

serious divisions existing between traditional leaders and lower-ranking Fijians.

So far, no resolutions have been established to provide balance and fairness to both Fijians and ethnic Indians. In the past 20 some years, Fiji has had four coups and three constitutions. In the two coups of 1987 and the political crisis of 2000, ethnic tensions played major roles.

Until we understand this beginning and begin to converse about it, democracy will not get underway. Having had several discussions with interim Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and dozens of others during my visits to Fiji, I believe U.S. leadership can help strengthen bilateral ties and improve regional conditions.

By employing smart diplomacy in Fiji—which has been the hallmark of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's foreign policy initiative even in Myanmar—I have every hope that we can achieve equal suffrage and other political, economic and social reforms targeted under the "Strategic Framework for Change," just as the interim Prime Minister seeks.

#### IN HONOR OF HERMAN J. RUSSELL

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn spirit that I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary man who labored tirelessly for the greater good, a man that stood as an example to us all, Mr. Herman J. Russell. Sadly, Mr. Russell passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Philip AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Born on December 23, 1930, Mr. Russell was a lifelong resident of Atlanta, Georgia. At the young age of 16, he purchased a small plot of land for the price of \$125, an investment he eventually used to put himself through college at Tuskegee University in Alabama. He then went on to form a plastering company which, over the course of several decades, grew into a multi-million dollar real estate development and construction company, H.J. Russell & Co. Today, it is one of the nation's largest minority-owned real estate firms.

Herman Russell is known as a founding father of the city of Atlanta. From Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to the Georgia Dome, from the Georgia-Pacific tower to the Coca-Cola headquarters, and from Turner Field to the Philips Arena, Mr. Russell played an essential role in the construction of much of the great skyline we see today. His firm is a partner in the joint venture selected to build the new nearly \$1.3 billion Atlanta Falcons stadium, which is slated to open in 2017.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a leading African-American businessman, Mr. Russell was an esteemed civic leader. He served as the first black member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as the chamber's second black president. Mr. Russell was an activist and champion of the Civil Rights Movement, working closely with other influential figures such as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also contributed to the successful campaign of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor.

Mr. Russell was also well-known for his giving heart, evidenced by his role as a generous benefactor for numerous educational programs for institutions such as Morehouse College, Georgia State University, and his alma mater, Tuskegee University. Additionally, Mr. Russell lent his charitable support to accomplish such tasks as the expansion of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta facility at Hughes Spalding.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." The great Capital of the South would not be the same without Mr. Russell. Breaking down the numerous racial and economic barriers that stood in his path, Mr. Russell was a visionary and a man ahead of his time. His passing is a great loss to us all but his memory and storied legacy will serve as an enduring source of inspiration for so many.

Mr. Russell is survived by his wife, Sylvia Anderson Russell; and his three children, Michael, Jerome, and Donata, who each run a portion of the family business, continuing their father's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the great Herman J. Russell, a charitable man who worked his whole life to overcome great challenges and grow into the leader he was destined to be. Mr. Russell was a remarkable man and a blessing to the state of Georgia and the nation as a whole. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 530 had I been present, I would have voted "no".

#### HONORING THE CITY OF NEWPORT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Mayor, City Council, and residents of Newport, Minnesota, past and present on the occasion of the city's 125th Anniversary.

Even before its incorporation as the village of Newport in 1889, the city was a vibrant Mississippi River community with deep roots in Minnesota history. Newport has always drawn its strength from the people who live within it, and takes pride in its rich history and natural beauty. According to the Washington County Historical Society, Newport began as two separate settlements, one of which was called Red Rock. It was settled by European immigrants shortly after the land was purchased by the U.S. government in 1837 through treaties

with the Ojibwe and Dakota. The name Red Rock was derived from a red-painted granite boulder, an unusual remnant likely deposited by retreating glaciers. This rock, which has been moved several times, was held in great reverence by the Dakota. Today the rock sits in front of Newport United Methodist Church.

The area around the settlement of Red Rock became a place of agriculture and commerce on the Mississippi River, as well as a major gathering spot for Methodist camp meetings. The "Red Rock Camp Ground Association" held meetings each July that drew single-day crowds of 20,000 people. Special steamboats and trains brought people from St. Paul twice a day. By the 1880s, however, attendance began to decline rapidly. After the city was incorporated, several successful companies began operation in the city, including Farmer's Terminal Meat Packing Company (Cudahy), the Farmer's Terminal State Bank and the Fritz Candy Company.

In the 1950s Newport Plaza opened a new and dynamic chapter in retail for the city. Today the shopping center with its signature red roof continues to welcome local residents as well as travelers from nearby Highway 61 for legendary home cooking at the North Pole restaurant and for essential items from John Bartl Hardware.

125 years after it was founded, Newport is thriving. It is helping to model sustainable and ecologically sound practices by participating in Minnesota GreenStep Cities, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their environmental and quality-of-life goals. Through the dedicated work of local elected officials and residents, the community is a leader for other communities in our state.

Fellowship and community involvement is essential to the prosperity of any small town, and Newport boasts several outstanding examples of community engagement, including its annual Pioneer Day celebration, community garden, Veterans Memorial, and the Newport Public Library and Community Center. Residents are constantly working to keep this river community a desirable place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise to pay tribute to residents of Newport, Minnesota and its noble place in our state—past, present and future—on the city's 125th anniversary.

RACHEL T. EMMER

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel T. Emmer for bringing her passion for environmental solutions and entrepreneurship to her community.

Rachel traveled several paths after earning an undergraduate degree in business. She started a hotel and restaurant in Central America, selling the business in the early 90's and becoming part of a film crew recording documentaries for National Geographic, Discovery and the BBC. It was during this time she found her passion for environmental solutions. She earned an MBA in sustainability from Bainbridge Graduate Institute. One of the first "Green" MBA programs in the United States.