

congregation for nearly 40 years. Under his leadership, the ministries of Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church expanded and grew.

One of the most notable newly-established ministries of Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was established in March 1993, under the direction of Pastor Thompson. The Helping Hands of Zion Outreach Ministries seeks to reclaim and redirect the lives of families and individuals who have fallen through the cracks in our society by providing them with food, clothing, education, and employment assistance.

Pastor Thompson retired from Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in November 2005, after nearly 40 years of faithful service. In November 2006, Reverend Brian D. Hunter was elected Senior Pastor of Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and he currently serves as pastor.

Throughout the years, Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church has been steadfast and faithful in her efforts to fulfill the mission of the church: evangelism, discipleship, and mission.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on the special occasion of its 70th anniversary. I wish Berkeley Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church many more years of faithful and compassionate service.

RECOGNIZING PROCTER & GAMBLE'S MEHOOPANY PLANT UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Procter & Gamble's Mehoopany Plant, and the employees that work there, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. P&G is a global producer of consumer goods that prides itself on passing down core values and principles to future generations. The Mehoopany plant is an essential part of Northeastern Pennsylvania, employing thousands of my constituents who take pride in being active members of our community.

Opened in 1966, P&G's Mehoopany plant has grown to be one of their largest in the world. Driving down Route 87 into Mehoopany, you can't miss the plant sitting on the Susquehanna River. Its sheer size puts their impact into perspective. In stores all across the country, you're seeing products that were made by Mehoopany employees, such as Bounty paper towels, Charmin bathroom tissues, and Pampers diapers. The plant became P&G's first energy self-sufficient facility in 2013 with the construction of two natural gas-fired cogeneration turbines which utilize gas from Marcellus Shale beneath the 1,100-acre property. In 2012, 50 percent of the plant's electrical needs were met using Marcellus gas, and, for the previous 45 years, the Mehoopany plant was the largest electricity and natural gas customer for our local utility companies.

P&G's slogan, "Touching lives, improving life," is in use every day as their employees

have made community involvement an essential part of their daily operation. In 2015, for the seventh straight year, the plant broke its previous year's fundraising effort by donating over \$500,000 to several Northeastern Pennsylvania United Ways. P&G has always been committed to ensuring that its employees have the resources necessary for success, both during and after their careers. That's why it's not surprising that over a quarter of its workforce are third generation employees. For example, P&G Mehoopany Credit Union opened in 1971 to benefit its members with affordable services they pride themselves on providing, where each member is greeted by name when they enter the building. Even after their careers at P&G are over, employees find that groups such as the P&G Mehoopany Retirees Association keep them involved in the community through volunteer projects, while also providing the opportunity to fulfill lifelong dreams by organizing trips around the world with their former coworkers.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Procter & Gamble's Mehoopany plant and their generations of employees for five decades of successful operation in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Through a commitment to quality products, employee appreciation, and local engagement, the Mehoopany plant has become a symbol of what can be accomplished when a community-first approach is taken. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the employees of Procter & Gamble's Mehoopany plant the best as they continue to bring prosperity and employment opportunities to my district, and I look forward to the facility's success and innovation in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF MAJOR CHARLES E. "DOC" MERKEL, JR., PH.D., U.S. ARMY (RET.)

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Major Charles E. "Doc" Merkel, Jr., Ph.D., U.S. Army (ret.) upon the occasion of his retirement from the 53d Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Dr. Merkel has dedicated more than 45 years in support of our Nation's defense. His service began with a 20 year career in the U.S. Army, then as a member of the private sector supporting development of air armament systems, and culminating with a civil servant career with the 53d Wing. It is my privilege to pay tribute to his lifetime of honorable service to Northwest Florida and our great Nation.

His active duty military career saw a variety of assignments. As an Army aviator, Dr. Merkel flew UH-1H helicopters as a member of Casper Platoon of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) in the Republic of Vietnam, where he also helped collect and distribute school supplies and clothing to a Christian and Buddhist orphanage in the village of Bong Son.

