

achievements of the individuals and the PTA/PTSA organizations being recognized. Dedicated involvement from so many parents reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated volunteers.

HONORING ASBURY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Asbury United Methodist Church.

If you desire to eat for a year, plant rice. If you desire to be remembered ten years later, plant a tree. If you desire to save future generations, educate a child. But if your desire is to preserve mankind, plant rice, a tree, educate a child and build a church.

It was this philosophy, spurred by the divine inspiration of God, that Asbury UMC was organized. The year was 1872. Since that time Asbury has experienced physical and spiritual growth as was evident by the fact that it was in 1898 under the leadership of Rev. D.D. Goodwin. The church's trustees were L.K. Levrige, J.L. Thompson, F.L. Jones and Henry Raspberry.

As the years past, Asbury prospered and was remodeled in 1926, this time under the leadership of W.L. Marshall.

Realizing that there is indeed strength in unity, Asbury and what was to become known as her sister church, Kingsley Chapel United Methodist Church of Edwards, Mississippi, were united on the same charge. The ministers who spearheaded and supervised that unification were J.B. Brooks, J.M. Shumppert and H.C. Trice.

For the next fifty years, Asbury continued to worship God through service to humanity. This was done under the ever present watchfulness of Reverends Walton Taylor, A.L. Johnson, N.R. Ross, J.B. Watkins, A.L. Pittman and E.B. James.

A church without a past has no future, without a present there can be no future. In 1972, Asbury realized that it had an even greater future and challenge ahead as it became and continues to be a United Methodist Church. Pastoring Asbury before, during, as well as after this period of name change, was the Rev. Dr. Oscar Allen Rogers, Jr. During Dr. Rogers' tenure, 22 years, the longest in the history of Asbury, the church experienced many positive changes, including an extended renovation in 1975. In May of 1984, Dr. Rogers accepted the Presidency of Claflin College, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The departure left a void, but one which was soon filled by Rev. Coleman Turner, a native of Bolton, as well as a member of Asbury's extended family.

Before coming to Asbury, Rev. Turner was pastor of Pratt Memorial UMC of Jackson, Mississippi. Although his stay was brief, his leadership was inspiring.

In 1985, the Rev. John Baker came to Asbury from Anderson UMC, Jackson, Mississippi. He accepted the challenge of Chris-

tian leadership and proved a positive influence.

On the Fourth Sunday in June of 1987, Asbury welcomed the Rev. Dwight Prowell and his wife Patricia. They quickly and effectively became an involved part of the Asbury family. Although it was a short relationship, Asbury and the Prowells shared many joyous moments; perhaps the highlight being an addition to their family, a son, Christopher. Christopher arrived in Mississippi on a Homecoming Sunday. It was truly a special day.

In 1988, The Rev. Alphanette Bracey Martin became the spiritual leader of Asbury UMC. Rev. Martin was also the director of the Wesley Foundation, located on the campus of Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi. Under Rev. Martin's leadership Asbury continued to shine as the "church by the side of the road."

The Reverend Reuben C. Witherspoon served as leader of the flock from June 1994 to June 2000. He brought to Asbury a renewed commitment to spirituality among the members. He also made improvements within the church.

Reverend Herman Peters accepted the leadership of Asbury June 25, 2000 and served through December 2002. He inspired continued commitment to spiritual, financial and physical growth.

Asbury is presently under the charismatic leadership of the Reverend Sam Lee, Jr., who accepted the top post in January, 2003.

We have also been privileged to have the following ministers from 1924 to present: Rev. J.B. Brooks, 1924–1927; Rev. W.E. Rucker, 1927–1928; Rev. Prince A. Taylor, Sr. 1931–1932; Rev. J.C. Hibbler, 1933–1934; Rev. A.C. Trice, 1935–1936; Rev. Allen L. Johnson, 1937–1939; Rev. N.W. Ross, 1940–1941; Rev. Walter S. Taylor, 1942–1943; Rev. J.B. Watkins, 1944–1946; Rev. L.M. Pittman, 1947; Rev. E.B. James, 1948–1952; Rev. V.C. McInnis, 1953; Rev. Richard D. Gerald, Sr., 1954–1955; Rev. Henry Barteel, Sr., 1959–1962; Rev. Dr. Oscar A. Rogers, Jr., 1962–1984; Rev. Coleman Turner, 1984–1985; Rev. John L. Baker, 1985–1986; Rev. Dwight d. Powell, 1987; Rev. Alphanette B. Martin, 1988–1994; Rev. Reuben C. Witherspoon, 1994–2000; Rev. Herman Peters, 2000–2002; Rev. Sam Lee, Jr., 2003–Present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my home church, Asbury United Methodist Church of Bolton, Mississippi.

38TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TAIWAN RELATION ACT (TRA)

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, April 10th marks a very special day for the United States and Taiwan. It was on this day in 1979 that the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted as United States law that codifies the relationship between Taiwan and the United States. It outlines our relationship with Taiwan regarding trade, cultural exchanges, and security among other important areas.

In addition to the Taiwan Relations Act, the Six Assurances also guides the relationship between the United States and Taiwan. In

1982, three years after the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, the "Six Assurances" of the United States to Taiwan were given by then President Ronald Reagan. Both the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances have guided our relationship with Taiwan for more than 30 years. We celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act by thanking Taiwan for its great friendship and its support as a beacon of democracy in East Asia.

I also noticed that Chinese President Xi is visiting the United States. It is our hope that the upcoming Trump-Xi meeting is constructive as U.S. engagement of the PRC is important to the peace and stability of the region. It is also our hope and insistence that US-Taiwan relations and Taiwan's security and interests are not in any way compromised.

We are so proud of Taiwan's accomplishments over these thirty-eight years and look forward to ever further strengthening our economic relations with Taiwan in the future.

CONGRATULATING KELLY  
MURPHY FROM WILMINGTON, IL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2017*

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent of mine, Kelly Murphy, on her achievements as a member of the 2016 U.S. Women's Volleyball team.

Volleyball runs in the Murphy family. Her mother, Sandy played volleyball at Illinois State University, and Kelly herself started playing at the age of 11. Prior to being confirmed on the team in July of last year, Kelly was a four-year varsity player at Joliet Catholic Academy from 2004 to 2007. During her four seasons there, she helped her team to a 133–31 record, winning four regional titles, three sectional titles and posting fourth and third-place finishes in state competition in 2005 and 2006. In 2007, Kelly was named the Gatorade High School National Player of the Year.

Following her career at Joliet Catholic, Kelly moved on to the University of Florida, where she was the 2008 SEC Freshman of the Year and the 2010 SEC Player of the Year. Having started every match during her career at Florida, Kelly led her team to a 107–17 record, two Southeastern Conference titles, and she made the all-conference team four times in a row.

In 2016, Kelly achieved the honor of being one of 12 players selected to represent our country at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Kelly and the team came home with the bronze medal after defeating the Netherlands in four sets. This accomplishment in Rio continued the tradition: marking three straight Olympics in a row where the U.S. Women's Volleyball team has won a medal.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sixteenth Congressional District, I would like to sincerely applaud Kelly Murphy for her commitment to her sport, her team, and her country. We are all truly proud of her and her achievements.