

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT FOR ABILITY ONE PROGRAM

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work of the AbilityOne Program, which empowers Americans with disabilities and helps bring them into the workforce. The AbilityOne Program promotes exemplary public-private partnerships to employ Americans with significant disabilities, including veterans and the blind. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Americans with disabilities is more than double the rate for those without disabilities. To address this disparity, the AbilityOne Program creates high-quality employment opportunities for disabled Americans and empowers them to fully participate in the workforce and their communities. AbilityOne helps employ more than 45,000 disabled Americans, helping them develop the skills and work experience they need to access public and private sector jobs, achieve greater independence, and lead productive, fulfilling lives. And the program helps the federal government support these individuals and empower them through employment.

Last March, I had the opportunity to see the success of AbilityOne Program firsthand in my district when I visited TRI Industries in Vernon Hills, Illinois. TRI is a non-profit that remanufactures ink and toner cartridges for the federal government. TRI provides education, training, and jobs to individuals with disabilities in my district. Touring their facility and speaking with the staff, I saw the great opportunities AbilityOne provides and the impact this program can have on the lives of Americans with disabilities.

On behalf of my constituents with disabilities, I rise to salute the significant contributions of the AbilityOne Program, and I support all persons committed to developing and advancing employment opportunities for the blind and Americans with other significant disabilities.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The parishioners along with Mount Zion's pastor, Reverend William R. Collins, will be commemo-

rating this momentous occasion with a celebratory banquet on Friday, August 2, 2019, at the Chateau Banquet Center in Merrillville, Indiana.

In 1919, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church became the first African American Baptist church to be established in the city of Hammond. Throughout the years, numerous remarkable pastors helped to build the church's leadership and expand its congregation, along with the services and programs offered to the community. In 1945, Reverend A.R. Burns became pastor of Mount Zion, a position he held for an astonishing fifty-three years. Pastor Burns accomplished many great things during his tenure at Mount Zion, and he was determined and passionate about his service. Under Pastor Burns' leadership, in 1949, the current church structure was completed at 1047 Kenwood Street, and it became known as "The Friendly Place of Worship." Pastor Burns worked to secure safe housing for the elderly and was able to accomplish the construction of the Reverend A.R. Burns Mount Zion Pleasant View Plaza, with the first tenants moving in by 1983. In addition, Pastor Burns marched for civil rights with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and he supported the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Pastor Burns passed away in 1999, but he will be forever remembered for his faithfulness to his congregation.

In 1998, Reverend William R. Collins became the leader of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Under Pastor Collins' outstanding direction, Mount Zion has become a cornerstone of the community, providing a food pantry and outreach program, offering vacation bible school, summer camp ministry, and various religious retreats, and being heavily involved in the Interfaith Federation. Under Pastor Collins' leadership, the church has also undergone numerous cosmetic improvements, and the membership has increased exponentially. Reverend Collins and the congregation of Mount Zion have been a true blessing to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Hammond, Indiana, on its 100th anniversary. The members and church leaders have dedicated themselves to serving others, especially to those most in need, and they are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF HENRY RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, SR.

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Henry Rodriguez Martinez, Sr. of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Martinez was a father, veteran and a local civil rights leader that was committed to bettering our community through his public service. Born on June 15, 1928 in Eagle Ford, Texas. Martinez was a pillar of strength and perseverance for our community.

He was raised in the Ledbetter Eagle Ford area of Dallas and attended Crozier Technical High School prior to serving in the Army where he earned the rank of Private First Class. He was also a proud father and husband. Martinez married Eufemia Paredes Martinez in 1955 and the couple had eight children. For over fifteen years, Martinez served the Dallas Fort Worth-area through his work for the Martinez Courier Service and Dallas Power and Light.

Martinez was also an active member of the West Dallas community. Throughout his life and through his service as the president of Ledbetter Neighborhood Association, Martinez improved local transit across the community and the quality of life for those that lived there.

Martinez spent his life making sure that communities of color had a seat at the table and a voice in the room—his most notable accomplishment being that he was a staunch advocate in the fight to guarantee better representation for people of color in the Dallas City council.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my thoughts and prayers to Mr. Martinez's family and community. West Dallas is losing a fighter and advocate for their community. His spirit and accomplishments will never be able to be replaced.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the need to weave the narrative of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities into the greater American story.

There is no doubt that Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the United States, and our community is becoming an increasingly powerful and visible force in all aspects of American life. From entertainment to medicine; from academia to entrepreneurship; from social justice to innovation—our community has made immeasurable contributions to every facet of our nation. But, too often, our community is excluded or forgotten in history.

That is why today, I am introducing the "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act". With the rise of recent exclusionary rhetoric and policies, it is crucial to remember our collective past now more than ever. The past shapes who we are, and it also strengthens how we move forward.

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