He was assigned to the United States Army Signal Center and School and then commanded the Fort Monmouth Ceremonial Unit for a year prior to being selected as a test pilot for the U.S. Army Electronics Command. During his final two years at the Signal Center

and School, Dr. Merkel served as the Commanding Officer of the 800-man Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Upon completion of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Dr. Merkel was assigned to the 2nd "All Infantry" Brigade, 2nd Division, Camp Hovey, Republic of Korea as an S-2 intelligence officer and S-5 civil affairs officer. For his humanitarian work while in Korea, he was elected as [Honorary] Mayor in Kwang Am-Ri (Tokko-ri) and was recognized by People to People International.

When he returned to the U.S., Dr. Merkel served on the United States Army Aviation Board as a test project officer and later as division chief of the Electronics Systems Test Division. While on the board, he performed operational testing to enhance pilot and aircraft survivability.

He then served as Senior Assistant Professor of Military Science and Professor of Military Science at Valley Forge Military Academy and Junior College in Wayne, Pennsylvania, before completing his military active duty career in the Army as a United States Army Tank-Automotive Command test engineer and Assistant Program Manager.

Dr. Merkel retired from the Army as a Master Army Aviator with over 3000 hours of total flying time, and decorations that include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and an Army Achievement Medal.

Upon his transition to civilian life, Dr. Merkel continued his service by working as a contractor with the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile Program, during which he was recognized with the Outstanding Achievement through Value Engineering Award for 1993 for his efforts managing special test vehicles and evaluating value engineering change proposals.

Most recently, Dr. Merkel served as a historian, responsible for covering military actions and civil disasters around the world, including in support of the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom. While attached to the 451st Air Expeditionary Wing in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in addition to his responsibilities as wing historian, Dr. Merkel established a campaign to provide the children in the province with school supplies. For his efforts, he was awarded the Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, and a special award from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Additionally, Dr. Merkel received the Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and attached to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.

His education includes a Master of Science from Troy University and Master of Arts from Temple University. He also completed the United States Army Command and General Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and received his Ph.D. in history from Florida State University. He is an adjunct professor of history at Troy University, Northwest Florida State College, and Central Texas College.

His additional awards and accolades include: the John L. Geoghegan Alumni Citizenship Award in 2009 from the Widener-PMC

Alumni Association and the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus for Military Service by Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. In 2010, he was also inducted into the Henry H. "Hap" Arnold Society by the Association of Graduates at the United States Military Academy.

An active member of the Northwest Florida community, Dr. Merkel supports numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Fisher House at Eglin Air Force Base, the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, and the Walton County Heritage Museum; he is the president of the West Point Society of Northwest Florida; and he is the First Congressional District Coordinator and Admissions Representative for the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. I can personally attest to his hard work and efforts in this capacity, and I appreciate his personal initiative to follow the progress of all Northwest Florida cadet appointees to West Point and to help ensure they get all the external advocacy/encouragement they may need for successful graduation.

Mr. Speaker, without question, Major Charles E. "Doc" Merkel, Jr., Ph.D., is retiring with an honorable career on which he can proudly hang his cap. He has touched countless lives throughout his time both in and out of the military and has given selflessly back to the country he loves so dearly. It is my pleasure to join a grateful Northwest Florida community and Nation in saluting his lifetime of service. Vicki and I thank Dr. Merkel; his wife, the former Diane Davis of Annandale, Virginia; daughter, Leigh Anne; son, Charles Robert and his wife, the former Julie Jordan of Graceville, Florida, and his three-year-old son, Charles Edward and wish them all the best for continued success.

IN MEMORY OF MR. JIM MORRIS

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Morris, a beloved musician from Punta Gorda, who passed away on July 13, 2016.

Jim was a passionate singer and songwriter with a devotion to telling stories with his music. Born and raised in Georgia, he was a gifted athlete. Jim attended Augusta College, where he majored in English Literature, on a full baseball scholarship. After an injury forced Jim to give up his pursuit of a baseball career, he began what would be a fifteen year career with Hercules Chemical Company in Delaware.

Following a trip to Florida, Jim decided to leave his job as a corporate executive with Hercules Chemical and attempt to begin a career as a singer and songwriter in Punta Gorda, Florida. Jim quickly found success writing songs about his own life, including one about his outlook on life "Livin' Till the Day I Die." Friends have said that there is not a better phrase to describe the way in which Jim approached life.

