

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CARL M. SKINNER

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Carl M. Skinner on the occasion of his retirement from the Air Force after 33 years of dedicated service to our Nation. Major General Skinner began his career after graduation from the Air Force Academy in 1980. His service is marked with distinguished performance as an Instructor Pilot in the T-38 Talon, Chief, Standardization and Evaluation in the FB-111 Aardvark, and Mobilization Assistant to the Air Force Chief Information Officer, the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency and the Commander of the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command. Major General Skinner's career followed his father's example during World War II and continues through his son, an Air Force physician stationed at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. My colleagues join me in sincerely thanking Mike, his wife, Pam, and their children, Tom and Kelley Ann, for their service to the United States of America and a job well done.

HONORING JOHN PARSONS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of John Parsons, a man who gave so much of himself to the community. He had served as a City Councilmember in Redondo Beach and most recently as the Planning Commissioner. John has been a pillar in the South Bay community and will be remembered for his dedicated service to the City of Redondo Beach.

I have had the great honor of working with John since I began representing the 33rd Congressional District. He helped me get to know the South Bay, its businesses and local Chambers of Commerce.

John had a long history of public service in the beach communities and beyond. He served as chairman of the City's Harbor Commission and Chamber of Commerce Board and was president of the Redondo Beach Rotary. Most recently, he worked as the business services and economic development manager for the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

One of John's most important contributions to the community was as a founding member and original chairman of the Los Angeles Air Force Regional Alliance, which successfully protected the Los Angeles Air Force Base from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure list. John's tireless work helped the Air Force

Base remain in El Segundo and remain a central part of the defense community. It continues to support tens of thousands of local jobs and supports our national security around the globe.

John is survived by his wife, Mary Ann and two daughters, Nikki and Danielle; a sister, Lorraine Doolin of Virginia; and two brothers, Mike Parsons and Pat Parsons of Los Angeles. My thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to John's family and friends during this difficult time.

John will truly be remembered as a civic leader who always had the best interest of his community in mind. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life and tremendous contributions of John Parsons. Our community owes John a debt of gratitude for his service and he will not be forgotten.

ON THE OCCASION OF MONA AND
CANTOR SAMUEL L. GREEN-
BAUM'S FORTIETH ANNIVER-
SARY OF SERVICE TO
CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF GREATER DETROIT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cantor Samuel Greenbaum and his wife, Mona, on the occasion of their fortieth year of service to the members of Congregation Beth Shalom.

As a leader at Congregation Beth Shalom and in Greater Detroit's Jewish community, Cantor Greenbaum has been present for thousands of Jewish Michiganders at every stage in their lives. Throughout his decades of service, Cantor Greenbaum has been involved in every facet of Beth Shalom's community. From his mastery of the liturgy at religious services to his lessons as a teacher of Jewish education for members at all periods in their lives, Cantor Greenbaum has approached his work with a thoughtful balance of compassion, levity and pastoral care that have enabled him to effectively guide members of his congregation on their lifelong journey in establishing a deep and meaningful connection with their faith. One of his most important responsibilities is the commitment he makes to Jewish boys and girls as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor—serving as a key advisor to the youth as they take on increased responsibilities in the Jewish community.

Furthermore, it is not surprising that Cantor Greenbaum's profound enthusiasm for his faith has led him to work that goes beyond the congregation of Beth Shalom and affects the broader Jewish community in Southeast Michigan. As one of just a few certified mohels in the Greater Detroit region, Cantor Greenbaum has been instrumental to thousands of newborn boys as they enter the covenant of Juda-

ism and has taken part in the naming ceremony for thousands of newborn girls. He has been with families at moments of great joy, officiating countless weddings, and been of comfort to families while mourning the loss of loved ones. In recognition of his service to the Jewish community, Cantor Greenbaum was honored with an honorary Doctorate of Music degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

As is often the case for spiritual leaders, Cantor Greenbaum is joined in life by his dedicated partner Mona, who mirrors his compassion and commitment for the well-being others. Mona has supported Beth Shalom through her work as a teacher in Jewish Day School and in the public school system.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mona and Cantor Samuel Greenbaum on this tremendous milestone in their service to Congregation Beth Shalom and the Jewish community of Greater Detroit. For forty years, the Greenbaums have practiced compassion and dedication to their congregation and community—a shining example of service above self for all of us that seek to make a difference in the lives of others.

BISHOP D. RAYFORD BELL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, born Dennis Raphael Bell, in Leflore County, Mississippi, on July 9, 1923; to sharecropper parents. Dennis was raised by his grandparents.

In spite of the absence of a dream of better conditions; something within him, at a very early age, rebelled against the status quo. He discovered in the South, if Black people refused to sink in despair and accept things as they were, then they had better have a ray of light from above. Bishop Bell is convinced it was that ray of light that brought him from the backwoods of Mississippi to the glorious heights of Pentecost; from a Mississippi plowboy to a Prince of the Church of God.

In 1938, after living briefly in Morley, Missouri; a fifteen-year-old Dennis returned to Mississippi to find a new girl had moved into the area; Darlene Griffin. On July 20th, 1942, Darlene and Dennis were married. To this union were born two sons, Harvey and Curtis, and nine grandchildren. Shortly after Harvey was born, Dennis was drafted into the U.S. Army. After training, he was sent to Europe, where he saw action in the campaign of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He was honorably discharged December 9th, 1945.

Bishop Bell received the Holy Ghost on April 1, 1949. Since that day, God has continually perfected that which concerned Bishop Bell. It has not always been easy, but the ray of light has never gone out.

Bishop Bell has constantly sought to improve himself. After finishing his high school

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