CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the congregation of South Post Oak Baptist Church in my home district of Houston, Texas for celebrating their church's 40th anniversary. The South Post Oak Baptist Church family has been a pillar of the community, effectively ministering to its members for four decades.

South Post Oak Baptist Church was organized October 4, 1959 as a separate entity of Almeda Baptist Church and was incorporated in 1961. From its humble beginnings, the church has been a viable point of spiritual reference for the community. Under the leadership of Rev. Remus E. Wright, the membership of the church has grown rapidly, from 300 in 1991 to more than 4,500 members in 1999.

Over the past decades, Rev. Wright and his wife Mia have worked to make South Post Oak Baptist Church, “A Positive Place in a Negative World.” Their endurance and tremendous energy in addressing the needs of South Post Oak Baptist Church’s congregation have served their community well.

The youngest of nine children born to Remus and Elizabeth Wright in Indianapolis, Indiana, Rev. Wright answered the call to the ministry during his mid-twenties, becoming an Associate Minister at Grace Apostolic church. He joined the Pentecostal Ambassadors and recorded two gospel albums on which he sang, wrote and produced most of the songs. Upon relocating to Houston, Pastor Wright found his home at South Post Oak Baptist Church, guiding the church into its largest ever period of growth. The Church’s focus has been on the family; the responsibilities of men; special needs of our senior citizens; and “real life” programs for youth. Rev. Wright’s focus on families is a major reason why he now devotes his energy to ministering to more than 2,500 families at South Post Oak Baptist Church.

While Rev. Wright’s religious and spiritual obligations have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has undertaken his civic duties with the utmost seriousness and passion, serving on several boards and organizations. He serves on two local high school boards, the YMCA board, and is a volunteer with LifeGift Organ Donation Program. He was selected to serve as a Foreign Missionary and Church Planter for the Southern Baptist Association in Zimbabwe, Africa. Most recently, he became part of an on-going Summer Leadership Institute Program at Harvard University designed to strengthen faith-based programs throughout urban communities in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, South Post Oak Baptist Church has much to celebrate on its 40th anniversary. The church has been a haven for its community. Since its beginnings four decades ago through the last 8 years of unprecedented growth, South Post Oak Baptist Church should be commended for its dedication to God and commitment to the needs of its congregation and surrounding community.