

equipment and supplies, IV fluids, gloves, masks, etc.

The church recently celebrated its 60th year anniversary. During a spirited and eventful three-hour celebration, held on March 3, in the Parish Fellowship Hall, a special photo display commemorated the occasion. Former members reunited to perform as a Chancel Choir in a spirit-filled musical program.

St. David's Episcopal Church and serve God through worship, outreach, and love for all.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate St. David's Episcopal Church of Southfield, Michigan on the auspicious occasion of its 60th diamond jubilee anniversary. I salute the outstanding work that this revered institution has carried out in the Metro Detroit area.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a letter from Colin Taylor Mays, a 12-year-old school kid in Oregon. He is very worried about the future of his education. The drive by some to make deep cuts in our education system is jeopardizing his education and the future competitiveness of our Nation.

While it is critical that we must not further burden our children and grandchildren with a mountain of debt, we also must make investments in their future. With limited resources we must make smart investments that put people back to work by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure system. While we focus on creating jobs now we cannot forget about our youth and what future will lie ahead for them. We must invest in education to make sure that our children will be prepared for the workforce of tomorrow. It is possible to balance our budget and provide for the most critical needs of our Nation. We must look both at raising revenues and reducing spending in areas where appropriate. If we do not make these choices now we will continue to let our children suffer in an education system that is falling apart at the seams. I hope that my colleagues will heed this message and work with me on making the right choices for our youth by investing in their education and giving them the same if not greater opportunities than we had growing up.

(By Colin Taylor Mays)

I am age 12 and a boy scout of America. I'm writing this letter as a view not a complaint. I haven't been learning enough in school, because of all the budget cut days. It's hard to keep track of what I'm learning. We need to put more money towards schooling and education. I probably have only 12 full weeks of school and I have so many weeks that only have 4 or 3 days in them. Unlike very few children I want to learn and possibly get a very good job that I want. Please consider this letter.

CONGRATULATING LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate League City, Texas on its fiftieth anniversary. For fifty years, League City has been a growing and influential region in the Baytown area and throughout Texas. Congratulations to League City for a wonderful half-century of contributions to our great state.

League City formally became an incorporated city on March 27, 1962. The city possesses a long history before that date, first settled in the late nineteenth century. It has made significant contributions to the Houston and Texas economies through its continued growth and success. Between the 2000 census and the 2010 census, League City almost doubled its population, and it also surpassed Galveston as the largest city in Galveston County in the early 2000s.

Known for its talented and capable workforce, many engineers and scientists that work at NASA's Johnson Space Center reside in League City.

The history and economic efforts of League City bring pride to our state. League City residents agree that it's a great place to live, work and raise a family. Congratulations to League City for fifty years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

HONORING MS. DEBRA SCHWARTZ ON HER RECENT SELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Debra Schwartz on her recent selection to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

With more than 25 years of financial services leadership, Ms. Schwartz will be a great addition to NAFCU. She has been president and CEO of Mission Federal Credit Union in San Diego since 2009. Prior to joining Mission Federal, she served as Chief Financial Officer at First Future Credit Union and as Executive Vice President at San Diego County Credit Union.

Debra Schwartz graduated magna cum laude in Economics and Marketing from the State University of New York, and obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Throughout her 25 years of leadership in the financial services industry, Ms. Schwartz has also dedicated time and energy to a variety of non-profit organizations focused on youth and financial literacy. In fact, she currently serves on the governing board of Junior Achievement in San Diego and Imperial counties.

With more than 163,000 credit union members in San Diego community, Ms. Schwartz is

a welcomed addition to the NAFCU Board of Directors and will undoubtedly make an immediate impact in her role. She has been both a leader and an innovator in the community and the NAFCU will be well served by her representation. Ms. Schwartz's experience will be a strong asset to the NAFCU as the credit union industry negotiates the recent financial regulatory reforms that will make lasting changes in the way credit unions operate.

I wish Ms. Schwartz the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU board and look forward to working with her in this capacity. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Debra on this achievement and wishing her luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. ISAIAH MADISON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great African American educator, pastor, attorney, and highly respected member of our community, Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison, who passed away March 1, 2012, at the age of 71.

