

HONORING LONE OAK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lone Oak United Methodist Church, a congregation that has been an integral part of the Lone Oak community for generations.

The history of Lone Oak United Methodist Church can be traced back to 1854 when eleven charter members gathered in the private home of Ruffus Elliott at the Sabine Forks, west of Lone Oak, forming the Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South. The members met in the home until 1858 when the church was moved to the Hunt School Building in Lone Oak where they continued to worship until 1871, when the congregation merged with the Hall Church.

The Hall Church, originally known as Hefner's School or Chapel, was a building constructed for the education of the children of the community, but was also available to the circuit riders and itinerant Methodist ministers and to the local Masonic lodge. Having been destroyed by fire in 1884, a new site was selected at 218 Main Street in Lone Oak. The Vernacular Gothic Revival church structure was completed in 1889 and continues to serve the congregation today.

In 1939, Lone Oak Methodist Episcopal Church South merged with other Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestants meeting in Lone Oak to form the Lone Oak Methodist Church. In 1968, with the merging of the Methodist Church USA and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the church became Lone Oak United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the congregation of Lone Oak United Methodist Church for 160 years of fellowship and worship, and 125 years in their present building. May God continue to bless this congregation and their ministry.

H.R. 4012 AND H.R. 1422

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, one of the last actions this chamber took before recessing for the Elections wasn't to act on Comprehensive Immigration Reform or pass a funding measure to avoid another Republican Government Shutdown. We didn't exercise Congress's constitutional role in debating issues of war and peace and take up an Authorization for Use of Military Force in response to the threat of ISIS. And we didn't address our nation's crumbling infrastructure by passing a long-term transportation bill.

Sadly, just as they did then, the most anti-environmental House majority is once again engaging in science suppression and denial simply because they disagree with the findings and the responsible actions taken based on those findings to protect public health and preserve the environment.

H.R. 4012, for example, is an attempt to tie the EPA's hands by restricting the information

it can use in drafting safeguards. If passed, this bill would exclude a host of important data, including university research that is protected by privacy and confidentiality laws, as well as proprietary business information.

Not to be outdone, H.R. 1422 would weaken the EPA's advisory process and make it easier for special interests to be appointed to and influence the Science Advisory Board. Do we really want to have the impartial analysis of our nation's leading experts replaced by big corporate interests? What could go wrong with that?

Unfortunately, the public has grown accustomed to the House majority's repeated efforts to gut important environmental safeguards that protect public health. All told, my friends on the other side of the aisle have voted more than 200 times to block action to address climate change, to halt efforts to reduce air and water pollution, and to undermine protections for public lands, coastal areas, and the environment. The bills before us this week are more of the same.

This know-nothing approach fails the public we are sworn to protect and serve. As elected officials, we have to recognize the valuable role science must play in making good public policy. Not anecdotes . . . not false narratives . . . science.

I urge my colleagues to reject these bills, abandon this war on science, so that we can turn our attention to the pressing issues our country demands we address.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE GREGORY C. PITTMAN FOR RECEIVING THE LIVING LEGENDS AWARD

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gregory C. Pittman and his commendable service to Michigan's Western District as a Muskegon County Probate Judge.

After graduating from Michigan State University with his Bachelor's Degree, Judge Pittman went to Indiana University to obtain his Juris Doctor. After receiving his law degree, he returned to his birthplace in Muskegon, Michigan. On January 6, 1998, Governor John Engler appointed Judge Pittman to the Muskegon County Probate Bench. Judge Pittman has now served the Muskegon County Court System for 16 years, and he currently serves as the presiding Judge of the Muskegon County Family Court. Judge Pittman also promotes the strengthening of Michigan families, and in 2001, was awarded the Michigan Family Forum's Champion of the Family award.

Throughout his career, Judge Pittman has been committed to serving his community, and this has led to him being active in many educational, social, and civic organizations. He has served as the President of the Muskegon Heights Public Schools Board of Trustees, as well as a Trustee of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District. Judge Pittman currently serves his community in many other ways as well. He is a member of the Hackley Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Community Foundation for Muskegon County Board of

Trustees. Judge Pittman is also a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Association Foundation.

For all of his work and commitment, on November 22, 2014, Judge Pittman will be receiving the Living Legends Award at the Muskegon BEAT Awards Ceremony. I want to congratulate Judge Pittman for receiving such a prestigious reward, and thank him for his service to Muskegon County and the state of Michigan.

HONORING DAUGHTERS OF
PENELOPE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from the bipartisan Hellenic Caucus to recognize the 85th Anniversary this week of the Daughters of Penelope. Founded on November 16, 1929, this organization works to improve the well-being of women and afford them the opportunity to make important contributions to the United States.

The DOP is a preeminent international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage.

Since its founding, Daughters of Penelope has worked through its 250 worldwide chapters to promote the Greek ideals of philanthropy, education, and civic responsibility. Throughout its history, local chapters have identified pressing needs and developed solutions to make a difference in their communities.

Through DOP's sponsorship of affordable housing for seniors, domestic violence shelters in Mobile, Alabama and Brockton, Mass., and many other efforts, its members continue to embody the best ideals of citizenship.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had the privilege to see the significant contributions of the Daughters of Penelope in the Greek American community both in New York and across the country. I am proud to say that DOP has lived up to its mission to contribute to the development of America through Hellenic ideals, and I look forward to its continued success.

HONORING NATHANIEL J.
BRANCATO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel J. Brancato. Nathaniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities.

