

Rev. Sam Miller 1987–91, Rev. Jim Knutsen 1991–95, Rev. Gary Jeffery 1995–96, and Rev. Siegfried Manntai 1996–present.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in saluting, thanking, and honoring the pastors and congregation of Calvary Community Church for its 50 years of dedication and service to the community.

ANTHONY SCIBELLI OF SPRINGFIELD, MA, LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY SERVING STATE LEGISLATOR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to a constituent of mine who was recently recognized by the National Conference of State Legislators as the "longest continuously serving legislator in the United States of America." Anthony Scibelli, a friend, neighbor, and staple in the Springfield political arena, has for 47 years served his constituents in the 10th Hampden County district with dedication, commitment, and honor.

Representative Scibelli's political career has been extensive. Tony began his life of public service in his native Springfield by serving for 12 years on the city council. In 1951, he began what has proven to be a successful career by becoming a State representative and member of the Massachusetts General Court. And over the years, as he has earned the title of "Dean of the House," Anthony Scibelli has never forgotten where he has come from and the people who have elected him.

Strongly committed to the concept of education for all, Scibelli's dedication is best embodied in the halls and classrooms of Springfield Technical Community College. As someone who has fought for opportunities for all, his devotion to this ideal has been enjoyed by every child and family who has ever swum in the Emerson Wight pool. A former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Scibelli has been a vital participant in the State's legislative process.

Anthony Scibelli currently serves on the Joint Ways and Means Committee, House Ways and Means Committee and Transportation Committee. He also proudly serves as a distinguished member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Eagles, the Sons of Italy, and the Longmeadow Country Club. While his memberships and affiliations describe some of his personal qualities, perhaps Anthony Scibelli can best be understood by reviewing his personal philosophy. As he says about himself, "I never ignore or dismiss even the smallest request from people. Very simply put, I feel good about being in a position to help those who need it."

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend, my friend, Representative Anthony Scibelli, on this unique and well-deserved national designation and for the vital role he has assumed in Springfield. I am proud to join with the citizens of the second congressional district in offering a most heartfelt congratulations.

HONORING PASTOR AMOS G. JOHNSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Pastor Amos G. Johnson of Pontiac, MI. On Saturday, October 4, the congregation of Pontiac's New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will honor Pastor Johnson for 40 years of dedicated service to the community in the name of the Lord.

I wish the circumstances that brought Pastor Johnson to Pontiac from Clinton, MS in 1957 had been more pleasant. Even degrees from Jackson State College and American Baptist Theological Seminary could not protect him from persecution and harassment based on the color of his skin. Following a divine voice, Pastor Johnson left Mississippi for Michigan, and 2 weeks later became the head of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. In those 40 years, the New Bethel congregation has grown from 50 to more than 1,500 under Pastor Johnson's leadership. The church has moved from their original building to a beautiful new facility directly across the street. The original church still stands as the New Bethel Outreach Ministry-Shelter for the homeless, servicing 161 families and 288 children.

Pastor Johnson's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. The pastor has been affiliated with and has held leadership positions in groups such as the Greater Pontiac District Association, Wolverine State Congress, Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship, and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, to name a few. He has also been honored with an honorary degree from the Urban Bible Institute in Detroit.

Pastor Johnson's deeds in the name of the Lord are just as remarkable as his deeds on behalf of the Pontiac community. In addition to the Outreach Center, he has served as chaplain at North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac, and has worked tirelessly to aid those struggling with substance abuse. Counting strong relationships with young people as a major accomplishment, Pastor Johnson can often be found working with student and teachers in the Pontiac School District.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow Members of the 105th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Amos Johnson. I also ask that you acknowledge the contributions made by Marjorie, his wonderful wife of 49 years, who has been with him every step of the way. Self evident in their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. Our community is a much better place because of Pastor and Mrs. Amos Johnson.

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the in-

corporation of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. On October 2, 1957, the sheriffs of the State of Florida, with the best interests of our young men and women in mind, saw fit to organize the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch along the banks of the Suwannee River. The Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch has been in continuous operation for the last 40 years and has served as the foundation for programs ranging from statewide child care programs to nationally accredited, community-based, family counseling services; independent living skills; parenting classes; and family life education.