Dr. Isaiah Madison was born on February 16, 1941, in Lake Cormorant, Mississippi. He later graduated from Delta Center High School in Walls, Mississippi in 1960. Dr. Madison went on to receive an Associate's Degree from Owens Jr. College in Memphis, Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University in 1964. He continued his education at Howard University, where he received his Juris Doctorate. Additionally, Dr. Madison received a Masters Degree in Political Science from Atlanta University and a Masters Degree in Theology from the International Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Reverend Dr. Isaiah Madison began his career as an instructor teaching Political Science at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and the Clinical Law Program at Howard University School of Law. Dr. Madison was a retired Associate Professor of Political Science at Jackson State University, where he taught courses in Public Law, American Government and Legal Research and Writing. While at Jackson State, he was Co-Advisor of the prominent Fannie Lou Hamer Prelaw Society in the Department. The Reverend Dr. Madison was a prolific writer and author. He published several poems and essays dealing with a wide variety of subjects—ranging from the law to social justice issues.

Dr. Madison was a man of deep and abiding faith, and served wholeheartedly as a United Methodist Pastor and Church Leader. Using his God-given gifts of teaching and exhortation, Dr. Madison pastored churches in Mississippi and Georgia. Dr. Madison was a member of New Dimensions International Ministries, where he served as an Assistant Pastor.

In 1973, Dr. Madison was the lead attorney in the development of the high profile Ayers Case. In fact, he was the Chief Architect of the Ayers decision. Madison was the Founding Chairman of the Black Mississippians' Council on Higher Education which was the support

organization that provided financial and organizational assistance to the Ayers effort. Madison was primarily responsible for the \$503,000,000 settlement that was reached in the Ayers Case.

Dr. Madison was married to Carol A. Madison of Memphis, Tennessee. Her son and his stepson, William L. Poston, is serving in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincere gratitude to the life and legacy of Dr. Madison. This extraordinary man was an unsung hero of his generation, who did not seek recognition but always sought justice. Our country was blessed with his service, strengthened by his faith, and bettered by his devotion to his family and the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDE-
PENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the twentieth anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence from the Soviet Union.

On December 25, 1991, the United States became the first country to recognize Kazakhstan as an independent nation. Two decades later, Kazakhstan remains an important U.S. partner and a leader in Central Asia.

During the Soviet era, The Kazakh Steppe served as an important testing ground and launch site for the Soviets' nuclear weapons program. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan was left with a substantial nuclear arsenal consisting of over a thousand strategic nuclear warheads as well as delivery systems including intercontinental ballistic missiles and long-range bombers. This stockpile left Kazakhstan as the world's fourth largest nuclear power.

The Kazakh people understood the devastating power of these weapons, having hosted over 500 Soviet nuclear tests. Rather than embrace its new found status as a nuclear power, Kazakhstan, under the leadership of President Nazarbayev, became the first country to voluntarily renounce its nuclear arsenal. The country subsequently signed and ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1994. By 1995 the last of Kazakhstan's nuclear weapons had been transferred to Russia, with substantial assistance from the United States through the Comprehensive Threat Reduction program. Kazakhstan and the United States continue to cooperate through this program to secure remaining nuclear material as well as chemical and biological weapons, including Anthrax, left over from the Soviet era. After twenty years of independence, Kazakhstan remains a leader on the nonproliferation and an example to others that the path to prosperity does not require nuclear weapons.

Upon independence, Kazakhstan immediately began working to reform its Soviet-style economy. Today, Kazakhstan boasts the most

developed economy in the region. The country has the potential to become an energy power house and to provide a stabilizing influence on global markets. In addition, the government's decision to create a National Oil Fund will help ensure that Kazakhstan's mineral wealth benefits the Kazakh people.

