

completed his military career as a Colonel with an assignment to the United States House of Representatives as the Deputy Director for Army Legislative Affairs in February 1993.

Mr. Maldon holds a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Oklahoma in Human Relations and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Florida A&M University. He also graduated from various military schools and colleges, including the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Army's Organizational Effectiveness Management Consultant School in Monterey, CA. He is the recipient of numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal and the U.S. Army Staff Badge. In addition, Mr. Maldon is a recipient of the United States Congressional Award for Leadership and Patriotism, and he is listed in Who's Who in America.

He has been blessed with a loving and caring family including his wife Carolyn and their daughter Kiamesha Racha'el. The family resides in Fairfax Station, VA.

As Assistant Secretary for Force and Management Policy, Mr. Maldon will be responsible for policies, plans and programs for military and civilian personnel management, including recruitment, education, career development, equal opportunity, compensation, recognition, discipline, and separation of all Department of Defense personnel, both military and civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Al Maldon's dedication to public service, both as a civilian and as a member of the United States Army serves as a model to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best in his new assignment and his continued service to the citizens of the United States. I am proud to count him as a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE  
OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA

**HON. PORTER J. GOSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the creation of the ninth city in the Fourteenth District of Florida, the City of Bonita Springs. After many months of debate and discussion, the people of Bonita Springs cast their ballots in favor of incorporation as the fifth city in Lee County, FL on November 2, 1999.

As a new Millennium begins, so the citizens of Bonita Springs will embark on a new challenge, the challenge of creating a new city from residents' ideas of what their community ought to be. It comes as no surprise that there are those willing to do the hard work involved with new cityhood. I'm sure they will find the rewards great and surprising, as I discovered in my experience when the City of Sanibel was born 25 years ago.

Now that the incorporation debate is over, I know the people of Bonita Springs will come together, roll up their sleeves and begin the business of fashioning a city that they can be proud of. Beginnings are marvelous, because the imagination is the only limitation. Of course, not everything can be accomplished

immediately, but the ideas that come forth now can certainly become part of long-range goals.

Again, my congratulations to the people of Bonita Springs. I stand ready to help them make their city the best it can be.

PRESIDENT ALIEV RECOMMITS  
AZERBAIJAN TO RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues recent positive developments on religious freedom in Azerbaijan. Members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I chair, raised last week our concern over the raids of the Baptist and Lutheran churches in Baku, the threatened deportation of foreigners associated with these churches, and the firing of a number of Jehovah's Witnesses from their jobs because of their religious affiliation. In a letter to President Haidar Aliiev on November 3, referencing Azerbaijan's OSCE commitments to religious liberty, we raised the recent incidents that violate religious liberty and asked Azerbaijan to register religious groups that have not been able to gain legal status.

On Monday, November 8, in a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Stanley Escudero, President Aliiev publicly reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to religious freedom, pledged to redress recent problems faced by minority religious groups, and gave assurances there would be no further religious liberty violations in Azerbaijan. In a statement that was carried by the government-controlled media, President Aliiev said, "I have vigorously warned administrative bodies of the fact that arbitrariness on such issues is inconceivable. One cannot restrict freedom of conscience and creed." Our Embassy in Baku reports that the courts have set aside the deportation orders for the foreign Christians, and the Garadag Gas Plant has reinstated the jobs of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ambassador Stanley Escudero for persistently raising these issues with Azeri authorities. I also commend the work of Political Officer Michael Speckhard who has been a tireless advocate for religious freedom.

I am hopeful that President Aliiev's remarks signal a new dawn in Azerbaijan and that his country will become the region's beacon for religious freedom. The prompt response of President Aliiev to these recent events is encouraging, and I am hopeful that religious group that previously have not been able to obtain legal status will now be registered and will be free to practice their faith.

RECOGNIZING TORNADO RELIEF  
WORKERS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to a group of

21 young folks who traveled to the cities of Jackson and Clarksville, Tennessee at the request of city officials to provide assistance in clean-up efforts, following a tornado in January 1999. These outstanding young men were noted for their teamwork, enthusiasm and diligence in all they did to serve the people of Jackson and Clarksville. They are to be commended for their selfless service.

Jeff Bramhill, Ontario; Jason Brown, AL; Donald Burzynski, FL; Brian Cahill, TX; Brian Drozdov, WA; Christopher Ekstrom, OR; Paul Ellis, MS; Cory Finch, MO; Joshua Fox, CA; Christopher Hanson, WI;

John Hill, IA; Seth Johnson, NE; Jonathan Lancaster, MI; Joshua Meals, TN; Samuel Mills, TX; Daniel Petersen, GA; Lance Stoney, British Columbia; John Tanner, MI; John Thornton IV, TN; Mark Wahl, OR; Andrew Whitaker, NY.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST  
TRANSCRIPT INDUCTION

**HON. STEVE LARGENT**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 16, 1999*

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1950's, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives prayer groups have hosted an annual gathering in our Nation's Capital known as the National Prayer Breakfast. The Breakfast has afforded the opportunity for both the House and Senate to come together, in a nonpartisan alliance, whether in times of peace or times of war, in times of abundance or times of scarcity, to prayerfully support the President and other leaders in this country. This year I was given the privilege of chairing this event.

We were honored once again to have the President and First Lady, and the Vice President and Mrs. GORE in attendance. We were also honored to have several heads of state from Macedonia, Albania, Ecuador, and Benin. Max Lucado, an author, pastor, and this year's keynote speaker, spoke of the model that Jesus of Nazareth gave of love, not only for those we like and agree with, but most importantly, for those we do not.

On behalf of the Members of the Senate and House who have hosted this Breakfast, I submit the transcript of the breakfast for insertion into the RECORD for our posterity.

1999 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Thursday, February 4, 1999, Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, Washington, DC

Chairman: Representative Steve Largent

Representative LARGENT. My name is Steve Largent, and I want to welcome you to the National Prayer Breakfast. I am a member of the House of Representatives from the state of Oklahoma, and I am this year's chairman and will be acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the prayer breakfast this year.

It is my pleasure at this time to introduce Mr. Jim Kimsey, who will begin with our pre-breakfast prayer.

Mr. KIMSEY. Basil was a fourth-century saint from Asia Minor. He said, "We pray in the morning to give us the first stirrings of our mind to God. Before anything else, let the thought of God gladden you." Would you begin this day with me in prayer?

Dear God, may the efforts of all those gathered here today reach far and wide—our