

Bakary, Juan Carlos Nielo Uy, Stojanco Krstevski, Sandy Yuliana Meza De La Torre, Joan John Dordea, Rocio Galvan, Jose De Jesus Hernandez, Javier Julian, Mahnoush Nikki Malekan, Olama Ziyad Mohammed, Oliberio Ortiz, Jorge Ortiz, and Bernardino Perea.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2011, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate and welcome them.

THE BLACK AND GOLD IN THE  
ATL

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, since its founding, the Black and Gold in the ATL has been and continues to be a worthy instrument for reuniting people who have migrated from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, over the past 20 years, the Black and Gold weekend celebration has been held to support the Pittsburgh Steelers and to fellowship with family and friends from Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, the Black and Gold in the ATL weekend has always promoted the concept of One Community—One Goal by working with and for individuals of all walks of life to make Atlanta a place where Pittsburgh natives are seen as well as heard; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community by being productive citizens; and.

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the members of the Black and Gold in the ATL, our district is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim June 25, 2011, as The Black & Gold in the ATL Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of June, 2011.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK  
BRIDGE BRUINS MEN'S TENNIS  
TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rock Bridge Bruins Men's Tennis team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Championship on May 26.

These young men and their coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the 2 A Tennis Championship to their school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Rock Bridge Bruins for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN T.  
HARDIN OF THE UNITED STATES  
COAST GUARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the distinguished 27-year career of Captain John T. Hardin in the United States Coast Guard. Captain Hardin has served in the United States Coast Guard with distinction throughout his career, in particular as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, which is located in the First Congressional District.

Captain Hardin graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut on May 23, 1984 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering. His first duty station was aboard the USCG Sherman where he served as Engineer of the Watch, Auxiliary Officer, Electrical Officer, and Fueling Officer. Captain Hardin went on to attend Naval Flight Training and received his wings in May of 1987.

Captain Hardin's diverse career took him to multiple locations including Miami, San Diego, and San Francisco. During these assignments Captain Hardin served as Morale Officer, Public Works Officer, Aviation Material Officer, Rotary Wing Assistant Engineer, Aircraft Salvage Officer, HH-65A Instructor Pilot, Engineer Officer, and even President of the Flight Examining Board. Captain Hardin became dual-qualified in the HH-65A helicopter, the first qualified copilot in the HU-25C Air Interceptor, and earned a Master's of Business Administration in Technologies Management.

Captain Hardin's connection to Elizabeth City, North Carolina began in 1999 with his first assignment as the HU-25 Product Line Manager at the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center. Later, in 2002, Captain Hardin transferred to the Engineering Industrial Supply Center as the Aircraft Repair and Supply Center Chief Engineer. In 2003, Captain Hardin became the commanding officer of the C-130J Aircraft Project Office, and his career culminated in July of 2008 when he assumed command of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City.

Captain Hardin has dutifully served our country for the past 27 years, and eastern

North Carolina for over 10 years while stationed at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. It brings me great joy to honor the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to duty demonstrated by Captain Hardin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Captain John T. Hardin on his retirement from the United States Coast Guard and offer my sincere appreciation for his many years of service to the United States of America.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN OPEN  
DOOR CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to congratulate An Open Door Church on its 25th anniversary. In honor of this momentous milestone, a celebratory reception will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at An Open Door Church in Hammond, Indiana. For 25 years, An Open Door Church has been committed to the spiritual and social conditions of residents living in the Hammond area as well as in the greater Northwest Indiana community.

Founded on July 6, 1986 in South Holland, Illinois, by Doctors and Pastors Meredith and Marilyn Shackelford, An Open Door Church began as a small congregation in the basement of the pastors' home. Quickly outgrowing this small space, the church began to rent space, and, after eight years, it was able to purchase its first building in Hammond. The church's congregation continued to grow and the church moved to its current location on Hohman Avenue in Hammond, Indiana six years ago. Currently, the church has an impressive membership of more than 350 congregants.

The church and its parishioners follow a visionary motto, “reaching people to reach the world,” which is carried out through the church's various ministries and programs that work to support change in the lives of others. An Open Door Church places a strong emphasis on the family unit, and has built its organization around the belief that strong families build strong communities. The church's dedication to the welfare of residents in Northwest Indiana is demonstrated through its many outreach projects which include: a summer concert series at Harrison Park where school supplies are distributed to children in need; Wee Care, a child development ministry; a food pantry ministry that feeds over 75 families per month; Give God a Chance, a marriage ministry; a prison outreach ministry; various children and teen ministries; and the Christian Academy, which provides education for grades kindergarten through grade eight. In addition, the church has partnered with numerous community organizations in order to improve the quality of life for countless individuals. These organizations include Calumet Project, Interfaith Worker Justice, and Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance. An Open Door Church, its founders, and its ministry directors show uncompromising loyalty to the community of Northwest Indiana and they are worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in