

were among the group sent out by the New England Emigrant Aid Company.

"They were abolitionists, and they came to Lawrence in 1854. Lawrence was a frontier town, and the only place where they could meet was a building made out of hay, with a thatched roof. That's where the church started," said the Rev. Peter Luckey, Plymouth's senior pastor.

Plymouth was founded Oct. 15, 1854. The church, like the city itself, is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year.

Plymouth's historic sanctuary, designed by noted Kansas architect John G. Haskell, was built in 1870—only 7 years after Quantrill's Raid on the city.

"The pastor at the time was Richard Cordley (the church's second pastor, who came in 1857), and he was a very strong, abolitionist preacher. It can be argued that part of what brought William Quantrill to Lawrence is they were intent on getting him. They actually came to his house," Luckey said.

Plymouth, which today has 1,200 members, has been at the same location since 1870.

First Baptist Church, 1330 Kasold Drive, is a year younger than Plymouth—it was founded in June 1855 and will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year—and traces its roots back to the conflict between pro-slavery and abolitionist forces.

"We had seven founding members in 1855. One of them was actually murdered in Quantrill's Raid, though the (original) church at Eighth and Kentucky wasn't harmed," says the Rev. Marcus McFaul, First Baptist's senior pastor, and the 30th full-time pastor in the church's history.

"Lawrence, Kansas, and the Christian experience in this town in many ways does reflect what I would call classic, liberal Christianity. Our founders really did embrace the dignity and worth of all people. That's a pretty significant thing in 1855 on the frontier, when everybody thought Kansas was going to be like Missouri, a slave state."

First Baptist's original sponsoring denominational group came from Boston, home to many abolitionists, and this influenced the course the congregation was to take.

McFaul said he was conscious of his church's history and legacy.

"It's almost overwhelming, because you're made very much aware that you stand on the shoulders of all those pastors who went before you."

Another Lawrence congregation that was directly affected by the battle over slavery is Trinity Episcopal Church, 1011 Vt., founded in 1857.

"All of our parish records were burned in Quantrill's Raid. Everything was burned. We lost all the documents, baptism certificates, all of that was burned. They had to start again," said the Rev. Jonathon Jensen, who is the 19th rector in the church's history.

Trinity Episcopal has been in downtown Lawrence nearly as long as the city itself has existed. The church was formed, and the present lot of Vermont Street was purchased, in 1857.

The church's first building was consecrated and opened for service July 29, 1859. The present building in the Gothic Revival style was begun in 1870 and completed in 1873.

Jensen is proud of Trinity Episcopal's long history, and he often reflects on the church's founders and past rectors.

"I feel a connection with all those who've gone before us, and it reminds me of all of those who will come after us. It feels much larger than myself," he said.

#### RICH HISTORY

Plymouth is not the only Lawrence church celebrating a sesquicentennial anniversary this year. So is First United Methodist Church, 946 Vt.

"We consider our history as beginning with the arrival of the Rev. William Goode and the Rev. James Griffing to Lawrence on Nov. 7, 1854. They held revival services here in November and December of 1854. The church charter was actually in 1855, but we have always celebrated our history as starting in 1854," said Jerry Niebaum, co-chairman of First United Methodist's sesquicentennial committee.

Goode was appointed to the Kansas-Nebraska district of the Methodist Church. Griffing was a circuit rider, traveling between communities from Lawrence to near Junction City. He was a preacher on horseback, who rode the countryside and preached the Gospel throughout the territory.

"Our first framed church was built in 1858 where the Southwestern Bell tower is downtown. If you look at the Harper's Bazaar (magazine) drawing of Quantrill's Raid, you see the Methodist church right in the center of the destruction. It was not damaged at all, and it was used as a morgue for the victims of the raid. They moved out the pews to make room for the bodies," Niebaum said.

A brick church was built in 1865 where the Masonic Temple now stands, 1001 Mass., and it was used until 1891, when the congregation moved into its present stone structure at 946 Vt.

First United Methodist has now been in the same downtown church for 113 years.

"History doesn't excite a lot of people, but yes, there are many here who understand the rich history that we have," Niebaum said.

#### SENSE OF BELONGING

For black settlers who migrated to Lawrence in the city's early years, the churches they formed offered much more than simply a place to worship.

They offered a safe haven for the expression of culture, opportunities for leadership and education, as well as a place for social, political and, later, civil rights activities.

