

of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), the two most prominent commercial building associations in the region. Operating as separate entities for nearly eighty years, The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC hope to better serve their respective members by bringing them together under one roof. With the signing of a ceremonial charter, the presentation of a charter certificate, and the unveiling of the new, unified association's logo, today marks a historic milestone for mid-America's construction industry. Now representing one of the largest commercial construction associations in the county, The Builders, a chapter of the AGC, is poised to advance the interests of the construction industry and its workers further than either of the original, separate entities could do on their own. As members from both associations gather today to recognize this important occasion, let us reflect on the history of The Builders' Association and the AGC, the profound impact they have made in the heart of America, and the spirit of collaboration that made this merger possible.

The Builders' Association, originally known as The Builders' and Traders Exchange, was founded in 1887 with nearly one hundred and forty original members. Under the leadership of B.F. Swain, the first Board Chairman, and C.L. McDonald, the first managing director, The Builders' played a profound role in the development of Kansas City, incorporated just thirty-four years prior, and the midwestern United States. For nearly one hundred and fifty years, The Builders' have faithfully delivered safety, craft, and management training; employment, labor, and government relations; along with construction plans and technology tools. Today, The Builders' Association serves hundreds of member companies that employ over twenty-five-thousand people in mid-America. For these members, the services offered by The Builders' Association are invaluable to fostering a healthy, thriving construction industry. From hosting academies and seminars for individuals hoping to enter the industry or advance within their companies, to helping employers and job seekers establish mutually beneficial relationships, The Builders' role in supporting the commercial construction industry cannot be overstated. By providing young people with information and resources about careers in the construction industry, and by supporting the educational endeavors of students planning to enter construction-related fields through The Builders' Association Scholarship Foundation, The Builders' have gone above and beyond to ensure a strong construction industry for generations to come. Moreover, The Builders' Training Center in North Kansas City, home to eight apprenticeship training programs, guarantees that tomorrow's construction will be carried out by well-trained and well-educated workers. And in all that they do, The Builders' have never failed to set the highest standards for workers' safety, understanding that the wellbeing of the construction industry depends on the wellbeing of construction workers.

The Kansas City Chapter of the Associated General Contractors was chartered as a sister association to The Builders' Association in the early 1900s. Today, the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC represents more than one-hundred firms in the heartland region. Realizing the value of national connection and engagement offered through the Associated General Con-

tractors of America, The Builders' added the option of membership in the AGC soon after the organization established roots in Kansas City. Herein lies an important observation—for nearly a century, The Builders' and the AGC have operated in close collaboration, not only sharing members and staff, but also a common mission and vision. However, as part of the Associated General Contractors of America, the largest and oldest national construction trade association in the United States, the Kansas City Chapter of the AGC has historically been able to offer greater access to resources and services, along with expanded opportunities to network with others in the industry, develop business, and create a stronger voice to advocate on behalf of the construction industry.

Thus, today's merger is in keeping with decades of collaboration between The Builders' and the AGC, in addition to the longstanding commitments of both organizations to best serve the interests of their members and the commercial construction industry. Indeed, the One Builders initiative helps strengthen and solidify a sense of unity that has long bound The Builders' and the local AGC chapter, and in doing so, will enhance the industry's influence in the Kansas City region and throughout the nation. The Builders, a chapter of the AGC, will undoubtedly expand economic opportunities for the Greater Kansas City area and usher in a new era of prosperity for the region's construction industry and the thousands of workers it employs.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the merger of The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter of the Associated General Contractors to form The Builders, a chapter of the AGC.

#### HONORING TRUE LIGHT M.B. CHURCH

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the history of True Light M. B. Church.

In 1934, approximately 43 members marched with candles from Morning Star Baptist Church on Kane Street to a small store on East Bell Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Rev. J. H. Sims was the founder and first pastor of True Light M. B. Church. A few of the pioneers were Mary Lee Hicks, Sarah Lynn, Pearlina Smith and Rev. James Thomas. Rev. Sims served True Light faithfully until his departure. Then, Rev. Will Robinson was installed as the second pastor of True Light and served for three years. Under Rev. Robinson's leadership, the membership relocated from the store on Bell Street to a wooden framed building in the back of True Light Church present location.

Reverend (Dr.) Robert H. Walls was the third and most tenured pastor of True Light. He was a licensed minister from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and joined True Light in 1935 along with his wife, Leatha Warren Walls. After Rev. Robinson departure, the church asked Rev. Walls to serve as Pastor until they decided to call a pastor. The church made great progress under his leadership, and the membership in-

creased. Because of this progress, Rev. Walls was ordained to preach the Gospel. In April of 1940, the church asked Rev. Walls to serve as True Light's Pastor, and he accepted this calling of God.

