

doors, we should look at other streamlining solutions that are already being successfully implemented. We should explore proven solutions such as adjusting post office hours to reflect customer use, extending early retirement eligibility to USPS employees, and adjusting postal delivery routes to better reflect the diminished volume of mail.

Madam Speaker, we need to keep Oteen and post offices like it open. I strongly encourage my colleagues to consider alternatives to rural post office consolidation and job loss that will help streamline the efforts of the postal service, cut costs, and increase efficiency.

RECOGNIZING JOSH ECKHOFF

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Josh Eckhoff to the U.S. House of Representatives and to recognize his tremendous contribution to our nation. Josh's story is a testament to his selflessness and an example of service every American citizen should take to heart.

After he graduated high school, Josh volunteered to join the Missouri National Guard. He was called to service in Iraq on two occasions. On his first deployment, Josh trained Iraqi soldiers to provide security for convoys tasked with transporting supplies. When he returned home, Josh enrolled in the University of Missouri at St. Louis. He was then deployed to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Then, in September of 2007, Josh was called to duty in Iraq again. This time his mission was clearing roads. He had been in Iraq for six months when an improvised explosive device exploded, causing him serious injury. After several surgeries, tremendous hardship, difficult rehabilitation and a long recovery, Josh is now back in St. Louis, where he will complete his degree.

He has received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his courage, and he is a great example of perseverance to everyone in my home state of Missouri. He will be the Parade Marshall in the annual Cotton Carnival Parade in Sikeston, Missouri, on October 3 this fall. We will give him a hero's welcome in Southern Missouri, and I think it is highly appropriate that Josh Eckhoff receive the same recognition in this Congress for his many accomplishments, past, present and future.

RECOGNIZING ELOISE McCALL OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eloise Enoyer McCall of Pasco County, Florida. In a couple of days, Eloise will do something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us

will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Born September 11, 1909 in South Sabius, New York, she now resides in Zephyrhills, Florida. Eloise was married for 53 blissful years to her late husband Carl McCall. Together they had three sons, Gerald, Leonard and Bernard.

For the past 27 years Eloise has been a member of the Zephyrhills tourist club where she still goes dancing every week.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Eloise Enoyer McCall for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOLIVAR, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the First Baptist Church in Bolivar, Missouri, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary of serving its community guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Starting with a charter group of seven believers in early September, 1859, today the First Baptist Church in Bolivar includes more than 1,500 members.

Its 150 year history has been marked by steady growth and renewed commitments of service to the community and members of its congregation. Today, First Baptist in Bolivar provides more than spiritual richness; it offers recreation, child care, educational and family support through an array of missions, programs and services all geared to serve God.

It started as a small charter group organized as the "United Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at Bolivar" and at its second meeting voted to build a house of worship—the first of what would be five structures. With unrest in the nation caused by events that would lead to civil war, the church treasury was empty in January, 1861. Three months later with the start of the Civil War, construction of the new church for its 17 worshipers was halted. The building was left unfinished and in debt.

The conclusion of the war left only four members of the original congregation living in Bolivar. It was 1866 when D.R. Murphy stepped into the leadership role at the struggling church. As pastor, Murphy took up the call to resume construction of the church building and mount a donated church bell in the new tower.

Two years later the church was still under construction, but the congregation decided to move their worship services from the courthouse to the new church in August, even before the walls were plastered. The building was painted with pews and kerosene lamps in place by the end of the year, and the Bolivar church began to grow.

The first organized choir could be heard in 1869 accompanied by organ music. And the size of the congregation underwent a dramatic increase when Southwest Baptist College was moved from Lebanon to Bolivar in 1880. A

month-long revival in January saw the congregation more than double, including the baptism of 28 people on February 8, 1880.

By 1888, the church's name had been changed to the First Baptist Church, and membership continued to increase as the town and nearby college grew in population. In 1897 an entirely new building, complete with baptistry and gravity furnace, was in place. It was wired for electricity in 1901. It was replaced in 1926 with larger quarters on the northern half of Block #32 as Sunday school enrollments and congregational growth demanded expanded educational quarters. Other expansions came in 1959 and in the early 1980s.

The character of the First Baptist Church in Bolivar has been shaped over the decades by its location in the bedrock center of the nation and its close relationship with Southwest Baptist University, where I had the privilege of serving as President before my tenure in Congress. Education and leadership have given the church a unique outlook on the world, its community and the good works it does in the Lord's name.

First Baptist is making plans for their 150th anniversary celebration events throughout the month of September. The anniversary theme is Celebrate God's Faithfulness—Yesterday, Today, Forever. As my former house of worship, I know the people of this congregation, their work ethic, their love of God and the strength of their faith as they serve their community and the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 687 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 324); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 688 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 310); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 689 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3123).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010: This project, a SOCOM/Oklahoma State University collaboration, will perform testing, integration and commercialization of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) and command, control, communications, computers, intelligence surveillance, reconnaissance (C4ISR) sensor-related technologies.