

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MANISTIQUE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manistique on the church's 125th anniversary. Members of the congregation selected the following passage as their theme for this historic anniversary, "We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word." It is a mission this congregation has been carrying out successfully for 125 years.

Zion Lutheran was founded on August 15, 1885 by missionary pastor J.J. Maakestad. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the church's founding coincided with the decision in 1885 by the lumber community of Epsport to officially change its name to Manistique. Originally called the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church, 19 Swedish families totaling 65 individuals comprised Zion Lutheran's original congregation. By 1906 the congregation had already outgrown the original church built by J.J. Maakestad, and that year the present church was constructed at a cost of \$10,143.

Services at Zion Lutheran continued to be held in Swedish until 1947. Over the last century and a quarter, 20 pastors have served Zion Lutheran and the congregation elected its first women to the Church Council in 1974. The first lay person to serve as president of the Church Council was elected in 1979.

Members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church reach out to those in need with open arms and a strong sense of community. The congregation sponsors Boy Scout Troop #400 and Cub Scout Troop #402 and it has been involved with local Habitat for Humanity efforts. Zion Lutheran is also active in Lutheran World Relief and its members make an average of 250 quilts a year to be distributed to hospitals, orphanages and the sites of natural disasters to help those in need. In February 2002, the church began the "Sharing Prayers Ministry" program, which provides a homemade lap robe, or prayer shawl, to church members who are going through a stressful or difficult period in their life.

As a member of the Great Lakes Synod, Zion Lutheran has formed a cultural and spiritual fellowship with its sister congregation, Magomeni Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This includes an exchange of letters from Sunday schools classrooms, luncheons featuring foods from Tanzania, and this past fall two members of Zion Lutheran travelled to visit Magomeni Lutheran Church, bringing the Upper Peninsula to Tanzania.

Madam Speaker, the spirit and principles that are intrinsic to the Upper Peninsula can be found throughout the history of this church and the actions of its congregation. Over the past 125 years, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manistique has shared the joy of the Lord with the community of Manistique and with open arms has reached out to those in need. For these many blessings, Madam

Speaker I ask that you, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in recognizing Pastor Dave Hueter and the members of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manistique on its 125th anniversary.

HONORING LT. COL. WILLIAM
"BILL" C. BRYAN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Lt. Col. William "Bill" C. Bryan, longtime resident of Vacaville, California, and to recognize his many accomplishments and contributions to our country and the community.

Sadly, Bill passed away at home with his wife at his side on August 1, 2010 at the age of 90.

I was honored to have recently visited with Bill, his wife Betty and daughters Geri and Karen, as well as two of his grandchildren at their family home. Bill and Betty shared stories about their lives together and proudly showed off a mini time-line of photographs from their wedding day, their growing family and Bill's 90th birthday party. Bill also recalled his service in WWII and shared with me photographs of his early years in the service and throughout his distinguished career. Bill took great pride in serving our country and his love of flying was evident and everlasting.

William "Bill" Charles Bryan was born on April 27, 1920, in Big Timber, Montana, to William Franklin Bryan and Lena Bryan. Bill's outstanding character was no doubt evident to all who knew him, and his commitment to the United States Army was a true indication of his sense of duty and love of country.

Bill's long career with the military started when he was drafted into the Army in 1942 and served in the Army Coastal Artillery Unit. In 1943, he cross-trained and started pilot training in the Army Air Corps. In 1944, on his 17th mission over Germany, his B-24 was shot down over Austria. Bill courageously spent 14 months as a Prisoner Of War (POW) in Northern Germany at Stalag Luft #1. Despite often frightening and harrowing conditions as a POW, Bill returned to flying upon his release in 1946 and piloted the Douglas C-124 Globemaster and the Douglas C-130 Hercules. In 1947 Bill became a member of the newly designated United States Air Force where he continued to serve until retiring in 1966 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Bill would not remain idle after retiring from the Air Force for long. Following his distinguished time in the military, he embarked on a second fulfilling career and started his own business, "Bill's Refrigeration". Bill not only ran the business, but he also worked as a repairman on refrigeration systems through the neighboring communities until his retirement in 2004. For many years he volunteered his services and repaired the Vacaville Veterans Hall refrigeration system to continue showing his support to the veterans community.

Over the years, Bill donated his time and talent to the Veterans Community and was

often called upon as quest speaker at various veterans' services such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Remembrances and Prisoner of War and Missing in Action ceremonies. Bill served as an advisor to his local veterans groups on POW/MIA issues and was a member of the Quiet Birdman, Order of the Daedalians, American Legion Post 165, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7244 and Sacramento POW Club.

Bill's patriotism in the community was frequently recognized by his peers. Bill was seen standing proudly along the front row of veterans holding the POW/MIA flag for two hours at one event. He refused several attempts during the event to use a chair and he proudly proclaimed he was standing up, "in support of our troops".

Bill is survived by his wife, Betty C. Bryan; son, Wesley William and wife Jerri; his daughter, Geri Bryan Hann; stepdaughter, Karen Novak and husband Joe; stepson, Steve Croft and wife Oolah. He was also the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, once again, I would like to pay tribute to the life of a true American hero, Lt. Col. William "Bill" C. Bryan and further recognize his unwavering devotion to his family, his community, and his country.

HONORING RANDALL G. MEADOWS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, Forty-six years ago a tenacious man of God accepted his calling to serve at Snapping Shoals EMC in Covington, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Randall G. Meadows began his career with Snapping Shoals EMC and worked his way up to become President/C.E.O and today retires after forty-six years of outstanding service and leadership; and

Whereas, this remarkable man has shared his time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that service truly comes with results and a smile; and

Whereas, Mr. Randall G. Meadows is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Randall G. Meadows on his retirement from Snapping Shoals EMC and to wish him well in his new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 15, 2010 as Mr. Randall G. Meadows Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of July, 2010.