Because of the church's growth, a survey revealed a need for additional space. To address this need, the church purchased two lots with a seven-room house. Uplifting services were held in a small wood framed building on the recently purchased property. The continued growth created the need for a modern church building. The church borrowed \$10,000 to construct the building. Pastor Walls drew on a brown paper bag a sketch of the present edifice. Pastor Walls once stated, "True Light Church was spiritually built." He had never constructed a building before but became a "Master Builder." For five years, day and night, he toiled. He had many sleepless nights and cried many tears, but he kept on working and had faith that God would surely see them through. In 1953, the church marched into our present edifice. The church began full-time worship service in 1961. True Light Church was one of the first Black churches in the City of Jackson and the first Black church to be constructed with bricks in the City of Jackson.

In 2001, after Pastor Walls entered the evening time of his life, Reverend Marvin Adams began to serve as Interim Pastor of True Light. Rev. Adams and his family were long time members of True Light Church. Thus, he was familiar with the membership and the various ministries. He was installed as the fourth Pastor of True Light that same year. Under Rev. Adams leadership, three ministers served as Associate Ministers: Carlos Casanova, Henry Taylor, and James Thomas. Brother Clarence James was ordained as a deacon. The interior sanctuary was renovated, and a Vesta View added to accommodate members and visitors waiting to enter the sanctuary. The church purchased a 47-seat passenger bus and carpeting was placed in the dining area of the Fellowship Hall. A Dance Ministry and Food and Clothing Ministry were organized. Rev. Adams faithfully served as Pastor of True Light Church for three years.

In March of 2006, God sent the church a spirit-filled anointed man of His choice, Marcus E. Cheeks. Pastor Cheeks was installed as the fifth pastor of True Light Church. He is an educator by trade holding degrees from Tougaloo College, Jackson State University and soon to be the University of Mississippi. Pastor Cheeks believes that a church's main focus should be in growing spiritually. He has the belief that through faithful study, dedication to the Word, and an intimate daily walk with Jesus Christ, the Lord will surely use him to glorify His Kingdom. Under his leadership, four ministers have served as Associate Ministers, Carlos Casanova, Henry Taylor, James Thomas, and Darrel Woullard, Sr. Five Deacons, Leroy Carter, Marc Clay, Curtis Holmes, Lee Lyle, and Harvey Marshall have been ordained. In addition, True Light's ministries have increased to include a Couples Ministry, an Outreach Ministry, Small Group Study platform for all Christian teachings, and the implementation of the Unity Drive designed to increase our personal and financial commitments to God. The church has purchased three adjacent properties for future growth. Physical renovations have taken place in several areas of the church: the Pastor's Study,

church sanctuary and restrooms, parking lot, technology has been added to Leatha Walls Educational Complex and the purchase of an additional church minibus. Most importantly, Pastor Cheeks has provided a vision into the future, with fervent prayer, focused commitment and faithful service united with our Lord and Savior, "One in Jesus."

True Light Missionary Baptist Church has made significant contributions to the community, state and Nation by being actively involved in the Midtown Community, the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association, the Jackson District Congress of Christian Education, General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the history of True Light Missionary Baptist Church.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA PHILHARMONIC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Under the direction of Music Director Mélisse Brunet and Executive Director Nancy Sanderson, the NEPA Philharmonic is a premier symphony orchestra bringing high caliber pops performances and classical music to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Until the late 1960s, Northeastern Pennsylvania was home to two independent orchestras in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. In early 1969, the boards of the two symphonies began to discuss the idea of increased cooperation between the two groups, and by October, a goal was set to have a joint orchestra give four performances in each city during the 1970–71 season. In January of 1970, the joint venture announced: a two-year trial period of a united symphony orchestra to be called the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Philharmonic.

The new orchestra was under the direction of Scranton's, Beatrice Brown, then one of the few female conductors in the country, and Wilkes-Barre's Ferdinand Liva. After Brown's departure in 1971, conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Polish-born Thomas Michalak, was hired as the first official music director after the Philharmonic's historic incorporation. The first performances were held in October 1972 at the Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre and at the Masonic Temple in Scranton, featuring Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Schuman's Piano Concerto in A Minor.

In 1979, Hugh Wolff, educated at Harvard University and the Peabody Institute, took over the baton. Under Wolff's direction, the orchestra soared to new heights and established its reputation as a prestigious symphony. In 1982, the Philharmonic gained statewide recognition during a televised performance of a work commissioned for the Commonwealth's tercentennial. During the early 1980s, the Philharmonic also began to attract world renown guest artists.

