

youth improve their economic conditions and lead healthy, fulfilling, and purposeful lives.

HONORING MORNING STAR
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Morning Star Baptist Church of Robinsonville, Mississippi.

Morning Star Baptist Church has been a cornerstone for many Black Families in the Robinsonville, MS area since the late 1800's. Morning Star Baptist Church is in northwest Mississippi in Tunica County, Mississippi at 4816 Kirby Road, Robinsonville, MS 38664. Over the 120-year history of Morning Star Baptist Church, the leadership and members have endeavored to serve the community.

Morning Star Baptist Church began in August the 14th day of 1898 as a spiritual space for the Dunn Family and Kirby Plantation. It began on Kirby Road on this very same land site in a log cabin with a small group of Christians. Morning Star Church started with a prayer meeting and Sunday School. Mr. Walter Dunn, Sr. and Mrs. Lizzie Dunn family was granted the use of the land for Morning Star Church in the late 1800s by Mr. John Anderson Kirby.

The Pastors of Morning Star Baptist Church have worked to show strong leadership in the community. Pastor Sam Brown was the 1st Pastor and he laid the first Corner Stone in 1898. Morning Star Church has a list of Pastors "Godly Shepherds" who have helped to advance the important work in northwest Mississippi: 1.—Pastor Sam Brown, 2.—Pastor Tom Matton, 3.—Pastor Stackhouse, 4.—Pastor E.P. Johnson, 5.—Pastor Wallace, 6.—Pastor Landon, 7.—Pastor Brown, 8.—Pastor Warn Thomas, 9.—Pastor Gabe White, 10.—Pastor Brown, 11.—Pastor Underwood, 12.—Pastor Jinkins (Great Worker), 13.—Pastor Henry, 14.—Pastor C.H. Payne [He laid the second corner stone in 1926], 15.—Pastor R.B. Starks, 16.—Pastor Holden, 17.—Pastor J.L. Linzy, 18.—Pastor R.H. Hendrick, 19.—Pastor A.W. Parker, 20.—Pastor I.S. Lewis, 21.—Pastor Lundy Jones, Jr., and 22.—Pastor Charles Bowles (current Pastor).

Mr. Willie Dunn, the son of Mr. Walter Dunn, Sr., carried on the productive church work of his father at Morning Star Baptist Church for many years. As a community family church, Morning Star Baptist Church evolved from the original log cabin, to a wooden structure, to a concrete block building, to the current new brick church.

The "Old White Brick" Morning Star Baptist Church building was a "good building" that had simply worn down over time since it was rebuilt in 1963. During the early 1990's to 2003, the Morning Star Church Members under the leadership of Pastor Lundy Jones, Jr. and Deacon Louis Harris, Sr. had to do several major structural repairs to the building. The plumbing, septic tank, and the floors had to be repaired and replaced. The shifting of the building foundation caused the walls to crack and a cable system had to be attached to the walls to keep them from falling.

During the winter months, it was bone chilling cold and during the summer months, it was sweltering hot because the building only had ceiling and floor fans. The Deacons would also arrive early on Sunday mornings to chase out the snakes, wasps, and other pests. After years of doing construction work to maintain the Old Church Building, and with the need to expand the Old White Brick Church building, a critical decision had to be made. Around the new Millennial of 2000, Deacon James E. Dunn provided leadership and shared his vision with the Church Leaders that it would be more cost effective to build a new church than to continue to repair the old building along with the expansion project. Morning Star Church Members under the leadership of the Deacons started to talk about the need for a new Sanctuary. After twelve months or more of talking, planning, thinking, and praying, the process to build a new Morning Star Church-Sanctuary was agreed upon.

In January of 2002, under the inspirational leadership of Deacon James E. Dunn, the beginning concept of the "New Building" for Morning Star M.B. Church was accepted by the Morning Star Leadership. In January of 2003, Deacon James E. Dunn transformed his ideas and his professional building designs for the (New) Morning Star Church into a working building plan that was developed with the assistance of Architects Wenzel and Associates on May 14, 2003.

