HONORING FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE, TEXAS 175TH CELEBRATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Demisemiseptcentennial Celebration of the First United Methodist Church in Palestine, Texas.

On September 11, 2011, the First United Methodist Church of Palestine will celebrate 175 years of Methodism in Palestine and Anderson County, Texas as well as the 100th anniversary of its sanctuary and worship facilities. For 175 years evangelism, missionary service, youth development, Sunday school, Bible study, fellowship, and worship have been continually celebrated by the congregation from Fort Houston, through the Box home, Bascom Chapel, Centenary Church and now the First United Methodist Church.

As Thomas Jefferson said, ''It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read,'' it is an honor to represent the parishioners of the First United Methodist Church of Palestine, Texas whose lives exude service and faith.

HONORING BRUCE FIEDLER

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Mr. Bruce Fiedler, who, after 26 years, is retiring as the administrator for the non-profit Pleasanton Gardens senior housing facility.

Pleasanton Gardens, started in 1967, developed from the collaboration of four local churches—St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Lynnewood Methodist, First Baptist and Centerpointe Church. Mr. Fiedler joined Pleasanton Gardens in 1985 and he worked tirelessly for over two decades to create a home for our seniors while still finding time to serve the community.

Bruce Fiedler dedicated himself to making Pleasanton Gardens a caring home and family for its residents. He enlisted the support of local Rotary Club members to host events such as the annual Valentine's Day themed ''Sweetheart Dinner.'' This year marked the 16th annual ''Sweetheart Dinner,'' which dozens of seniors attended.

Mr. Fiedler also took part in many community initiatives. He served on the Housing Commission and the Human Services Commission for the City of Pleasanton. He participated in the task force that led the planning, financing and development of the Pleasanton Senior Center. He volunteered on the Wheels Senior and Disabled Passengers Advisory Committee, which designated bus routes and passenger shelters in Pleasanton, as well as the Alameda County Senior Needs Committee, which allocated funds for Dial-a-Ride and other senior services.

In 1992, Mr. Fiedler participated in a grassroots effort to make restaurants in the Tr-Valley area smoke-free. During Mr. Fielder's leadership, Pleasanton Gardens also became a smoke-free facility. Since that time, he has spoken at seminars, both locally and nationally, on the dangers of secondhand smoke and how to make multiple housing units smoke-free.

Bruce Fiedler is a valued and respected member of our community who improved the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bruce Fiedler for his exceptional service to our seniors and our community.

SAN JACINTO MONUMENT: EVERYTHING IS BIGGER AND BETTER IN TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, everything I know and love and about the State of Texas, including what we stand for, is due in part to General Sam Houston. We've celebrated his victory over Dictator Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto for 175 years, and through the San Jacinto Monument, we celebrate his legacy as well.

We get our Texas pride from Sam Houston. Houston refused to be overrun by a dictator and fought for freedom and independence even when he was outnumbered 2 to 1. Houston's army was an odd, terrifying-looking bunch. They were all volunteers. Instead of regular uniforms, they were dressed in buckskins, with pistols in their belts, bowie knives, long muskets, and tomahawks. They came from numerous States and Mexico. The Tejanos were hungry for independence. So as not to confuse these Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Capitan Juan Sequin put a playing card in the head band of each Tejano so they could easily be recognized. The combat lasted but 18 minutes on April 21, 1836, but the legacy is timeless: Texas became a free, independent nation that day.

Houston and the Tejanos' legacy lives on through an obelisk soaring into the sky and crowned with a 34-foot star, the lone star of Texas. Built in 1936, one hundred years after the battle ended, the San Jacinto Monument looks like the Washington Monument, but of course, it's taller—15 feet to be exact. Just like the Texas State Capitol is bigger than the Capitol of the United States. As a child, I stood before the Monument, amazed at its size—a staggering 570 feet. It really felt like everything was bigger in Texas.

165 men built the Monument. The crew completed 6 feet of wall every day—an amazing feat when you consider the weight and height of the monument. Each stone weighed 500 pounds. (I'm sure the Ford Tough F–150 would have come in handy back then.) Weighing in at70,300,000 pounds, the Monument is fittingly Texas big. Thanks to the crew's hard labor, the San Jacinto Monument is now recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

This year, as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence, head east to those famous marshy banks of the San Jacinto to see the Monument and witness the telling story at the San Jacinto Day Festival and BattleReenactment. We remember our past, knowing we were a nation once; and we have to smile knowing that sometimes we still act like an independent country. The Texas that we know and love would not exist had General Sam Houston and his men been defeated in 1836. They came from most of the States in the Union and many foreign countries—and they were all volunteers. Always remember Houston's Boys.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY FOR ITS NEW DESIGNATION AS A UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Notre Dame of Maryland University on their new designation as a university.

Notre Dame has been a leader in educating women leaders since its founding on September 9, 1895. Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, this University was the first Catholic college for women to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree. Over the past 116 years, the University has grown to offer both men and women undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. The University has also recently established schools for Arts and Sciences, Education, Nursing and Pharmacy, recognizing the growing need for these professions in the region and across the country. This successful institution not only values education, but also embraces the call for global outreach which was so valued by the founders and is captured in their motto, Veritatem Prosequimur, We Pursue Truth.

Education is critical not only to the success of Maryland, but to this great country. I am proud that Maryland is home to an educational institution such as Notre Dame of Maryland University and I know that this school will continue to prepare students to be critical thinkers and leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate Notre Dame of Maryland University for its educational excellence and wish its continued success for the next 116 years.

IN HONOR OF DR. GLENNAH TROCHET

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Glennah Trochet, who has been a tireless advocate of quality health care for more than 30 years. As she retires from her position as Sacramento County's Public Health Officer, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Trochet for her never-ending service to the Sacramento community.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Trochet has served as the Public Health Officer for Sacramento County. She has been instrumental in implementing and overseeing numerous key