

With the assistance of clergy from First Baptist Church of Elgin, they settled in the area to form the cornerstone of a new African-American community. Desirous of having a place of worship they could call their own, the newcomers founded Second Baptist Church of Elgin on December 2, 1866.

Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Nathaniel Edmund, affectionately known as Pastor Nate, Second Baptist Church honors the determination and courage of its founders with its sacred presence and community involvement. The church is a spiritual home to thousands of worshipers, and in 2008 expanded its capacity to serve with the construction of an award-winning multi-purpose building adding classrooms, a nursery, a welcome center, and a recreation and performance auditorium to its campus. In recent years, Second Baptist Church has broadened its reach through initiatives including the Prison Ministry, the "Operation Joshua" street ministry, and the SAFE Ministry to break the cycle of domestic violence. The church partners with Sheridan Elementary School and Larsen Middle School to mentor and tutor students identified as at-risk youth and has hosted numerous summits on issues of concern to the community. And emblematic of the church's outward focus, Pastor Nate has served on boards or in other capacities for a variety of important organizations in the Elgin area, including the Alignment Collaborative for Education, Advocate Sherman Hospital, the United Way of Elgin, Judson University, U-46 School District, the NAACP of Greater Elgin, and the African-American Christian Ministers Alliance of Elgin.

The ministry of Second Baptist Church is not limited to the local community, and an important part of its mission is to provide comfort and support wherever the need is most urgent. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Second Baptist Church rallied to aid families rendered homeless by the storm's devastation and adopted survivors who resettled in the Elgin area. In 2007, as part of its effort to support the ongoing ministry of World Vision, the church extended its generosity and compassion to a community in Tanzania, helping to build a housing complex for teachers and pledging continuing monetary support to over 130 Tanzanian children.

I believe the newly emancipated founders of Second Baptist Church would be deeply gratified by the congregation they established, now spanning three centuries of service. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize this profoundly American story of faith, determination, and good works, and acknowledge the tireless service of Second Baptist Church of Elgin to our community in the 8th Congressional District, as well as to all in need throughout the world.

INTRODUCING A BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ADDRESSING THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN A CONCURRENT TRACK WITH THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS AND COMMENDING ARAB AND MUSLIM-MAJORITY STATES THAT HAVE IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution supporting the concurrent-track approach to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. I want to acknowledge and thank my colleagues, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ELIOT ENGEL, and Representatives DAVID SCHWEIKERT and ROB WOODALL, for introducing this resolution with me today.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict presents an immensely difficult challenge—a challenge to which there are no easy answers. Successive United States Presidential administrations have pursued peace agreements between the parties for over three decades, from the 1982 Reagan Plan for Middle East Peace to the 1993 Oslo Accords, Camp David Summit, Clinton Parameters, Annapolis Conference, and efforts to restart the peace process under the Obama Administration. President Donald Trump has announced that he too will soon unveil a plan for peace.

Despite a lack of progress on a formal agreement, Israel and some of her Arab neighbors have worked quietly and behind the scenes to improve bilateral relations in recent years. Common threats posed by Iran and violent extremism allowed for new dialogue to take root, and today, Israel enjoys closer relations to many of its neighbors in the region. These efforts represent an opportunity to improve security, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East. The concurrent-track approach—where Arab and Muslim-majority states work to improve their bilateral relations with Israel as Israel and the Palestinian Authority work concurrently to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process—should be embraced by our government as a new paradigm for the region. The resolution I am introducing today expresses support for this approach and commends Arab and Muslim-majority states that have already taken steps to improve their bilateral relations with Israel.

I, like nearly all of my colleagues in Congress, continue to support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, negotiated between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and resulting in two states for two peoples, living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition. This is the only way to ensure that both the Israeli people and the Palestinian people can have sovereign homelands. The inability to achieve a two-state solution threatens the State of Israel's security and identity as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people, just as it impedes the well-being and self-determination of the Palestinian people.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure passage of this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my father, I was absent for the House vote that took place between February 11, 2019 and February 14, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 75; yea on Roll Call No. 77; yea on Roll Call No. 78; yea on Roll Call No. 79; yea on Roll Call No. 80; nay on Roll Call No. 81; yea on Roll Call No. 82; yea on Roll Call No. 83; yea on Roll Call No. 84; yea on Roll Call No. 85; yea on Roll Call No. 86; and yea on Roll Call No. 87.

CONGRATULATING FIDENCIO HOOPER-CAMPOS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidencio Hooper-Campos on his retirement. Mr. Hooper-Campos has been a steelworker and member of the United Steelworkers Local 63 for 45 years.

Fidencio Hooper-Campos has much to celebrate following a stellar career as a steelworker and a public servant. Mr. Hooper-Campos began his career as a steelworker at the age of 19 at Northwestern Steel & Wire prior to continuing his work at Sterling Steel in the town where he was born. However, Mr. Hooper-Campos' work went beyond that as he took on leadership roles within the community, including service on the Whiteside County Board, Whiteside County Health Clinic Governing Council and the NCI Works Board. Mr. Hooper-Campos committed himself to civic activism and always worked to improve the community around him throughout his accomplished career. In addition, Mr. Hooper-Campos enjoys music, kickboxing and martial arts and I wish him well as he begins his well-earned retirement.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Fidencio Hooper-Campos that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Fidencio Hooper-Campos on his retirement after 45 years as a steelworker.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN FIRESTONE ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Nathan Firestone, a resident of the Tenth District and a World War II era veteran prisoner of war on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Firestone entered the service in 1943 as a member of a B-24 Liberator heavy bomber