

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HALLANDALE, FLORIDA ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Hallandale, Florida, on its centennial anniversary. In 1909 the church was founded under a rubber tree and counted only three students in its Sunday School class. Since then it has grown into a pillar of the community with broad outreach to those seeking spiritual guidance, religious education, social linkages, and help with their lives.

Throughout the past 100 years Ebenezer has stood up for the disadvantaged and disenfranchised, offering those in need of help comfort, care, and assistance. As the oldest church in the community, Ebenezer has been at the forefront of social and political changes in south Florida. The church and its members were active in the Civil Rights Movement and played an important role in the desegregation of the Broward County school system in the 1960s. The church and its leaders have continued the fight for equal rights and equal opportunity.

Although the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is no longer located in my congressional district, I am pleased to call its leaders and members my friends. The community of Ebenezer has been there for me at many points in my life and I am grateful for their support and friendship these many years.

Madam Speaker, for 100 years now the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church has ably served the community around Hallandale, Florida. Under the leadership of its past pastors, and its current leader, the Reverend Joe C. Johnson, the church has expanded its membership, performed good works in the south Florida region, and uplifted the members of its community. I wish the church, its leaders, and its members the best of luck in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE VALLEY FORGE BAPTIST TEMPLE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Valley Forge Baptist Temple as the congregation celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1984, "The Caring Church" has expanded to accommodate the growing congregation. After holding double Sunday-morning services, a new 32,000

square foot auditorium, nursery and office wing was built in 1996.

Valley Forge Baptist Temple supports more than 160 missionary families and organizations worldwide. Through the faith promise commitments and contributions from its members, the Church uses these funds to help evangelize the world.

Pastor Scott Wendal, Sr. has led the Church for the last 25 years, ministering and serving the people of the community. And the fruits of his labor are a growing congregation and vibrant, innovative programs that enrich lives and strengthen families.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Valley Forge Baptist Temple and in honor of all members past and present.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF COLONEL GARY L. PLUMB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of the service of Colonel Gary L. Plumb, Commander of the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Colonel Plumb retires today after 27 years of humble service to this great Nation in the United States Air Force, and I am proud to recognize his vast contributions to national security.

Colonel Plumb grew up in Loveland, Colorado. After graduating from Thompson Valley High School, he joined the Air Force and accepted an appointment at the United States Air Force Academy. He graduated from the Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on 2 June, 1982.

After earning his wings and graduating number one in his Pilot Instructor Training Class, Colonel Plumb began his flying career as an instructor pilot at Reese AFB, Texas. Upon graduating Lead-in Fighter Training, Colonel Plumb flew the F-16 while assigned to the 496th Fighter Squadron at Hahn Air Base, Germany. A graduate of the United States Air Force Test Pilot School, he then flew experimental test missions in the F-16 and F-4 while assigned to the 39th Flight Test Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. From there, he attended Air Command and Staff College and then received an assignment to the F-16 System Program Office in Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio where he was Chief of F-16 Combat Capability Development.

Identified as a proven leader, Air Force leadership selected him to command one of the most important squadrons in the Air Force, the 411th Flight Test Squadron. After taking command of the 411th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards AFB, he led developmental flight test for the Air Force's newest fighter, the F/A-22.

The Colonel was then selected to attend the prestigious Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. Following this assignment Colonel Plumb was selected for a joint assignment where he was assigned to the Joint Warfighting Center, Joint Forces Command, Suffolk, Virginia. The Colonel has commanded at the flight, squadron and group level. He is a Command Pilot who has accumulated over 3,400 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft.

Colonel Gary L. Plumb is currently the Commander, 46th Test Wing, Air Armament Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. With over 4,200 military, civilian, and contractor personnel, the Test Wing's primary mission is developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, egress systems, and navigation and guidance systems. The Test Wing manages 26 modified test aircraft; 185,500 square miles of land and water test ranges, plus facilities in six different states. His leadership as the Commander of the 46th Test Wing will ensure the Eglin range complex, a national resource, remains productive and vibrant for years to come. The weapon systems tested in Northwest Florida today maintain U.S. military superiority, provide the equipment and resources for the men and woman serving this Nation to accomplish their missions, and keep them safe.

He is married to the former Robin Church, and together they have three children—U.S. Air Force Captain Jacquelyn Perr; U.S. Army 2d Lieutenant Daniel Plumb; and U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Alexander Plumb.

During his 27 years in the military, he spent almost 8 years serving the Air Force in the First Congressional District of Florida. His tireless work has benefited our community enormously. I'm pleased to hear we will continue to profit from his leadership in the Northwest Florida community as he retires in Niceville.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Colonel Plumb for his excellent leadership and extraordinary service to the United States Air Force. His contributions to national security will continue to benefit the Nation. From all the constituents of Florida's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. TAMMIE LEE DEMLER

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Tammie Lee Demler of Wheatfield, NY, for recently being awarded the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia for her outstanding pharmacy service and leadership in our community.

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