On April 19, 2003, a ground-breaking ceremony was conducted for the expansion of Morning Star Baptist Church Building. At that time, the Morning Star Church Family was presented with the Deed of Trust for the land by Mr. James and Mrs. Louise (Kirby) Ellis.

October of 2004, was the start of the physical construction of the ("New") Morning Star Church Building. Deacon James E. Dunn volunteered his time and service along with Taylor Construction to lay the concrete.

On July 3, 2005, the Morning Star Baptist Church Congregation walked over from the Old Morning Star Church to the (New) Morning Star Sanctuary for the 1st Sunday Worship. Since that time, Morning Star Baptist Church Family has continued to grow physically and spiritually.

Morning Star Baptist Church continues today along with other churches in Tunica County to serve the needs of the African American Communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Morning Star Baptist Church for its dedication to serving our community and great country.

ENCINAL VETERANS POST OFFICE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.R. 1211, which will re-name the post office facility located at 400 N. Main Street, Encinal, Texas, as the "Encinal Veterans Post Office". This bill, shows our appreciation to our veterans and ensures their service and sacrifices to our country is not forgotten.

Across my district, fine men and women of all walks of life have honorably served our

country. It is critical that we honor their service and dedication to our nation. Dedicating this post office to our veterans will serve as an enduring reminder of the sacrifices that our friends, neighbors, and family made while serving their country. These individuals put country ahead of self, and I am proud to recognize them with the dedication of this post-office facility.

Today, I want to acknowledge the service of Judge Frank Weikel of Encinal. Judge Weikel enlisted in the United States Navy after high school and served for eight years. After his discharge from the Navy he worked at several companies before serving on the Encinal City Council and as Mayor Pro tempore. Eventually, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 2 in La Salle County.

The courage and dedication of Judge Weikel represents what it really means to be an American. He is amongst the many veterans in the State of Texas, and across the nation, who have served their country faithfully.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the veterans' organizations throughout my district for their tireless work in providing the care our veterans need. And in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them".

RECOGNIZING AUDRA McGEORGE

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Foreign Affairs Committee's Communications Director, Audra McGeorge, for her nearly 13 years of service to my team. Her honesty, intelligence, dedication and humor have been tremendous assets to my office.

While serving in my personal office, Audra's tireless hard work was consistently recognized and applauded by peers, constituents and congressional liaison offices. Starting as a staff associate and working her way into a senior staff position as my communications director, Audra excelled in the Hill's challenging and demanding work environment. She helped me navigate the new opportunities provided by digital media, including telephone town halls and website redesigns. It was also her creativity and hard work that started my first annual women's conference and made following conferences a success. While excelling at her demanding work duties, Audra concurrently earned a master's degree in national security.

When I became Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee six years ago, I knew Audra would provide critical insight, so I had her bring her talents to the Committee. From demanding CODELs to high profile hearings to prominent foreign dignitary meetings to landmark legislation, Audra has handled her duties with expertise and a charming spirit. She has been a critical part of the Committee's many accomplishments—reforming food aid, combating the significant obstacles facing women and girls worldwide, and tackling wildlife trafficking.

I cannot thank Audra enough—especially for all of the laughs we've shared over the years.

It is without question that she will succeed in her future endeavors. Best wishes, Audra.

HONORING JOSH OWENS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Josh Owens, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh served in my Washington, D.C. office as an economic policy adviser during my first term in Congress. In that role, he served as the staff lead for our work on the House Budget Committee, he helped develop legislation, and advised me on economic policy issues. Since leaving our office, Josh has taught economics at Butler and Indiana University and now serves as the CEO of SupplyKick, a thriving Indianapolis-based online marketplace retailer.