Jim cared deeply about Punta Gorda and continuously worked to improve the small community. He served as an ambassador for the Charlotte County Bureau of Tourism, trav-

eling all over the country to tell others of the wonders of the community he fell in love with.

Jim was also a dedicated philanthropist, using his music to benefit those in need. He donated thousands of dollars to his favorite charity, Shoes for Kids, and performed dozens of benefit concerts all over the country throughout his career. Following the destruction of Hurricane Charlie in 2004, Jim assisted in organizing a benefit concert, to help his friends and neighbors get back on their feet, that raised over \$30,000.

According to those who knew him best, Jim was the type of man that never met a stranger. When not writing music, he loved to fish in Charlotte Harbor and travel around the world with his wife, Sharon.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for the entire Punta Gorda community in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with Jim's family as they mourn his passing. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWING INDUSTRY

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions of the towing and recovery industry in the United States, the Towing and Recovery Association of America, the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum, towing associations around the world, and the members of those towing associations, and to celebrate them.

In 1916, Ernest Holmes built the first twin boom wrecker in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for use in his own garage and later agreed to build and sell the units to others;

The first production wreckers were known as "680's" because they cost \$680;

In service to the United States, the Ernest Holmes Company supplied the W-45 military wrecker for use during World War II;

In 1959, the Ernest Holmes Company patented its first tow sling and car dolly;

In the early 1970's, Gerald Holmes built the first hydraulic towing equipment, an advancement in the industry;

In 1995, the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum was established in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the birthplace of the tow truck;

In 2003, the Museum, having outgrown its original home, moved to 3315 Broad Street in Chattanooga;

In 2006, the Museum officially dedicated the Wall of the Fallen, the first monument in the industry to honor towing operators killed in the line of service;

In the United States, there are more than 35,000 tow companies and hundreds of thousands of individuals employed in the towing industry, including tow truck operators, dispatchers, safety advisors, and owners;

More than 1 tow truck operator is killed every 6 days assisting motorists on the roadways of the United States;

Tow truck operators respond to nearly 15,000,000 accidents per year across the United States;

Tow truck operators are an indispensable part of keeping the United States moving by keeping the highways of the United States clear and open for travel;

Most highway crashes require assistance from tow truck operators;

The people of the United States have a duty to drive safely and be courteous toward fellow motorists on the roadways as the people of the United States work together toward the common goal of reducing fatal accidents;

The week of September 9 through September 16, 2016, would be an appropriate week to designate as "National Towing Industry Awareness Week" and recognize the 100th anniversary of the tow truck, and support the designation of "National Towing Industry Awareness Week", to be held in conjunction with the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum Induction Ceremony and the Wall of the Fallen Ceremony, each of which is held annually at the International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and encourage the people of the United States to observe the move over and slow down laws in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) upon its one-hundredth anniversary.

In 1916, the Vermont Canyon Improvement Club was founded by William Mead, a prominent Los Angeles businessman and one of the original landowners in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. His initial order of business at the first meeting was to define the club's land boundaries. In 1922, the club's name changed to the Los Feliz Improvement Association, and beautification of the Los Feliz area was named as one of the association's foremost goals.

Over the past century, LFIA advocacy has taken many forms. Between the years of 1922 and 1930, the association was instrumental in realizing many precedent setting goals, including its support for the City of Los Angeles to accept a substantial bequest from Colonel Griffith J. Griffith for the construction of the Greek Theatre and Griffith Observatory. LFIA also was instrumental in the relocation of businesses on Los Feliz Boulevard to other areas throughout the city thus turning the boulevard into a residential street. Persistent in its advocacy for new schools, the association's efforts were reflected with the opening of two new schools, Franklin Avenue Elementary School and Thomas Starr King Junior High School, both of which serve Los Feliz residents to this day. The Los Feliz Improvement Association is heavily involved in cultural preservation, and many local historic landmarks were preserved and designated thanks to the successful advocacy of the LFIA, including the restoration of the Mulholland Memorial Fountain, Hollyhock House, and the Shakespeare Bridge.

Today, the LFIA continues to support historic preservation efforts in Los Feliz by maintaining a historic photo archive and property