

her community and has a passion for giving back. Through her current role as the Solano County Superintendent of Schools, she works tirelessly to support educational services and serve the school districts in her community. As a charter member of 100 Women Who Care in Solano County, Lisette works to support women and young girls by donating to important programs that focus on bettering the community. She is a charter member of the Soroptimist Twilight Club in Solano County and generously volunteers her time to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls through programs that push for increased social and economic opportunities. Ms. Estrella-Henderson has played a vital role in promoting education equality and increased educational resources within her community. Her active engagement in the community includes leadership positions in programs such as the Migrant Child Education Program, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, Solano College Education Foundation, Positive Youth Justice Initiative Leadership Team, Juvenile Justice Coordination Council, Solano Coalition for Better Health, and many more. With a long résumé of outstanding achievements and leadership roles, Lisette's commitment to bringing about positive changes to her community is inspirational.

SAM HOUSTON: PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Houston, Texas, bears the name of Sam Houston, perhaps one of the most important figures in Texas history. Without his steady, stoic leadership, Texas would not be the great state that it is today. Indeed, it might have never even existed.

Let me tell you more. In the summer of 1836, Texas had successfully won its independence from Mexico. Under the leadership of General Sam Houston, the Texan forces overran Santa Anna's army at the Battle of San Jacinto. Houston himself was wounded during the battle, having caught a musket ball in the leg. But he did not let the pain from his wound cloud his judgement.

When by chance the Texans discovered the disgraced Mexican dictator Santa Anna disguised as a private, he was brought to Houston. Many in the Texas Army wanted Santa Anna executed, but Houston, knowing that he could negotiate favorable terms of surrender directly with el Presidente, refused to give the order. Rather, he brokered the treaty with the leader which gave Texas its independence from Mexico. Texas remained a sovereign Republic for nine years.

With independence secured, the Texans turned to its government. David G. Burnet, who had been serving as the president of Texas since the March 2 declaration (what we celebrate today as Texas Independence Day), called for a general election.

The new nation already faced debt problems and issues with army pensions. But with each new concern that surfaced, the choice to lead Texas became more obvious: the hero of San Jacinto.

This was not Houston's first rodeo in government. He served in U.S. Congress representing Tennessee and then as governor of Tennessee. Public service brought him to Texas in 1832, where he was sent by President Andrew Jackson to negotiate treaties with Native Americans. On top of his previous experience, his courageous actions at San Jacinto made him the clear choice in the minds of most Texans to lead the country.

On September 5, Houston won in a landslide election, earning 5,119 votes out of a possible 6,640. So strong was the din from the Texas Congress for Houston to take office as soon as possible that President Burnet moved his inauguration date forward two months. When they first convened after the election, the Texas legislature's first vote was to swear Sam Houston into office that very same day. After taking the oath and delivering a brief, impromptu speech, Houston calmly unhooked his sword and handed it to the Speaker of the House, thus casting off an "emblem of his past office" and following George Washington's example of the primacy of civilian rule. Not a man inside was unmoved by this small but significant act.

Mr. Speaker, Sam Houston was a great Texan and a great American. He is an icon whose memory deserves our utmost respect and admiration. Today, we are all proud Houstonians.

And that is just the way it is.

HONORING JOHN GONZALES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Gonzales. John is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John reset veteran headstones at the local historic Mount Mora Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Gonzales for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Oak Grove Baptist Church of Sterling, Virginia, on the

celebration of its 150th anniversary. In 1868, Reverend Robert Woodson, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, moved to the town of Herndon in Northern Virginia. Finding that there were no Baptist churches that were welcoming to African-Americans, Reverend Woodson interested Mrs. Ellen Thompson, a fellow Baptist living nearby, to help him establish what was initially called the Colored Church, on October 10, 1868, in the community of Oak Grove, located in the town of Sterling. Oak Grove was one of five communities in Eastern Loudoun County that were founded by former slaves after the Civil War ended in 1865. The name of Oak Grove was adopted, in part, because of the stately oak trees surrounding the church grounds.

Over the period of a century and a half, 13 pastors have served at Oak Grove Baptist Church. In addition to the important leadership exercised by these men, the church has been blessed with dedicated and faithful women leaders who greatly contributed to its success, including Ellen Thompson, "First Mother" and founder of the church, and Sister Ada Lee, who labored for 90 years, as the "Second Mother" of the church, before passing on in 1998, at the age of 107. There were many other unsung heroes during the long history of the church, including those whose financial generosity allowed the Oak Grove property to grow from "a little ole' spot beside the railroad track" to a six-acre property next to the current WO&D bicycle trail. Since 2011, the congregation has been led by a gifted yet humble pastor, Gregory L. Spurlock, a native of Petersburg, Virginia. He is married to the former Lottie Cassandra Mickens, also of Petersburg, who is a school principal in Loudoun County. Pastor Spurlock and First Lady Lottie are the proud parents of three children, Ivana, Brandon and Gregory, Jr.

The key to understanding how this church has thrived over its long and illustrious history is its clear and simple mission. Simply put, "The Oak" exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the inspiring leadership of Pastor Spurlock and First Lady Lottie, coupled with the guidance of the elders of the church and the dedicated support of the Deacons and Deaconesses, each member of Oak Grove Baptist Church has pledged his or her life to Christ and has covenanted with each other to demonstrate His Spirit through worship, witnessing and ministering to the needs of others. Whether the church is engaged in ministering to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of each church member and family or is taking a leadership role in the annual One Loudoun Revival, or putting on its Car Show and Community Day, or hosting a Women's Conference or a voter registration drive, "the Oak" has always been hallowed ground, where, through acts of faith and love, its members are tirelessly engaged in the blessed work of transfiguring lives, one person at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary history of Oak Grove Baptist Church. Thanks to the loving service of hundreds of disciples over the past 150 years, I am confident that the indelible mission, values and traditions of Oak Grove Baptist Church will guide the congregation's vitality and success over the next 150 years.