

## HONORING JOHNSON CHAPEL

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2017*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Johnson Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and its pastors for 100 years of teaching, preaching the Gospel, and making strides in our community.

The Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church was founded in 1915 by John Fair, James Craig, Roxie Graves, Cora Martin, Ed Ackers, and Nancy Craig. It was formally established in 1917 with Reverend S.E. Edwards as its first pastor. Originally a small congregation meeting in a house on State Street, the church is now highly regarded within the community and has relocated to a significantly larger building on Hamilton Street in El Centro, California.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was formed out of the Free African Society, established in 1787. African Americans faced unending discrimination while trying to practice their faith in American Methodist churches. Some churchgoers went as far as pulling African Americans off their knees as they prayed. Black members of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church split off to create their own African congregation. Wanting to avoid discrimination and obtain religious autonomy, many black Methodists began to switch over to African Methodist Episcopal churches.

Currently, the A.M.E. Church has membership across twenty Episcopal Districts in thirty-nine countries, on five continents. Although the church was founded by people of African descent and heritage, it is open to people of any background or race. They place emphasis on the plain and simple gospel and tirelessly work to spread the word of Jesus Christ.

The Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church has been led by thirty-one dedicated ministers over the past 100 years. They have worked to improve the church and build a community around it. Not only does the church take care of their own members, they have also provided educational programs and outreach to benefit youth in their area.

I would like to recognize the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church for their 100 years of dedicated teaching and service within our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREEDOM  
HIGH SCHOOL'S CHARITY PROM**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the students, faculty, and Principal, Doug Fulton, of Freedom High School located in Loudoun County, Virginia, for their leadership and efforts to raise money and awareness for pediatric cancer. For the second year in a row, Freedom High School will be forgoing a lavish, expensive prom and instead will be hosting the event in their cafeteria and gymnasium, where the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to pediatric cancer organizations.

Two years ago, Principal Fulton and several students saw an opportunity for the school to

engage with their community and join the fight against childhood cancer when they learned about the Prom Challenge, an initiative set forth by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Through this initiative, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital provides schools with the tools needed to transform their normal prom events into pediatric cancer fundraisers.

Last spring marked the first time that Freedom High School partook in the challenge, and this unique event truly sparked interests and efforts of the entire student body, faculty, and community. When the decision was made to transform the school's cafeteria and gym into a dining room and ball room in an effort to save money on a venue, many students were at first skeptical and disappointed. Yet once they learned about the challenge, they became excited and very eager to raise money and awareness for the event. Additionally, the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, the venue that had already been arranged for the event prior to the conception of this charity ball, generously returned the school its \$5,000 deposit.

The theme of last year's prom was "Hats on to Fight Pediatric Cancer," inspired by Ellie's Hats, a local charity in Loudoun County that provides hats to children who lose their hair during cancer treatments. To raise awareness students were asked to wear hats to the event, and some of the proceeds were in fact donated to this local organization. At the event, the food provided was all donated by Whole Foods and the National Conference Center, and the musical performers and photographers each volunteered their time. Lastly, the prom king and queen were not chosen by the student body, but they were instead selected based on who raised the most money in their name. Every final detail and moment of this event was thoroughly planned with the intent of assisting those with pediatric cancer, and ultimately, the event raised \$48,000.

Mr. Speaker, while the students and faculty take great pride in last year's tremendous prom, they now hope to make this event a permanent tradition at Freedom High School and hope that other schools will follow their lead. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Freedom High School's students and faculty for their extraordinary work on last year's charity prom and their continuous efforts to champion this initiative. Dedicating their time and efforts to helping children and their families fight an unthinkable battle with cancer attests to their unselfish character and determination to better their community.

RECOGNIZING MS. KATHY  
O'KEEFFE, A RECIPIENT OF THE  
FBI DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR 2016**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2017*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Cathy O'Keeffe—the Director of the Braking Traffik organization, who is being recognized in Washington, D.C. as a recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for 2016.

As the Director of Braking Traffik, Cathy has made remarkable contributions to our commu-

nity, helping bring justice and resources to victims and survivors of labor and sex trafficking. Through education, legislative advocacy and community partnerships, Braking Traffik has helped raise awareness about this important issue and has strengthened trafficking laws in both Iowa and Illinois. Cathy has devoted her drive, energy and fierce determination to this organization since 2011, and has tremendously helped make our community a safer place to live.

I'm very proud of Cathy's work on this issue and am pleased she's gained the recognition of the Director of the FBI. Mr. Speaker, I want to again formally congratulate Cathy on her award, and I join the rest of our community to wish her every success in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD  
J. DONLEY**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2017*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Edward J. Donley, former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Ed was a dear friend and mentor to me. After 95 years of life, many of which were spent as a prominent figurehead in the Lehigh Valley's business community and as an impassioned advocate for early-childhood education, he passed away in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on April 1, 2017. As a testament to Ed's legacy, his son John wrote a tribute to him, a portion of which I summarized and would like to include in the Record today:

Ed Donley was born in Detroit on November 26, 1921. During the Depression, his family moved back to their farm near Richmond, Michigan. After graduating from high school, Donley won a scholarship to Lawrence Institute of Technology (now Lawrence Technological University) in Detroit and earned an engineering degree in 1943. Shortly before graduating, Donley was hired by a new industrial gas company, Air Products, located in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to design portable oxygen generators for Allied bombers in World War II.

Donley met his future wife in Chattanooga: Ms. Inez Cantrell. They wed on October 24, 1946 and were happily married for 66 years until Inez passed away in 2013 from Alzheimer's disease. The couple had three children—Martha, Tom, and John, ten grandchildren, and a growing bevy of great-grandchildren.

Air Products relocated to the Lehigh Valley in 1949, and Donley became Vice President of Sales in 1957, President and Chief Operating Officer in 1966, Chief Executive Officer (1973–86), and Chairman of the Board (1978–86). During his time at Air Products, he was especially proud of his commitment to promoting employee safety, recruiting top students each year, and creating long-term shareholder value.

In the Lehigh Valley, Donley led many local projects. In the 1960s and 70s, he was a trustee of Cedar Crest College, the Allentown Art Museum, and WLVTV public television. He and his wife Inez gave their time and financial support to Community Services for Children, the