

HONORING ELK RIVER'S FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate First National Bank in Elk River, for receiving a PACE Business Award from the Elk River Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the chamber awards businesses in the area who have excelled in the private sector, and this year First National Bank received the prestigious Business of the Year Award. This award could not have gone to a more deserving business.

As time passes, businesses come and go, but not the First National Bank. This family run business has been serving Minnesotans for an astonishing one hundred and fifteen years.

The key to their success has not only been their wonderful customer service, but their ability to adapt. They constantly offer the most up to date services so that their customers remain happy and loyal.

I want to congratulate First National Bank for this incredible honor, and I wish them nothing but success in 2017.

HONORING MAYOR OSBY DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Osby Davis, the Mayor of Vallejo, California, upon his retirement from an impressive career as a public servant.

Mr. Davis has been a resident of our Vallejo community for 58 years. He graduated from Vallejo High School in 1963, completed his A.A. at Vallejo Junior College and his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at Fresno State College. He then earned his J.D. from the University of California at Berkley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1973.

Mr. Davis served on the Solano County Board of Supervisors from 1979 to 1993, the first person of color to do so. As Supervisor, he established the "I CAN BE" program for elementary school students in 1988. With this program, Mr. Davis mentored 5th and 6th grade students to encourage them to work to their full potential and cultivate positive self-esteem. He has also served as a mentor and legal counsel for the Continental of Omega Boys and Girls Club for over 25 years. His service and leadership set an excellent example for young people in our community. As Supervisor, Mr. Davis initiated monthly breakfast meetings with the African-American business community and formed the Black Chamber of Commerce in Vallejo.

When Mr. Davis was first elected Mayor of Vallejo in 2007, and re-elected in 2011 by three votes, he became the city's first African-American mayor. Mr. Davis was instrumental in leading the city through bankruptcy and developing a plan for economic recovery. He established the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament, and served on numerous regional boards and commissions that addressed issues relevant to Vallejo and its citizens. He will also be remem-

bered as the "best dressed" man in any meeting room.

Mr. Davis and his wife Terrye practice law as Davis & Davis, and they are both engaged business leaders in our community. Mr. Davis has previously served as a director for the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce and chaired the Chamber's Educational Roundtable. He and his wife are also active at Lighthouse Covenant Church, where they perform pre-marital counseling and teach Sunday school.

Mr. Speaker, by attempting the impossible, Mayor Davis has made our Vallejo community stronger as both a public servant and business leader. He is a true friend of Vallejo and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS AND ALISON ST. CLAIR

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication put forth by Nicholas and Alison St. Clair, the owners of Antebellum, a restaurant located in Flowery Branch, Georgia. As a testament to their diligence and culinary talent, Antebellum was recently named one of the top 100 restaurants in America by Opentable.com—an honor that has been bestowed upon the restaurant for two out of the last three years.

Combining the savory tastes of traditional Southern cooking with classic American food, Antebellum has been a go-to for the residents of Hall County for the five years its doors have been open. Having had the opportunity to eat there myself, I can attest to their supreme service and re-imagined Southern fare—especially their take on country fried steak. Starting a business can be a daunting decision, but the St. Clairs' entrepreneurial spirit and passion for culinary excellence has given rise to a dining experience that all residents of the Ninth District of Georgia can enjoy.

Nicholas St. Clair has worked as a chef for almost 20 years and credits his education and creativity with the success of Antebellum. Northeast Georgia is lucky to have business owners like the St. Clairs, who invest in their products in order to serve their clients.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the St. Clairs' commitment to their craft and to congratulate them on the outstanding success of Antebellum. I am looking forward to my next visit to their restaurant to see what's new on the menu, and wish the St. Clair family continued success in Flowery Branch and beyond.

RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE DON MOFFITT FOR HIS SERVICE TO ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Representative Don Moffitt,

who retired from the Illinois House of Representatives after finishing out his final term in office. Mr. Moffitt has led a life dedicated to public service, honorably serving in various levels of government for more than four decades.

Mr. Moffitt began his career in public service as an Alderman in the City of Oneida, Illinois, the city he soon became the Mayor of. Mr. Moffitt continued to serve his community through his time as the Knox County Board Chairman, and Knox County Treasurer from 1984 to 1993. Mr. Moffitt became a member of the Illinois State Legislature representing the 74th District in Illinois in 1993, where he has served more than 20 years as a State Representative.

Mr. Moffitt has dedicated his time in public office to strengthening our region by always placing the safety and well-being of our communities first, and serving as a strong advocate for rural communities in the State Legislature. I was pleased to learn he will continue being an advocate for our rural economy in a new position as the Assistant Director at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Moffitt for his commitment to public service, and for all that he has done to strengthen our region. I congratulate him again on his retirement from the State Legislature and wish him well at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

HONORING SERRANO BROTHERS CATERING

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Serrano Brothers Catering in Elk River for receiving a PACE Business Award from the Elk River Chamber of Commerce.

Every year the Elk River Chamber awards businesses in the area for excellence in commerce, and this year, Serrano Brothers Catering received the New Business of the Year Award.

Serrano Brothers Catering has added a unique touch to the Elk River community. Their eclectic menu includes homemade Italian food, authentic Polish food, as well as American BBQ. This diversity in addition to their excellent service is undoubtedly why they have been so successful.

When opening a new business, the business owners do so at a personal risk, so that they may offer a new product and service to the community.

