

second attempt, during which he located the occupant of the home, an elderly woman that had become incapacitated due to smoke inhalation. SPC Doss and his partner carried her safely out of the structure shortly before it was engulfed in flames, ultimately saving the woman's life.

SPC Doss is the 2022 National Guardsman of the Year for this act of selfless bravery.

SPC Solomon Doss serves with the Alabama National Guard's 1166th Military Police Company and is from Piedmont, Alabama. During the 1166th MP Company's mobilization to Kuwait in 2020, SPC Doss served as a U.S. CENTCOM Customs Border Clearance Agent supporting Operation Spartan Shield.

Outside the National Guard, SPC Doss works as a Patrol Officer at Piedmont Police Department in Piedmont, AL.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing SPC Solomon Doss' act of selfless bravery. SPC Doss represents the best of our community, and I'm honored to recognize him.

RECOGNIZING THE EUROPEAN PRAYER BREAKFAST'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of the European Prayer Breakfast. In honor of this milestone, I offer this brief history of the breakfast and its initial beginnings.

In 1996, Prince Nikolaus von Liechtenstein co-hosted a prayer group in his home of senior political, diplomatic, and NATO leaders of Europe, along with Sir Paul Petrie. The group met weekly in his dining room in Brussels, Belgium, for over a year in rich fellowship and mutual sharing of scripture, focused on and around, the Person of Jesus. Deep relationships between the participants in this small group were formed as a result.

At the end of a year, one of the group suggested that there were others in Brussels who would enjoy and benefit from a similar experience. As a result, an invitation to others from the same spheres of responsibility was issued to attend a Saturday breakfast.

Nearly 100 attended this by-invitation-only event in 1997. They shared their unique stories with one another and were greatly encouraged. Following the gathering, the participants were asked if they would be interested in continuing to meet. With their approval, the participants sent out initiations to 157 people, and 155 accepted.

This 1st annual European Prayer Breakfast was held in 1997. Prince Nikolaus moderated in 4 languages in French, Dutch, German, and English. Prayers were offered and scriptures read in all 4 languages. The Honorable Georgina Dufoix, then the French Minister of the Interior under President Mitterrand, shared her testimony in French, simply and powerfully.

At its conclusion, people were so moved that there was weeping among many. After closing in unison with The Lord's Prayer in 28 different languages simultaneously, no one moved. There was such a powerful presence evident among them.

When the group was later asked . . . "Would you like to do this again?" There was a universal agreement . . . Yes.

Thus began the European Prayer Breakfast of European diplomats, elected officials, military officials, and friends in Brussels, Belgium.

Sometime later Paul Petrie began to collaborate with Doug Coe, a coordinator of the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. Doug offered Paul the opportunity to invite European members of Parliament and others to the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, and so began the relationship of mutual encouragement.

As the European Prayer Breakfast continued, Paul, Prince Nikolaus and others received requests from multiple European National Parliamentarians to receive invitations to the Brussels event and they came by the dozens, then hundreds. This would bring many requests to help start similar events in National Parliaments across Europe.

In each case Paul would visit the respective country's capital and encourage the initial step to be a weekly prayer gathering for a year, in preparation for the larger event. The group would consist of like-minded followers of Jesus from political, diplomatic, and administrative roles, with an intentional effort to include opposing political parties. This smaller, weekly group who would pray, study scripture, and develop personal relationships, long before initiating a larger gathering. The inclusion of opposing political parties into a small weekly group would become a foundational principle of the prayer breakfast, in every location.

Today there are 40 smaller prayer groups across Europe who gather in the same spirit, to study and discuss the teachings of Jesus, and to pray.

It was in 2002 that, at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, that Paul Petrie, along with friends Dennis Coll, Bill Hightower and others, would organize the European Suite & Dinner. Here, European political leaders would come together during the week of the U.S. National Prayer Breakfast to mutually share and encourage one another. Subsequently, Paul Petrie would host the European Prayer Breakfast Leader's dinner at the Stanhope Hotel in Brussels during the week of the European Prayer Breakfast.

In 2017, Paul Petrie was knighted into the Ancient Order of St. George, by His Royal and Imperial Highness The Archduke Karel Van Hapsburg of Austria, for his "30 years of influence for the Kingdom of God upon European Royal Families, Governments, and Parliaments."

Subsequently he was granted an Honorary Doctorate from Asbury Theological Seminary for his work to extend the message of Jesus to others.

The spirit of the European Prayer Breakfast has been extended to many countries since its inception. The Israeli Knesset was one of those places. The Israeli-Christian Caucus came to visit the European Prayer Breakfast in Brussels, and subsequently made the decision, with the support of Israeli President at the time, Ruven Rivlin, to initiate the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast in 2016, of which Paul Petrie was a Founding Member. It continues today.

