

my colleagues to join me today in congratulating St. John's faithful congregation and their ancestors on this auspicious occasion.

In 1865, the New England Conference of the AME Zion Church deployed Reverend James Walker Hood to North Carolina to provide spiritual guidance to the 331,000 former slaves and to establish Churches throughout the state. Among the first churches established was St. John AME Zion Church (1868). Though Hood was met with fierce opposition from white Northern Methodists in establishing AME Zion Churches, he was unwavering in his commitment to the cause of Christianity as he established dozens of Churches across North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, much of St. John's growth over the years can be attributed to its dedicated leadership and congregation. After a fire destroyed the Church's frame in 1909, the Reverend B. P. Coward led the Church in building the beautiful and stately building that the Church resides in today. Under Reverend Allen J. Kirk's leadership, the Church erected a recreational center, started a day nursery, and renovated the parsonage. Reverend Dr. Ulysses S. Johnson is the Church's longest serving pastor, serving the congregation for over fifteen years. Reverend Dr. Johnson led numerous renovations to the Church and served the entire community during his tenure. Reverend Staccato Powell (now Bishop Staccato Powell) was assigned to St. John early in his pastoral career, becoming a ministerial giant who led the Church into continued growth. His pastoral leadership became nationally recognized and he now serves as Presiding Prelate of the Western Episcopal District.

Over the years, the Church has been deeply involved in the community, providing, among many other things, daily hot lunches to senior citizens and educational enrichment to children in Wilson during the summer recess as a part of the Youth Enrichment Program. In earlier years, St. John operated a Boy Scout organization that impacted the lives of hundreds of young men.

In recent years, the church established St. John Community Development Corporation, Inc. and the Smith Street Project to enhance the Church's community outreach. St. John continues to meet the spiritual and physical needs of its growing congregation through the vision and devoted work of its current pastor, Dr. Charlean B. Mapson, Presiding Elder and former Pastor, Dr. Michael S. Bell, and Presiding Bishop the Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe.

Mr. Speaker, by the grace of God, St. John AME Zion Church has been standing strong for 150 long years. Her outstanding leadership and devoted members have created significant growth in its membership and ministry, as well as, its continued outreach in the Wilson community. The Church's faithfulness and good deeds will ensure that St. John continues to experience God's blessings for years to come.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, I commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and extend my best wishes to the Pastor and members (many of whom are dear friends) on this auspicious occasion.

HONORING PATTI ROSCOE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a San Diego business and civic leader, Patti Roscoe as she is honored as the 2018 "Ms. San Diego." More personally, I rise today to congratulate a wonderful friend on her lifelong achievements in service to others.

Started in 1952, this annual tribute was limited only to men. It wasn't until 40 years ago that both men and women were eligible for this honor. Patti will be the sixth woman to hold this distinction in its 66-year history. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Patti discovered a career in hospitality spending fifteen years in the hotel and destination management industry. Patti was the founder of PRA Destination Management Company; San Diego Rotary Club President from 2003 to 2004; board member for San Diego State University's Campanile Foundation, as well as the board of advisors for San Diego State University's Robert Payne School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, of which she was a co-founder; Plank Owner of the USS Midway; and trustee of the San Diego Library Foundation. This is just to name a few of her many achievements.

In 2010, Patti helped create an endowment at the Institute of Meetings and Events, the first of its kind in the nation, which provides scholarships in the MFA Musical Theater graduate program and Hospitality & Tourism Management program, as well as an endowment for student athletes. In 2015, Patti was recognized by the Global Society of Incentive Travel Excellence for embodying integrity and making notable contributions with long-term service to incentive travel and motivational events industry.

In June, she received the Neil Morgan Visionary Award for Lifetime Achievement from LEAD and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Three organizations have recognized Patti with Lifetime Achievement Awards: The San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau, San Diego Rotary Club, and The International Special Events Industry.

I commend Patti for her many accomplishments and contributions. A mother to three children and a grandmother to three grandchildren Patti truly understands the meaning of empathy and service to the community. Patti knows how to take care of business and work overtime for the betterment of the San Diego community and beyond.

HONORING VIVIAN LEE BATTLE SIMS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vivian Lee Battle Sims for her lifetime of work in education and for her long-standing contributions to the communities in which she has resided throughout her life.

Vivian Sims was born and raised in New York City, where she graduated from Girls' High School in Brooklyn, a highly regarded institution of the public school system. She went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She also attended Columbia University, Tennessee State University, Middle Tennessee State University, Columbia State Community College and the Tennessee Technology Center at Pulaski. Vivian Sims returned to school at the age of 85 to begin work on a doctorate at Tennessee State University.

She began her career in education as an art teacher in 1950 at Nashville city schools, eventually moving on to be art supervisor for Metro Nashville Public Schools' District 3 and Giles County's elementary schools. She served as the first high school art teacher at Giles County High School from 1976 to 1985, as Assistant Principal for Pulaski Elementary School from 1985 to 1991 and was the first African American woman principal at Southside Elementary School before her retirement in 1997.

During her career as an educator that spanned over 47 years, Vivian Sims participated in the Fulbright Teacher Exchange and was a finalist for Tennessee Teacher of the Year. She also served as president of the Giles County Schools Teachers Association and on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Education Association, among other national, state and local organizations.

In addition to her work in public schools, Vivian Sims has always been an active member of her community. Some of these community activities include her work for Giles County Senior Citizens, Inc., the Community Council for the Adult Developmentally Handicapped, the Community Development Corporation of North Pulaski, Help A Talented Student (HATS), the Pulaski Boys and Girls Club and the Pulaski Area Vocational-Technical School.

My pride in Vivian is also personal because she is my cousin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vivian Lee Battle Sims for her outstanding contributions to education and the arts, as well as for her enduring service and attention to the greater Tennessee community.

SAMUEL ONSTEAD EARNS RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel Onstead of Sugar Land, TX for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can achieve. It requires years of effort to develop the necessary leadership, service and outdoor skills. To earn this rank, Samuel developed and provided leadership to others in a service project. For his project, Samuel painted the interior of the gymnasium at First Colony Church of Christ in Sugar Land, TX, which serves both the church and Cornerstone Christian Academy. Samuel is also involved in team sports and a youth