

On January 12, 1912, the original church building was dedicated and to this day it is still used for weddings and other activities. Thanks to the handiwork of Charles Harper and Carl Knight, the original pulpit is still used in the original church. 87 years after the Methodist class started meeting, under the leadership of Reverend M.A. Thomas, a building program was started to build a parsonage, repair the current sanctuary, and begin plans for a new sanctuary. Due to the success of the building program on October 28, 1956 the new parsonage was dedicated, and on Easter Sunday, April 8, 1963 the new sanctuary was dedicated.

The positive impact on the parishioners and surrounding community has been steadfast throughout the years. Vacation Bible School began in 1945 and continues to improve the lives of children and families in the area to this day. The vision of Harper Chapel UMC to—"Intentionally Connect People with Christ and Each Other"—is an inspiration and will be a guiding light for future generations.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Harper Chapel United Methodist Church on their 150th Anniversary. This milestone is a great testament to the commitment this church has shown to the Lord, their parishioners, and the entire community.

ATASCOCITA HIGH SCHOOL
SOFTBALL—STATE BOUND 2018

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, the girls from Atascocita High School Softball team earned a trip to State by beating top ranked Katy. They claimed the Region III 6A Championship and are headed to State for the second time in three years. Congratulations. It is an honor to recognize a talented group of ladies on the field and off the field. The girls are set to play this Friday, in Austin, at McCombs Field against Plano.

Atascocita High School softball team has six seniors on their team. Last November, three of them signed college scholarships to play at the next level: Lauren Bazan, Harding University; Kyla Snow, Texas Southern University; and, Lillie Grotenhuis, San Jacinto College. The name Grotenhuis is well known in my community. In 2014, Atascocita High School Head Softball coach, Jimbo Grotenhuis, unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack. One of his daughters, Lillie, is a talented senior on the team. She never got to play for her father at the high school level, but she has his passion and drive for the game.

Jimbo was a legend in the softball community, so much, that Humble ISD renamed the Atascocita High School softball field in his memory. Written in large black letters, on a red brick wall, behind home plate, it says "Welcome to James "Jimbo" Grotenhuis Field". The lessons Jimbo taught in the short time he coached at Atascocita High School were invaluable. It is said that the measure of a man is the influence that he has on the lives of others. I have no doubt, that the Atascocita High School Softball team will carry his spirit of hard work and dedication with them to State.

For the last four years, AHS Head Coach Ashley Boyd has stepped up to the plate and filled Jimbo's cleats. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this year, Coach Boyd said, "These players are proud of where they come from. They're proud of this community, and they're happy to get to represent them. They've worked their tails off." Coach Boyd's passion along with Assistant Alyssa Romero's dedication will guide the Lady Eagles not only at State but far beyond game time. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline.

So this weekend, grab the family, put on your red, white and blue, and head to Austin to cheer on our Lady Eagles.

Let's play ball.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BRENT STACEY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brent Stacey on his retirement from Idaho National Laboratory, and to thank him for his service to our nation.

As Associate Laboratory Director for National and Homeland Security at INL, and as a strategic advisor, Brent provided valuable leadership in addressing the cybersecurity challenges facing the nation's critical infrastructure.

In this capacity, Brent addressed House and Senate subcommittees on several occasions, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence regarding efforts to mitigate cyberthreats to our nation. Brent played an important role in INL's campus infrastructure expansion, and was instrumental in bringing the first high-performance computer to the laboratory.

Brent advanced INL's partnerships with academia and industry and was the first president and CEO of the Idaho Regional Optical Network, a nonprofit organization that advances science, research, education, health care and state government through high-speed bandwidth.

I offer my best wishes to Brent and his family, and gratitude for his three decades of service.

HONORING MICHAEL K. CLARKE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael K. Clarke upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the Buffalo, New York office of LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

The LISC strategy to "invest in businesses, housing and other community infrastructure to catalyze economic, health, safety and educational mobility for individuals and communities," has been brought to life under Mike Clarke's two decades of visionary leadership. This nonprofit agency, promoting community

development in collaboration with public and private partners, has encompassed housing, commercial and recreational facility development.

Despite Buffalo being among the smallest of the many cities LISC is involved, Mike's depth of experience in neighborhood redevelopment, public housing and community and commercial financing projects boosted our city's profile in the national organization. Since opening their doors in 1998, LISC has invested \$131 million in those neighborhoods, further leveraging an additional \$254 million in investment. Our work has resulted in the creation of 2,574 units of affordable housing, 355,000 square feet of commercial space, and the renovation of 9 recreational fields for youth.

Mike and LISC became synonymous twenty years ago at a time when Buffalo needed their assistance most as we faced the challenges of old, vacant housing stock, a smaller base of philanthropic sources and reductions in government support. Far from standing outside the fire, Mike went all in bringing public, private and non-profit partners to the table to research, learn, listen and get to work to implement targeted solutions one house, one street, one neighborhood at a time. Today, while problems remain, our ability and resolve to address them as One City has never been stronger.

Mike Clarke's investment in the citizen-led planning movement building on our great architectural, civic and cultural assets, the re-emergence of downtown and adjacent neighborhoods yielded real action and results that have contributed greatly to Buffalo's renaissance.

Mike's ability to harness progressive strategies using all financial resources available led to the first federal New Market Tax Credit investment that preserved the historic Asbury Delaware Church. Now, known as Babeville, this unique performing arts center founded by Ani DiFranco and Scot Fisher is a center for music, art, and community projects in Buffalo, New York.

Responsible for implementing HUD's Section IV grant program, LISC's capacity building program has had a tremendous impact on driving community development activity here in Buffalo. Its collaboration with HELP USA on the HELP Buffalo II affordable housing project for families with minimal incomes, and permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless veterans is spurring new energy in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. Mike's active involvement in bringing the National Vacant Properties Campaign to Buffalo and intense focus on neighborhood business district activities, including Jefferson and Elmwood Avenues laid the foundation for enhanced urban commercial corridors.

Most recently, an investment of \$5 million from LISC and in a dynamic public-private partnership led by Herbert Bellamy, Jr, the son of a legendary leader on the east side of Buffalo, a closed warehouse-turned-community center is now home to 30 families with community space and a children's playground. Prior to joining LISC Mr. Clarke was a Mortgage Officer for the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) a not-for-profit real estate lender, which specializes in financing affordable housing for low and moderate-income households. For five years he served as the Executive Director at the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) which owned and