

serve as a major tobacco production center. During the first years of its existence, Summerdale saw the creation of numerous businesses including the Cloverdon Store, a turpentine business, a canning factory, and a sawmill. Additionally, community leaders also oversaw the building of a movie theater and the opening of the town's first newspaper, The Summerdale Record. The earliest school in Summerdale held classes in the old Masonic Hall and consisted of just five students and one teacher. A second school building was constructed in 1915, and the most recent of three buildings used for the school continues to be used to this day.

The town's first post office was established in 1905, one year after the formation of the town. Within one year, employees of the post office were delivering mail to residents living along two rural routes in and around the Summerdale area. Tobacco continued to be a major product of the Summerdale area, with one of the leading tobacco manufacturing businesses, the Summerdale Tobacco Warehouse, having been constructed between 1909 and 1910. The Summerdale Tobacco Company continued to operate until the late 1920s when a variety of factors, including the effects of the Great Depression, increasing land prices, and marketing and labor difficulties, effectively brought an end to the production of tobacco products in that area.

Despite the difficulties experienced in the early part of the Twentieth Century, Summerdale today remains one of the most attractive communities anywhere in Baldwin County. The home of Baldwin Electric Management Cooperative (EMC), Summerdale is nestled in the midst of the rapidly growing southern half of the county, just minutes from several of the First District's largest population centers.

Mr. Speaker, the 754 residents of Summerdale, Alabama, are firmly rooted in their proud past, and at the same time are keeping a careful and optimistic eye on the road ahead. The vision displayed by their community leaders during the past 100 years has led to the creation of a stable community and one of the anchors for all of Baldwin County, and I have no doubt that the continued inspired leadership and vision of today's residents and leaders will lead to even greater successes in the years ahead.

It is my hope the Town of Summerdale continues its story of success for another one hundred years.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, as we join them in celebrating 100 years of outstanding service in advocating for the legal rights of our most vulnerable citizens, our poor. The Legal Aid Society was formed in May 1905, as a beacon of protection and hope in assisting low-income individuals in matters of legal concern. Isador Grossman was its sole attorney until 1912. He

served thousands of immigrants in desperate need of a trusted legal advocate.

Over the past century, the Legal Aid Society has grown and evolved, yet its core mission has remained constant and unwavering—to provide compassionate support to those unable to afford legal representation, and also to advocate on behalf of critical issues facing our community. The work of the Legal Aid counselors is far-reaching. During the early part of the nineteenth century, Legal Aid attorneys helped establish the Cleveland Municipal Court and Small Claims Court that served to replace corrupted judicial officials. In 1966, C. Lyonel Jones was appointed the Legal Aid Society's executive director, a position he has today. His passion for social justice and compassion for the people of our community is reflected throughout his tenure. Mr. Jones has led his legal team with integrity, heart, conviction and an unwavering focus on numerous human rights issues, from advocating for the restoration of the Hough neighborhood in the 60's, winning cases to improve the lives of those living in psychiatric facilities and nursing homes, advocating on behalf of battered women, and forcing Republic Steel to comply with the EPA's Clean Air Act.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of every staff member and volunteer of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, whose individual and collective work over the past century has offered solutions, hope and peace for countless individuals and families. For the past four decades, the outstanding work of the entire staff, led by Executive Director, C. Lyonel Jones, has served to offer many people hope and has brought critical social issues into the light of day. Their advocacy continues to strengthen the foundation of humanity throughout our entire community, one phone call at a time.

HONORING DR. MARIE V.
MCDERMOND

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marie V. McDemmond, who is retiring from her role as President of Norfolk State University (NSU).

During her inspiring career in higher education, Dr. McDemmond has served more than 35 years as an extraordinary leader and educator. Dr. McDemmond has worked tirelessly to ensure fair access to higher education for minority and underserved populations throughout the country. Her steadfast commitment to this principle is well documented through her testimony before Congress and her service on numerous national boards and commissions.

As a member of President Bush's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Dr. McDemmond's service has brought national recognition to the issue of equity in funding and support for minority-serving institutions throughout these United States.

Dr. McDemmond is the first woman to lead Norfolk State University and the first African-American woman to serve as President of a four-year college in Virginia. Her success has established the financial and academic credi-

bility for her institution that exemplifies NSU's creed: "Achieving with Excellence."

In recognition of Dr. McDemmond's unwavering integrity, wisdom and dedicated service to others, members of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Congressional delegation offer the following:

Our Commonwealth owes Dr. McDemmond a debt of gratitude for her outstanding commitment to higher education. Her leadership has helped Norfolk State to gain the financial resources and infrastructure necessary for prominence in science and technology. The success of her efforts has earned the accolades of government officials and legislators throughout Virginia, and her insights have been sought on several occasions by President George W. Bush. I join with the other members of Virginia's Congressional Delegation in commending Dr. McDemmond for a lifetime of exceptional work.—Senator John Warner (R-VA)

Dr. McDemmond has been one of our Commonwealth's outstanding educational and technological leaders. Her tireless work to secure the financial resources necessary to lead Norfolk State University to the forefront in science and technology has helped close the so-called opportunity divide. For her efforts, she has received wide recognition and much deserved praise and admiration. She is a leader who will be sorely missed, but I am confident she will continue to have a great influence on Norfolk State's bright future.—Senator George Allen (R-VA)

Dr. Marie V. McDemmond has been an invaluable asset to Norfolk State University and to higher education in Virginia. Norfolk State University has truly benefited from her innovative and visionary style, which has positioned the university to excel in the 21st century. It has been a distinct pleasure of mine to work with Dr. McDemmond specifically in bridging the digital divide between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other universities. She will be very much missed at Norfolk State University and within the entire collegiate community.—Congressman Randy Forbes (R-VA)

Dr. McDemmond is everything a leader should be: full of energy, dedicated to her students and determined to do the very best for NSU. She has tremendous courage, and she is always willing to tackle big challenges. Often such people can be intimidating, but to the contrary, Dr. McDemmond is so easy to work with. I consider her a great friend, and my prayers are with her as she retires from her service.—Congresswoman Thelma Drake (R-VA)

Under the leadership of Dr. Marie McDemmond, Norfolk State University (NSU) has developed into a vibrant institution with cutting edge programs and operations. Dr. McDemmond has positioned NSU as a regional leader in information technologies and other fields in the southeastern U.S. and a national leader among minority serving institutions. While Dr. McDemmond's leadership of NSU will be sorely missed, we are gratified to know that she has chosen to continue to serve NSU and the greater higher education community by teaching at NSU. The lives of all she has touched through her dedication and service have been made richer and we are grateful to her for her important contributions.—Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (R-VA)

On the occasion of her retirement, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and commend Dr. McDemmond for her service and dedication to the cause of higher education in Virginia.