

Initiative. This initiative is dedicated to preserving our country's heritage, increasing awareness of what as well as who we are as a nation, and keeping our legacy enhanced, and intact, for future generations. Since the formation of the program, First Lady Laura Bush has recognized more than 100 communities with the Preserve America honor.

Other components of the program include a History Teacher of the Year Award, educational outreach, and grants to assist communities in preserving their cultural and natural resources.

I would like to commend Mayor Jerry Alford and the City Council, as well as all those who participated in the Main Street project, for this distinction.

JAMES J. STUKEL

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2005, James J. Stukel, will be retiring after 10 years of service as President of the University of Illinois. From his days as a teaching assistant in 1961 to his appointment as President in 1995, in his 43 years of service James Stukel has strived to make the University better. Without question, he has succeeded.

As University President, James Stukel has remained steadfast in his commitment to enrich undergraduate education. Under his guidance, the University expanded access to thousands of students through the creation of the University of Illinois—Online system. In addition, the creation of the University of Illinois at Springfield has provided access for an additional 4,500 students.

President Stukel was also tremendously successful in securing increased funding for academic purposes for the University. Under his leadership, the University of Illinois has established itself as one of the world's leading research institutions, meriting a national ranking as high as 5th and no lower than 7th in terms of federal research and development dollars received by any institution. On his watch, federal support for the University of Illinois has doubled.

President Stukel has strengthened the bonds between the University and the citizens of Illinois by logging over 200,000 miles and conducting 50 daylong community visits throughout the State. This unprecedented effort exemplifies why President Stukel is known as "the people's president".

Thus, it is truly impossible to quantify the number of people who have benefited under President James J. Stukel's guidance of the University of Illinois. However, as one of those positively affected and as an alumnus of the University, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to President James J. Stukel. He will be truly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND P. H. LEWIS, SR., ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MINISTRY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., on the celebration of his 50th anniversary in active ministry.

A native of Wilcox County, Alabama, Reverend Lewis has for the past 34 years served as pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Mobile, Alabama. Reverend Lewis graduated from Camden Academy in Camden, Alabama, and later from the Daniel Payne College and Payne Theological Seminary of Birmingham, Alabama. Following his graduation, he shared his gifts and skill as a pastor with several churches and congregations throughout Alabama: Miles Memorial A.M.E. Church in Birmingham, Gaines Chapel in Birmingham, Black Buff Circuit in Wilcox County, St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Tuscaloosa, and Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma.

Reverend Lewis is also recognized as one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. As the pastor of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, he was the only minister in the City of Selma to act against a prohibition on gatherings focused on the discussion of race issues and open his church for such meetings. Many of the early civil rights rallies of the 1960s were held at his church, and he and members of his congregation hosted the now-famous march from Selma to Montgomery that was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Lewis marched side-by-side with Dr. King on this difficult march and endured the same arrests, harassment, and abuse that so many of the hundreds of men, women, and children did on that day in March 1965.

He has throughout his life been a strong supporter of public education in Alabama and was the first African-American to serve on the Selma Public School Board. Reverend Lewis has also been extremely active in the life of the Mobile community. He is a member of the City of Mobile's Board of Adjustment, the Interdenominational Alliance of Mobile, the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance of Mobile, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Mobile Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Board of Directors of Drug Free Mobile. During his life he has received numerous awards and citations for his religious, civic, and community involvement. In addition, he has during his career authored three well-respected books: *Illustrations*, *Life is a Symbol of a Baseball Game*, and *Selma: The Other Side of 1965*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Reverend P. H. Lewis, Sr., for his many significant contributions to his friends, his congregation, his community, and to the citizens of Alabama. He has indeed been a genuine asset and friend to everyone with whom he has come into contact and shared his gifts, and I wish him and his family—his wife, Alice Grady Lewis, his three sons, and his four grandchildren—much happiness and success in the time ahead.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE YOUTHNETWORK CRISIS SHELTER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter. On October 21st, 2004 the YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter will be celebrating their thirtieth birthday. I have known Dave Hoppe, Executive Director of YouthNetwork, and Kyle Boyles, Senior Development Officer and the staff for many years. They have been and will continue to be an integral part of the Charlotte, NC community.

The YouthNetwork Crisis Shelter was founded in 1974 by members of Dilworth United Methodist Church in Charlotte. Originally known as The Relatives, the shelter was established due to the rising concern about the growing number of homeless youths in the center city. Since its founding, it has served thousands of teens and their families over the past 30 years. The shelter continues to be one of Charlotte's most successful charitable causes.

Located on East Boulevard in Charlotte, the Crisis Shelter serves the community as a coed, 9-bed emergency shelter for runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis. The Shelter is one of the Alexander Youth Network's numerous programs for positive growth and improvement of youth. Staff provides 24-hour supervision, individual and family conferences, recreational activities, and community referrals.

I greatly appreciate all their efforts and dedication to the Charlotte community.

RECOGNIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE CHIEF EDWARD PLAUGHER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Edward Plaugher who has recently been named Career Fire Chief of the Year for 2004 by Fire Chief magazine. Chief Plaugher retired as Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department in June and was instrumental in the response at the Pentagon on September 11th.

In recognition of his service in Virginia Fire Departments over the last three decades, the Virginia State Fire Chiefs Association nominated Chief Plaugher for this prestigious award. For 24 years he served with the Fairfax County Fire Department, and in 1993 was named Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department. Throughout his tenure he has been known as a leader throughout the firefighting community. Because of his leadership his fire department was aware and prepared for the threat that terrorism could pose to Arlington County, Virginia, and the United States.

This awareness first began in 1995 after the sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system. Chief Plaugher recognized that something similar could happen in Arlington County and the metropolitan area and began preparing his department and the region for this possibility. One of his top accomplishments was the creation of the first locally staffed terrorism response team in the United States.