

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) Sehr

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."

A huge congratulations to New Orleans' home-grown financial institution, celebrating their Golden Anniversary New Orleans' with a promising future ahead of them.

HONORING RABBI ALVIN
WAINHAUS ON THE CELEBRA-
TION OF HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY
AT CONGREGATION OR SHALOM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join Congregation Or Shalom, located in Orange, Connecticut in paying tribute to their outstanding leader, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus as he marks his 40th Anniversary with the synagogue. Indeed, he has been the Temple's only rabbi since it opened its doors in 1981.

The son of Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Wainhaus was raised in Boro Park, Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn College, where he received a degree in philosophy, as well as New York University, where he earned a master's degree in education, before he was ordained at Yeshiva Beth Meir in Tel Aviv, Israel some five decades ago. He served several synagogues before coming to Congregation Or Shalom where he has led the conservative synagogue with integrity, wisdom, and compassion for the last forty years. In that time, Rabbi Wainhaus has officiated two hundred weddings, named as many babies, and presided over more than five hundred Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Through his dedicated leadership, both within the synagogue and the community at large, he has touched the lives of many.

Rabbi Wainhaus is also known as a professional musician, having performed and made numerous recordings with the late Hebrew folk singer Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach as well as most recently recording a disc to accompany a text of Biblical Hebrew, published by Yale University Press. Rabbi Wainhaus frequently incorporates his inspirational and traditional music into his sermons and services. He is also fluent in Yiddish and is a noted lecturer on Yiddish humor.

With his own background in education, Rabbi Wainhaus has focused much of his energy on the teaching of Jewish tradition and faith, particularly with children. He guides the synagogue's educational program for all ages. His door is always open to those of the Jewish faith and to the entire community—to those who wish to learn. For the past sixteen years he led the Kristallnacht Program which is open community-wide and recognizes unsung heroes of the Holocaust.

Through his spiritual leadership, as well as his love for music and teaching, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus has left an indelible mark on our community. His infinite compassion and commitment to service inspires others to make a difference—a gift that has and continues to make the Greater New Haven community a better place to live, learn, and grow. I am so pleased to have the opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to him for all of his good work and to join Congregation Or Shalom in congratulating him on his 40th Anniversary. Rabbi—Todah Rabah and Mazel Tov.

RECOGNIZING THE FOURTEENTH
ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS
EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, December 17, 2022, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather to celebrate the Fourteenth Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay, FL, will provide an uplifting message of hope and future during this Christmas season.

The House Church, Elevation Church, Eastwind Pentecostal Church, Victory in Christ Jesus, Centerpointe Church, Grace Bible Church, Jornada al Cielo, Church on the Rock, River of Life Christian Center, Brevard Worship Center, and Hope Ministries of Florida, Wings of Grace Ministries, CITA Rescue Mission, and ANEW International have all united to bring the Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza to our City and County.

Working with several community and business partners such as the City of Palm Bay Parks & Recreation, Thrifty Specialty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, Fruits of my Labor, Gator Automotive, Florida Blue, Frog Bones-Family Shooting Center, Travel Camp, Al Dia Today Newspaper, Hometown News, and Premiere Oaks 10 Cinema, the mission is to provide a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas, serve others and give back to their community.

Over 60 local businesses and organizations have made donations of Toys, food, gift certificates, equipment, finances, and goodie bags, and will feature Musicians and Artist such as Unified Sound with Joel Lopez, Peabod, KD3, Boanski, Eddie Anthony as Eddie Frost and much more.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said: "With today's news being filled with division, contention, and expressions of hatred, it is exciting to see the City of Palm Bay, along with the city's businesses and the citizens, create an event where love, joy and peace are expressed. The Family Christmas Extravaganza is the greatest expression that so many people yearn for and is what the angels proclaimed at the birth of Jesus, saying 'Peace and good will towards all men'."

The Mayor of the City of Palm Bay, Rob Medina, issued a proclamation in support for this year's celebration, recognizing the Extravaganza has become the largest Christmas party on the Space Coast and December 17, 2022, as Family Christmas Extravaganza Day.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving and spending time with loved ones. This year's Extravaganza brings our community together to remind us of that. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all those who are doing their part to spread the Christmas spirit this holiday season and those who have worked so hard to make the Fourteenth Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza possible.

RECOGNIZING DISTRICT 4 COMMIS-
SIONER SALLY HEYMAN FOR AN
EXTRAORDINARY CAREER IN
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commissioner Sally A. Heyman for an outstanding career in public service. For over 35 years, Commissioner Heyman has faithfully served Miami-Dade County residents in a variety of capacities. Since her election to the County Board of Commissioners in September 2002, her selflessness and dedication to District 4 residents has been unparalleled.

Commissioner Heyman developed a passion for public service at an early age, encouraged by her parents to work with local charities and civic institutions. After teaching in the public school system and getting her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Miami, Commissioner Heyman was elected to the Florida Legislature in 1994. As a state representative, she co-sponsored ordinances to address juvenile justice issues and support environmental protection efforts. Her conviction that every human being should be treated with dignity and respect led her to fight to eliminate the stigma of mental health illnesses. And as a breast cancer survivor herself, Commissioner Heyman advocates yearly for breast cancer awareness and education.

During her tenure on the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Heyman worked relentlessly for her constituents, advocating especially for reliable public transportation systems and affordable housing. One notable accomplishment was the development of Aventura station, a Brightline commuter stop which will relieve traffic and provide residents with an easy means of transportation. The station is expected to open this December.

Miami-Dade County is a better place because of Commissioner Heyman. I was lucky enough to work with her at the county level and personally witness her tenacity and dedication. I wish Commissioner Heyman all the very best as she retires from the Board of Commissioners.

WORLD AIDS DAY DECEMBER 1,
2022

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank you all for being here today at the NMAC Capitol Hill Champions Reception to commemorate World AIDS Day and celebrate our progress over the years.

It is invigorating to be among a room full of leaders fighting the good fight against AIDS worldwide; and as so many here have contributed mightily to this effort, it is an honor, and quite humbling, to be this year's recipient of the John Lewis Good Trouble Award from NMAC.

I first want us to remember our dear friend and long-time colleague, Congressman John