

memorial. Miami's K-9 officers and their partners will also be honored at this event.

Please join me in honoring all who served in the U.S. Military this Veteran's Day, including our faithful war dogs who dedicated their lives to the duty of protecting our soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay for tonight's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both H. Con. Res. 244, authorizing the printing of the Our American Flag publication, and H. Res. 250, urging the Secretary of Energy to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 125th Anniversary of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

One hundred twenty-five years ago, a group of Lutheran pastors, including Dr. William A. Passavant, selected a section of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, now known as Observatory Hill on Pittsburgh's Northside, for a new Lutheran congregation. A half-acre of land was purchased for the construction of the congregation's first building. It occupied the space where the Incarnation Academy stands today.

Seventeen people signed the charter for Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on the first Sunday in October 1876. The Reverend G.H. Gerberding became the first pastor of this congregation in 1876.

In 1914, the cornerstone of the present English Gothic stone building located at 3936 Perrysville Avenue was laid. Several members of the congregation mortgaged their homes to provide the capital for the construction. In 1925, the congregation purchased the nearby Graham Building and enclosed the 12-foot space between the apartment building and the church to provide offices, restrooms, and hallway passage.

Before the Depression, Mr. Zion sponsored both a Foreign Mission Pastor and a Home Mission Pastor. After World War II, the congregation was able to resume its commitment to both missionary fronts.

During World War II, Mt. Zion was the first church in Pittsburgh to dedicate a Service Banner in honor of its 312 men and women who served in the military.

Over the years the congregation has been supportive of Camp Lutherlyn, the Passavant Health Center, Thiel College, and Gettysburg Seminary. In addition, Mt. Zion has hosted YMCA meetings. It has hosted religious class-

es for students from Perry High School. And it has sponsored a strong Boy Scout troop for 76 years.

Through these 125 years, fifteen pastors have served Mt. Zion. The longest pastorate was that of The Reverend John B. Knisley, D.D., who served the congregation from 1934 to 1959. The congregation has given twelve sons to the ordained ministry, one daughter to the diaconal ministry, and one daughter to commissioned missionary service.

Today, Mt. Zion houses Allegheny Community Services (a subsidiary of Glade Run Lutheran Services), which provides counseling services to youth and family, and the congregation seeks to have more of its building space used by social ministry agencies serving the community.

Mt. Zion began a year-long 125th anniversary celebration in September. Bishop Donald J. McCoid of the Evangelical Lutheran Church's Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod will be preaching at the Reunion Celebration on October 14, 2001. In preparation for this event, the children of the congregation are making a paper chain with approximately 1,800 links. The names of those baptized over the past 125 years are printed on the chain, with one name per link.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the congregation of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on this happy occasion and wish this community all of the best in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN LOIS BELL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Vivian Lois Bell who served the people of her community in many ways.

From 1967 through 1980, in her position first as deputy clerk and then clerk of Royal Oak Township, Ms. Bell served the people of Royal Oak Township with caring, devotion, and excellence in the many areas under her supervision.

Following her retirement as clerk, Ms. Bell devoted several years providing care for her oldest grandchild before she re-entered the workforce as a secretary for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan. She retired in 1996 and spent her remaining years caring for her grown family of grandchildren.

Ms. Bell will long be remembered for her smile, her encouragement, and her wisdom in all her endeavors. She was dear friend to many and she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to the family and friends of Vivian Lois Bell who passed away September 8, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2001, my plane to Dulles Air-

port in Washington, D.C. was delayed because of inclement weather. As a result, I missed two votes on the House floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 349 to pass H.R. 717, a bill to support additional Federal research, coordination, information, and education on Duchenne and other forms of muscular dystrophy.

In addition, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 350 to pass H.J. Res. 65, a bill to provide continuing appropriations at current levels through October 16 for all Federal departments and programs covered by the fiscal 2002 spending bills not yet enacted.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JIM ORTIZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Pastor Appreciation Day, I rise to honor Pastor Jim Ortiz, senior pastor at "My Friend's House" an Assembly of God congregation in Whittier, CA. Having served his congregation for 29 years, Pastor Jim dedicated himself to improving the lives of people throughout the 34th Congressional District of California. It is because of his commitment and exemplary service to his congregation and to the community that I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to this extraordinary man.

Born to Puerto Rican parents and a native of New York City, Pastor Jim moved to California with his family and attended Hueneme High School in Oxnard. In 1973, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies and Sociology from Vanguard University (the former Southern California College) and completed graduate studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the C.P. Haggard School of theology at Azusa Pacific University.

Pastor Jim is a model constituent full of kindness, sincerity and dedicated service. His congregation, "My Friend's House" was founded in 1971, with the help of his wife Yollie. Their mission is to preach the gospel in a way that it improves people's lives and positively impacts the surrounding community. Under Jim and Yollie's guidance, "My Friend's House" has grown to an average weekly attendance of more than 400 people including a large number of young Latino families. Their success helped to spawn three sister congregations in various parts of California. Pastor Jim, whose unique style of communication, is both creative and appealing, allows him to capture listener's attention. His uplifting message is born out of his deep conviction that the gospel of Jesus Christ can transform lives and change society for the better. His exemplary lifestyle inspires others to live a life of charity, humility and compassion.

Pastor Jim's countless contributions to the community have touched the lives of many. He established Metro Impact, Inc., a community development corporation consisting of eight ministries dealing with evangelical propagation, economic development, social service