

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. DiMattio on this auspicious occasion. His remarkable spirit of volunteerism and community service should be an inspiration for all, as his accomplishments have improved the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CASEYVILLE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 200th anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church of Caseyville, Illinois.

The year 1809 was important in the history of our Nation and the State of Illinois. While James Madison was inaugurated as our young Nation's fourth President and Robert Fulton received a patent on his new invention, the steam boat, the Illinois Territory was formed by an Act of Congress and Abraham Lincoln was born in the backwoods of Kentucky. At the same time, a group of Christians who had concerns about the pro-slavery position of some members of their former church formed the Baptist Church of Christ, Friends to Humanity, which would later become Bethel Baptist Church of Caseyville.

James Lemen, Sr., was the first pastor of the new church and the congregation would meet in the houses of members, traveling up to 36 miles by horseback to attend services. As the congregation grew, the need for a permanent church structure became apparent and the first meeting house was built in 1825.

During the church's early years, members continued to hold strong abolitionist positions. The church building was used as a station along the Underground Railroad, with fugitive slaves hiding in a crawl space under the church floor. To commemorate this important period, when a new floor was installed in the 1940s, a trap door was installed so the original trap door, through which the fugitive slaves would enter their hiding place, could be seen.

Many changes occurred during the history of the church, many of which mirrored what was going on as our Nation grew. Wars and economic disasters took their toll on the congregation and, for a period during the Great Depression, the church was closed. During that time, concerned parishioners would gather the children of the area into their homes to continue to spread the Word of God.

Responding to the needs of the flock, the church membership was reorganized and the church reopened in 1938. Due to the efforts of many in the congregation, the church rebounded and membership grew.

As they celebrate their past during this historic anniversary year, the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church of Caseyville also looks forward to the future. Their strong commitment to their faith, their families and their community is reflected in their invitation for their bicentennial observance, "Celebrate God's Goodness with Us!"

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 200th anniversary of the Bethel Baptist Church of Caseyville and wishing them the best for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EMMANUEL NWOZUZU

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Emmanuel Nwozuzu, CEO of ACE-IT Educational Consultants and an accomplished educator in my community.

Dr. Nwozuzu was born in Umuoba Uratta Owerri Imo State Nigeria on April 14, 1942, in the middle of the Second World War to a family of six. At the time of his birth, Emmanuel's late father was a sub Army Tailor contractor in Calabara seaport in the Southern Eastern tip of Nigeria. Emmanuel's parents Catherine and Christopher were firm believers in education, having seen at first-hand the advantages of education among people in the army. They invested all that they had in educating all their six children.

Emmanuel obtained his Bachelors in the University of Nigeria Nsukka in 1970, taught sciences in Eastern Region of Nigeria and Benue Plateau State of Nigeria where he was selected later to be the Principal of a school at a very young age of 29. There he worked hard to upgrade the school from a community secondary school to prestigious Kanam Government Secondary. While Principal, Emmanuel went to school and obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Education from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

Dr. Nwozuzu had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States to pursue further education, he obtained his Masters degree in Education in 1982 at Iowa State University in Science and Technology. It was Emmanuel's major Professor, Kahler who literally "coaxed" him to register for a doctoral program and gave him a job as an Assistant Research fellow.

In 1985, Dr. Nwozuzu took up a teaching position at the New York City Board of Education where he taught subjects from chemistry and physics to reading and writing. On May 1, 1990, the Principal of P.S. 9 recommended Dr. Nwozuzu for recognition from the Board of Education for Outstanding Leadership in Shepherd Program. In 1992, Dr. Nwozuzu was recognized by Kodak Company for the beautification of a triangular inner city park.

In 2005, Dr. Nwozuzu was awarded a teaching merit award from the Secretary of Education in Washington, DC, and in that same year was awarded the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Teachers Award. Now retired, Dr. Nwozuzu is the CEO of ACE-IT Educational Consultants.

Dr. Nwozuzu is the author of Voice of Generators Past, the Pulse of the Igbo, an African Tribe, a social commentary, a voice that narrates the changing effects in a traditional village in Africa published by Xlibris, PA.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Emmanuel Nwozuzu.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. SARITA BROWN

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sarita Brown upon receiving the 2009 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Ms. Brown is highly regarded for her hard work and dedication towards accelerating Latino success in higher education. For over two decades she has served as a shining example for students of Latino heritage.

Ms. Brown started her professional career at the University of Texas at Austin. There she built a national model to promote minority success in graduate education. In 1993, her endeavors carried her to Washington where she joined the Department of Education during the Clinton Administration. As Executive Director of the White House Initiative for Education Excellence for Hispanic Americans, she was tasked with the goal of implementing effective strategies to raise academic achievement and opportunities for low-income and minority students nationwide.

After her time in the administration, Ms. Brown applied her talents and experience to the nonprofit sector, serving as a leader among her colleagues and in her community. Ms. Brown is the co-founder and current President of Excelencia in Education, a not-for-profit organization working to promote Latino educational success in the classroom by linking research, policy, and effective practices in public policy.

Ms. Brown currently sits on the Board of Directors for ACT Inc., the National College Access Network (NCAN) and on advisory boards for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and the Journal of Hispanic Higher Education. In January 2009, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine bestowed the honor of appointing her to the Board of Visitors for Old Dominion University.

In addition to being an expert on education, Ms. Brown is also an outstanding public speaker. Each year, she travels around the country advocating for the issues she has spent her career championing: promoting access and support for Latinos to receive a higher education.

On behalf of the citizens of Virginia's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate and applaud Ms. Brown for her life's work. She is most deserving of the 2009 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. May it serve to bolster her on to even greater achievements in the years to come.

RECOGNIZES THE EFFORTS OF AGRONOMIST AND NOBEL LAUREATE NORMAN BORLAUG

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker: I rise to recognize and pay my respects to the late Norman Borlaug, who passed away earlier this month.