

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

operated over 5,000 low-income rental apartments in 27 developments in the City of Buffalo. He was a Capital Programs Manager for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), and the Executive Director of Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. His extensive public service has extended to volunteer leadership on the following boards: Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo; Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY at Buffalo; Erie County Commission on Homelessness; Bailey-Amherst District Management Association and the Downtown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

To all who know him or know of him, worked with him or at times, worked against him, there is one thing we can all agree on, Mike put his community first. His hard-won reputation as a community organizer, neighborhood advocate, housing activist and all-around agitator has earned him our respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues join in "Larkinville" to acknowledge his many accomplishments on June 4, I add my appreciation for Michael K. Clarke's friendship, leadership and legacy of making a real difference in the lives of those who live in and love the City of Buffalo.

#### LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS—2018 STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Liberty High School history, the Lady Panthers Softball team is the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. On Saturday afternoon, they defeated the Vernon Lady Lions in Austin with a score of 3–1. Congratulations to the Liberty High School Softball Team and the City of Liberty.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit. Liberty is home to Liberty Independent School District which provides outstanding educational opportunities for students. But Liberty was missing one thing, a team State Champion. Jerry Michalsky, sports editor with local newspaper The Vindicator, has been a sports writer for over 24 years and never been able to cover a State Champion. His dream came true this past weekend.

Liberty County radio station KSHN 99.9 FM streamed the game live from Austin. The one and only, passionate, Bill Buchanan gave a play by play for fans who were unable to make the trek to Austin. My friend and past Liberty Church of Christ preacher, Jonathan Sanford (now announcer for the San Antonio Spurs), was the announcer at McCombs Field. He gave the play by play live on Saturday. Mary Anne Campbell, President of the Liberty Dayton Area Chamber, kept the fans back at home up to date with her Facebook postings. Folks in Liberty rallied behind a young team of girls who made championship history one game at a time.

For the last 13 years, Liberty High School Head Coach Karen Slack has dreamed of a

State championship team. She genuinely cares for her players and wanted to see Liberty relevant when it came to softball. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this week, Coach Slack said, "These girls have no fear in them at all and this stage never even bothered them." Coach Slack's passion along with Assistant Joe Slack and Katherine McAdams will continue to guide the Lady Panthers far beyond a State title. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline. The community is proud of Coach Slack for all her accomplishments as a coach and a leader.

Congrats to Liberty High School's State Championship team: Jo McGinnis, Mikaelah Burkland, Bailey Webb, Kennedy Evans, Kamryn Turner, Abbie Knepper, Molly Barnette, Jaylen Prichard, Karli Beam, Baylee Chandler, Sarah Lopez, Kara Cannon, Harley Davis, Abby Phillips, and Kaci West.

Saturday evening, hundreds of fans decked out in black and gold, waving flags and noise makers, welcomed the Lady Panthers home. The Lady Panthers were escorted to the Liberty County line from Austin by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. Dayton Police Department picked up the team at the Dayton City limits then Liberty Police Department picked them up at the Dayton-Liberty City limits. They were escorted all the way to the pavilion behind City Hall in downtown Liberty. The outpouring of support from the City of Liberty and surrounding communities was in true fashion of Panther Pride.

Way to go Panthers.

And that's just the way it is.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. SANDY CROFT

#### HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Sandy Croft after 34 years of dedicated service to the Pleasant Ridge School District and the community of Nevada County.

Born in Pasadena, California in 1958, Sandy spent time in Santa Barbara, and Newport Beach, before eventually settling down in Grass Valley in 1969. He started school in the Pleasant Ridge School District in third grade—the same school district he will retire from as a teacher this year. Graduating from Nevada Union High School in 1977, he then attended Westmont College. Less than a year later, tragedy struck his family when his older brother passed away. He moved back home to be with his mother shortly afterwards. Not willing to give up on school, Sandy continued his education closer to home at Sierra College. Soon after, he received his secondary teaching credential in Social Science and English at Sacramento State. He went on to receive credentials in both Physical Education and Industrial Arts.

Sandy is not only a successful, dedicated, and driven individual, but he's also an avid outdoorsman. Growing up in rural Grass Valley, he'd often explore the old gold mines and dig for remnants of Native American artifacts. In high school, Sandy was a hunter, a fisher-

man, and a star tennis player—which he continues to play recreationally to this day.

In 1979, Sandy married his high school sweetheart, Lynn Baker, and they will be celebrating 38 years of Marriage on June 9th. Sandy and Lynn together have three children—Lindsey, Benjamin, and Hayley—as well as two grandchildren.

Of everything Sandy has accomplished, his greatest love was to teach in the same school district he attended as a child and to share his love for history by taking students on trips to Washington D.C. and New York City every year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sandy Croft for his commitment and service to the youth and community of Nevada County.

#### CONGRATULATING MARSHA SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2018*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Marsha J. Smith for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award at the 2018 Governor's Service Awards. Through her exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to her community, Sue has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The Lifetime Humanitarian Award is given annually by the Michigan Community Service Commission to individuals who demonstrate a "lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service." They have shown a "tremendous passion for helping others" and are well-known for their exceptional impact in their community and state. Few are as deserving of this honor as Marsha Smith. In her 24 years as the executive director of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Marsha's leadership has helped the organization provide more than \$58 million worth of grants and transform Northern Michigan.

Marsha was also instrumental in forming the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which has led the acquisition of over 40,000 acres of land and 124 miles of coastline for environmental protection. Before her work with Rotary Charities, Marsha was involved in the founding of the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, which offers support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Marsha's tireless devotion to public service has touched the lives of countless members of her community, and the impact of her work in her community cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Marsha Smith for her decades of service to Northern Michigan and congratulate her once again for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Marsha all the best in her future endeavors.