It is with deep appreciation that this proclamation is offered in honor of Prince Nikolaus von Liechtenstein and Sir Paul Petrie, for their profound positive effect upon this movement

across Europe, and for their deep and abiding friendship for over a quarter of a century.

RECOGNIZING TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE FROM ELIM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor a pillar within the city of Buffalo, ELIM Christian Fellowship. ELIM has had unwavering support for all of Western New York since its creation in 1999, and their congregation is now celebrating their twenty-third year of service. I would like to congratulate them on their perseverance through struggles and wish them a successful night of celebration.

Under the leadership of Senior Pastor T. Anthony Bronner, ELIM Christian Fellowship was founded as a non-denominational and bible-based ministry, inviting people of all communities. According to Senior Pastor Bronner, "The name ELIM conceptually means a place of refreshing, reviving, and renewing for weary travelers and has proven to be a fitting symbol of spiritual revitalization and restoration. It is known for its spirit-led praise, worship, and intercessory prayer. People from all races, religions, age groups, and denominational affiliations engage weekly to see God's Face."

On the Fellowship's first day of worship, over seven-hundred men, women, and children gathered at the former Buffalo Christian Center in downtown Buffalo. Many of the original members were also attendees of the Regional Morning Prayer Movement. It drew in people of all kinds from many different communities. This Regional Morning Prayer continued uninterrupted since its inception, even through the COVID-19 pandemic.

ELIM moved from the Christian Center to Turner Carroll High School in February of 2000. After only six months of occupancy, membership grew from 700 to over 1600. Due to the growth in membership at ELIM, in June 2000, they had the opportunity to purchase a property across from The Central Park Plaza for a new Worship and Youth Center.

When the Center opened in August 2000, more than 700 members, several communities, and political leaders attended the trail-blazing ceremony. In that same year, ELIM members and visitors had the opportunity to meet with First Lady, Hillary R. Clinton, and hear her words of encouragement.

Also, under the leadership of Senior Pastor T. Anthony Bronner, ELIM Christian Fellowship, created a chapter in Rochester, NY in November 2002. The expansion was a major evolution for the Fellowship and expanded the tightly knit community. The expansion also demonstrated an expansion in its mission and who that mission can reach. With the evolution in leadership, ELIM saw a large increase in permanent members due to holding worship at an unconventional time in the afternoon. In September 2004, ELIM finally officially obtained a worship center in the heart of Rochester, cementing their welcomed expansion.

Then on April 30, 2006, ELIM had the privilege of opening a new worship center with a

service of thanksgiving. Many community leaders and congregational members celebrated the event with prayer and a march from the Central Park Plaza to the new edifice. Moving forward to 2008, the Consecration and Ordination Service for leader Bishop T. Anthony Bronner occurred with the Fellowship members as witnesses. Everyone was extremely excited and joyful over Pastor Bronner's initiation into the Bishopric.

Undoubtedly, ELIM faced an unprecedented amount of hardship, but years of struggle were made worthwhile when ELIM Christian Fellowship just recently made its final payment on its multimillion-dollar mortgage. Now the ministry can move forward and serve the community without hesitation. They have a permanent home.

Our community is grateful for the leadership of the ELIM Christian Fellowship and for their dedication to guiding countless Buffalonians in faith and service.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF HAL DONALDSON AND CONVOY OF HOPE

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founder of Convoy of Hope, Hal Donaldson.

In 1994, Hal took a trip to India and was inspired to start serving his local community. He bought \$600 worth of groceries and distributed them to families in need. In 1996, Convoy of Hope opened its headquarters in Springfield, MO, and in 1997 a friend donated a tractor trailer to assist in transporting goods. It was the first of many tractor trailers which are now iconic. Since 1994, Convoy of Hope has expanded into a global charity, serving more than 100 countries. They have served more than 200 million people and given out nearly \$2 billion in resources and essential supplies. They have responded to more than 600 disasters worldwide, including the 9/11 terror attacks, Hurricane Katrina in 2005 where they sent nearly 1,000 tractor trailer loads of food and supplies as well as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017. They also provided more than 200 million meals during the COVID pandemic and are currently helping to provide meals for Ukrainians impacted by the war. These are but a few examples of the incredible work done by Convoy of Hope.

Convoy of Hope continues to expand their efforts, and in 2021, they completed construction on their new World Distribution Center in Springfield and are currently working to build a new headquarters next door, which is expected to be completed in 2023.

Madam Speaker, since their humble beginnings in 1994, Hal Donaldson and Convoy of Hope have become a global leader in responding to disasters and providing food for the hungry. They continue to grow through the help of volunteers and generous donations. I am proud to honor them today, and thank them for all of their efforts to date and going forward.

