

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Memorial Baptist Church, located in the city of Baytown in East Harris County.

This area was mainly a farming and ranching community known as Goose Creek, until oil was found there in 1907 and it quickly became a rowdy and untidy camp. In 1918, Reverend J. W. Anderson felt that God was calling him to organize a church in Goose Creek. At this time a group of Christian women held a prayer meeting in their homes and the First Baptist Church of Goose Creek was organized with eight members. Reverend Anderson was named the pastor and the first building was built. In 1927, the church had grown to 614 members and Reverend J. D. Fuller became the new pastor. Due to their increased size, the congregation needed a larger building. This building cost \$50,000 and they had a hard time making payments during the depression. On December 7, 1945, the cities of Pelly annexed Goose Creek and Baytown. At this time, the church changed its name to Memorial Baptist Church and built a new sanctuary on Sterling Street.

In 2008 Memorial Church and Trinity Baptist Church voted to donate their church buildings on Highway 146 to Memorial. This new area became the North Campus of Memorial Baptist Church and Reverend Andrew McDaniel was named pastor. On 25 August 2017, Hurricane Harvey came ashore in Texas. It flooded Baytown and other areas along the coast. Memorial Baptist Church's gym was used as a shelter for over 180 people. A deacon of the church named Robby Davis along with a team of other church members helped to clean out homes to be repaired. They moved furniture, cabinets, flooring and sheet rock. Some people did day labor, furnished food, washed clothes and provided places for victims of the storm to stay. Memorial North Campus was also flooded and on November 4, 2017, they were able to worship at that location again.

On 25 February 2018, this church will celebrate being a century old. God has used Memorial Baptist Church as an amazing witness for 100 years and I am privileged to have such a place of worship in my district.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN MCALEENAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): Mr. McAleenan has been chosen as the United States' honoree for the prestigious League of United Latin American Citizens Council No. 12 (LULAC) Señor Internacional award.

Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College, Mr. McAleenan

earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Thereafter, he worked at a private law firm in California. However, he was motivated to work in public service after the events of September 11, 2001. He joined the Office of Anti-Terrorism at U.S. Customs Service, a legacy organization of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, where he was eventually named as the Director.

Mr. McAleenan became Acting Commissioner of CBP on January 20th, 2017. Prior to his role as Acting Commissioner, Mr. McAleenan held several leadership positions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including Deputy Commissioner of CBP and Assistant Commissioner at the Office of Field Operations. Upon Mr. McAleenan's appointment to Deputy Commissioner, former CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske spoke of McAleenan highly, saying, "His dedication, his vision to transform CBP and to ensure that we remain the nation's premier law enforcement agency, is truly astounding."

Throughout his career, Mr. McAleenan worked to increase security at the border, improved terrorism detection and response tactics, and supervised the trade and travel at over 300 domestic ports of entry. In his current role, he has three core missions: counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement. Mr. McAleenan oversees 60,000 employees and directs the largest law-enforcement agency in the federal government. For his work, Mr. McAleenan received the Service to America Medal, Call to Service Award, and in 2015, he was honored with a Presidential Rank Award, the nation's highest civil service award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Mr. Kevin McAleenan. I congratulate him on receiving the prestigious LULAC No. 12 Señor Internacional award.

SAN ANTONIO'S TERCENTENNIAL
YEAR—1718

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of San Antonio and its residents on the 300th anniversary of the city's founding. San Antonio has grown from a small farming community along the banks of the San Antonio River into the 7th largest city in the United States.

Its rich history and vibrant culture is what makes it truly unique. The first flag to fly over Texas was the Spanish flag. Spain laid official claim to what is now parts of Texas from 1716 to 1821, as part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, or Colonial Mexico. On May 1, 1718, the Mission San Antonio de Valero—later known as the Alamo—was established.

The Tejanos' place in Texas history took root in the 1700s when the land was under Spanish rule. A group of mostly Spanish-Indians loyal to the Spanish crown pushed their colonial empire north from Mexico to found a military post and religious missions to establish San Antonio. As frontier people, they were mainly ranchers and farmers and developed a culture unique to them. Settling northeastern Mexico, the area of modern day San Antonio, many of their customs reflected that of tradi-

tional Mexican heritage, but with an independent Texas twist.

