

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORTAGEVILLE, MO

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church of Portageville, Missouri on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The church was founded on November 4th of 1868, when a small group in Portageville organized around a collective sense of faith and worship. The original congregation met in a log building erected in the 1850's, later moving into the local masonic lodge, which they shared with the freemasons. Since the early 1900's, First Baptist Church has met in one of three buildings at its current location.

First Baptist Church has the distinction of being the oldest church in the membership of the New Madrid Baptist Association, which is composed of the Southern Baptist congregations in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties.

Today, the church has 306 members and is involved in local and nationwide missions. The church provides Bibles for distribution through the local RAIN (Reaching All In Need) Food Ministry, and also hosts weekly meetings for foster parent training.

For continuing its work of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through 150 years of change and challenge, it is my great pleasure to honor First Baptist Church today before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO ELLA MAE WRIGHT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ella Mae Wright passed away in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 27th, at the age of 101. She was a great wife, mother, business woman, and all-around good citizen of the type that has made this country great.

Mrs. Wright and her husband J.B. were married for 67 years. They founded Wright's Cafeteria which still today is one of Knoxville's most popular eating establishments. It was once described in a Knoxville newspaper as my "favorite restaurant."

Mrs. Wright's pride and joy were her three children, David, Janice, and Calvin, and her seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

She could often be found in the Cafeteria, greeting customers, most of whom she considered as longtime friends. She was always smiling and offering encouraging words to everyone.

During her 101 years, she lived her Christian faith every day and touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways. This Country is a better place today because of the life Ella Mae Wright led.

I wanted my colleagues and others to know about this good woman and great American.

HONORING GINA TAYLOR WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Taylor as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving children throughout her community and devotes her time to many volunteer organizations. As president of the Willows Unified School District Board she works with other board members to ensure the school district provides a safe and engaging learning environment where each student has the opportunity to realize their full potential, develop respect and tolerance for others, and ultimately become a productive member of the community. Ms. Taylor is an integral part of realizing the school district's mission of preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. The time she devotes to the school board is a true testament to how much she values education. Ms. Taylor was also a founding member of The Painted Ladies, a group that worked to fill the gaps in school budgets by cleaning and painting classrooms throughout the district. This work helped to provide a positive learning environment for countless students. She has also given her time volunteering for the Clover 4-H Club, the Glenn County 4-H Council, the Willows High Ag Boosters organization, and the Sober Grad event. Ms. Taylor is a dedicated community servant who can be depended upon to find a positive approach to each objective she pursues. Her accomplishments throughout Glenn County are truly remarkable.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again regarding the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018, on the issue of sober living homes. At that hearing, I had the privilege of testifying in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of my testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the eighth group of these constituent letters below:

These are examples of what our neighborhood has had to endure since the Sober living home has opened in our neighborhood. As some of the new tenants moved in they introduced themselves as a bunch of college students. These tenants moved out within two weeks. We believe this was a ploy by [REDACTED] get the start in the neighborhood without attracting attention. Since they moved in, our neighborhood has had to put up with cars parked illegally up and down the street. When confronted, the tenants of the house use profanity and extremely rude language and gestures.

The neighborhood is on constant alert due to activity on our street and in and out of the house all hours of the night and day. Specifically, one-night last week a tenant walked out with a backpack around 1:00 a.m. and met with a stranger who was dropped off in our neighborhood earlier. The two were observed cooking heroin. The police were called and showed up. The two ran off along with a third person waiting in the sober liv-

ing house back yard. When the police arrived this person and the one doing the drugs went home to home trying to get into houses. All of this was verified and collaborated via the many cameras in the neighborhood. One vehicle kept at the house, which is usually parked on the street, appears to be a drop point. People drive up and place something in the trunk and later a tenant will pick up whatever has been dropped off and bring it into the house.

Our entire neighborhood has turned into a place where we do not feel safe. Our children must call before they come home so we can escort them into the house. The house has two aggressive pit bulls who have gotten out and pinned a neighbor inside her car unable to leave. When animal control arrived, the dog was put in the house and one tenant said to the officer it's not my dog and left.

These are examples of what our neighborhood has been dealing with. Some other concerns are the property values as several long time homeowners are already talking about selling to get away from the element that has moved in. This home in question is less than 1000 feet from a school. The school has been notified and parents that drop off their kids for school will be notified about this house. This can negatively affect the attendance of the school.

The local police say there is nothing they can do, the city council tell us there is nothing we can do, this is our neighborhood and should not be driven out because of greed, or loopholes in the laws and insurance scams. We would hope Congress would give the local city's authority to regulate and set rules for these kind of houses, and the ability to shut them down for illegal activity.

LESS TAIT,

Huntington Beach, California.

My parents purchased their home in Huntington Beach, CA in 1977. I grew up in Huntington Beach, went to college and returned to the city to build my life. I purchased my residence in Huntington Beach in 2000. My family has loved living in Huntington Beach. However, our lives drastically changed in the last year.

The couple that lived next door to my parents purchased their home 41 years ago as original owners. They raised three children in the home like my parents. They unfortunately passed away recently, and their children sold the home in November 2017. For months the home was under construction, but my parents didn't think much of it. Then earlier this year we noticed the neighbor had a large white commercial style van outside, installed a fire sprinkler system with a red bell above the front door, and divided the bonus room into two rooms. We discovered from the person renovating the home that instead of a large family, it was going to house single people. The property records show the home was purchased by a lawyer representing a LLC business and that LLC business was owned by a business called [REDACTED]. We assume it is a sober living home for men, but it may be some other type of facility operated by [REDACTED].

On February 24, 2018 was the first time I experienced a problem. I went over to visit my parents from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. I sat in a chair in the family room. We had the windows closed. I smelled a strong smoke smell in the home. I didn't know where it was coming from. I left after one hour and had a headache for six hours after.

From February 24, 2018 to April 8, 2018, I visited my parent's home about ten times. Every time I visited I smelled smoke in the home, backyard and/or front yard and experience health symptoms (burning eyes, coughing, shortness of breath, headache and/or feeling of sickness). I did not smell smoke or experience health symptoms prior to February 24, 2018. I experienced these symptoms even with the operation of multiple HEPA filters purchased to get rid of smoke.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, at about 10:30 pm I came to pick up some food. During the ten minutes I was at my parent's home I coughed the entire time. I was not coughing before coming to the home and didn't cough after I returned to my car.