"African-American churches are important in every community, especially if you go back in history. There was a time when blacks didn't have much of a social role outside the church. They needed some place of stability, some place that they felt was their own," said the Rev. William Dulin, pastor of Calvary Church of God in Christ, 646 Ala.

"If it hadn't been for the black churches that offered a feeling that they belonged, blacks who came to this area probably wouldn't have stayed here. Churches gave them a sense of spiritual guidance, as well as some roots. The city might have been different today if we hadn't had some of those churches."

The earliest black churches in Lawrence that have maintained continuous congregations—despite name changes and physical relocations—date back almost to the founding of the city itself.

St. Luke AME Church, 900 N.Y., and Ninth Street Baptist Church, 847 Ohio, were both founded in 1862.

Other black congregations founded in the city's early years are: St. James AME Church, North Seventh and Maple streets, established in 1865; First Regular Missionary Baptist Church (originally located at 416 Lincoln), founded in 1868; and Second Christian Church, 1245 Conn., (it has also changed locations), organized in 1897.

The Rev. Reginald Bachus, as pastor of First Regular Missionary Baptist Church, 1646 Vt., is the leader of a congregation with a venerable history. The church will celebrate its 136th anniversary in October.

He reflected on the meaning of churches to Lawrence's black residents, particularly during a time when they were largely shunned by the city's whites.

"In the life of the African-American community, especially 150 years ago, the church

was really the only place that they could feel comfortable, express themselves and have a sense of belonging in society. Many times, people could exercise their talents and leadership abilities, which they couldn't do in a secular setting," Bachus said.

Alice Fowler, historian of First Regular Missionary Baptist Church as well as a member of the congregation for the past 50 years, agreed with her pastor's assessment.

"The (black) church was the social and political outlet, the congregating place of African-Americans. It was a church, a school and a way to inform people of events that were going on in the community," she said.

"There was very large participation in events for the church, such as vacation Bible school and church picnics. There weren't a lot of activities that African-Americans could take part in (in the wider community). So churches provided their own resources for African-Americans during the (city's) early years."

#### IN HONOR OF CARL POHLHAMMER

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of Carl Pohlhammer, one of the pillars of my California Central Coast district. Carl is one of those Americans who embodies the meaning of the word citizenship; who works from humble circumstances to strengthen the quality of our democracy. I am privileged to be able to call Carl a friend.

Carl and I both share a common point of personal history having mothers who both chose the San Francisco Bay Area as our port of entry into the world. And while my parents had the good sense to move our family to the Monterey Peninsula in the late 1940s, Carl left it to the U.S. Navy to decide.

In 1963, Carl arrived at the Naval Postgraduate School as a Navy Lieutenant and Assistant Professor where he taught political science. That same year, Carl also began teaching political science down the road at Monterey Peninsula College, the Monterey Peninsula's community college. Carl eventually left the Navy, but has continued to teach to this day, despite his nominal retirement in 1995.

Prior to arriving in Monterey, Carl graduated cum laude from San Jose State University followed by the University of California at Berkeley. He married Anita Arellano, his college sweetheart, in 1954, and then spent a year in France, courtesy of the U.S. Army.

Since arriving on the Monterey Peninsula, Carl has been active in numerous community campaigns and organizations. Perhaps his most infamous effort was to chair the 1968 'bourbon renewal' campaign to convince his adopted hometown of Pacific Grove to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages. Always active Democrats, Carl and Anita attended both of the Clinton inaugurals. Anita was a delegate to the 1984 Democratic Convention in San Francisco. Carl has been a member of the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee since 1996, and was Chair from 2001 to just this year.

Mr. Speaker, every member of the House knows from their own district the crucially important role that civically involved volunteers play in the life of their own communities. Our

democracy depends on them. Carl is one of those people who deserve the Nation's gratitude for his public service as a community activist.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SGT.  
ROBERT J. CHIOMENTO

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento. He died fighting the Taliban on July 17, 2006 in Khwaya Ahmad, Afghanistan, when his patrol encountered enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana. He was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every soldier that passes away has a story behind him, and has a family. The news of Staff Sgt. Chiomento's death was relayed to me by his cousin, Thomas Chiomento, my good friend and constituent. Thom remembers his hero cousin as a third-generation who has fought in combat. Their grandfather served as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II and his father served in Vietnam. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor. Staff Sgt. Chiomento was a brave and gifted soldier who was awarded the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantrymen's Badge. He was the kind of soldier that boosted our pride in being an American.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento exemplified the spirit of service that has made this country great. It is proper to remember and honor a man of such worth and character with great respect for what he stood for. Our pride in Robert shall certainly live on—his life, his courage, his sacrifice and strength of character. The example of his citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. We will not forget his sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the memory, life and service of Staff Sgt. Robert J. Chiomento—"an American hero," and in sending our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Staci, his two daughters, Ambre and Syleste, his entire family, his friends, and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAROL  
WATSON

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. PORTER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol Watson for her service in the United States Marine Corps and subsequent volunteer work.

