

breed adoption restrictions, established community cat rooms, and expanded the trap-neuter-return program, which is now the largest of its type in the Commonwealth of Virginia. She grew the volunteer program to 300 active volunteers and 150 foster families, launched the animal shelter Facebook page, which has become the County's most popular Facebook page, and started a partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority to offer Scout programs, camps, programs and obedience classes in the shelter training room. She did all this while overseeing the total reconstruction of the shelter.

For these accomplishments, she received the 2014 Leadership Award from the Metropolitan D.C. Council of Governments, the 2014 Compassion Award by the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, and was recently named to the Board of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies. Upon her retirement, she was again awarded the A. Heath Onthank Award—the first person to earn this distinction twice.

Ms. Hammond is also well known for her service to the community outside of her job. She lead "Springfield Days" for more than 20 years, helping it grow to one of the County's largest special events, and served for ten years as president of the Springfield Civic Association where she was credited with making the community group accessible to the disabled and successfully tackling tough neighborhood issues such as boarding houses and hoarding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Tawny Hammond for a lifetime of service to our community and in congratulating her on her retirement. When I was Chairman of the County Board, we often joked when retirement announcements like this were made that we should pass an ordinance not allowing such talented and dedicated people to leave public or community service, and I certainly wish that was the case here. I wish Tawny and her family all the best in this next chapter of her life.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate a remarkable 175 years. The congregation of First African Baptist Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a Jubilee Celebration on Sunday, August 9, 2015 at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the antebellum South, African Baptist Church was founded by slaves in 1840 in a building on the corner of Third Avenue and Twelfth Street in Columbus, only blocks away from the Chattahoochee River. This building was the sanctuary formerly used by First Baptist Church, which was established in 1829 as the first church in Columbus.

Though founded by slaves, First African Baptist Church was pastored by white min-

isters during its first twenty-two years. Possessing a spirit of love and acceptance for all of humankind regardless of skin color that was unique in this time period and in this society, the members of the church opened its doors to all in Columbus who felt the call to worship. By 1858, 731 professed believers had been baptized by the church—390 white and 341 black.

From its inception through 1915, the church relocated three times to accommodate its congregation that swelled with the development of the City of Columbus. The second location was a frame building located at the corner of St. Clair and Front Street, now known as Eleventh and Front. In 1881, the Georgia General Assembly gave the land site located at Eleventh Street and Sixth Avenue to the church, and it was renamed the Six Avenue Baptist Church. This site is now occupied by Golden Foundry and Machine Company.

The current location is on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street, where the church was renamed the First African Baptist Church in 1915. Along with the 175th anniversary of the church's existence, today I celebrate with the congregation of First African Baptist the centennial of the church's current location.

Throughout the years, the church would be remodeled and renovated several times. With these aesthetic changes came changes to the church mission. Today, under the leadership of Reverend Roderick B. Green, the church continues to grow and change with the vision of holistic transformation and continual improvement in Christ.

The story of First African Baptist Church, which began as a small group of people worshipping 175 years ago and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

COMMEMORATING 125 YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE EAST DUNDEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the East Dundee Fire Protection District on their 125th anniversary celebration.

Throughout the year, the community will gather to recognize the heroic firefighters and paramedics who have proudly and faithfully served their community.

In 1890, the department's first year of service, firefighters responded to 25 calls while protecting the residents living in the area. Today, the fire protection district boasts a 2 million dollar budget, responds to over 1,350 calls, and covers over 10,000 residents from the Fox River to the Arboretum in South Barrington.

Throughout their history, the East Dundee Fire Department has seen its ranks swell with family members. Max Freeman, the district's

first fire chief, served with his brother Earl in the 1950's and another fire chief, Eugene Rakow, served as chief until 1986, when his son Mark took his place until late 2009.

The thirty men and women of the East Dundee Fire Protection District risk their lives daily to protect the surrounding community. Their bravery and courage are deserving of our recognition and admiration.

Please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that it represents.

DECLARATION FOR ONE UNITED KOREA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a declaration for one united Korea as established by the organization One Dream One Korea.

On this 70th anniversary of the liberation and the division of Korea, we, the people and friends of Korea, declare that:

Korean unification is inevitable. We are one people in one land who have shared a common history and culture for millennia. Reunification of the Korean Peninsula is a profound aspiration in the hearts of the Korean people, and a national destiny that supersedes 70 years of separation and all differences of ideology and government systems.

Korean unification is desirable. The suffering of people in North Korea and the continuing anguish of separated families cry out for a concerted response from the civilized world. Nuclear threats destabilize the security of Northeast Asia in particular and the world in general. Meanwhile the people of South Korea seek a pathway to transcend materialism and dysfunctional political divides. Building One Korea offers a fundamental solution to all these problems and will advance peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia to the benefit of the world at large.

Korean unification is now achievable. In the past century Korea endured colonization and then division, at the hands of more powerful nations. Today, for the first time in modern history, Korean people possess the political and economic power to determine their own future, together with growing global support for the establishment of One Korea. We are at a historic crossroads. Set against the enormous challenges of ending the division and creating a new nation, we have an opportunity to achieve a true greatness that history rarely accords to any people. Now is the time to build a national consensus for a shared vision of One Korea on the foundation of Korean identity and a common destiny and to garner international support for it.

The Korean people share one dream: To live in One Korea we can all be proud of. Since time immemorial, the Korean people have longed for a model country; one guided by universal principles, shared moral values, and the rule of law, guaranteeing the basic human rights and freedoms endowed to all people by the Creator, as the foundation for a just and prosperous society. In realizing such a model, One Korea will become a strong, sovereign nation that acts as a peacemaker, committed to resolving conflict in Northeast Asia and the wider world. It will be a 21st century leader as a compassionate, humane nation acting with concern