

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT JAMES AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S 155TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Saint James African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership prepare to celebrate a remarkable 155 years. The congregation of St. James A.M.E. Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a worship celebration on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Church located at 1002 Sixth Avenue in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, the St. James congregation emerged from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Reverend William Gaines serving as the first pastor in 1864. Today, the physical body of the church serves as a reflection and memorial of past members and pastors who contributed to its preservation. On September 29, 1980, the church was listed on the National Historic Register.

In an 1873 act, the Georgia Legislature granted St. James A.M.E. Church the land on which it stands and the first cathedral construction was completed in 1876. The ornately carved front doors, built by slaves, are the oldest parts of the church and are a reminder of the history of strength and perseverance behind the congregation.

Since its founding, St. James has endured several additions and renovations, all of which help tell the story of the church, its members and its fifty-one former leaders. In 1886, Reverend Larry Thomas oversaw the construction of the bell tower, which still stands today as a symbol of the Church's concrete mission to serve its congregation and community. Reverend Harold I. Bearden, who served from 1940 to 1948, installed the pipe organ that is still heard during church services today.

In 1988, St. James purchased property for a new parsonage, and by 1996, the conversion of the old parsonage into an administrative building was completed under the leadership of Reverend Scottie Swinney. The building now houses offices, a conference room, music room, clothing and food bank, and archives room, which collectively aid in the fulfillment of the church ministry. After Reverend Swinney's tenure, Reverend Richard Washington was pastor of the church. The church is now pastored by Reverend Joseph Baker, Sr.

In 2004, St. James erected an Elevator Tower to accommodate all members of the congregation. The building includes classrooms, accessible bathrooms, a stewardess room, and an elevator that services the Fel-

lowship Hall and Sanctuary. To commemorate this achievement, a time capsule was deposited behind the Elevator Tower cornerstone to be opening in 2054.

Throughout all of these changes, the church has consistently maintained its presence as a center for spiritual, educational, professional, and civic gatherings within the African-American community.

The second oldest church of its denomination in Georgia, St. James A.M.E. Church has served as pillar of faith in the community for 155 years. The spirit within the congregation and their commitment to the growth of St. James is both admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia for their dedication to helping one another, serving the community, and above all, worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING CLAY MORGAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Clay Morgan for his contribution to our state and Henry County.

As a member of the 6th District Faith Based Advisory Committee, Clay regularly met with my team to discuss important faith and family issues affecting Hoosiers. Through his ministry and community service, Clay has made New Castle a better place to live.

On a personal note, Clay is a brother in Christ, and I appreciate his prayers and encouragement over the years. Clay is a wise adviser and among my closest friends in politics. I want to thank him for his incredible support of my work in Congress. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family.

DING SCHOONMAKER—NATIONAL SAILING HALL OF FAME LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ding Schoonmaker who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Sailing Hall of Fame. Mr. Schoonmaker has made important contributions to the sport of sailing, both on the water as an athlete and in service to fellow sailors. As a sailor, Mr. Schoonmaker

served as the alternate for the U.S. Olympic team in the Helsinki Games in 1952 and the Tokyo Games in 1964. Throughout his sailing career he won many regional championships, and was named the Star World Champion in 1975.

Mr. Schoonmaker has also served the sailing community as an advocate. He played a key role in founding the U.S. Sailing Center and served two terms as Vice President of World Sailing. He and his fellow 2018 inductees to the National Sailing Hall of Fame were formally celebrated on Sunday, November 11, 2018, with an Induction Ceremony hosted at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

I congratulate Mr. Schoonmaker on his selection for this honor and thank him for his contributions to the sport of sailing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH AN- NIVERSARY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S MONROE CAMPUS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College (NCC) as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. The Campus was founded by a group of educators who joined with business and community leaders to boost the region's economy by bringing NCC's signature education programs to Monroe County. First housed in a makeshift, rented space in Stroudsburg, the Monroe Campus has since met its goals to train a highly-skilled workforce and provide access to affordable, quality higher education.

After years of growth, NCC built the current Monroe Campus near a commercial corridor where students have a hill-top respite with scenic views. The Campus officially opened on Aug. 26, 2014 and soon became LEED Gold-certified for its geothermal heating and cooling system, large solar panels over the parking lots, large windows letting in natural light, and native vegetation reducing storm-water runoff. Each year, it serves 2,500 students, hosts community events, and rotates exhibits in its art gallery. NCC-Monroe recently added programs in nursing, engineering, and adventure tourism in response to regional industry needs.

I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing the 30th anniversary and success of the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College. May it continue forward guided by its founders' vision of offering a quality college experience regardless of socioeconomic status and serving as a responsive tool for regional economic growth.

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