San Antonio is home to five missions established along the San Antonio River in the 1700s by Catholic missionaries. The five missions are all but three miles apart from each other: Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo), Mission Concepcion, Mission San Jose, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada. The missions served to make the American Indians into Spanish citizens. By entering the missions, the Indians pledged to follow the rules of Spain. They set aside their traditional life to learn a new language, accept a new religion and pledge allegiance to a new king.

Today the missions represent a connection with our past. The missions depict classic Spanish architecture, domes and bell towers, and sanctuaries that still have active parishes and cultural centers. The missions are a part of every Texan's history.

Military Plaza was first established in 1722 as a parade ground and market square for the Spanish troops stationed there. Today, the only noticeable evidence of the Spanish troops marching and living in the plaza is the Spanish Governor's Palace. The area has been the heart of the city and today is the commercial and government center of San Antonio.

Any Texan will tell you that water is very important to our state, and water is what contributed to San Antonio's rich history. The San Antonio River comes from the Edwards Aquifer Spring Field north of downtown San Antonio. With this natural resource, the missions and plaza were located close by. It provided a clean reliable source to the missionaries and soldiers.

The river supported agricultural operations at the missions through an irrigation system created by the early settlers. Portions of this water system remain used today, 300 years later.

Over the years, the Tejanos prospered and furthered their distinction from the Spanish crown and from other parts of Mexico. A failed attempt by the Tejanos against Spanish rule gained new hope when Mexico won independence from Spain in 1831.

By this time Texas had seen a significant influx of settlers from the United States, and like the Tejanos, had a culture unique as the land it occupied. As Texas' distinction from Mexico grew, so did the desire for local rule and sovereignty.

The passion for independence spread throughout Texas and San Antonio and on March 2, 1836, 54 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and the fight for freedom began. 187 freedom fighters started assembling in an old beat-up mission in San Antonio.

Juan Seguín and his company of Tejanos rode into the Alamo and readied for battle alongside William Barrett Travis, Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. This rag-tag group of relentless patriots, made up of men from nearly every state in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, readied for one of the most storied battles in our history.

Outnumbered by an overwhelming Mexican army, these Texas warriors knew that surrender was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death.

On February 23, 1836, Santa Ana's army of 1500 well-armed troops unleashed on the defenders of the Alamo. During the siege, Travis sent out his famous call for reinforcements.

Juan Seguín was the last messenger to leave, riding through enemy lines carrying the final message from the beleaguered mission. Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after thirteen glorious days at the Alamo.

Regrouping in Gonzales, Seguín and his company of Tejanos joined General Sam Houston in the final battle for independence along the marshy banks of the San Jacinto River. This was the only Tejano unit at San Jacinto. As not to confuse the Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Seguín put a playing card in the head band of each Tejano so they could easily be recognized. In an impromptu siege on the sleeping enemy, General Sam and his boys routed the Mexican Army yelling, "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!" Most of the enemy were killed or wounded. The rest were captured or disappeared, the victory was stunning.

Texas became a free, independent nation that day and claimed what is now Texas and parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming. In June of 1836, Juan Seguín accepted the official Mexican surrender of San Antonio and later saw that the remains of those that perished at the Alamo received an honorable burial.

A plaque on the Alamo wall states: "The Alamo: The Thermopylae of Texas." The Alamo is a tribute to all those that are defiant against any form of tyranny. It is important for us to recognize all those that sacrificed for freedom, yesterday, today and tomorrow. Remember who we are and what we stand for—remember the Alamo.

Whether it is the river walk, historic missions, floating parades, amazing food or the Alamo that you love about going to San Antonio; there is something for everyone of every age. This year as San Antonio celebrates 300 years of history, I encourage everyone, whether you're a longtime Texan or a transplant, to take the time and learn something new about San Antonio's unique and fascinating history. Three centuries later, that same dogged determination that filled that little Spanish mission is what continues to set Texas apart from all the rest.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSIBLE ENFORCEMENT OF CANNABIS ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, in January, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) rescinded the Cole Memorandum, a directive which has provided a framework for states to pursue reasonable regulation of cannabis. DOJ's ill-conceived decision adversely affects states, including the State of California, that have in "good faith" implemented regulatory frameworks, relying on the memo.

In November 2016, the people of California spoke up and voted in favor of Proposition 64, which legalized recreational cannabis, joining seven states in our nation in making recreational cannabis legal. Currently, those laws are being implemented. The recent action by the Attorney General puts the industry in jeopardy.

