

1910, his legacy was a stronger and larger community, and a church that this year proudly celebrates its centennial.

As both the congregation and community grew, the church relocated a bit north to the current day City of Pearl. There the members continued to meet in another local school until 1921. With a desire for their own permanent place to worship, the decision was made to purchase one acre of land. To construct their new church home, the members purchased the abandoned Union Jackson Methodist Episcopal Church South on Old Fannin Road. Built in 1850, the structure was dismantled and moved by wagon to its current day site. The original pulpit of the old Union church is still used to this day.

When the congregation began worshiping in the new building, they adopted the name Pearl Chapel Methodist Church, and thirty-six years later the name was changed by church resolution to Pearl Methodist Church. The congregation continued to grow, bringing many changes to the church as well as new buildings, such as new Sunday School rooms and administrative offices. In 1952, more improvements were made, such as the beautiful chancel rail, which is still in use today. During the next fifty years, the church saw many changes and improvement to accommodate the growing congregation. One final change was chosen in 1968 as the church adopted its modern day name of Pearl United Methodist Church.

Since 1909, eleven members have answered the Lord's call to ministry and the congregation has heard the word delivered from nine humble servants: Reverend James F. Campbell, Sr., Reverend F.L. Applewhite, Reverend E.R. Dickerson, Reverend L.T. Brantley, Reverend Jim Campbell, Jr., Reverend C.V. Bugg, Reverend George Thompson, Reverend Scott Larsen and Reverend David Patrick.

Many things change over the course of a century, but after hundreds of worship services, weddings, christenings, and baptisms, Pearl United Methodist Church in Pearl, Mississippi has remained faithful to its calling . . . serving God and the citizens in the Pearl community.

THE SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Safe Schools Improvement Act. My lead cosponsors Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN and I strongly believe this bill provides crucial support to our efforts to reduce the national drop-out rate and make schools safer for all students.

An unsafe school environment interferes with students' ability to learn. Children who are bullied miss more school, have lower self-esteem, and are more likely to drop-out or commit suicide than those who are not. Nearly 40 percent of middle-school and high-school students report that they do not feel safe at school and one in 10 high school drop-outs report that frequent bullying was a major reason they dropped out. As we move to reauthorize

the landmark No Child Left Behind law, we must examine and address how improvements in school safety can positively affect student attendance and academic achievement.

The Safe Schools Improvement Act would require schools that receive funding from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to implement an anti-bullying policy that protects students from bullying and harassment. It also requires these schools to collect data regarding bullying and harassment incidents and would allow them teach students about the consequences of bullying and harassment.

Today's children are the economic engine of our future, and we are relying on schools to provide the education they need. Congress must therefore help schools provide safe places for students to learn. If we do not, we risk losing more children to the streets, to depression, or even to suicide. America's children deserve our support. They deserve the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Res. 230.

This resolution recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French. Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive back the invading French army, achieving a total victory over soldiers deemed among the best trained and equipped in the world and embarking the end of the European domination in America.

General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín led the Mexican Army at the Battle of Puebla. He was born in la Bahía del Espíritu Santo, in what was then the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, now the city of Goliad, Texas, in the United States. A Statue of General Zaragoza now stands in San Agustín Plaza in the downtown historic district of Laredo, Texas.

Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the Battle of Puebla has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism in the history of Mexico.

I am honored to celebrate this important day in Mexican history and to lend my support to this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE CREW OF THE APOLLO 11 MISSION TO THE MOON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce legislation today to

award the Congressional Gold Medal to four brave and exemplary Americans: Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.—the crew of the 1969 Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. Additionally, this legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth and the man who helped set NASA firmly on the path of human space exploration. Forty years ago, five hundred million people watched as Armstrong took those fateful steps onto the Moon's surface, the first time humans had set foot on another world. In words that were as poetic as the occasion was meaningful, Armstrong said, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." He was shortly followed on the Moon's surface by Aldrin, as Collins circled overhead.

I was eleven years old that day, and I watched the Moon landing, joining much of humanity in celebrating this tremendous collective accomplishment. My family was on vacation, but I had persuaded my parents to let me stay in the hotel room alone all day and watch television, so I could see these giant men take those giant steps. Their mission was a landmark for America, for the world, and for all time. Americans are still inspired by these men, and their mission to travel over 250,000 miles of dead space to reach our closest celestial neighbor. I remember at the time thinking that humankind as a species is capable of true greatness. While wolves howl at the moon, humans visit it.

On this journey, the Apollo 11 crew showed remarkable bravery protected for days from the lifeless vacuum by only a thin metal shield. They collected more than forty pounds of lunar samples, took photographs, and deployed experiments to study the solar wind, lunar dust, enable laser ranging, and forever carry out passive seismic measurements. Their footprints remain on the Moon today. The entire endeavor was the culmination of an intensive effort by tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and other dedicated individuals to meet the challenge laid down by President John F. Kennedy eight years earlier. President Kennedy encouraged Americans to rise to challenges, like this one, and the American people responded with ingenuity, discipline, and a spirit of cooperative effort. This journey took political will, scientific and technological risk-taking, inspiration, and the heart and soul of millions of Americans supporting the space program. And it took the competence and courage of Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins to make Apollo 11 the success that it was.

As the culmination of the U.S.-Soviet space race that commenced with the Soviet's launch of Sputnik in 1957, Apollo 11's success signified the United States' ability to establish preeminence in space. It also helped inspire a generation to pursue careers in science and engineering, and to believe in the power of American society. Alone in that hotel room, watching TV, I certainly felt a lasting sense of meaning, that connection to those three brave astronauts. These astronauts represented in that moment America's destiny, a destiny shared by the thousands of men and women who worked to make it happen. This includes John Glenn, of course, another brave pioneer of human space exploration who had made their journey possible.

Madam Speaker, I thus think it is only fitting that in this fortieth anniversary year of the