HON. BRENIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Canton, Mississippi.

The population of Madison County, Mississippi, has been predominantly African-American since 1840. Prior to 1865, some members of the African-American population, most of whom had arrived in the county as slaves, were permitted to attend worship services, to be baptized and to be married in the area churches. They were also allowed to join established white congregations.

Early county records indicate that slaves were a part of the church communities. The Old Madison Presbyterian Church, the First Presbyterian, and the First Baptist listed African-American members of the congregation of First Methodist Church Canton, Mississippi.

With the help of God and members, burned the church. The building was erected on Freedman Hill, located at the plantation to Mount Zion. The first church was across the street where the TWL parking culvert, or Rev. Williams, pastor of the Colored Baptist Church, immersed ten converts the church.

The third and fourth pastors were Rev. T. J. Drane and R. B. Johnson donated two acres of land on the northern boundary of the plantation to Mount Zion. The first church was erected on Freedman Hill, located at the corner of North Railroad and Bowman Streets, according to the 1898 George and Dunlap map of Canton. Rev. Drane called for a meeting with counsel along with Mr. Will Powell from the white Baptist Church to help establish the church.

In addition to serving as pastor, Rev. Drane ran a day school and was assisted by Lillian Highgate, a white teacher. Rev. Drane received an additional $1.50 a month for his services. He also organized and maintained the first Sunday school class. All other organizations were a part of the church communities. The African-American population, most of whom were permitted to attend worship services, to be baptized and to be married in the area churches.

Three individuals have proudly and graciously given their very best in the service of their country, the district, and their exemplary service has truly made a difference in the many lives which they have impacted by their professional, prompt, and persistent service. Marie Thompson's work on constituent services is unparalleled and has inspired others.

My heartfelt gratitude to Marie E. Thompson, Audrey B. Lesesne, and William J. “Billy” Barker. My most sincere gratitude for their dedication and passion—and for which our country, the people of this district, and I will forever be grateful.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN HERMAN BADILLO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grief to honor the passing of Herman Badillo, a great New Yorker, a great friend and a man that worked honorably for this country. I fondly remember walking down 116th street, the bolderline of Harlem and East Harlem, as we
shared the great plans we had for our districts and this great nation. Herman and I were part of the 1970 Congressional freshman class. Herman was also the man who gave Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and me the special label: the Gang of Four. He was always driven and persistent, called himself “the first Puerto Rican everything,” and won the respect for being a fighter. Congressman Herman Badillo will be truly missed.

My friend, Herman Badillo, will always be remembered as America’s first Puerto Rican-born Congressman and a fixture in New York City politics for four decades, championing civil rights, jobs, housing and educational reforms. Born in Caguas, P.R., on Aug. 21, 1929, Herman was the only child of Francisco and Carmen Rivera Badillo. Upon moving to the continental United States, he learned English and was an excellent student at Haaren High School in Manhattan. Being a hard worker since a young age, he labored as a dishwasher, bowling pinsetter, and accountant and graduated with high honors from City College in 1951. Herman went on to graduate from Fordham Law School as valedictorian in 1954, then settled into law practice in New York. Badillo served his community as a public servant on many fronts. Besides his election to four terms in Congress, he was a city commissioner, the Bronx borough president, a deputy to Mayor Edward I. Koch, a counsel to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a candidate for state and city comptroller, and for many years a trustee and then board chairman of the City University of New York.

I was honored to serve with Herman during his seven years in Congress in the 1970s, when he pushed urban renewal, antipoverty programs, voting rights and bilingual education. Herman has been a treasure to the people of our community as well as a true testament to the American Dream. Herman Badillo will forever remain in our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Eden Prairie High School Football Team on winning the Minnesota State Championship.

The Eagles capped off an undefeated 13–0 season with a hard-fought victory over Totino-Grace, defeating the team by a halftime score of 14 points. Senior running back Will Rains led the way with 230 yards rushing and 3 Touchdowns.

