EXPRESSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, Like most of my colleagues, I was in my district—the southside of Chicago—when the news of the death of our friend, FLOYD SPENCE, came. I was shocked and saddened by the knowledge that this institution had lost, yet, another Member.

Born in 1928 in South Carolina, FLOYD SPENCE was a product of the South Carolina schools and a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was first elected to public office in 1956, the South Carolina Legislature, and he served there until his election to the South Carolina State Senate in 1966.

FLOYD SPENCE began his 30 years of service in this body in 1971 and he served three terms as Chairman of the Armed Services/National Security Committee in the House before yielding the gavel to his successor at the beginning of the current Congress. Throughout his Congressional career, FLOYD SPENCE served the citizens of South Carolina's Second Congressional District, and the citizens of this nation, well.

Mr. Speaker, FLOYD SPENCE was my neighbor in the Rayburn Building. I will remember his cheerful greetings as we passed in the hallways and in the elevators. He was always optimistic, always upbeat, always energetic, always courtly, always the gentleman. I will also always appreciate the unfailing kindness and courtesy of his staff.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers go with his family, his friends, his constituents and his staff, at this time of sorrow. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this Resolution expressing the condolences of this House on the passing of the Honorable FLOYD SPENCE.

RECOGNIZING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S PARISH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 275th anniversary of the founding of Prince George's parish. The Parish, and its home, Christ Episcopal Church, make up the oldest congregation in Rockville, Maryland.

In 1726, the Prince George's Parish was excised from the original southern Maryland parishes, and began to serve the small population on the banks of Rock Creek. The original log chapel was replaced in 1808 by a brick church, and then in 1822, moved one mile to downtown Rockville.

During the Civil War, Christ Church played a role in the underground railroad, despite the presence of slave owners within the parish. Following the war, in 1884, the parish began construction of its current building, strongly influenced by the popular gothic revival architecture. A short time later, in 1886, Christ Episcopal Church joined the newly founded Diocese of Washington, forming a community of churches in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

The past century has seen a series of additions to the original church building. In the mid-1960's, the worship space was expanded and new classroom space was added. This allowed the growing congregation to remain in downtown Rockville, and cemented the partnership between the parish and the Christ Episcopal School.

Education plays an important role in Christ Episcopal Church. In addition to the presence of Christ Episcopal School, the Christ Church hosts a seminarian from the Virginia Theological Seminary for a two-year field education placement. Parishioners attend weekly bible study and adult covenant classes, where students learn about the history of the Episcopal church, and the development of the Christian faith. All of this is in addition to the normal Sunday School classes.

Service also plays a leading role at the church. Congregants volunteer at the Rockville Nursing home and with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Frederick counties. The church recently hosted visiting preacher Reverend Joshua Louw, rector of a parish serving a population of individuals relocated by apartheid, from the companion Diocese of Cape-town, South Africa.

Of course, worship is the primary function in the Parish. The Reverends John S. McDuffie and Susan Astaria lead the parishioners in worship every Wednesday and Sunday.

I am extremely proud to have the Prince George's Parish in my Congressional district. Its fascinating history and rich tradition of education, service, and faith, is a source of inspiration to many Americans. I join with the Prince George's parishioners in celebrating this impressive 275th anniversary.