HONORING LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST ON CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF QUALITY BANKING IN AMERICA AS THE FIRST BLACK RUN BANK IN LOUISIANA

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty Bank and Trust, a financial institution celebrating 50 years of quality banking in America as the first Black-run bank in Louisiana.

In November 1972, New Orleans was a city with a majority African American population. However, there were very few African Americans in elective office and limited resources for the development of African American businesses and personal wealth building. Following decades of segregation and limited voting rights, New Orleans was a city awakening to increased opportunities for its African American citizens.

Dr. Norman C. Francis conceived the idea of starting an African American owned bank in New Orleans following the failure of at least two other efforts to start such an institution. In late 1971, he approached a bi-racial group of businesspeople and elected officials with the idea and was able to secure the resources to open Liberty Bank on November 16, 1972, in a bank trailer on the site of its first Headquarters Building on Tulane Avenue in New Orleans. During its first week of operations, Liberty opened over 2,000 accounts, clearly demonstrating the need for an African American owned financial institution in New Orleans.

With \$2 million dollars in assets, Liberty reported a substantial profit for its first year of operations and has reported profitable years 46 of its 50 years in existence. The Liberty Bank Building on Tulane Avenue opened 2 years later. That same year, Liberty opened its first branch office on Gentilly Blvd.

Liberty's mission is to provide cost-effective delivery of high quality, innovative, customer driven financial products and services to diverse markets with a focus on disadvantaged minority communities who have traditionally been underserved. Concurrent with the bank's mission, Liberty strives to maintain the company's status as a catalyst for economic and community development while generating fair returns to shareholders and being an excellent corporate citizen.

Some of the members of the bi-racial group that worked with Dr. Francis in the early years to get the bank started included:

C.C. Dejoie—Publisher, Louisiana Weekly
Judge Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial, Then State Senator

Mike O'Keefe
Judge Israel Augustine
Owen Brennan, Jr., Prominent Restaurant owner

William J. Connick
Benjamin J. Johnson, Esq.
Ambrose J. Pratt, Jr., MD
Dr. Langston F. Reed, Local Dentist and Activist

Norman P. Zucker
Joseph O. Misshore
Ms. Jesse W. Cook
Joseph E. Berrigan, Jr.

Ben D. Bridgeman
Joseph G. Landrieu, Jr.
Jennings Courville
Tricon (Clem) Sehart

A key development in the early years was the financing of Doley Securities', the first Black seat on the New York Stock Exchange owned by Harold Doley, Jr., becoming the only African American in its history to do so. The bank's additional key notes include asset growth over first 20 years, mortgages processed, work with National Bankers Association and community outreach efforts.

Once committed to opening an African American owned bank, Dr. Francis secured the only African American working above the level of teller in any bank in the New Orleans community to run the bank. That was Alden McDonald, joining the bank at the ripe age of 29 years old. Effective May 2, 2022, the board of directors of Liberty Bank and Trust Company announced that Todd O. McDonald was named the bank's president. Liberty's former President and CEO Alden J. McDonald Jr., Todd's father, continues to lead the Liberty Financial Holding Company. Dr. Francis is still chair of the Liberty Bank Board 50 years later, and Alden McDonald was one of the longest serving African American Bank Presidents in America.

Liberty Bank established its Baton Rouge presence in 1994 and opened a third branch in 2004. Liberty then moved into Mississippi in 2003, acquiring First American Bank in Jackson. This was followed by expansion into the Greater Kansas City market with the acquisition of Douglass bank in Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, in 2008.

Liberty Bank and Trust Company expanded across Greater New Orleans with the 2009 acquisition of United Bank and Trust Company, securing four additional locations to serve that market. That was followed by the acquisition of Home Federal Savings in Detroit, Michigan, which increased the bank's reach to six states. In 2013, Liberty Bank entered the Chicago market with the acquisition of Covenant Bank of Illinois, and in 2015, the bank expanded to Montgomery and Tuskegee, Alabama through the purchase of First Tuskegee Bank.

Liberty Bank's growth has been the result of acquisitions, fruitful partnerships, aggressive marketing, strong management, staff productivity and the trust it enjoys in the community. It all adds up to an efficient, well-capitalized institution that is perfectly positioned to continue fast-paced growths in both profits and assets. Liberty Bank is passionate about helping more people achieve more economic freedom.

Today Liberty Bank is the largest financial institution in the United States owned by African Americans. It has assets of more than \$1 billion dollars, a customer base of over 40,000 accounts with 175 employees, and still growing, while recognized as one of the fastest growing financial institutions in the country.

Todd McDonald said in a press release, "I've been singularly driven to build solid stakeholder partnerships and evolve financial products which meet the financial needs of an ever-changing world. This next 50 years will be extraordinary as we reshape our culture, talent and organizational capabilities which will make us more agile, more competitive, and more effective in our efforts to close the wealth gap in underserved communities across the country."