

pollution has made in their lives. As a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act, I fully understand the need for clean air standards. By encouraging innovation, cooperation, and the development of new technologies for pollution reduction, these standards build upon the spirit of ingenuity that is the foundation of America's leadership in the world.

As chairman of the International Relations Committee, I understand the importance of using our leadership in the United States to assist other nations in developing and maintaining successful environmental programs.

I personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger and national security to environmental degradation. Moreover, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful vehicle and incentive for ongoing environmental education, action and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems.

During the 106th Congress, I worked with the New York State's Governor Pataki and the citizens of New York's 20th Congressional District to save thousands of acres of precious lands, such as Sterling Forest, the Gaisman Estate, and Clausland Mountain. I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, which would help preserve the history, culture and traditions of this beautiful region. I am also proud to note that our 20th Congressional District of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions, which I have been pleased to support.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We cannot continue with the attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better way and a better day to commit to our environmental concerns than Earth Day. I salute all who observe Earth Day in all ways large and small.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR GEORGE E. CUTBIRTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Command Sergeant Major George E. Cutbirth is retiring after 30 years of exemplary service in the United States Army. He has served his country with dignity, honor, and integrity.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is a native of Southwest Missouri. He graduated from Hurley High School in 1969 and entered the Army in April 1970. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has held positions of increasing responsibility during his ca-

reer, to include: Squad Leader; Repair Control Supervisor; Platoon Sergeant; Drill Sergeant; Senior Drill Sergeant; TAC Sergeant; Instructor; First Sergeant; and Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He has also served as the Commandant, Ordnance Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Command Sergeant Major Ordnance Center and School, Ordnance Corps Regiment Sergeant Major and Command Sergeant Major Combined Arms Support Command. Currently, Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is serving as the Command Sergeant Major for the United States Army Materiel Command. He is the first ordnance soldier to hold that position.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth has served in a variety of overseas and stateside assignments. They include tours in Okinawa, Vietnam, Italy, Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany. He also served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Within the United States, he has been assigned to: Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; and Fort Lee, Virginia.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, the 3rd Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, the Drill Sergeant Academy, and numerous technical and functional courses. He also earned an Associate of Arts degree from Columbia College, Missouri, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal; and Army Achievement Medal; the Good Conduct Medal (tenth award); the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral three; the Army Service Ribbon, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Kuwait Liberation Medal; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Drill Sergeant Badge; the Mechanic Badge; and the Belgian Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he had faithfully served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife of 30 years, Catherine, and his three children, Laurie, Paul and Matthew, all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 114, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 110TH
ANNIVERSARY OF BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH, OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Beth Eden Baptist Church in Oakland, California. This milestone will be commemorated from April 9 through May 21, 2000.

The theme of this celebration is taken from Ephesians 6:10-18 which reads: "By example-maintaining our armor of God and hold fast to the principles of righteousness, perseverance, faithfulness, salvation and spirit, which are in the word of God."

Beth Eden is the oldest Black Baptist Church in Alameda County. Founded on April 20, 1890, its first pastor was Rev. George Gray. Since 1890, the church has flourished following its theme "A Legacy of Faith."

Since its founding with Rev. Gray, Beth Eden has had eleven additional pastors, including Rev. Robert Alexander McQuinn, Rev. James Allen (who later founded Oakland's Allen Temple Baptist Church), Rev. John Dwelle, Rev. John Coylar (the Church's only Caucasian minister), Rev. John Allen, Rev. James Dennis (who later founded the North Oakland Baptist Church), Rev. Francis Walker, Rev. Samuel Hawkins, Rev. Paul Hubbard, Rev. Alvin Dones and Rev. Dr. Gillette James, the current pastor.

For more than a century, Beth Eden has been a West Oakland landmark of faith, activity and commitment to building a stronger community. These activities include building senior housing, holding interfaith Thanksgiving services with local churches, establishing a Missionary Society, creating SHARE, a discount food program, and helping to create the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center.

Beth Eden Baptist Church is truly a source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the community. I proudly join the church's members, friends and neighbors in saluting and honoring the history and spirit of this great church.

HONORING WILLIAM C. "BILL"
COLEMAN IN RECEIVING THE J.
ROBERT LADD COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD AND THE 2000
SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize William C. Coleman in receiving the J. Robert Ladd Community Service Award and the Service to Mankind Award from the Lebanon Valley, Sertoma Club.

Bill has made an incredible difference in the community of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He has been a regular volunteer at the Lebanon Rescue Mission since 1947. He has served on the board of directors, taught Sunday School and has presided as the executive director of the Rescue Mission. Bill has dedicated his life to