

faithful and was a prominent voice for peace and compassion in the Middle East. Where others doubted he projected hope and met each challenge with determination and courage.

Metropolitan Philip's deep faith led him to always serve and place others before himself, whether it was the President of the United States or a member of the church. His legacy of stewardship includes helping the Arab Christian community adapt to life in America while still retaining and sharing their deep, rich roots with their new communities. His leadership also allowed the church to expand and saw the number of parishes quadruple. In an age of declining church attendance his spirit nurtured growth.

Metropolitan Philip will be remembered foremost as a man of God as well as a uniter, theologian, author, humanitarian and a warm friend. Over the years Metropolitan Philip has been very good to me along with countless others. I am deeply saddened by his death and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all of those who have been blessed to have him as part of their lives.

Both the church and the country have lost an individual who possessed a deep and enduring faith, who passionately advocated for those in need and stood up for what he believed in.

Mr. Speaker, I close with the sentiment that the greatest way to honor Metropolitan Philip's legacy would be to emulate the manner in which he lived his life, which stands as a testament to a calling devoted to others.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OREN LYONS AS THE 2014 WISDOM KEEPER AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, the Haudenosaunee, as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award Recipient.

The 2014 Wisdom Keeper award will be presented to Chief Lyons at The F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Event on April 2, 2014 at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter in Syracuse, New York. The Wisdom Keeper Award recognizes community leaders that have enriched our community with their wisdom, perseverance and passion. Award winners are commemorated with bronze plaques placed in the F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Garden in the City of Syracuse.

Chief Lyons was an All-American lacrosse player at Syracuse University, playing next to the great two-sport All-American Jim Brown. Today, Chief Lyons is enshrined in the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Chief Lyons has relished in a spiritually rich and fulfilling life, and has contributed immensely to the cause of passing on a clean and fruitful earth to future generations. Chief Lyons is the recipient of The Earth Day International United Nations Award. Chief Lyons

has also been awarded the National Audubon Award, the Elder and Wiser Award of the Rosa Parks Institute of Human Rights, as well as the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor.

Chief Lyons has been a tireless advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples. He worked to establish the Working Group of Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival. Chief Lyons recently was awarded Sweden's Friends of the Children Award, along with Nelson Mandela. In 1992, Chief Lyons addressed the U.N. General Assembly as he commenced the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Chief Oren Lyons as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. May he continue to be a leading force for all that is good and fair for our future generations in an ever-changing world.

CELEBRATING STEVE SWOFFORD'S 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Swofford's 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He has served the congregation and his community with humility, humor, and a love that stems from his faith in Jesus Christ. I know the First Family of FBC Rockwall is thankful for the Swoffords and for Steve's leadership over the years, and that they join me in celebrating this special occasion.

Steve grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and accepted Christ as his personal Savior as a high school junior. He felt the call to ministry a year later and went on to receive his Bachelor's degree from Dallas Baptist University and his Master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was blessed with many supportive relationships and his faith was made stronger through the spiritual guidance of his first pastor, Bob Graham; his favorite high school teacher, F.J. Lykins; and Pastor Gene Reynolds. Steve's wife Brenda, whom he married in 1973, has also been a true helpmate to him and their church family.

Steve began his ministry in the Dallas area and was soon drawn to Rockwall because of the untapped potential of First Baptist and the closeness of the community. Over the 25 years Steve has faithfully served the First Family, the church has seen tremendous growth—growing from 800 members to over 4,000. In order to meet the needs of the growing church body, FBC, which began with one Sunday morning worship service and Sunday School, now holds three Sunday morning worship services and three Sunday Schools. Bible Study attendance has likewise grown from 200 people to almost 1,500. To meet space demands, four new buildings and five new parking lots have been built. As a Pastor with deep convictions to actively spread the Gospel,

Steve has also led FBC Rockwall to give nearly \$8.5 million on behalf of world missions—not one penny of which stayed in the church.

It is important to note that Steve's ministry goes beyond the walls of First Baptist. He serves at the local, state, and national level in Baptist endeavors, and especially enjoys serving the Rockwall community as chaplain with the Rockwall police and fire departments where he can provide spiritual and emotional support to those in need.

Without a doubt, God has strengthened and helped Pastor Swofford as he has faithfully served the First Family of FBC Rockwall these past 25 years. I am sure that Steve and Brenda share their accomplishments together—and that they attribute all success to Christ for His Glory.

I am also personally indebted to Pastor Steve for his participation in the service for my late wife, Mary Ellen. His generosity to a fellow believer—outside his church membership but still a brother in Christ—is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Pastor Steve Swofford's 25 years of faithful leadership to the members of First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He is truly a servant of God, and the First Family and Rockwall community are blessed to have him. Even more so, we are blessed to live in a country founded on Christian principles where pastors like Steve Swofford can proclaim the Gospel freely.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF HOPE CREEK CARE CENTER IN EAST MOLINE, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated employees at Hope Creek Care Center in East Moline, Illinois.

The devoted staff of Hope Creek, members of AFSCME Local 2371, are a special group who are often regarded as extended family members to the residents and their loved ones. They don't do what they do for the money. The employees there genuinely care about the people.

Some of the more prominent residents who continue to benefit from the excellent care that Hope Creek provides include former U.S. Congressman Lane Evans and former Rock Island County State's Attorney Marshall Douglas, Sr. But make no mistake, everyone who lives there receives the same first-rate care and services.

Hope Creek, a publicly owned nursing home, is currently facing a possible sale by the county board to a private corporation. Whatever the outcome, I hope that the same standard of excellence that Hope Creek is known for continues, and that starts with the quality staff.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that first-rate facilities such as these exist, and I want to thank the wonderful staff for their contributions to our community.