

Mr. Emanuelson makes Minnesotans proud. On behalf of all Minnesotans and Americans, I recognize Mr. Emanuelson's dutiful service to our country during one of its most dire times of need.

OPERATION HELPING HAND 10TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Operation Helping Hand on its 10th Anniversary. Operation Helping Hand is a labor of love dedicated to providing support for our United States Military active duty personnel who have been injured in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and are currently being cared for at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Started in May 2004, Operation Helping Hand is a special initiative of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), which currently has over five hundred members. Operation Helping Hand is governed by five retired officers, one prior enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer, and operated by many dedicated volunteers. In the ten years since its inception, its efforts have assisted hundreds of active duty, recently retired, and wounded heroes and their families. Operation Helping Hand knows that one of the most important aspects of the patients' rehabilitation is having family support during their recovery. That is why it helps facilitate this through a myriad of services such as travel assistance with roundtrip air fare for immediate family members, rental cars for traveling, gas, lodging, and other various arrangements that help connect family members to their loved ones during their rehabilitation. These services would not be possible without the generous contributions and grants from individuals, corporations, and associations, which, through Operation Helping Hand's fundraising efforts, have been able to give well over \$1.8 million back to assist our wounded military service-members and their families.

Mr. Speaker, for wounded heroes and their families, Operation Helping Hand hosts monthly dinners—many of which I have been privileged to attend—at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. On May 15th, Operation Helping Hand will proudly host its 120th consecutive dinner. Those in regular attendance at the monthly dinners consist of concerned citizens, community leaders, active duty military and military retirees. Deliciously catered dinners are provided by local restaurants that, in conjunction with other local businesses, generously stuff gift bags chock full of useful personal items and gift certificates for the loved ones of wounded veterans.

Mr. Speaker, for its incredible charitable work, it is no wonder that Operation Helping Hand has received many accolades from, but not limited to, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Tampa Bay, and the Mayor's Alliance. Additionally, Operation Helping Hand has been a recipient of the "Newman's Own" recognition, the 2010 Governor's Points of Light Award, the Florida Distinguished Service Medal, and the President's Call to Service Award. But, according to Oper-

ation Helping Hand, the most valuable and honored recognition comes from the grateful patients and their families once their rehabilitation has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder to have many of these wonderful citizens as constituents. Caring folks like the ones at Operation Helping Hand are what makes America the land of the free and the home of the brave. God bless them, God bless our veterans, and God bless America.

CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED
YEARS OF COMMUNITY IN THE
TOWN OF PROSPER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Prosper, Texas, in celebrating its 100th anniversary. This milestone is a true testament and living legacy of the hard work, perseverance, and spirit of community that the early settlers first fostered.

The Town of Prosper is conveniently located to the north of Frisco in Collin County. Incorporated in 1914 with a commission form of government, Prosper started off with a population of just 500 residents. After the war and the depression the mechanization of farming provided the next big impact on Prosper's population.

In 1980, the introduction of light industry, combined with the growth of the Metroplex, led to a comeback for Prosper. Today, Prosper continues to grow and is home to more than 11,000 residents, 100 businesses and one high school state football championship, Prosper High School. The town continues to welcome new ventures to their thriving community every year. While 100 years have passed since its founding, Prosper truly is a shining example of what makes North Texas a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Town of Prosper on their 100th anniversary. I also commend the Mayor of Prosper Ray Smith and all those who call Prosper home, for their dedication, commitment, and efforts in contributing to Prosper's continued growth and excellence while preserving the values of a close-knit community. That's something we simply can't put a price on. I look forward to seeing what the next 100 years have in store.

God Bless all your efforts, and I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR BENNY TATE

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. BROWN 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.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER-
INTENDENT JOANNA RUMMER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of my good friend Joanna (Jody) Rummer, who has served the Sierra Sands Unified School District for 26 years.

Joining the school district as a science teacher in 1988, Jody went on to serve as assistant principal at Murray Middle School and Burroughs High School before eventually becoming Burroughs' co-Principal. In 2001, she joined the district administrative staff as the coordinator of special projects before becoming the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. In 2004, Jody became the school district's superintendent and embarked on a journey that would ultimately transform the Sierra Sands Unified School District.

When Jody took the wheel, her vision was to enhance and grow Sierra Sands. Today, Jody's vision is rooted in the foundation of all eleven district schools, which have been recognized statewide as institutions of academic excellence, earned the California Distinguished School award, and designated as a California Blue Ribbon school. Within the halls of those schools, you'll find students excelling in California's finest programs for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, mastering the art of music, visual arts, and drama, and setting athletic milestones as state champions in multiple