

CORAM FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members and leaders of the Coram Fire Department on the department's 85th anniversary.

The Coram Fire Department exemplifies bravery, selflessness, and a strong sense of community. For 85 years, its members have been willing to leave their homes and their families at any hour of the day or night, running toward danger to save their neighbors.

The department has grown with the community, expanding its services and its facilities to ensure the safety of Coram residents. It has opened its fire house to more than just fire-or department-related activities. Two civic groups meet regularly at the auxiliary fire house. And any time my office is in need of a meeting space, whether to honor our nation's veterans, to bring in banks to help homeowners with mortgage issues, or to celebrate our military academy nominees, the Coram Fire Department has welcomed us and provided the space with support for our events.

The Coram Fire Department is also proactive in its advocacy for the fire and emergency services. Whenever there is something that can be done to make the jobs of volunteer emergency service personnel easier, or the need to call our attention to something they feel makes it harder, the membership works hard to find ways to resolve the issue.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the residents of the First Congressional District, and in particular the residents of Coram, I offer my thanks and best wishes to the Coram Fire Department. Here's to 85 more years of dedicated service to the community.

COMMENDING SUMMER BROWN ON EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT SILVER AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Summer Brown on earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest achievement a Cadette can earn. Summer, a student at First Colony Middle School in Sugar Land, achieved this honor through her accomplishments in leadership, advocacy, and dedication to improving her community.

Summer completed her Girl Scout Silver Award project by coordinating and leading a "Healthy Eating and Energy" workshop for elementary students. She led a team of volunteers to teach students how to lead a healthy lifestyle. This included helping students learn how to read and understand nutrition labels on food packages. Summer also conducted a fruits and vegetable taste test to help the students discover and experience healthy foods. Every parent knows that in itself is an accomplishment.

On behalf of all of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of

Texas, I'm pleased to recognize Summer's Girl Scout accomplishment and her contributions to help make her community a healthier place. We are all proud of Summer Brown.

WELCOMING PASTOR BENNY TATE

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Pastor Benny Tate, the Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia, for over 25 years.

When Dr. Benny Tate first arrived in Milner, Georgia, Rock Springs Church had just 60 members in its congregation. Today, that number has grown to more than 6,000.

Under the leadership of Pastor Tate, several ministries were formed at Rock Springs Church in order to meet the needs of the community, including:

The Rock Springs Medical Clinic to care for those who cannot afford medical insurance, the Potter's House, which ministers to women battling drug and alcohol abuse, Rock Springs Christian Academy, offering quality education to children K through 12, and the Impact Street Ministries, which helps the homeless by serving meals and providing clothing to those in need.

Psalm 68:5 says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Or James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Dr. Tate's work is a shining example of what scripture tells us the role of the church should be—to care for the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

Today, Pastor Tate and his wife of more than thirty years, Barbara, reside in Griffin Georgia, and are parents to their daughter, Savannah Abigail.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pastor Benny Tate for his 25 years of outstanding leadership and service to his community at Rock Springs Church. I wish him many blessed years ahead as he continues to lead, serve, and further the gospel at his full service church.

DONNA PALERMO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Donna E. Palermo on her retirement from the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce after 26 years of exceptional service.

Ms. Palermo began working for the Chamber as an executive secretary in 1988 and continued to move through the ranks of the organization, serving as an administrative assistant, vice president, and interim president. In May 2001, she became the first woman in the Chamber's 120-year history to serve as president, a position she held for 13 years.

Beyond her work with the Chamber, Ms. Palermo is an active member of the Hazleton

community, serving in numerous leadership roles including President of the Northeastern Chamber of Commerce Services Organization, Chair of the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Chair of the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership. She is also a member of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (now Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton), Leadership Hazleton, Lackawanna/Luzerne County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and CAN BE.

In addition to her involvement with many of the areas organizations and charities, she has undertaken several special projects, including an effort to bring back a health insurance program for the Chamber. As a result of her collaborative efforts, this health insurance program has grown beyond the Greater Hazleton Chamber to 17 additional Northeast Pennsylvania Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, having had the pleasure to work with Ms. Palermo on many projects centered on community service and economic development, I can attest to her integrity and strong sense of community pride. Therefore, I commend Donna E. Palermo for her years of committed service to her community and the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and I wish her continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MR. NATHAN GIBBS-BOWLING ON HIS MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, a teacher from my district who has achieved recognition for being one of the nation's top educators. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling of Lincoln High School in Tacoma recently received the highly prestigious Milken Educator Award, which is given by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize excellence in teaching. Mr. Gibbs-Bowling, winner of the \$25,000 prize, was the only recipient this year from Washington State and one of only 35 educators honored nationwide.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling teaches Advanced Placement Government and Advanced Placement Human Geography, as well as a senior seminar on applying for college and obtaining scholarships. He is an engaging teacher who sets high standards for his students while inspiring them with a creative classroom experience. He is known to have his classrooms debate Supreme Court cases and hold mock Congresses. As his students and colleagues will tell you, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling aims to instill intellectual curiosity and a mindset of life-long learning in all of his students.

Mr. Gibbs-Bowling grew up in Tacoma. After graduating from Foss High School in 1997, he earned an associate's degree from Pierce College, as well as a bachelor's and master's degree from Evergreen State College. Now, as a dedicated teacher, he is giving back to his community.

In addition to helping co-develop the curriculum on Tacoma history and the Washington State history curriculum he wrote from primary source materials, Mr. Gibbs-Bowling is the first teacher at his school to teach Advancement Via Individual Determination