Carol enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately after graduating high school in 1952. After completing boot camp at Parris Island,

South Carolina and Motor Transport School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, she was assigned to Washington, DC as a staff car driver. Following her honorable discharge, Carol attended college under the GI Bill and subsequently entered the U.S. Postal Service. While with the Postal Service, Carol's hard work and dedication was recognized as she was promoted to Manager and ultimately Post Master.

Upon retiring from government service in 1992, Carol began a new career in volunteerism. After volunteering for 8 years at the Long Beach California Memorial Hospital and Teaching 55/Alive for AARP, she moved to Las Vegas and continued her work. Carol joined the Women Marine Association and the Women Veterans of Nevada. Her strong desire to assist her fellow veterans also prompted her to join the Veterans Administration (VA) as a Deputy Representative and volunteer at the VA Women's Clinic.

Earlier this year, Carol became the President of the local Sagebrush Chapter of the Women Marine Association and the Area Director for Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada. Some of her duties include recruiting new members nationwide as well as interacting with other volunteer groups. She is also working on fundraisers for the WMA to send packages to Iraq and for veterans here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Carol Watson. Her service to the people of the United States is to be applauded and her subsequent volunteerism is commendable. I thank her for her efforts and wish her the best in future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY STAFF SGT.  
ERIC CABAN

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On July 19, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Army Staff Sergeant Eric Caban (United States Army, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces) died from injuries that he suffered the previous day during a combat reconnaissance patrol in Southern Afghanistan.

A native of Manhattan, NY, Caban moved to Fort Worth with his family when he was 3 years old. A year after graduating from Fort Worth Paschal High School in 1997, Caban enlisted in the Army. His first assignment was with the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served in a sniper platoon and was a team leader. His first deployment to Afghanistan occurred in October 2001. In that assignment, Caban participated as an airborne ranger who did a combat jump in what is described as an "operation that took the strategically important Kandahar Airfield."

Following his assignment in Afghanistan, Caban left the Army in 2002 to attend the University of Texas at Arlington. However, after a year in college, Caban decided his love was the military and he re-enlisted in 2004. Initially, he was a sniper instructor. He then enrolled in the Special Forces Qualifications Course and in March 2006, became a sergeant in the Special Forces—better known as the Green Berets—and returned to Afghanistan. During his

career he earned the Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals and, posthumously, the Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

His family and friends describe Caban as someone who was committed to defending his country and to battling alongside his fellow soldiers. It is these qualities of incredible courage, strength, and pride in serving his country that we see in young heroes like Eric Caban that makes us appreciate the freedoms we enjoy here at home.

I am proud to honor Sergeant Caban's service to the United States of America and to defending freedom around the world. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO 7TH ANNUAL SUPPLY  
OUR STUDENTS CONCERT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 7TH Annual Supply Our Students Concert, which "will be held on August 2, 2006, in Laredo, Texas.

I commend Judge Danny Valdez, the lead organizer of the Supply Our Students (S.O.S.) Concert for making it one of the most successful fundraising initiatives in providing school supplies to the neediest students in the City of Laredo. He has helped make this concert possible for the past 7 years, and eased the worries of many parents about providing school supplies for the coming school year.

The children we educate today are our future, and we must endeavor to make sure that they are on the path to success by providing them the tools they need in order to accomplish their educational goals. I am proud of the support the community has shown for the Supply Our Students Concert and the involvement of the music industry in making this a successful venture.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the support of the community for the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2, 2006.

RECOGNIZING THAT ON SEP-  
TEMBER 11TH AMERICANS  
SHOULD HONOR OUR FIRST CALL  
RESPONDERS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the solemn purpose of recognizing the heroic sacrifices and ongoing efforts of America's First Call Responders.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001 claimed the lives of hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement officers and Emergency Medical Services personnel. These First Call Responders have a long history of honorable and selfless service to the United States. This service has continued at a high standard, and these First Call Responders should be commended.