In 1986, Wolff left the symphony, and the board appointed London-Born and Cambridge-

educated Hugh Keegan to the podium. Over 14 seasons, he grew the orchestra into one of the country's best regional orchestras with an impressively broad repertoire. Following Keegan's tenure, the orchestra continued to thrive under the tutelage of Clyde Mitchell and later Lawrence Loh.

Today, the orchestra continues to strive for and deliver the highest level of musical excellence and remains the only fully professional symphony in the region. The Philharmonic also provides arts outreach and education to foster the next generation of musical talent.

I am honored to join with the NEPA Philharmonic to celebrate 50 years of making music in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I look forward to seeing their future musical accomplishments, and I wish them great success as they continue to bring exceptional performances to our theaters and concert halls.

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HONORING THE MEMORY OF LIFE-TIME EDUCATOR, MARY CALTAGIRONE

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**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Mary Mortellaro Caltagirone, a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community, who passed away on April 7, 2022, at the age of 99 after a lifetime of service as a devoted mother, educator and community volunteer.

A Tampa native of Sicilian decent, Mary grew up attending local public schools before leaving home to attend college, a rarity for a woman of her background at that time. Mary attended college at Florida College for Women, now Florida State University, and graduated in three years with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish and Math in 1943. In addition to this, she earned a certificate in Elementary Education from the University of Tampa and was a member of three honor societies. Mary took all of the education and experience she gained and brought it back home to serve her community in Tampa. She went on to teach for 40 years in Hillsborough County public schools at various grade levels and I am very grateful and proud to have been one of her students myself.

Mary retired from teaching in 1983, though her promotion of education and her community involvement only grew from there. Honoring her Sicilian heritage and Ybor City roots, Mary was a founding member of Lucerna and its offshoot organization, Pan American University Women (PAUW), whose mission it is to unite women of Latin decent who are graduates of institutions of higher learning, to promote fellowship, encourage education and professional accomplishments and to provide charitable contributions to the Tampa community. Mary served as a four-time president and was twice honored as PAUW Woman of the Year. Other community organizations and philanthropic involvements of hers included the Italian Club and their Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of Italy, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Spanish Lyric Theater, Judea-Christian Health Clinic and the Ybor City Museum, where she amassed over 1000 hours of service! Mary's incredible devotion to these groups was ex-

tremely appreciated by their community members. In 2005, she was presented with the Italian Woman of Excellence Award for Cultural and Civic Involvement and in 2007, she was named Person of the Year for Outstanding Service by St. John's Presbyterian Church.

Mary was a truly selfless and loving individual, and her legacy will continue to live through her sons Sam A. and Vincent G. Caltagirone (Sue), former daughters-in-law, Norma Tomasello Caltagirone and Carol Bond Caltagirone, nephews Vincent and Douglas Mortellaro (Tracy), cousin George Garcia (Bonnie), grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many more extended family. Her memory will truly be a blessing for her family, her students and all in our Tampa Bay community who have known her, learned from her and worked alongside her.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Mary Mortellaro Caltagirone for her lifelong dedication to education and for her demonstrations of service above self. All in our community are eternally grateful for her immense contributions. Her legacy will live on and inspire many others in the Tampa Bay community and beyond for years to come.

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HONORING PASTOR ROBIN ROBINSON FOR HER SERVICE TO KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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**HON. KEVIN McCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding leadership and proud legacy of community service of Pastor Robin Robinson of Bakersfield, California.

Born in Bakersfield and raised in Oklahoma, Pastor Robinson returned to her roots in Kern County when she was 15 years old, moving back to the Golden State to attend Arvin High School. After graduation, she went straight into the workforce, earning a California State contractor's license to start out and becoming a small business owner within the oil industry. By age 26, Pastor Robinson joined Canyon Hills Church as Bus Director—a move that would alter the trajectory of both the church and Pastor Robinson's life forever.

Transformed by the word of God while at Canyon Hills Church, Pastor Robinson decided to enroll in seminary and embark on a life of service. Upon graduation, she served as the church's Children's Pastor for ten years, sharing the Gospel with our community's youth. Because of her dedication and devotion to the congregation, she later became the Outreach Pastor, the Junior High Pastor which she served as for 19 years, and then the Adult Ministries Pastor, helping to lead the congregation with strength and compassion.

In 2019, Pastor Robinson accepted an offer to lead CityServe Kern County, a nonprofit that helps connect and empower local churches to better support the needs of our community. As the Community Development and Church Engagement Director, Pastor Robinson coordinated with businesses, local partners, and 120 churches in Kern County to help the most vulnerable receive much-needed food, secure housing, and obtain critical job