

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU AND THE TAIWANESE PEOPLE

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou on his reelection to the presidency of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and to wish him well on the auspicious occasion of his second inauguration on May 20, 2012.

I also wish to congratulate the Taiwanese people for the peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in which they participated on January 14, 2012. The openness, fairness, and transparency with which they conducted their elections are the traditional hallmarks of a mature and democratic country.

Taiwan stands as a beacon of freedom and liberty in East Asia. As one of our closest and most trusted friends in the world, it is my most sincere hope that we never lose sight of our responsibilities to Taiwan under the Taiwanese Relations Act and, additionally, that we always look to the Six Assurances as the proper set of guidelines by which we conduct ourselves in all diplomatic matters relating to the Republic of China.

Again, I wish to express my most heartfelt congratulations to both President Ma and to the Taiwanese people.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF KENNY FOX

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, a lasting democracy is built on an active citizenry; a citizenry that serves, leads, and protects for the greater good of their community. I rise today to honor one such citizen whose life was lived in service to his community and whose noble act of bravely is the model of all who seek to protect and defend.

Decaturville Fire Chief Kenny Fox will be remembered for his loving personality, great sense of humor, devotion to his family, and his heroic actions in the last things. The hour of the morning didn't alter Fox's response. Answering the call to duty, Fox rushed to the Oak Hill Café to protect the business from a raging fire. Pushing his brothers in service out of harm's way, Fox lived out the scriptures' definition of the greatest love as he laid down his life for his friends.

Kenny Fox was an outstanding fire chief, a valuable member of his community, and a loving part of his family. I join with his wife, children, family, community, and fellow firefighters in honoring Kenny's service, dedication, and valiant sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join with me as we remember Chief Fox for his courage and seek to serve our communities with the same sense of allegiance and purpose.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to recognize the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington DC, which is taking place on Memorial Day weekend, May 24–28.

D.C. Black Pride 2012 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community and town hall meetings; a reception at Madame Tussauds; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists. D.C. Black Pride culminates with a Health and Wellness Expo at the Francis-Stevens Educational Campus.

D.C. Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first-ever Black Pride festival, D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 35 Black Prides on three continents. Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration's organizing body, chose "It's A Family Affair" as this year's theme. The theme reflects the connectedness of the Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of D.C. Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of African American LGBT communities. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate their heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

D.C. Black Pride is led by a volunteer board of directors, which coordinates the annual event and smaller events throughout the year. The 2012 board consists of: George Birdsong; Max Cheatham, Derrick Dunning, Jimma Elliott-Stevens, Earl Fowlkes, Jr., Kenneth Hopson; Kenya Hutton, Danielle King, Marc Morgan, June Spence; and Andrea Woody-Macko.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in welcoming all attending the 22nd annual D.C. Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that the United States citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without voting representation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN NEW YORK'S 25TH DISTRICT AND ACROSS OUR NATION

HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend the work that job creators do

to provide services and American jobs in New York's 25th District and across our great Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to draw attention to the efforts of Dr. Rick Plympton, the CEO of Optimax, located in my district in Rochester, New York. Optimax provides innovative technology and manufacturing solutions for the production of precision optics. After over 16 years of work with Optimax, Dr. Plympton has been awarded the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 2012 New York State Small Business Person of the Year award.

I want to congratulate Dr. Plympton on his innovation, hard work and leadership. Thank you for all you contribute to our community and Nation.

HONORING DR. CALVIN MCKINNEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Calvin McKinney of the Calvary Baptist Church for his unwavering commitment to the development of community and faith in Garfield, New Jersey. I extend my sincerest congratulations to him on the occasion of his June 6, 2012, 40th anniversary of pastoral service to the congregation.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor McKinney, Calvary has established a reputation for its extraordinary humanitarian efforts. In 1998, the Calvary Community Development Center was established to bridge the economic, social, and political gaps in the community by providing clothing, food, and emergency assistance to those in need. Dr. McKinney's faith further inspired him in 2003 to guide his congregation in the construction of a \$10 million, 1,500 seat sanctuary which includes educational, fellowship, and administrative complexes.

While administering an ever-expanding ministry, Rev. McKinney enjoys a full preaching ministry that has taken him throughout this country, as well as the continents of Africa, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. One of the most memorable moments in his career came during the Centennial Session of his beloved National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. in Birmingham, Alabama where he was honored with the opportunity to preach in 1980.

He served as the youngest Moderator in the history of the North Jersey District Missionary Baptist Association from 1986 to 1990; and served from 1996 through 2000 in an unprecedented tenure as one of the youngest presidents in the history of the 300,000 member General Baptist Convention of New Jersey. Dr. McKinney's exemplary leadership later earned him the title of President Emeritus.

In addition to his role as pastor and a denominational leader in the Baptist Church, Pastor McKinney serves the community in a wide-range of capacities. He presently works on the Governor's staff as Chair of the Commission on Faith-Based Initiatives for the State of New Jersey. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the U.C.C. Day Care Center #100; a trustee of Passaic County