

IN HONOR OF DR. J.H. FLAKES

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J.H. Flakes of Columbus, GA, who on Sunday, October 18, will celebrate his 48th year as the Senior Pastor of the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. I have known Reverend Flakes for many years and feel honored to call him a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration.

Reverend Flakes was born in Phenix City, AL, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from American Baptist College in Nashville, TN. He continued his biblical studies at Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA, the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Houston, TX, and the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia in Rome, GA. In addition, he has received an honorary doctorate from A.B. Lee Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, FL, and an honorary doctorate degree from his alma mater, the American Baptist College.

As the Word says in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Reverend Flakes has truly lived by this principle. Since his arrival at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church, he has sought to implement the church's mission to "obey the will of God through preaching, teaching, witnessing, stewardship and fellowship."

Reverend Flakes has received numerous awards and recognitions to honor his steadfast commitment to his parishioners and his community, including the Outstanding Personality of the South, Ten Outstanding Ministers in the State of Georgia, the Alpha Phi Alpha Martin Luther King Award, Operation PUSH Martin Luther King Award, as well as the Knighthood Award from the Congress of Christian Education.

With ordained leadership and divine grace, Reverend Flakes has built a church that delivers God's message and works daily to implement God's vision. Reverend Flakes personifies the love of God through his teaching and his way of life. I thank him for his years of service to his parishioners, the Columbus community, Georgia's Second Congressional District, and the Nation. Moreover, I wish him many more fruitful years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE  
FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS  
PLAY IN SUPPORTING  
SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 408, "Recognizing the vital role family readiness volunteers play in supporting servicemembers and their families". I would like thank my colleague, Representative

DAVIS, for introducing this resolution, as well as the co-sponsors.

Since 2001, nearly 2,000,000 active duty and reserve sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel have deployed for duty in the battlegrounds of Afghanistan and Iraq. To add to this service, the more than 1,800,000 family members of regular component members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1,100,000 family members of reserve component members make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States in support of their loved ones deployed overseas.

But while the readiness of the United States Armed Forces is predicated on the ability of each member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to focus on their mission during deployments, this military necessity of long and often unpredictable deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families.

In response to these sacrifices and challenges, family readiness volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide critical support during deployments to servicemembers and their families. These programs in each service help commanding officers have a better understanding of the welfare of the families within his or her command during a deployment and allow families to be informed about the status of their loved ones' unit overseas.

The thousands of family readiness volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces who provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life. They consist of Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Coast Guard Ombudsmen, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and Marine Corps Key Volunteers. These volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations.

Family readiness volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources for military families, as well as provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families.

It is no exaggeration to say that the outstanding performance of our servicemembers is a testament to the great success of family readiness volunteers. That is why I join this distinguished body in recognizing and honoring the family readiness volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, energy, and resources in service to the United States and commend family readiness volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

**RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA STOP  
MODERN SLAVERY**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Stop Mod-

ern Slavery (VASMS) and its efforts to educate parents, teachers and child-care providers on the danger sex trafficking poses to our communities.

VASMS was established in August of 2009 by Jessica Johnson of Annandale, Va. Its volunteers work to preserve safe, family friendly communities. They work to eliminate human trafficking in America by educating and supporting victims' service providers, legislators and local law enforcement officials. Members of VASMS build community partnerships and coordinate outreach events because they understand that bringing this issue to the forefront of public discussion starts with a dedicated grassroots effort.

On October 10, 2009, VASMS hosted The Safe Child Fair in Gainesville, Va., through a partnership with the Bridge to Freedom Foundation, Courtney's House and RIJI Green. The fair offered children's activities and games while parents learned how to protect their children from child exploitation. Events like The Safe Child Fair bring communities together to rally around a common call to action. Eradicating sex trafficking in America requires the involvement and due diligence of all communities, and I urge all to join in this battle to protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of Virginia Stop Modern Slavery. The prevalence of human trafficking in the United States is deplorable, and I wish VASMS continued success in its campaign to raise awareness for this issue.

**H.R. 3632, THE "FEDERAL JUDICIARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 2009"**

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of H.R. 3632 is to implement non-controversial administrative provisions that the Judicial Conference and the House Judiciary Committee believe are necessary to improve the operations of the Federal judiciary and provide justice for the American people.

The Judicial Conference is the policy-making body of the Federal judiciary and through its committee system evaluates court operations. The Conference endorses all of the provisions in the bill.

H.R. 3632 affects a wide range of judicial branch programs and operations, including those pertaining to financial administration, process improvements, and personnel administration.

The bill incorporates nine separate items, including:

A section that clarifies that senior judges must satisfy minimum work thresholds to participate in court government matters, including the selection of magistrates.