

CONGRATULATING THE BASKING
RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ON ITS 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2017, the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 300th Anniversary. I am proud to join the more than 760 members of the congregation, the clergy and church leaders in celebrating this very special occasion.

The Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church was founded in 1717 by a small group of Scotch-Irish farmers. At 1 East Oak Street, the same location where services are still held today, those settlers erected a log house of worship that became the cornerstone of the community in Basking Ridge, New Jersey for generations. Until 1837 the church was the only organization that promoted religious life in the area.

The Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church's theme for its 300th Anniversary year is "Sharing God's Love for 300 years" and the members of this great faith community are certainly living out that mission. Locally, the Church works with organizations like God's Co-op Pantry, Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Hospitality Network and Community in Crisis. Internationally, Basking Ridge Presbyterian supports missionaries in the Ukraine, Haiti and Indonesia as well as relief organizations Hogar de Cristo in Ecuador and Peaceworks in Nicaragua. These charitable efforts are shining examples of the great deal of good that comes from faith based organizations throughout all of the United States.

As the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church celebrates this important milestone, I congratulate Pastor Reverend Dennis Jones and Associate Pastor Dr. Maureen Paterson for their dedicated efforts.

As the Church continues to carry on the traditions of the Gospels and spread the good news, I wish it the best in celebrating the next 300 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey in celebrating 300 years of service to the community. I am proud to share this important milestone with my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives and with the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED
STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
FLOTILLA 014-02-02

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the officers, staff and members of United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 014-02-02 as they celebrate 75 years of continuous service to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) at USCG Station Sandy Hook in Highlands, New Jersey.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 014-02-02, "The Sandy Hook Flotilla," is a unit of the Division 2, First Coast Guard

District, Southern Region, serving Sandy Hook as well as the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers. Authorized to assist and support USCG non-military and non-law enforcement missions, the volunteers of the flotilla provide valuable reinforcement to the USCG. In addition to participating in marine patrols and search and rescue missions, the auxiliary offers boating safety educational programs, performs vessel inspections, provides emergency medical services and assists with special events in the New York Harbor and surrounding areas.

The members of the Sandy Hook Flotilla are trained on USCG standards and live by the motto *Semper Paratus* (Always Ready). Its rapid response and proficient assistance has been recognized over the years with several awards, including Best Flotilla in the USA, Admiral's Operational Award, President's Unit Citation and Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 014-02-02 on its 75 years of continuous service and thanking its members for their service to the United States Coast Guard and the community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RETIRED
FRESNO COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT JUDGE ARMANDO RODRIGUEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Judge Armando Rodriguez. Judge Rodriguez was an influential and honorable servant to the San Joaquin Valley. He was known for being a mentor to many, never hesitating to give his time to others. The San Joaquin Valley will be forever indebted to Judge Rodriguez for his tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

Armando Rodriguez was born on October 31, 1929 to Jorge and Carmen Rodriguez. He was ninth of twelve children. His parents immigrated from Mexico, first settling in Merced, later moving to Fresno. After graduating from Edison High School, Armando married his high school sweetheart Betty Raya in 1950. During the Korean War, Judge Rodriguez served in the United States Air Force as a Morse code radio operator. Following the war, he attended Fresno State and then law school in San Francisco on the GI Bill.

Judge Rodriguez began his law career working with the Alameda County Legal Aid Society and then with the California Rural Legal Assistance in Madera before moving onto a private practice in Fresno. In 1972, he became the first Latino elected onto the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. Then in 1975, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Rodriguez to the Municipal Court, making him the first Hispanic judge to serve on the Fresno Municipal Court. Three years later he was elected as the first Hispanic judge to serve on the Fresno County Superior Court.

As a strong advocate for education and the arts, Judge Rodriguez and his wife Betty, continually worked to make advances in the community. In honor of his wife's passing, he created a memorial scholarship fund to aid local

college students. In addition, he and his wife were two of the founders of Arte Americas. To support the cultural arts, he contributed generous donations, engaged in community service, and personally refinanced the building's mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Judge Armando Rodriguez, whose generosity and unending dedication to the community will be greatly missed. Judge Rodriguez's memory will live on through the contributions he made to our Valley. It is my honor to join his family and many friends in celebrating his impactful life, which will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call vote 258 on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call vote 258.

HONORING JALEXIS EVANS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Jalexis Evans.

Jalexis is the daughter of the Latoya Lee and Samuel Evans and the granddaughter of Shirley Evans and the late Glenda Nelson. She is a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi where she attended John F. Kennedy Memorial High School before being accepted into the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi. While attending John F. Kennedy she was class president, the founder of the mentorship program, "Girl Talk", and a cheerleader. In her spare time, she volunteers in her community with organizations such as St. Gabriel's Mercy Center, New Life Church, and local nursing homes.

One of the greatest impacts she believes she has made is with the mentoring program she initiated, Girl Talk. Girl Talk was created solely to help empower, encourage, and equip young girls in the community. Their community activism includes nursing homes visits, Christmas with kindergartners, and hosting a tea party for young ladies in middle school to teach proper etiquette.

Jalexis also spends time playing piano and guitar. During her tenure at John F. Kennedy she played the trumpet in the marching band.

A passion of Jalexis is caring for the youth in her community. Though she believes involvement in the community is crucial, she also believes her education will take her far. She works diligently to ensure that her future goals are within her grasp. Attending the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science has granted her many more opportunities to do so. At this school, she receives the best education possible for high schoolers in the