

early part of the 10th Century. During his tenure as king, St. Wenceslaus took a vow of chastity and was devoted to his Christian faith. Killed by his brother, St. Wenceslaus was later canonized as a martyr of the Christian faith.

St. John Nepomucene is one of only two Czech congregations left in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, along with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

The Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland will gather together on September 29th for mass featuring the Most Reverend Bishop Roger W. Gries and will be followed by a celebration dinner and performance by the Hronek Czech Band.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland on the occasion of their 89th Annual Feast of St. Wenceslaus. I offer my best wishes to the Czech Catholics of Greater Cleveland and all those who attend this joyous celebration.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILESTONES AUTISM ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Milestones Autism Organization, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Founded in 2003 by parents to promote life-long strategies for success for individuals with autism, Milestones Autism Organization has assisted more than 4,000 individuals throughout the past decade. Milestones trains parents and professionals using research-based techniques in order to improve the level of educational and therapeutic programming available for individuals with autism. Milestones offers parent workshops and training, professional development programs, school team training, consultation services, hosts an annual Autism/Asperger's conference, and has launched a professional network, the Milestones Consortium for Autism Professionals.

As Milestones Autism Organization celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, a special tribute will be given to its founding board members, Chantal Akerib, Bart Bookatz, Carol Lader and Sally H. Wertheim.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing a decade of training and support provided by the Milestones Autism Organization.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DOCTOR DARAN HERNANDEZ MITCHELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the Reverend Doctor Daran H. Mitchell, a man dedicated to serving God, his family, and the community. Dr. Mitchell

is the pastor of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, which I represent.

Dr. Mitchell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion/Philosophy-Liberal Studies from Bethune-Cookman College, a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Ministry from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University.

Since his appointment to the First A.M.E. Zion Church pulpit in October 2004, Dr. Mitchell has established a ministry to men, a ministry to women, a liturgical dance ministry, a media ministry, completed over \$850,000 in capital improvements, restored the Historic Clock on its edifice, and is actively creating partnerships with churches and community leaders in the Borough of Brooklyn.

An active member of the community, Dr. Mitchell presently serves as chairman of the Board of Conference Studies for the New York Annual Conference; member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Annual Conference; member, Board of Directors, Harriet Tubman Home; chairman of the Budget Committee, New York Annual Conference; chairman of the Finance Committee for the New York City District, and a member of the Brotherhood Pension Board for the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Dr. Mitchell is married to the Reverend Lorraine Lynn Kennedy-Mitchell and they are the proud parents of a 16 year-old son, Caylen.

A gifted preacher, teacher, motivational speaker, builder, and community activist, Dr. Mitchell has sought to raise the spiritual climate and social consciousness of not only the congregation, but the community in general by becoming active in every aspect of community life. The community of Greensboro, North Carolina is gaining an extraordinary figure that will be greatly missed in Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Reverend Dr. Daran H. Mitchell for his tremendous contributions to his congregants and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Dr. Daran H. Mitchell.

HONORING 53 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE BY THE FEDERATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association (FAWA) for more than 50 years of exemplary service to our community. FAWA has strived to develop mutual cooperation and friendship through the advocacy of cultural ties among Asian and Pacific Islander women in our region since its origins with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and its founding in the Philippines in 1959.

FAWA seeks to improve the lives of members and their communities. Their motto, "Asian Women United for Service" describes their efforts to effect major changes in the status of women in Asia and to work towards a better life for the Asia-Pacific region. FAWA

accomplishes this objective through promoting closer relations and joint efforts among Asians, particularly women, by fostering a mutual appreciation of cultural, moral and socioeconomic values.

As an honorary president of FAWA, I am proud and excited to host this year's convention on Guam. This year's theme, "Empowering Asia-Pacific Women Through Knowledge and Opportunities," is fitting, as this convention brings together women leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences and promote the continued growth and preservation of women's roles in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference will address issues affecting women in the modern world, including women and sustainability, women's health issues, and women and education. These sessions offer valuable networking opportunities for participants, and I encourage all attendees to take advantage of this unique group of leaders; to make valuable connections with other empowered women in our community.

I recognize the founders, Minerva G. Laudico and Geronima T. Pecson; this organization has carried on their vision and passion across generations and national boundaries. I am confident that their legacy of service will endure. I commend my fellow Honorary President Cecilia Y. Koo, Honorary Advisor Nancy C. Nee, FAWA President Kristal Koga, FAWA 1st Vice President Charlene Yang, FAWA 2nd Vice President Mei Woo, FAWA 3rd Vice President Jung Sook Kim, Convention Chair Sylvia Crafton, Convention Co-Chairs Nancy Tan and Denise Mendiola-Hertslet, and members of the FAWA Board of Executives and all the organizing members for their efforts in ensuring that this year's conference, like past events, will be a success. I congratulate the Federation of Asia-Pacific Women's Association for their dedication and contributions, and I look forward to the continued growth of this organization for many more years to come.

THE AFFIRMING RELIGIOUS HERITAGE AND FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affirming Religious Heritage and Freedom in the United States Act. This legislation is a simple statement recognizing the importance of religion in the lives of our nation's citizens, the strong role of Judeo-Christian heritage in the development of our nation, and the freedom for all to exercise their religious beliefs in our nation.

Our nation's history is storied with references to religious beliefs and symbols that mark their importance in the development of our nation. Those religious beliefs often inspired our nation's founding fathers, as well as presidents and lawmakers throughout our history, to stand firm in their conviction that this should be a nation of freedom, including freedom of religion.

Recently, we've heard more and more negative news stories about religion in our nation. I ask, what is wrong with faith and exercising