On a personal note, I cherish my friendship with Josh and his parents. Josh and I are both proud alums of Wabash College too. I wish him and Andy continued success in all that remains ahead for their family.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
MICHAEL CHESNA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Weymouth Police Sergeant, Michael Chesna. Sergeant Chesna's life was defined by many things but, above all else, the word we keep hearing alongside his name is "service."

He dreamed of being a police officer, while growing up in the town he would one day come to serve. Those dreams would be deferred, as he was called to serve his country overseas first.

His two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan during 2007 and 2010 with the 10th Mountain Division were the deadliest years of each campaign. Michael served with distinction in the United States Army and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After leaving the military, Michael realized his dream career as a police officer, something he had wanted to do since he was 5

years old. It was in that time, he bought a house with his loving wife, Cynthia, and two children, Olivia and Jack, in Hanover. In that role, he had the opportunity to work in and around a community he held so dear.

Tragically, Sergeant Chesna was killed one day before his sixth anniversary on the force, but his commitment to duty, his family, and his community will be remembered for years to come. Throughout his 42 years, Sergeant Michael Chesna dedicated his life to serving something greater than himself, and ultimately gave his life protecting others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Sergeant Michael Chesna. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community and his country.

AMERICA MUST DENY PUTIN HIS
IMPERIAL AMBITIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has again reminded the world that he has no respect for international law, sovereignty of neighboring states, or peace in our world. Since 2014, Russia has illegally occupied Crimea and fueled a war in Eastern Ukraine. That followed Moscow's 2008 invasion of Georgia where its forces still occupy Georgian territory. Now, Russian forces have conducted another act of unprovoked aggression by blocking the Kerch Strait and attacking Ukrainian naval vessels in the Black Sea.

This act of war is just another chapter in Putin's violent conquest of his neighbors' territory. His goal is to restore the power of Russia's imperial past. To do so requires seizing the lands and waters that were once controlled by Moscow and denying the right of free peoples to determine their own fate. Putin, an authoritarian thug, fears the democratic aspirations of nations that have shed the tyranny of the old Russian and Soviet orders. The success of the Color Revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia and their growing integration with the West strikes fear into the heart of a dictator like Putin, who relies on brutality and fear to cling to power. To survive, he has falsely framed the rising tide of democracy in the post-Soviet space as a threat to Russia, when in fact it is only a threat to Putin and his oligarch friends.

The illegal annexation of Crimea and this week's seizure of the Sea of Azov are Putin's attempt to intimidate and undermine Ukraine's

nascent democracy. By controlling these key strategic points, Putin believes he can demonstrate that only the Kremlin can ensure security and prosperity in the region and that Europe and America care little for the plight of Ukrainians. Instead it shows that Putin is a belligerent thug who only has violence and despair to offer.

We Americans must stand with Ukraine. The Ukrainian people want to share in the freedom and wealth we long ago secured for ourselves by breaking the chains of foreign tyranny. Americans did not fight alone when we gained our independence, and Ukraine should not be left to fight alone either. We must develop a grand strategy to halt Putin's aggression and liberate the areas he illegally seized. This does not mean a direct conflict between the United States and Russia, but it does require us to act before Putin becomes so confident that he does attempt a direct assault on us or our NATO allies. America has the tools and leverage to thwart Putin's wicked ambitions—it's time to use them.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KENZIE KITTLE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Kenzie Kittle, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Kenzie served in my Washington, D.C. office during my first and second term in Congress, as a staff assistant and later as our press secretary. In that role, she helped lead our communications effort on social media and assisted countless constituents from our District. Since leaving our office, Kenzie has managed social media accounts for major U.S. companies and now works as a Social Media Strategist at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. In addition, she runs a thriving life and style blog, called Simply J&K, covering fashion, food, drinks and more.

On a personal note, Kenzie is a positive spirit and kind soul with a big smile. Literally, every day, Kenzie made our office a better place to work, and she was a valuable member of our team.

I want to thank Kenzie for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her and Jordan continued success in all that God has planned for their family.