The ongoing work of these rewarding programs and their dedicated staff have given over 30,000 young men and women the chance to resolve personal conflicts and the opportunity to live as lawful, productive assets to society. Their efforts have helped to rebuild the American family and combat juvenile crime at the source, encouraging our youth to act as responsible citizens and to pursue more rewarding pastimes and activities. Their hard work and dedication to the youth of the State of Florida is most commendable, and I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you join me in honoring the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches on this, their 40th anniversary.

DEDICATION OF KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the Members' attention to the dedication today of an important memorial in Kootenai County, ID. I am proud to say that the Kootenai County Veterans Memorial Plaza being dedicated today represents the gratefulness that the people of Idaho have for our Nation's veterans from the Revolutionary War up to the Persian Gulf war. The chairman of the county commissioners, Dick Compton, and Commissioners Richard Panabaker and Ronald D. Rankin echo the sentiments of the great people of Kootenai County in their appreciation for the great sacrifices these veterans made. The State of Idaho has a proud history of support for our Nation's armed services and for our Nation's veterans. Idaho has also stood strong for the founding principles that have made this country great. The Veterans Memorial Plaza stands as an important monument for our Nation's veterans and for these great principles which they stood for with such courage, willingness, and sacrifice of life and limb. I applaud the people of Kootenai County for the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza. I would encourage each of the members to read the heartfelt words from Commissioner Rankin's dedication below.

DEDICATION OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA

(By Commissioner Ronald D. Rankin)

In December of 1776, just five months after the Declaration of Independence had been signed and the thirteen colonies were swept up in the American Revolution, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now deserves the love and thanks of all men and women."

That is why we are dedicating this Veterans Memorial Plaza today, to remember all of those who stood fast and held the line against tyranny, from the bridge at Concord to the sands of the Persian Gulf, and to say thank you . . . for without their courage, their dedication and their willingness to die for what was right, we would not be here today.

Those we honor today died so that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their legacy carries with it a tremendous burden—the responsibility to live our lives so that we may vouchsafe that for which they gave their lives . . . our freedom.

Freedoms won on distant battlefields can be lost in an instant here at home if we do not carry on the fight against tyranny.

No one knows better than a veteran that service to America does not end when you come home from the war. We fought for freedom and we've seen our friends die for freedom, but in spite of the great sacrifices of our fallen patriots of the past, we have become a nation morally adrift—without compass or rudder, sacrificing the generations we fought and died for to an enemy we cannot see.

In our wars, fought on the fields of battle, the enemy wore uniforms and carried weapons—rifles, bayonets, grenades—he was identifiable and we were armed and trained to recognize and defeat him.

Today, a far more insidious enemy is already on our shores striking at the very soul of America. Today's enemy does not wear a uniform or fight with bayonets or grenades. He uses our media, he preys on the carnal desires of our communities—he pollutes our childrens' minds with filth and their bodies with drugs—he has taken God out of our institutions and desecrates our flag with the approval of our Government. There are no distant drums of war signaling our peril—no fox holes, trenches, bayonets or grenades in this war. The ammunition is knowledge, which we must all continue to seek . . . and the battle is fought in the city halls, the courthouses, the legislatures, and the Congress.

I say to you here today, you patriots and protectors of our progeny and their heritage, as Patrick Henry stated, "the enemy is in the field . . . why stand we here idle?"

Thank God the people we honor today lived. Thank God that they cared enough about our country and its future that they laid down their lives to preserve it, and thank God that with His help we may have the strength and determination to carry on and make this again the "One Nation Under God" for which they died. It is a tremendous responsibility, but we owe it to them and to future generations.

The future begins today, the future begins with us. May God continue to bless America and may he bless us all in our righteous endeavors.

This I say humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAMS

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. . . . The intent of this legislation is to slightly amend the Clean Air Act so that appropriate Federal, State, and local entities may conduct prescribed burn programs in non-attainment areas for a test period of 10 years.

Prescribed burns under limited conditions are essential to the life and health of our for-

ests, to clean air, to the protection and propagation of species, and to increased water yields.

A carefully managed burn program will also lead to reduced floods and mudslides, and to the reduction of overall firefighting costs. These savings would then be made available for a wide variety of highly beneficial activities contained in forest management programs.

