

could serve both in the military and as pilots, regardless of gender.

Madam Speaker, the Women Airforce Service Pilots were remarkable women that gave unselfishly and wholeheartedly for their country. I ask my fellow colleagues today to join me in honoring their accomplishments and celebrating their legacy for future generations of women.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUELIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1910, a small congregation was formed under the leadership of the Reverend James Alfred Lampley. This was the founding of Truelight Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois. Serving with Pastor Lampley as the original church officers were Deacons John Wright and Charles King, Clerk Mary King, and Treasurer Frank Settles.

Originally located at 14th Street and Baker Avenue, Truelight Baptist Church would move several times as the requirements and size of the congregation grew, while always staying within the same East St. Louis neighborhood. When the current, brick church at 1535 Tudor Avenue was under construction, the congregation met for a time at the funeral home of one of its members. When the first floor of the church was completed, the congregation marched from the funeral home to the new church building.

Upon the death of founding Pastor Lampley in 1956, Reverend Henry Nicholson was chosen as pastor at the very young age of 23. Pastor Nicholson continues to serve as pastor to this day. It is a rare blessing that Truelight Baptist Church has had only two pastors in its 100 year history.

Truelight Baptist Church has grown and expanded since its humble beginnings. Several parishioners have moved but continue to return for services. The congregation has started several ministries and has developed an active participation in social, political and educational issues while remaining rooted in its spiritual foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of Truelight Baptist Church and to wish the congregation the best for many years to come.

JENNIFER ROBINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jennifer Robinson. Jennifer is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Jennifer's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Jennifer has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Jennifer can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jennifer Robinson for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

A TRIBUTE TO TOM A. CURTSINGER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom A. Curtsinger of Owensboro, Kentucky for his service both to his country and the Commonwealth.

Born in Graves County, Mr. Curtsinger grew up working on his family farm and honorably served in the US Air Force during World War II. After his service, Mr. Curtsinger received his bachelor's degree in agriculture and his master's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Tom and his wife Rose were married in 1954, and they have five children, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. In 1968, when Mr. Curtsinger was hired as Daviess County's 2nd Extension Agent, the Curtsinger family moved to Owensboro, where they still reside today.

During his work in Daviess County, crop yields improved by nearly 100 percent, an accomplishment that greatly benefited his community.

For all his hard work and dedication, Mr. Curtsinger received the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award on December 12, 2000. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rural Life Celebration Committee recognizing Mr. Curtsinger's commitment to promoting the agriculture industry and helping his community.

As a leader in Daviess County, Mr. Curtsinger has been involved with many organizations, including serving as Treasurer and Secretary of the DC Lions Club and past president of the Kentucky Agriculture County Extension Agent Association. Mr. Curtsinger has also served as an honorary board member of the DC Farm Bureau and is the founder and organizer of the Annual Agriculture Farm Expo.

I want to thank Mr. Curtsinger, along with Rose and their family, for serving as role models for all Kentucky families, especially those within the rapidly changing farming industry. I wish them nothing but the best, and I hope their success continues for many years to come.

HONORING MR. JACK JONES JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Jack Jones Jr. Mr. Jones served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Carroll.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Jones served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Jones is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County, Texas on its sesquicentennial year. It was 150 years ago when Wilson County was founded in South Texas by an act of the state legislature. The area is rich in culture and history and serves a great part to the state of Texas.

Before the founding of the county, the first Spanish explorers traveled the area in the early eighteenth century and used the land mostly for ranching. Most notably, the birthplace of ranching took place at Rancho de las Cabras. This was a ranching outpost for Mission San Francisco de la Espada where the first ranches and cowboys settled near Floresville in Wilson County. By the 1800s, Mexicans, Anglo American, German and Polish settlers began moving into the area. Soon after, the state Legislature founded Wilson County on February 13, 1860. The county was named after James Charles Wilson, who was an early settler of Texas and a state legislator.

Throughout the years, Wilson County has played a significant role in South Texas history. After the Civil War, Wilson County's population underwent the greatest growth due to the completion of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway, which reached Floresville in 1886. By the early nineteenth century, farmers who were once known for cotton crops as the most important cash crop, then diversified into a wider range of like peas, watermelons, and peanuts. Today, some call Floresville the "Peanut Capital of Texas." Wilson County residents have served valiantly in combat from the Civil War to today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. One hundred and fifty years has shaped the county and development of Texas through its rich culture and history and of a diversified economy that includes farming, ranching, and even oil discovery.