Serrano Brothers Catering took this risk and it has paid off, making them incredibly deserving of this award. I wish them nothing but luck in 2017.

HONORING AMBASSADOR KAIRAT UMAROV FOR HIS SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ambassador

Kairat Umarov for his service and friendship to our country, while serving as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States.

For the past 25 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have developed an enduring relationship built on nuclear nonproliferation and security. This association has evolved to include a strong relationship on trade, economic integration, and the support of democracy. Since its independence, Kazakhstan has been a strategic partner to the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The diplomatic cooperation between our two countries has contributed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and strengthened security in the Central Asia region—accomplishments that were greatly served by Ambassador Umarov's dedicated work.

Mr. Umarov has served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States since 2013, and his steady leadership over the past four years has enhanced ties between our two countries. Ambassador Umarov's focus on commercial and technological cooperation has solidified Kazakhstan's path as a future trade hub for the entire New Silk Road region. His significant contributions to the upcoming EXPO 2017 event will prove to be essential to its success. Ambassador Umarov's time in Washington has shown him to be a gracious and gifted diplomat, and although I am sad to see him leave, I am confident that he will remain a true champion for the people of Kazakhstan as he assumes his new duties on behalf of his country at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Ambassador Umarov for his hard work and friendship as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, and I wish him the best of luck on all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
RICHARD GAMMAGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding spiritual and community leader, the Reverend Richard Gammage, Pastor of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. Sadly, Reverend Gammage passed away on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the age of 85. A memorial service was held in his honor on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at his church in Macon, Georgia.

Richard Gammage was born in Sylvester, Georgia in 1931. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at the young age of twelve. He was a member of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church and served in the various roles of deacon, Sunday school teacher, choir president and Chairman of the Sick Committee.

Always seeking to improve his craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he furthered his education at Carver Bible College, the Morehouse School of Religion, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. He earned a Master's degree from Brown College of Transoral Science.

For the past 37 years, Reverend Gammage pastored the New Pleasant Grove Missionary

Baptist Church in Macon. He loved each member of his congregation, and they loved him back. He believed that in addition to existing in a building, the church should exist in a community. The church took pride in serving breakfast on Sunday mornings to many homeless people and people in need who were able to eat a good meal immediately after the early service.

In Reverend Gammage's many years of service, he ordained more than one hundred deacons, including seven women to preach. He served as President of the Evangelical Ministers Alliance for several years and most recently held the title of President Emeritus. Reverend Gammage also stood firm as a strong believer in Christian education, providing Bibles and other instructional materials to every individual who attended his Bible studies.

Reverend Gammage made a difference both in and out of the pulpit. He was a renowned and passionate community leader in Macon, Georgia. For more than three decades, he led the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom March in Macon. He also hosted forums at New Pleasant Grove during nearly every political election for candidates to discuss issues and their campaigns.

Acts 20:35 says, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Truly, Reverend Gammage abided by this scripture, understanding his calling and purpose to serve God's people and his community.

Reverend Gammage achieved much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Myra Gammage, and their three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in extending our sincere condolences to Reverend Richard Gammage's family, friends, and followers during this difficult time. I pray that we may all be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ELLYN MCKENZIE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellyn McKenzie, Vice President of Government Affairs for Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers. She is retiring on January 31, 2017. She has served the organization beginning in 1997 and retires exactly upon her 20th anniversary date.

Ellyn started with the agency as a grant writer and project director for the agency's first two grants to support Environmental Justice Activities. Sixteenth Street's Department of Environmental Health was formed based upon those two grant projects: 1) to support a community-based approach to lead poisoning prevention and 2) to collect information and catalog information about and features of the neighborhood that could pose a hazard to the health of children. In fact, the Department of Environmental Health continues its work to

prevent lead poisoning, and has grown their environmental justice activities into successful sustainable re-development projects for Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley and Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

Ellyn transitioned to the position of Communications and Development Director as the agency expanded and upon her retirement held the title of Vice President of Government Affairs. She produced five successful fundraising events for Sixteenth Street's signature Celebrity Roast—the agency's once a year fundraiser. Honorees for events on her watch were for Milwaukee Buck's Coach George Karl, Milwaukee Brewer's President and Chairman Wendy Selig-Prieb, former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, Milwaukee developer Gary Grunau and Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

Ellyn produced 15 Annual Reports, a publication for donors, community partners and staff compiling successes, new challenges and strategic growth of the agency. She was also responsible for government relations activities for the agency over the years.

Prior to joining Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Ellyn held several positions in Wisconsin State government, serving as legislative assistant to the State Senate Organization Committee, as an aide to Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl and as coordinator for a statewide Energy Conservation Plan in the Department of Administration.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Ellyn since her days in Wisconsin State Government. I join with friends and colleagues to congratulate her on her retirement. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ellyn McKenzie and I am proud to call her a friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ellyn McKenzie.

HONORING ELK RIVER'S
SPORTECH

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2017

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate SporTech in Elk River, for receiving a PACE Business Award from the Elk River Chamber of Commerce.

Every year the Elk River Chamber awards successful businesses in the area, and this year SporTech received the Employer of the Year Award.

SporTech maintains high spirits among their two hundred and fifty employees by providing flexible hours so they can spend time with their loved ones, giving them quality equipment to work with, and by raising overall morale with fun team building activities.

The happiness of their employees is surely the reason that SporTech produces quality products every year, making over two hundred million dollars last year alone.

The employees are the backbone of each and every company. They are the ones who work tirelessly to ensure that the business that