

is one of the oldest neighborhood improvement associations in the City of Los Angeles.

The GPIA is committed to safeguarding and enhancing the quality of life for those who live, work, and play in Glassell Park. Members of the GPIA serve their community by contributing their time and energy into planting trees, hosting community clean-ups, and leading beautification projects year-round. One of the GPIA's most noteworthy projects is the planting of a small pine. Since 1968, this pine has become a centerpiece of the community.

To that end, I ask all Members to join with me in commending the Glassell Park Improvement Association for their unwavering commitment to improving this wonderful community over the past 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE VALLEY CHIEFS MINI-FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOU BARLETTA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2018*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Valley Chiefs Mini-Football League as the organization celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The Valley Chiefs Mini-Football League is an integral part of the Sugarloaf Valley community. Throughout the years, thousands of lives have been changed through participation in this program. With the goal of teaching children the value of sportsmanship, hard work, and dedication, this organization has impacted the lives of participants, parents, and volunteers alike.

As a father and former athlete, I know how influential youth sports are in childhood development and in shaping the future minds of our country. Today, as we recognize the founders, alumni, and current participants of the Valley Chiefs Mini-Football League, I am honored to represent such an organization in Congress. I know this program will continue to grow and be successful for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Valley Chiefs Mini-Football League and congratulate this organization on an incredible 50 years of service to the community.

CELEBRATING THE BETHEL CHURCH OF MORRISTOWN'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bethel Church of Morristown located in the Town of Morristown, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 175th Anniversary.

In 1841, several families left the Presbyterian Church of Morristown to form the Bethel Mite Society, which was later incorporated as Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Morristown in 1843. Bethel's first Pastor was Bishop Willis Nazery, who was born a slave in 1803 in Isle of Wight County in Virginia. For eight years the congregation

met in each other's homes until funds were raised to construct the Carpenter Gothic church on Spring Street in 1849. Bethel's first building was dedicated with Bishop Paul Quinn officiating, assisted by Pastor Thomas Oliver.

Bethel served as the only school for Colored and Native American children in Morris County and needed to expand its facilities. In 1874, a new lot on Spring Street was purchased from John R. and Cornelia Piper for the sum of \$2,000. A new church was constructed at an estimated cost of \$3,000. Gifts from Mrs. Mary Anne Cobb of pews, doors and windows from the old Methodist Church, on the Morristown Green, helped in this great work. The existing house on the lot was moved next door and used as a parsonage. The church remained in that building for nearly 100 years.

Under the leadership of Pastor A. Lewis Williams, a ground breaking ceremony was held for a new church on August 12, 1967. The congregation worshipped in the Lafayette School auditorium for two and one half years until the construction of the church was completed. After numerous setbacks and financial difficulties, the present church was completed and dedicated November 8, 1970. Rev. A. Lewis Williams subsequently served as the Editor of the Christian Recorder from 1973 to 1976.

In 2010, Pastor Sidney Williams became the 51st pastor in the church's history. Prior to that, he served as a missionary with his family in Cape Town, South Africa. The church was not having the impact on the community that its members desired. To increase the impact on the community, Pastor Sidney Williams, with his wife Teresa, and the leadership team of Bethel discerned a new vision for community outreach, spiritual growth and evangelism. The church became more "community oriented" to serve both believers and unbelievers. Bethel Church was also working to transition from a small family church to a growing church with decentralized ministries, focusing on newcomers, small groups, and discipleship. The goal was to give people biblical truths that helped them Live the Mission.

In 2014, Bethel Church introduced a set of core values: prayer, love, and respect. These ideals serve to inspire Bethel Members to make its congregation the most loving and spirit filled congregation in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Bethel Church of Morristown, on the occasion of its 175th Anniversary.

HONORING PASTOR BOYD AND THE ZION UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2018*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and Pastor for his work with the Zion Unity Baptist Church in Indianapolis. Zion was started in 1972 upon the merger of two churches in Indianapolis, Indiana. The first pastor was Reverend Roy W. Beverly, Sr., who, in his senior years of life, selected Fredrick Boyd, Jr., to serve as associate pastor. In 1984 when Pastor Beverly died, the church called Fredrick Boyd, Jr. to be the pastor.

Under Pastor Boyd's leadership, Zion Unity began serving the community through outreach programs to the destitute and prison bound, focusing mainly on Good News Mission and the Indiana Women's Prison. Also, the church paid off its first mortgage on East 30th Street within nine months of Pastor Boyd's pastorate.

In 2004, Zion Unity Baptist Church moved to 3855-59 East 10th Street, purchasing two buildings. Pastor Boyd was instrumental in bringing some of the area churches together with the intent of unifying efforts to reach the community for Christ. The church continued its services through the Mission and prison, expanded its outreach to support over 20 missionaries throughout the world, and began evangelistic efforts in the local community.

In 2005, Zion Unity began a ministry to expose the fallacies connected to the Darwinian theory of evolution which undermines God's creation and the Holy Bible. Conferences which permitted scientists and ministers to examine this subject were organized and made available free to the public, as "Creation Evidence Expo". These conferences have been conducted annually in Indianapolis, in many cities throughout Indiana, ten other states, and in six countries. This work continues to be accomplished with a small congregation, other committed volunteers, and with limited resources.

Zion Unity Baptist Church achieved another milestone when on July 29, 2018, the mortgage for its current location was burned in a celebration attended by many friends from a variety of backgrounds: business, social agencies, Christian media, education, and government, as well as churches and ministerial service organizations.

The first and final word from Pastor Fredrick Boyd, Jr. and the members of Zion Unity Baptist Church, in full belief in the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a commitment to His Word and the promises therein, is: "The best is yet to come!"

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL GILEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2018*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Bethel Gilead Community Church in Bronson, Michigan.

After the end of the Civil War, Jacob Patch was commissioned to organize a church in Branch County, and in 1868, the Union Congregational Church of Gilead and Bethel began meeting in homes and schools.

In 1874, Luman Rose was commissioned as its first full-time minister, and in 1882, the church's first building was completed.

Over the years, many faithful pastors have served and led the church through a number of transformative events, including name changes, mergers with other congregations, a devastating fire, building expansions and improvements, and the development of local and worldwide ministries.

In 1996, Pastor Jim Erwin accepted Bethel Gilead's invitation to serve as pastor and is still faithfully shepherding the congregation.