

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it commemorates its 140th anniversary. The church will hold a celebration on Sunday, December 2 in Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ford, Mr. and Mrs. William Countee, Mrs. Martha Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. William Peterson, Mrs. Ellen Foote, Mrs. Ganns, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van-Dyke, Mrs. Martha Brown, Mrs. Debora Johnson, and Mr. William Augustus organized the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The first church services were held at the Ford home but as the congregation grew, the members looked to find a larger place to hold worship services. Over the next 10 years the congregation moved from place to place until in 1877 a building was purchased and renovated to give the church a permanent home. During the following years the congregation continued to grow, and the church relocated several times until it broke ground in October 1966 on the current sanctuary. After the church was dedicated in 1967, the congregation built a lounge, kitchen, fellowship hall, and classrooms. In 1978 construction on a conference room, mall, credit union, day care, communion room, mini chapel, and offices for the pastor and secretary was completed. The strength and influence of Bethel AME continued to grow, and a second center was opened at Crossings Apartment Complex in 1997.

Reverend P. David Saunders was assigned as pastor in June 1997. The church has active senior citizens and retirees programs, a missionary department and a youth department. The Bible study program attracts persons from throughout Saginaw County. Under Reverend Saunders's leadership the church is moving forward and looking to provide housing for the elderly and handicapped.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bethel AME Church for 140 years of worship, prayer and service to the Saginaw community. The church's motto is "Love Conquers All" and the clergy, staff and congregation strive daily to live these words. May they continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ for many, many more years.

RECOGNIZING NORWALK, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of the education

system in Norwalk, Iowa and to specifically congratulate two outstanding teachers from the area who recently received awards in recognition of their important contributions.

Andy Mogie, the Norwalk High School family and consumer sciences teacher, was named Iowa Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Department of Education. He is one of the few male teachers in Iowa who teach family and consumer sciences, and has been doing so for 8 years. Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill nominated Andy for his success in building the family and consumer science program into one of the highest enrolled curriculums in the school. Andy has incorporated the program of study in his classroom into his students' daily lives and motivates them by raising their expectations to the same professional expectations he has set for himself.

Jodie Irlmeier, the Norwalk seventh- and eighth-grade computer teacher, was awarded the Iowa Technology Educator of the Year award by the Iowa Technology and Education Connection. Jodie is currently in her eighth year teaching in Warren County. She is known as an exceptionally conscientious and caring teacher, as evidenced by her crediting her co-workers for her achievement. Jodie's team oriented mentality has produced optimum results for herself, her co-workers and most importantly, her students. Jodie's colleague, Sandi Lathrum recommended her for the award after seeing her develop a solid curriculum that has engaged her middle school students.

I consider it a great honor to represent Andy Mogie, Jodie Irlmeier and all of the teachers and staff of the Norwalk Community School System in the United States Congress. I wish Andy and Jodie the best and look forward to hearing more great stories about the positive impact they have as role models and educators for the children they serve.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE A. LEWIS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Leslie A. Lewis. Mr. Lewis is being honored at a testimonial banquet on Saturday, November 17, 2007, for the many contributions that he has made to the Masonic Family, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the city of Boston.

Mr. Lewis served our great Nation with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Air Force for 4 years before being honorably discharged in 1968. Since 1972, this great public servant has worked as a law enforcement official with the Trial Courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In conjunction with his numerous civic duties, Mr. Lewis has played an active and vital role with the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons. In 1991, he was elevated to the last

degree in Masonry and is the president of the Levi H. Morris Class. On December 11, 2005, Mr. Lewis was elected as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

Integrity, honor, and trustworthiness are but a few of the many illustrious words that have been used to describe the outstanding character of Leslie A. Lewis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Lewis for his selfless community service and gracious contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COMMENDING THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE ON BECOMING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 BEST PLACE TO WORK AWARD

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to comment the City of Port St. Lucie on becoming the recipient of the 2007 Best Place to Work Award. For five consecutive years, the City has earned the award from the St. Lucie County Human Resources Association, which has said that, the City of Port St. Lucie provides a top-notch work environment for city employees.

The award is given to local employers whose personnel practices are considered to be the best in the County. Employers are evaluated based on the number of employees, and with more than 1,100 workers, Port St. Lucie is considered a leader in establishing a professional working environment. Furthermore, the Best Place to Work Award Program is considered a model on how to get a community interested in workplace issues and practices.

By earning this award, the City of Port St. Lucie demonstrates its commitment to the community it serves. By bringing together exceptional personnel who are dedicated to serving the residents of the City, Port St. Lucie, is ensuring that its citizens are provided with quality services and proves that Port St. Lucie truly is a "treasure" nestled on Florida's coast.

I am honored to be able to recognize this exceptional city. I commend the City government of Port St. Lucie for their dedication to people of the City, and I wish the City success as it continues to work to serve its citizens.

STATIA AMERICA DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an often overlooked

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