

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana, as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 110th anniversary. First Baptist's leaders and members will be commemorating this milestone with a communal "Unity Circle" around the church and celebration on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The theme for this beautiful event is "Glorifying God for 110 years of Faithfulness."

In 1908, the African American community recognized the need for a Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. Three individuals, Raymond Rankins, Samuel Duncan, and Samuel Clay, called upon Dr. Elijah John Fisher, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago, for support in making this dream a reality. Through their hard work and determination, First Baptist emerged in Gary, with the first services being held in the home of Mr. Rankins. Soon after, participation in the church began to increase, and the first house of worship was constructed at 1617 Washington Street in Gary. After various reconstructions and relocations, First Baptist finally settled in its current location at 626 West 21st Avenue in 1955, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Robert E. Penn, who served as pastor for more than twenty years. Reverend Penn's legacy continues to resonate as a shining example of selfless service and unwavering commitment to the community. Throughout the years, numerous senior pastors have made remarkable contributions to the First Baptist Church of Gary, as well as to the community of Northwest Indiana, and they are worthy of our deepest appreciation. Currently, the senior pastor of First Baptist is Pastor Timothy F. Brown. Pastor Brown has initiated new programs aimed at improving not only the church but the community as well, and his efforts are worthy of the highest praise.

From its modest beginnings, First Baptist Church has emerged as a pillar of the Gary community. Although First Baptist, the oldest African American congregation in the City of Gary, has seen immense growth, not only in the size of its congregation but also in the depth of the services and programs available to its members, the clergy and congregation have remained dedicated to the fundamental ideal of serving God by serving each other.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating church members Mary Bacon, Herman Borders, Gwendolyn Buggs, Tillman Buggs, Columbus Chambers Jr., Mae Fossett, and Michael J. Houston, each of whom has reached their 50th year of membership with the church this year. I also ask that you join me in recognizing 2018 col-

lege and high school graduates 2nd Lt. Adam Franklin Collins, Sidney Puckett, Melody Walker, Victoria Bacon, Ashley Conerly, Destiny R. Harris, Caleb J. Hiller, Blake Dupre Reasoner, and Rashawn Seels, while congratulating Pastor Timothy F. Brown and all church leaders and members of First Baptist Church of Gary on the special occasion of its 110th anniversary. Throughout the years, the clergy and congregation of First Baptist Church have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality and guidance through their service to their community.

HONORING JOHN WILLIAM ROBROCK

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John William Robrock for his lifelong dedication to art education and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Robrock began his teaching career in 1979 and has taught in California, South Dakota, and Wyoming. He has spent the last eighteen years in my district at San Benito High School. Throughout his career, Mr. Robrock inspired countless young students to explore their creative abilities and pursue their artistic goals.

With his support and guidance, Mr. Robrock's students have earned thousands of dollars in scholarships as well as trips to Washington, D.C. and Japan to present their work. Since 1989, his students have participated in the Congressional District Art Competition, five of which won first place awards and displayed their artwork at the U.S. Capitol. This year I was honored to award first place in the Congressional Art Competition for Congressional District 20 to one of his students.

Mr. Robrock has a great ability to inspire and motivate his students in their artistic endeavors. Mr. Robrock has maintained a lifelong commitment to artistic explorations in a wide variety of mediums. This is apparent in his dedication to the art of comic books, and he has even traveled internationally to spread the appreciation of this art form. Moreover, Mr. Robrock maintains a deep love of classical music and opera, and was even willing to stand-in last minute for the University of Wyoming's marching band. As a teacher, Mr. Robrock has coached students in performing arts who went on to win statewide theater competitions. He has also designed parade floats in the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade and banners for the San Benito Writers Group in the Saddle Horse Association of San Benito parade.

Mr. Robrock has dedicated his life to the proliferation of the arts. His four decades of teaching countless college and high school students—both inside and outside my district—are a testament to his dedication to ensuring younger generations appreciate all art

has to offer. His awards, both personal and those of his students, are too numerous to list in full. It is the tireless dedication of art connoisseurs and instructors like Mr. Robrock that ensure our country continues to rightfully treasure the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to add my name to the recognition of John Robrock's accomplishments and passion for the arts. I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors and encourage all of my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and appreciating Mr. Robrock's four decades of public service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT OF CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the two World War II veterans and twenty-three Korean War veterans from Oregon who are visiting their memorials on the National Mall on Friday, June 8, 2018, through Honor Flight of Central Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes, I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

He was right then, of course, Mr. Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty-loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That's why it is my privilege to include their names in the RECORD.

The veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Bill Apgar, Air Force; Bill Jensen, Air Force; Donald Tuter, Air Force; Jim Roppe, Air Force; John Giles, Air Force; Robert Huntington Sr., Air Force; Robert Wolverton Sr., Air Force; Larry Rose, Air Force; Alexander McKenzie, Army; Denny Kane, Army; Fred Hasenoehrl, Army; Jack Donnelly, Army; Lanny Jones, Army; Lester Davis, Army; Michael Craig, Army; Neil Chase, Army; Paul Knox, Army; Ray Davis, Army; Wallace Smith, Army; Arthur Egren Jr., Marine Corps; John Meyer, Marine Corps; Frankie Bowne, Navy; Jim Prentice, Navy; Leonard Zierlin, Navy; and Paul LaFrance, Navy.

These twenty-five heroes join over 200,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the ten guardians traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Fred Beebe, Air Force; Mike Woods, Air Force; Russell Tuter, Air Force; Christine Gittins, Army; Dennis Dorsett, Army; Lee Thorsell, Army; Dane Prevatt, Marine Corps; Duane Wolf, Marine Corps; Clint McAuliffe, Navy; and Jeff Mackey, Navy.

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