Despite its mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is committed to diversifying its economy and as a result has made significant progress toward membership in the World Trade Organization. This progress is exemplified by the recently signed WTO bilateral market access agreement between Kazakhstan and the United States. This agreement will allow U.S. service providers to benefit from significantly expanded opportunities in Kazakhstan's markets once it joins the WTO. Membership in the WTO is good for Kazakhstan as well as for the major American companies that are increasingly attracted to this developing market.

In the months prior to September 11, 2001, President Nazarbayev voiced his concern that the situation in Afghanistan threatened regional security. Soon after the attacks on the United States, Kazakhstan began supporting coalition operations in Afghanistan by providing access to Kazakh airspace. Since 2009 the Kazakh rail network has been a key link in the Northern Distribution Network which provides an increasingly important supply route into Afghanistan. In addition to its support for military operations, Kazakhstan continues to support Afghanistan's development in a number of ways, including by providing Afghan students with scholarships to study at Kazakh universities.

As a result of policies such as those outlined above: the rejection of nuclear weapons, the embrace of economic reforms, and support for allied operations in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan has become a pillar of stability, and an engine of development in Central Asia. This leadership was reflected in the decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to grant Kazakhstan the chairmanship of the organization in 2010.

I respectfully urge President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people to build on this solid foundation by actively pursuing democratic reforms including the development of a free press, an independent judiciary, a robust civil society, and a transparent political system. Democratic development will not only benefit the Kazakh people but will preserve and strengthen the leadership role that Kazakhstan plays in Central Asia and on the world stage.

In the past twenty years Kazakhstan has become a key ally of the United States. As Kazakhstan continues to develop, we must continue to work to build this important relationship. I congratulate President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people on twenty years of independence.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 35TH
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF
BISHOP EDGAR VANN OF SEC-
OND EBENEZER CHURCH

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in a tribute to my

friend and a distinguished man of the cloth, Bishop Edgar Vann, on the auspicious occasion of the 35th anniversary of his service to Christ and the community as Pastor of Second Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1976, Bishop Edgar L. Vann II assumed the mantle of leadership at Second Ebenezer when, at the time, the congregation numbered less than 100. With great vision and steadfast purpose, Bishop Vann toiled to create the vision of his spiritual calling. By the grace of God, grew the flock of Second Ebenezer numbers to nearly 5000 today. However, Bishop Vann's ecumenical reach extends far beyond the impressive walls of the beloved "Second Eb."

With the good Bishop's message of empowerment and dedication, Second Ebenezer today has grown to be one of Detroit's premier ministries, inspiring its congregants toward the path of life transformation. The inspiration he provides is not just through words and teachings, however. His life's work is an example for us all.

Bishop Vann is not just a builder of better souls, he is a builder and innovator in our community. Established in 1994, Bishop Vann leads the Vanguard Community Development, an institution that has created more than \$80 million of church and of community development in Detroit. Vanguard is leading an entire community toward restoration, healing and empowerment. Bishop Vann preaches extensively throughout the world. He is a mentor, life coach and spiritual father to nearly 200 sons and daughters in the ministry and pastors across the country. His travels have taken him to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Haiti, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe. With each visit, he brings the powerful word of God to each stop.

But Bishop Vann's labor and great work extends beyond his church and his family. In fact, he serves with distinction on several boards. His civic and community organizations affiliations include: Mosaic Youth Theater, Wayne State University's Research & Technology Park, The Skillman Foundation, Detroit Regional Chamber, Michigan Coalition of Human Rights, Detroit Institute of Arts, Henry Ford Health System, Commissioner for the Detroit Police Department, Habitat for Humanity, and the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He also served as a consultant and an advisor to governors, mayors, civic officials and corporate executives throughout the great state of Michigan.

A devoted husband and a dedicated father, Bishop Vann has been married to Elder Sheila R. Vann, a gifted woman of God, since 1978. They have two adult children, Edgar L. Vann III and Ericka Monique Vann.

Mr. Speaker, it is too tall a task to fully detail each and every way that Bishop Vann has made a difference in our community, and indeed, the world. We are truly blessed by his calling, and deeply grateful for his dedication and work. I extend my sincerest wishes on this momentous occasion and hope that his gifts to us continue for another 35 years and beyond.