The Eagles capped off an undefeated 13–0 season with a hard-fought victory over Totino-Grace, defeating the team by a halftime score of 14 points. Senior running back Will Rains led the way with 230 yards rushing and 3 Touchdowns, with their backs against the wall, the Eagles dug deep to claw their way back and win their fourth consecutive big school title.

Football is a unique sport in that every play requires 11 teammates working in unison to be successful. It takes perfect execution combined with skill and of course, a large amount of toughness to make a deep play-off run and win a title.

Eden Prairie’s commitment to excelling on the gridiron is even more noteworthy when combined with the requirements of a student-athlete. Maintaining commitments in the classroom, with their families, and fitting in a social life is not easy for a group of teenagers—but these young men were able rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to once again congratulate the Eden Prairie Eagles for bringing home the state title!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,826,877,048,913.08. Today, it is $17,993,213,058,619.35. We’ve added $7,366,336,009,706.27 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HEAVENLY ANGELS DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center.

The Heavenly Angels Daycare Center opened on August 8, 2006 with Mrs. Emma Bell as owner and director, in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi on Church St. Mrs. Bell loves children and started Heavenly Angels Daycare Center with 8 enrolled from 6 months to 3 years old. She also had an After School Program with 6 children up to 12 years old.

Through the years, the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has grown and in 2008 a Pre-K Center was included to better equip children who started in the center to be able to successfully start 1st grade.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has been progressing for 8 years with a current full capacity of 87 children, who are enjoying the process of learning and the After School Program has 27 children.

Mrs. Bell, because of her hard and diligent work at Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has received a trophy honoring her as Businesswoman of the Year.

Mrs. Bell has been married for 25 years to a husband that loves and supports her. They have 5 children: 4 boys and 1 daughter, Janice, who has worked with Heavenly Angels Daycare Center since its opening and graduated from Jackson State University with a Business Degree.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center’s slogan is: To look, listen and learn and every child succeeds. Mrs. Bell stated that “When they come through our doors, we make sure that they get the learning that they need. They all are smart children.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center for caring and educating children.

HONORING DAVE CUELLAR

HON. BEN RAY LUJAN
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Cuellar of Veterans Helping Veterans for his outstanding volunteer work with New Mexican veterans.

A Vietnam veteran himself, Mr. Cuellar had a distinguished career as a Gallup police officer after serving his country in the Army. Before retiring as a police lieutenant, he helped to protect and serve Gallup for over 22 years. In 2003, Mr. Cuellar was inspired to help start Veterans Helping Veterans, an organization dedicated to providing informational and social support for veterans in the Gallup area. The group provides critical help to veterans navigating the Veteran Administration’s benefit and healthcare systems. More importantly, Mr. Cuellar has created a welcoming network run by veterans for veterans. His group is all-inclusive, working with veterans young and old, from all backgrounds and all branches of the military to create a voice for all veterans.

Words alone cannot express our full appreciation and gratitude for the service of our veterans, and the deeds of volunteers like Mr. Cuellar help make a difference in the lives of our veterans who often face many challenges when they return home from active duty. Veterans Helping Veterans is a great example of a remarkable volunteer organization that is having a positive impact in the community. I thank Dave Cuellar for both his service and for his work with Veterans Helping Veterans.

HONORING CHAIRWOMAN FUDGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Congresswoman Marcia Fudge on her extraordinary leadership as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

With conviction and passion, she defended the change we have all worked so diligently to achieve since the CBC was founded in 1971. Throughout her career in Congress, MARCIA’S passion for the advancement of the least among us, regardless of race, color or creed, has served her constituents in Cleveland well. This tireless advocacy made her an excellent choice for the CBC chair.

During her tenure, she has been fearless in promoting the goals of the CBC and advancing our fight to confront critical issues that are confronted by the communities we represent. Her staff certainly impressed us with their unparalleled work ethic, enthusiasm, responsibility, and flexibility to meet the needs of so many Members. They demonstrated great aptitude in communicating urgent matters to us in a timely and effective manner.

The Chairwoman was unwavering in her strength as she gracefully tackled the harsh battles we were confronted during this Congress.

She has left a huge imprint in the CBC and will be missed by all of us who have come to...