

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF LARRY LEWIS WHO RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Larry Lewis of the Alhambra Police Department. Chief Lewis is a 35-year veteran of California Law Enforcement having served in five municipal police agencies. Chief Lewis began his distinguished career as a police cadet in West Covina, CA.

As the police chief for Alhambra, Larry Lewis has been an exemplary leader in working with his department to strengthen its application of the community policing philosophy as well as the department's commitment to ethical and professional behavior. He has instituted effective review procedures of police use of force and vehicle pursuits and introduced less lethal weapons and in-vehicle camera systems into department operations. In 2003, as a result of Chief Lewis' efforts, the department replaced its aging information technology system resulting in a new records management and computer aided dispatch system, mobile data computers in police vehicles, and mapping system as well as improved crime analysis abilities.

An active member of the community, Larry Lewis has served on several professional boards as well as community service associations such as Rotary International and the YMCA. He has taught and lectured on topics of police use of force, sexual harassment prevention, supervision, executive leadership and community policing. In addition, Chief Lewis served as the 2002 president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, representing 46 municipal law enforcement agencies in the county.

Chief Lewis received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and masters in public administration from California State University, Fullerton as well as a masters of science degree in management from Cal Poly University, Pomona. He is a graduate of the POST Command College, returning as a presenter during class orientations.

Known for his charisma and sense of humor, Chief Lewis is a popular master of ceremonies for various community and charity events.

Chief Lewis celebrates 32 years of marriage to his wife, Irene in 2004. They enjoy family outings with their son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Penny.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating Alhambra Police Chief Larry Lewis on an impressive and long spanning career in law enforcement.

HONORING ALLEN TEMPLE
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland, Cali-

fornia for 85 years of ministry and invaluable service to the community. Since its founding, Allen Temple has been a pillar of strength and leadership, and its tireless efforts have had a dramatic impact not only on the lives of its members, but on the entire Oakland and East Bay community.

Allen Temple Baptist Church began as 85th Avenue Baptist Church in 1919. The church was organized by the Reverend J.L. Allen, and was one of the first primarily African-American congregations in East Oakland. During the first several years following its establishment, 85th Avenue Baptist Church struggled to survive. However, the congregation gradually became stronger, and after moving to its current location on 85th Avenue, was renamed in 1927 in honor of its founder. In the years that followed, Allen Temple not only expanded its membership, but also began establishing the first of the many community service programs for which it is now known.

Allen Temple's current Pastor, a great and magnificent servant of God, Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., was installed as the church's leader in 1969, and brought with him the sense of energy and direction that would serve not only to rejuvenate the church's existing programs, but to initiate several new ones. The Pastoral Staff was organized, which not only increased the scope and effectiveness of the church's operations, but which today has grown to include over a dozen ministries. In the decades that followed, Allen Temple's presence within the community would become even stronger as it continued to establish initiatives such as the Allen Temple Baptist Church Federal Credit Union, the senior and disabled housing facilities at Allen Temple Arms I-III, the Radio Ministry, and the Allen Temple Hispanic Ministry. In addition, the church went onto establish the Allen Temple Community Outreach Center, the Allen Temple Family Life Center, the Leadership Institute, and Allen Temple Manor, a 24-unit building of affordable housing for persons who are disabled due to HIV/AIDS.

In recent years, Allen Temple's involvement has become increasingly vital in the support and guidance of individuals recently released from prison, and those who are HIV positive or living with AIDS. The Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Training Academy provides job training to dozens of parolees each year. The Allen Temple AIDS Ministry works to provide spiritual support and essential medical and social services to those living with HIV and AIDS, and works with the Alameda County AIDS Interface to make these services more widely available.

On October 17, 2004, Allen Temple Baptist Church will celebrate its 85-year anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to honor this occasion by commending the church for the vital role it has played not only as a great religious institution, but for the indispensable social and human services and support it provides to the people of Oakland. By setting the standard of service and commitment for institutions of faith and community improvement throughout its 85 years of ministry, Allen Temple has contributed immeasurably to the Oakland community, our country, and the world. On behalf of the Ninth Congressional District, I salute and congratulate Allen Temple Baptist church on the occasion of its 85th anniversary.

HONORING KATHI McDONNELL-BISSELL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Town of Milford, CT lost one of its strongest advocates for seniors in Kathi McDonnell-Bissell when she lost her battle with kidney disease brought on by diabetes. This month, residents and city leaders gathered to honor Kathi's memory by dedicating the newest addition to the Milford Senior Center in her honor. I am proud to stand today to join them in paying tribute to Kathi whose tireless efforts made such a difference in the lives of so many.

Senior centers play a vital role in our communities and this is especially true of the Baldwin Senior Center. All too often, what are supposed to be one's "golden years" are filled with struggles. Health concerns, increasing health care costs, the loss of independence—these are just some of the challenges our seniors face. Perhaps even more devastating is the sense of loneliness that can come as one moves through their later years. Providing invaluable programs and services, senior centers make a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens. That is why they are so important to our seniors and our communities. Kathi recognized this need and, under her leadership, what began as a small office in the basement the Mary Taylor United Methodist Church has grown into one of the most respected seniors centers in the State, boasting over 4,000 active members.

Kathi served as the Senior Center's Executive Director for over 30 years—even her declining health could not dissuade her from continuing efforts to improve the quality of life for Milford's seniors. I had the remarkable opportunity to work with Kathi on a variety of projects over the years and was constantly in awe of her endless energy, compassion, and drive. She was one of the most dedicated individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing, dedicating not only her career, but much of her own time to creating a Senior Center which was a resource for area seniors as well as a source of pride for the community. While it will be the last of such examples, the completion of the new ten thousand squarefoot, two-story addition to the Senior Center is a reflection of Kathi's dedication and commitment to providing for the ever-changing needs of her community's seniors.

For her outstanding an unparalleled service, I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Robert; her children, Suzanne, Amy, and Betsy; family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders in paying tribute to Kathi McDonnell-Bissell. Her lifetime of generosity has touched the lives of thousands and left an indelible mark on the Milford community. Kathi was an extraordinary woman whom I consider myself fortunate to have called my friend. Though she will be missed by many, I believe her legacy will continue to inspire all of those who knew her—serving as an example to us all of what a community advocate should be.