Over the many years Nathaniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathaniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Nathaniel J. Brancato for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FIGHTING EBOLA: A GROUND LEVEL VIEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the world community has known of the Ebola Virus Disease, more commonly called just Ebola, since it first appeared in a remote region near the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976. In previous outbreaks, Ebola had been confined to remote areas in which there was little contact outside the villages or areas in which it appear. Unfortunately, this outbreak, now an epidemic, spread from a village to an international center for regional trade and spread into urban areas in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone that are crowded with limited medical services and limited resident trust of government. The unprecedented west African Ebola epidemic has not only killed more than 5,000 people, with more than 14,000 others known to be infected. This situation has skewed the planning for how to deal with this outbreak.

In our two previous hearings on the Ebola epidemic, on August 7th and September 17th, we heard about the worsening rates of infection and challenges in responding to this from government agencies such as USAID and CDC and NGOs operating on the ground such as Samaritan's Purse and SIM. The hearing I held yesterday was intended to take testimony from non-governmental organizations providing services on the ground currently in the affected countries, especially Liberia, so we can better determine how proposed actions are being implemented.

In its early stages, Ebola manifests the same symptoms as less immediately deadly diseases, such as malaria, which means initial health care workers have been unprepared for the deadly nature of the disease they have been asked to treat. This meant that too many health care workers—national and international—have been at risk in treating patients who themselves may not know they have Ebola. Hundreds of health care workers have been infected and many have died, including some of the top medical personnel in the three affected countries.

What we found quite quickly was that the health care systems in these countries, despite heavy investment by the United States and other donors, are quite weak. As it happens, these are three countries either coming out of very divisive civil conflict or experiencing serious political divisions. Consequently, citizens have not been widely prepared to accept recommendations from their governments. For quite some time, many people in all three countries would not accept that

the Ebola epidemic was real. Even now, it is believed that despite the prevalence of burial teams throughout Liberia, for example, some families are reluctant to identify their suffering and dead loved ones for safe burials, which places family members and their neighbors at heightened risk of contracting this often fatal disease when patients are most contagious.

The porous borders of these three countries have allowed people to cross between countries at will. This may facilitate commerce, but it also allows for diseases to be transmitted regionally. As a result, the prevalence of Ebola in these three countries has ebbed and flowed with the migration of people from one country to another. Liberia remains the hardest hit of the three countries, with more than 6,500 Ebola cases officially recorded. The number of infected and dead from Ebola could be as much as three times higher than the official figure due to underreporting.

Organizations operating on the ground have told us over the past few months that despite the increasing reach of international and national efforts to contact those infected with Ebola, there remain many remote areas where it is still difficult to find residents or gain sufficient trust to obtain their cooperation. Consequently, the ebb and flow in infections continues. Even when it looks like the battle is being won in one place, it increases in a neighboring country and then reignites in the areas that looked to be successes.

The United States is focusing on Liberia, the United Kingdom is focusing on Sierra Leone, and France and the European Union are supposed to focus on Guinea. In both Sierra Leone and Guinea, the anti-Ebola efforts are behind the pace of those in Liberia. This epidemic must brought under control in all three if our efforts are to be successful.

Last week, I, along with Representatives KAREN BASS and MARK MEADOWS of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, introduced H.R. 5710, the Ebola Emergency Response Act. This bill lays out the steps needed for the U.S. government to effectively help fight the west African Ebola epidemic, especially in Liberia—the worst-hit of the three affected countries. This includes recruiting and training health care personnel, establishing fully functional treatment centers, conducting education campaigns among populations in affected countries and developing diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

H.R. 5710 confirms U.S. policy in the anti-Ebola fight and provides necessary authorities for the Administration to continue or expand anticipated actions in this regard. The bill encourages U.S. collaboration with other donors to mitigate the risk of economic collapse and civil unrest in the three affected countries. Furthermore, this legislation authorizes funding of the International Disaster Assistance account at the higher FY2014 level to effectively support these anti-Ebola efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, SAN JOSE FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose for 150 years of service, fellowship and stewardship to the San Jose community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Mother Church, was founded in New York City, in October 1796. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was named the Freedom Church because it struggled mightily for the dignity and emancipation of Black people in America.

In 1864, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, San Jose was founded in San Jose and has continued in the tradition of the Mother Church to fight for the dignity, emancipation and rights of all people and has been recognized by the City of San Jose as the oldest Black church in San Jose.

On November 23, 2014 the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will celebrate 150 Years of service to the San Jose community and is planning for the community service demands of the future.

RECOGNIZING E. ROBERT CHAMBERLIN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOURCEAMERICA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize E. Robert Chamberlin on the occasion of his retirement from SourceAmerica at the end of this year. Located in my district, SourceAmerica is a national non-profit that creates employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chamberlin leads a network of more than 500 affiliated non-profit agencies that participate in the AbilityOne Program, which currently provides employment to more than 128,000 people in the United States who are blind or have other significant disabilities. I, and more than 100 of my colleagues, are proud to partner in these efforts as AbilityOne Congressional Champions.

Mr. Chamberlin joined SourceAmerica as Vice President of Operations in December 1999, following a career with the U.S. Armed Forces, and he was appointed CEO in January 2001. During his Navy career, he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral and held key positions afloat, overseas, and ashore. Later, as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served as the Department of Defense's representative on the AbilityOne Commission, the Federal agency which oversees the AbilityOne Program.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chamberlin has been tireless in his efforts to improve the employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. In addition to promoting the hundreds of thousands of individuals employed through