

death. Specialists at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston performed the necessary surgery and follow-up treatments for a stage four cancer. The citizens of Sulphur Springs and members of the First Baptist Church rallied in support of Star, her parents Steve and Kari, and sister Saylor. Sean Huffman, editor of *The Christian News Monthly*, wrote and published a moving article about Star and the strength and faith demonstrated by Star's parents.

Star was a beautiful and vibrant young girl who demonstrated a capacity to live with enthusiasm and joy despite her serious illness. She never understood all that was happening to her and certainly could not comprehend the outpouring of support from friends and strangers alike. But her parents did. Their Sunday School class provided groceries so they wouldn't have to shop. Someone mowed their yard every week. Weyerhauser in Dallas donated purple stars with Star's name on them that were sold to help defray out-of-pocket medical expenses. These stars were displayed all around Sulphur Springs in a show of support. Steve and Kari's employer, Farm Bureau Insurance, donated enough to cover a weekly chemotherapy drug that was not covered by their medical insurance. And the prayers that were lifted for Star and her family are countless.

Throughout this difficult time, Kari and Steve demonstrated an unshakeable faith in God and a strength beyond belief. Star may have lost her battle with cancer, but she was victorious in life. Star unknowingly strengthened the faith of her family, brought a community together in love and support, and captured the hearts of many throughout the Nation. As we adjourn today in the House of Representa-

tives, let us do so in loving memory of the life of Star Nuckolls. May her short but remarkable life continue to bless her family and community and all those whose hearts she touched.

FIFTIETH JUBILEE OF REVEREND  
I.J. JOHNSON

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month our community celebrates the fiftieth jubilee of Reverend I.J. Johnson is the pastor of St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio.

Amazingly, Reverend Johnson entered the ministry at age twelve. By nineteen, he began pastoring in his home state of Alabama. He received his Bachelor of Theology degree from Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, and served four churches until coming to Ohio in 1955. In July of that year, he was invited by Dr. Israel Walker to conduct a revival at St. Mary's Baptist Church. During this visit he met the woman who would become his wife. On August 26, 1958, Reverend Johnson and Mother Betty Rae Johnson were married. Together they raised four children: Reverend C.L. Johnson, Reverend Michael Johnson, Denisee Williams and Angela Taylor.

In October of 1955, Pastor Johnson founded and organized St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church. Started with just three members, the church grew over the half-century to more than 2,000 souls.

Enjoying a well-earned reputation as a spiritual leader, Pastor Johnson has been invited to conduct revivals in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. All of this in addition to his ministry at St. Mark's. He has established a yearly fellowship with Historical First Baptist Church of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In 1981, Pastor Johnson invited Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. to St. Mark's, at which time the first album recorded by the church choir was dedicated. The album was entitled "Our Day Will Come."

Many of our area ministers count Pastor Johnson as mentor. Perhaps the greatest testament to his nurturing ability is the fact that both of his sons are now preachers in their own right. Not only ministers, but many in our community have been beneficiaries of his counsel. Truly a community leader, Pastor Johnson served as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference for eight years. Other associations include the Fairside Community Organization, Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association, Lucas County Mental Health Board, Interracial Interfaith Committee, Evangelical Board of the National Baptist Convention, and NAACP. A welcome advisor, Reverend Johnson has also been specially recognized by our area's elected leaders.

Reverend Johnson's charismatic leadership, dynamic example, personal spirituality, and careful teachings have brought many people to live their lives in the steps of Jesus Christ. He embodies God's teachings as written in Matthew, 4:19; "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."