

around the world living with rare diseases and who rely on the availability of plasma protein therapies, no day is ordinary.

On October 8 to 12, 2018, across the United States and throughout the world, patients, plasma donors and plasma collection centers will join together to observe International Plasma Awareness Week (IPAW). There will be events to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create life-saving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, hereditary angioedema, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are now approximately 700 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

TRIBUTE CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cottageville, South Carolina, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration on the weekend of September 14th–16th, 2018. The journey that has brought St. John A.M.E. Church to this moment began in 1868 when the Church, originally named St. Matthew A.M.E., was established in the Burr Hill community under a bush arbor.

Responding to the need for a more secure structure, the Reverend James Nesbitt and the officials of the Charleston District, with the assistance of the Church's founding fathers, organized the building of a church constructed of lightwood boards, heated by a potbelly stove, and illuminated by kerosene lamps. The Church served members from several different

communities and was the site for a public school.

In 1912, the Church was relocated to a parcel of land more central to the communities it served both in Burr Hill and Mack Village. The area is now known as Griffith Acres Drive in Cottageville, South Carolina. St. John A.M.E.'s present facility was erected in 1975 where the Church continued to flourish and where, with the help of a supportive membership, a Fellowship Hall was constructed to serve as a dining facility and hub for entertainment and educational activities.

Since its inception, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church and its congregation have acted as a beacon of light within the community. The programs and ministries initiated by the Church have served as models for A.M.E. churches in the area and for other denominations as well. St. John A.M.E. continues to positively impact the residents of Cottageville, a small town west of Charleston in Colleton County, through community-oriented programs, including: summer math and reading camps, church school, vacation bible school, revivals, bible study, and creative and performing arts.

Always striving to serve God and the community in new and innovative ways, St. John has piloted a new program called "The Iron Sharpeners" to encourage young African-American men to pursue internship opportunities and has planted a new community garden which has produced a fresh harvest available to members, free of charge.

Despite the uncertain and adverse climate in which St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church was planted, the strength of spirit and faith has allowed the Church to blossom and thrive through the years. St. John exemplifies what it means to be "rooted in faith" and is a place that people of various geographic locations and stations in life still refer to as "home."

It is my great honor to pay tribute to this fine congregation. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church on their 150th anniversary and wishing them continued strength and prosperity in the days ahead.

SALUTING BILL AND SUE WELSER FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Bill and Sue Welser for their leadership in the Space Coast Honor Flight program, which serves Florida's Brevard and Indian River County veterans.

Space Coast Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that honors our World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans by taking them to visit their war memorials in Washington, D.C.

A retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General, Bill first became involved with the Honor Flight Network when he volunteered to serve as a guardian for a WWII veteran on the local chapter's second flight. This moving experience led Bill to work with a small cadre of vol-

unteers to develop and run what would eventually become Space Coast Honor Flight. Bill has served as the president of the organization for more than eight years.

Seeing the profound impact that Space Coast Honor Flight has had on our veterans, Bill's wife, Sue, joined the board and quickly became an integral part of all its activities. Sue serves as one of the veteran coordinators for the organization and is responsible for helping to create honor flight experiences for hundreds of veterans.

Bill and Sue have also tirelessly given their time to organizing Space Coast orientations, flight departure ceremonies, veterans' reunions, and luncheons across the Space and Treasure Coasts. They have spent countless hours visiting our veterans in nursing homes and hospitals. They have attended a number of funeral services for our veteran heroes—Space Coast Honor Flight is often the first to be called when our veteran families lose a loved one.

For the past eight years, Bill and Sue have been responsible for organizing, scheduling, and leading 52 flights, allowing 1,375 veterans to spend time at their war memorials in Washington, D.C. Bill has participated in every single flight.

One of the greatest privileges Katie and I have is greeting our veterans as they depart on their honor flight to our nation's capital or greeting them in Washington, D.C. as they arrive on the National Mall to visit their memorials. Our veterans' courage and service to the country has helped change the course of history and has protected America and the freedoms we hold dear. Hosting these honor flights is the least we can do to acknowledge their service, and I am thankful for the work that Bill and Sue have done to make these flights possible.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the passion, dedication, and commitment of Bill and Sue Welser. Their efforts and service honors our veterans each and every day and has been vital to the success of the Space Coast Honor Flight mission.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DICK ROBINSON

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dick Robinson who is to receive the Distinction Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's Rocky Mountain Chapter on October 10th, 2018.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dick for many years. His story is truly a remarkable one. A fourth generation Colorado resident, he is a graduate of Colorado State University and has dedicated most of his life to bettering our state and community through countless charitable and community projects; while during much of that time maintaining his family's dairy business alongside his brother. Mr. Robinson embodies a spirit of service, recognized throughout the state of Colorado.

Dick Robinson began his career of service in the U.S. Army, earning a Silver Star,