

Yes, finding Ms. Smith's replacement will prove daunting. She, however, leaves behind the most treasured legacy of all—that of investing in people, including the veterans for whom she cares so deeply and the individuals seeking to help them. Consequently, I have no doubt Craighead County is left in good hands based on the leadership example Ms. Smith set.

My office formally congratulates Ms. Vermalene Smith on her retirement, and we wish her many happy years ahead reflective of the stellar service she provided veterans in Northeast Arkansas.

HONORING THE SERRANO FAMILY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serrano Family, who have been recognized as honorees at this year's Harvest of Hope Dinner by Catholic Charities in Merced, California. Their strong faith and commitment to serving others have distinguished them as stellar members of their church community that are very deserving of this recognition.

David Serrano was born to Florencio and Anita Serrano on August 13, 1941. The family lived in Chowchilla, California before moving across the highway to Le Grand in the late 50's when the family purchased their farm. Raised in a family with a strong Catholic faith, David joined the Newman Club while attending Fresno State, where he met his future wife, RoseAnn Burkhart, who had also grown up in a strong Catholic household and was an integral member of their parish, Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL).

The commitment to faith exhibited by David and RoseAnn guided them as they raised their family and instilled this faith in each of their children: Christine, Danielle, Matthew, and Michael. Their family remained active in the OLL parish throughout their childhood and volunteered for various ministries in the church. David and RoseAnn became mentors for many and over the years, were asked to be Godparents for multiple children and adults.

David and RoseAnn's unwavering commitment to their religion undoubtedly contributed to the strong character present in each of their children, all of whom continue to remain active in the Catholic faith. Each of their children has remained committed to passing their faith traditions along to the next generation while continuing to serve others.

Their daughters Christine and Danielle, in addition to their son Michael, his wife Erika and daughter Catalina, are all active members of OLL. Christine and Danielle continue to pass along their family's faith traditions as Godparents to Catalina. Their son Matthew and his wife Kimberly are active in Sacred Heart Schools, where their children Isabela and William attend. Though RoseAnn passed suddenly on June 25, 2017, her exceptional family continues to carry on her legacy she built.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring an exceptional family that has been guided by their strong Catholic and distinguished service to their community. I wish the Serrano family and Catholic Charities

of Merced the best as they are recognized as honorees at the 2019 Harvest of Hope Dinner.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEAR LAKE AME CHURCH FOR ITS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) for nearly three decades of Christian ministry in the Clear Lake area of Houston, Texas, and the dedication of their new church home. The church is growing, both in membership and spiritual richness, and has embraced its mission statement, "Kingdom Building, One Soul at a Time."

The first meeting to organize an AME church in the Clear Lake City area began with prayer and praise on August 18, 1992, in the home of Reverend Brenda Payne and her family. Bro. Jerry Payne led the praise service, Presiding Elder X.L. Williams of the South Houston District read the scripture, and Rev. Payne offered prayer. There were nine adults and five children present at the very first worship service.

In October 1992, at the Texas Annual Conference held at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas, Bishop John R. Bryant formally gave Rev. Brenda Payne an appointment to begin a mission church in the Clear Lake area. On November 29, 1992, Clear Lake AME held its first 11 AM worship service at the Piper's Meadow Community Center in Webster, Texas. Bible study continued initially in the home of the pastor until it was moved to the Piper's Meadow Community Center in July 1993. Clear Lake added Sunday Church School at Piper's Meadow on January 9, 1994.

On March 3, 1995, Clear Lake AME glorified God for the first time in a new "home" located on El Camino Real road. The Nehemiah Ministry, under the direction of Wilbert Williams, built an altar and carpeted the pulpit area, helping to transform the former office space into a church sanctuary. On April 16, 1996, Clear Lake AME Church purchased 3.5 acres near the NASA Johnson Space Center and the University of Houston—Clear Lake. This land is believed to be the first church property purchased by African Americans in the historic Clear Lake area.

In October 1999, Clear Lake AME Church joined with Primm Chapel AME Church, LaMarque, Reedy Chapel AME Church, Galveston, and St. James AME Church, Dickinson to form the "Mainland 4." The four churches, though small in numerical size, hosted the Texas Annual Conference.

At the 134th Session of the Texas Annual Conference in October 2000, Bishop McKinley Young appointed Rev. Arthur Ferguson Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Arthur Ferguson preached the gospel of peace, love, and reconciliation, preparing the church to grow and become a beacon in the Clear Lake community.

On Saturday, November 18, 2006, at the Post Conference Planning Meeting of the Texas Annual Conference, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate, appointed

Reverend Kevin L. Hodge to serve as Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Pastor Hodge and his new bride, First Lady LaShawn Hodge, came with a vision to take the congregation "to the next level" of spiritual growth, church construction, and church expansion. On Sunday, July 1, 2007, Clear Lake AME moved the congregation to its current location on Sea Lark Road.

On Sunday, February 17, 2013, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie moved Pastor and Sister Hodge to a ministry at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas. On Saturday, March 8, 2013, Reverend Derrick Cyprian was appointed Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Cyprian, his wife Chalita, and their two sons, Derrick and Jared, came with excitement and a desire to help the community reach their committed goals: to grow spiritually, increase God's kingdom, and build a home sanctuary to house Clear Lake AME Church ministries.

The Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission through worship, fellowship, youth programs, outreach initiatives, and Christian education. The Lord has used this church as an amazing witness, and we are privileged to have such a place of worship in the 36th Congressional District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF JOHN RUDD AT THE CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of John Rudd to the Cayuga Medical Center and congratulate him on his retirement.

For the last six years, John Rudd has served as the President and CEO of Cayuga Medical Center. Upon its creation in 2014, John was also named President and CEO of Cayuga Health System. Before that, John served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Cayuga Medical Center for seventeen years. His dedicated service and wealth of experience has ensured the highest of quality service, that Cayuga Medical Center is known for, to people in the Finger Lakes Region.

Under John's leadership, Cayuga Medical Center has grown and experienced a major expansion of their services. He oversaw the opening of the Cayuga Wellness Center as well as the opening of the hospital's first cath lab. John is responsible for forging partnerships and collaboration with organizations such as Mayo Laboratories, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Roswell Park. He was also instrumental in the efforts to join Cayuga Medical Center and Schuyler Hospital as Cayuga Health System, producing a successful system with both hospitals performing well.

John's dedication to the well-being of his community extends far beyond his place of work, as he has served on numerous community boards. He has worked with organizations such as Franziska Racker Centers, OAR, United Way Tompkins County, Tompkins County Area Development, Central New York