The State of California has the sixth largest economy in the world and accounts for almost 15 percent of our nation's Gross Domestic Product. Given the implementation of tax reform and elimination of State and Local Tax deductions in the coming year, coupled with our limited federal budget due to sequestration, California and other states will experience funding shortfalls that need to be addressed. The economic constraints being placed on California will slow down our economy, but marijuana sales taxes will help provide stability and be a mechanism used to fill the funding gaps. By 2020, marijuana sales taxes are estimated to potentially reach \$1 billion annually in revenue for California.

To date, eight states have legalized recreational cannabis and twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia—which represent more than half of the American population—have enacted legislation to permit the use of medical marijuana. The repeal of the Cole Memo contravenes the will of the American public. Furthermore, this decision will negatively affect numerous Americans who utilize marijuana for medical purposes.

Therefore, I am introducing the bipartisan Sensible Enforcement of Cannabis Act with Representative GAETZ. This legislation will prohibit the Attorney General from prosecuting individuals for any conduct that concerns medicinal cannabis or recreational use of cannabis in states that have authorized cannabis laws. The bill would also include exceptions in which the Attorney General would be able to prosecute such cases involving the distribution of cannabis to minors, among others.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JIM DEGOOD

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Jim DeGood who passed away peacefully on January 22, 2018 in Niles, Ohio. I can't really speak of Jim without speaking of Nancy in the same breath. They were partners in every sense of the word. And they were a force for me when I first started running for political office. I am forever indebted to them for helping launch my career.

Jim was born on May 7, 1935 in Marysville, Ohio to Max and Marjory Schoenlebe DeGood. He was the oldest of four children. Jim was a 1953 graduate of Marysville High School where he was an honors student, president of student council, and recipient of nine varsity letters in three different sports. He continued his education at The Ohio State University earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1953.

He began his career with the underwriting division of the Glens Falls Insurance Company at their Columbus office later becoming the manager of that department. In 1967, he moved to Warren, Ohio and joined the Gamble Insurance Agency. Some years later, Jim and his partners purchased The Gamble Agency. It continued to operate in Howland as the Gibson-DeGood Insurance Agency until Jim retired. Jim was also a member of the Independent Insurance Agents Association of

Trumbull County being the treasurer of that organization for over 25 years.

Outside of work, Jim was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles, Ohio. Additionally, he was an active participant in various business and social organization in the community, including The Chamber, Kiwanis, YMCA, TAG, Butler Art, The Buckeye Club, Trumbull County Club, Ohio State Faculty Club, and the Ohio State Alumni Association. Jim also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed traveling, cooking, and taking care of his home. Above all, he was an avid sports fan of the Indians, the Browns, and the Cavs. One of the highlights of his life was a visit to Augusta National Golf Course to witness the play of the Masters Golf Tournament. He especially enjoyed watching Ohio State Football games. He was a season ticket holder for 48 years, following the Buckeyes to several bowl games across the country.

He will be truly missed by his wife Nancy Vennitti DeGood, the love of his life; his son, Douglas DeGood of Charleston, South Carolina; his daughter Terri Pytlík of Warren; his brother Jerry DeGood and his wife Mary of Brookville, Florida; and by so many others who had the pleasure of knowing Jim. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRESH START ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the release of President Trump's outrageous budget that slashes funding for programs that help reduce crime and reduce recidivism, I rise in support of the Fresh Start Act, a bill I reintroduced earlier today that will bring positive reform to our criminal justice system.

If enacted, the Fresh Start Act would allow certain individuals who have been convicted of nonviolent offenses, have paid their debt to society, and are now law-abiding members of the community to petition courts to have their nonviolent conviction expunged from their records.

A criminal record, even for a minor, nonviolent offense, can pose as a barrier to employment, education and housing opportunities—the very things necessary to start one's life over.

This is not only bad for rehabilitated offenders, it is bad for their families and for the communities in which they live.

The Fresh Start Act would give nonviolent offenders a chance to start over again, a chance to become productive members of society.

The bill allows offenders to apply for expungement to the court where they were sentenced and allows the United States Attorney for that District to submit recommendations to the court. Applicants who are denied could reapply once every two years. Once seven years have elapsed since an offender has completed their sentence, expungement would be automatically granted. However, sex offenders and those who commit crimes causing a loss of over \$25,000 would not be eligible for automatic expungement.