

Mrs. McKinley now lives with her daughter and son-in-law. She enjoys spending time with her three grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and is looking forward to the birth of her first great-great grandchild.

Martha has been a remarkable mother not only to her own daughter but also to her other daughter Sally Lewis. In 2000, Martha was recognized by the Fresno County Women's Chamber of Commerce as Mother of the Year. She is well-deserving of this award.

My colleagues and I want to take this opportunity to not only wish Martha a happy birthday, but to express our admiration and gratitude for her service to the people of Fresno County. It is truly an honor to celebrate such a remarkable lady.

Below is a letter submitted by her long time friend, Sally M. Lewis.

"On July 17th, a remarkable lady will celebrate her 100th birthday. Martha Poffenberger McKinley was born in Portsmouth, Ohio, on July 17, 1909, the only child of Edward Daniel and Claire Kennedy Poffenberger.

Her life is a long list of accomplishments, but most of all she was a loving wife to Pete before his death and she is a remarkable mom to her daughter Monna and a true blessing in my life for treating me as a daughter since I was a child.

After graduation from Ohio State, Martha began her professional life in Ohio as the private secretary to Governor Bricker. Following her marriage to Peter B. McKinley they moved to northern California. Not much for staying at home, she went to work at Mare Island Ship Yard and quickly moved up from secretarial pool to department head. The family moved to Fresno after Monna was born and once she started school Martha went to work for the state of California Department of Industrial Welfare. While working there she was active in many business and professional organizations. Among them she founded and was the first president of the women's section of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce (now The Fresno County Women in Chambers of Commerce).

She lived in her own home and washed her own car until she lost her vision well into her 90's. She now enjoys living with her daughter and son-in-law surrounded by her three grandchildren, 8 great children and soon her first great-great grand child.

Even though she is now blind, she still keeps up on current events, manages her own investments and has voted in every election.

Martha has a wonderful mind and fantastic memory. She is never without a joke and a smile. Always the life of any gathering, Martha has always enjoyed her evening cocktail and visits with family and friends. An evening with Martha is one you're not likely to forget.

It's an honor and a privilege to have her as my "other mütter." From: Sally M. Lewis"

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY'S
HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RE-
SEARCH AND EXTENSION CEN-
TER

SPEECH OF

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to the historic

June 30, 2009, centennial of Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, located in the corner of northeast Oregon near the mighty Columbia River.

Few areas in the world can match the quantity or quality of crop production of the Columbia Basin region that straddles the Oregon-Washington border. This center has been in the middle of it all for 100 years, helping farmers, ranchers, and researchers find ways to better grow and steward crops ranging from dry land wheat to watermelons; from sugar beets to wine grapes; from beef cattle to dairy cows.

Established in 1909, the "Umatilla Experiment Farm" initially served farmers trying to make a living on 20,000 acres of semi-arid northern Oregon desert as part of a federal government reclamation program. By the 1930s, farming expanded to well over 160,000 acres and the demand for the center's research reached levels far surpassing its initial 40 acres. The center moved and expanded to its current 300-acre location to better serve the region's agricultural communities. Today, the work done at this center serves well over 500,000 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated crop land.

The West is dominated by nutrient-deprived, semi-desert soils. The Columbia Basin is no different. So at the beginning, the center set upon helping farmers and ranchers overcome the fundamental challenges posed by an annual rainfall rate of eight inches. Researchers determined which types of organic matter, when put into the soil, would produce the best crops. They worked with farmers, ranchers, and communities to identify more efficient water use, based on soil type, topography, and micro-climate.

Madam Speaker, it is summertime, and if you enjoy a refreshing slice of watermelon this time of year, chances are you have the great work at this center to thank for it. The Columbia Basin is renowned for its delicious watermelons, and the center's researchers helped increase their production from 30-tons per acre under center-pivot irrigation to 70-tons per acre with drip irrigation and weed control. In the process, they made more efficient use of the water and decreased the amount of herbicide needed during production of the watermelon crop.

The center's researchers are in the middle of the battle against crop disease. Tuber worm has emerged as a threat to root crops in recent years. Late blight, the same fungus that caused the great potato famine, has resurfaced. Researchers are on the cutting edge of identifying new methods to fight diseases that cost producers thousands of dollars each year to control.

And if all that work were not enough, researchers at the center are helping improve the quality of the country's food supply. This is one of the only centers of its kind in America with a molecular biologist working to increase the nutritional quality of our food.

The center's research is so valuable to the region that the many producers who benefit from its research return their thanks generously, donating over \$1 million to the center in the past two decades. Growers also funded the building of two large insect houses at \$40,000 each that facilitate research on which pests carry crop damaging diseases.

Today's challenges require innovative thinking and solutions. New crop varieties devel-

oped at the center help overcome the present challenges facing old crops. Many of the solutions that producers and individuals in the region see as major milestones are all in a day's work for the researchers of the center. As described by the station superintendent, Philip Hamm, "Our staff are just doing their job, and looking for the next challenge."

Madam Speaker, this center has played a vital role in helping farmers, ranchers and agricultural communities thrive on the sandy soils that have presented many challenges over the past 100 years. Today, the region served by the center is one of the most important agriculture production areas in the Northwest and produces some of the highest yielding, highest quality crops in the United States.

I congratulate Oregon State University's Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center leadership, its board members, area farmers and ranchers, and the community on reaching this remarkable milestone. I am confident the center's next 100 years will be as successful as 1909–2009 has been.

ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an institution in Richmond, the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia. On Saturday, June 27, 2009, the members of Fourth Baptist Church are celebrating their 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to highlight the rich history of this church and its contribution to our community.

Fourth Baptist Church, the first black Baptist church in the Church Hill community in Richmond, began in 1859 as a regular assembly of slaves for prayer. The group met regularly on Chimborazo Hill until the outbreak of the Civil War, when the white congregation of the Leigh Street Baptist Church granted permission for the slaves to hold their services in the church basement.

In 1865 the Reverend Scott Gwathmey, one of the group's prayer leaders, gained permission for the group to meet in a Union barracks on Chimborazo Hill. There, on December 2, 1865, the Fourth Baptist Church was formally organized, with Reverend Gwathmey serving as the first pastor.

The barracks were eventually demolished, but the congregation salvaged lumber from the debris and constructed their own church building. In 1875 this church was replaced by another one of frame, on the northern side of Church Hill, near what was to be the site of the present church. The present building was completed in 1884, three months after the former church was destroyed by fire.

The church has grown considerably from these humble beginnings. Major expansion was conducted under the direction of current Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Robert L. Taylor. Dr. Taylor served as Pastor of Fourth Baptist for 34 years. He was responsible for instituting many of the programs that still exist at the church, and oversaw the building of the addition to the church building now known as Taylor Hall.

Fourth Baptist has vibrant Men's and Women's programs that enlighten and assist the