annual 12-day run. Over the years, countless fairgoers have satisfied their hunger for good food and fellowship at the Hamline United Methodist Church Dining Hall. The 2017 fair, which just