With more than 100 years of fire suppression history behind us, we know the current strategy is not working. Wildfires in these older fuel beds occur more frequently. These infernos burn several hundred degrees hotter. They burn larger areas and result in greater damage and costs.

Two decades ago, we spent an average of \$100,000 per year to put out wildfires; today we spend \$1 billion.

We experience multimillion dollar wildfires in the Angeles National Forest almost every year with the tragic and often unnecessary loss of homes, wildlife, trees, and watershed.

We cannot afford to let wildfires in the Angeles National Forest, and other U.S. forests that about urban areas burn hotter, bigger, and faster. These types of tragedies grow even more lethal, destructive and expensive to fight.

Prescribed burns, when used wisely, have been effective in reducing the size of wildfires. But we cannot currently use them in our area to the extent necessary because smoke from a prescribed burn is charged against air standards within the framework of the Clean Air Act by Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], the California Air Resources Board [CARB], and the South Coast Air Quality Management District [SCAQMD]. As such, prescribed burns are rarely and inadequately approved by the EPA.

The irony in this situation is that the EPA, while regulating all planned, open agricultural burning, forgives, naturally enough, wildfires, which produce 10 to 15 times the emissions and particulates when compared to prescribed forest burns.

We ask that a program of limited prescribed burns in wildland setting be allowed by the EPA for a period of 10 years, with the Forest Service monitoring the results in terms of air pollution, forest survival and health, species diversification, and suppression cost reduction.

Michael Rogers, forest supervisor of the Angeles National Forest, has given his support for limited prescribed burns in an unequivocal and straightforward manner. He said: "In Southern California we live with a fire-adaptive ecosystem. All our plants and animals have adapted to a high frequency of fires. We can either manage this situation through the proactive use of prescribed fire, or be held hostage by damaging wildfires that result in loss of life, property, natural resources with astronomic costs attributed to both the wildfires and the floods that follow wildfires."

It is time to use the restorative and productive use of fire to fight fires and to make our forest and living environs safer, cleaner, healthier, and more attractive.

CONGRATULATIONS TRI-CITY SER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we want to help every willing American to help find and keep

a job. To that end, the Federal Government has provided a number of job training programs that depend upon skilled local operators to provide assistance to those seeking new or improved skills. I am proud to let our colleagues know that one such provider in my congressional district, Tri-City SER, which operates with offices in both Saginaw and Bay City, has been selected as the 1997 Community Based Organization of the Year by the Michigan Works! State Association.

This distinction has been awarded for its success in implementing its case management system, its co-location with other service providers, and the results of its Work First Job Search Program. The Tri-City SER Case Management System serves those residents of Bay County who participate in the Work First Program and Job Training Partnership Act programs. The case manager serves as an advocate for the program participant. The manager helps by determining the training plan that the participant should follow, and provides support to the individual by monitoring his or her progress in training, on in maintaining employment.

People who are in need of assistance often find that the array of programs available to them is confusing, or the effort necessary to take advantage of them is beyond their capability. For that reason, Tri-City SER co-located with the Michigan Employment Security Agency creating the "No Wrong Door Center." This center provides a one-stop location for employers and job seekers who need to deal with employment services, unemployment insurance, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, JTPA and Work First case management, and on-the-job training funds. It also acts as a resource center to help people seeking jobs.

The ultimate goal of job training is getting a job. But many candidates for employment have difficulty in knowing how to find a job. That is why Tri-City SER provides the Work First job search effort, geared toward pre-employment training and assistance with resume writing, interview skills, and completing applications. Help is also provided in making the correct first impression with suggestions for proper attire for both interviews and actual employment.

This award is the culmination of efforts made by individuals too numerous to mention. It was the result of the creativity and determination of a program staff that truly believes in its goal of helping people find and retain jobs. It also is testimony to all of the participants in the program who took advantage of what was being offered and made it a success worthy of duplication in many areas around Michigan and the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Tri-City SER on being named in 1997 Community Based Organization of the Year. It is an honor they have earned.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 4, 1997—DAY OF CONSCIENCE TO END CHILD LABOR AND SWEAT-SHOP ABUSES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support and pay tribute to the thousands of