

D.R. Miller was an entertainer, a showman, a family man, a veteran, and a model citizen whose example of success and hard work shine like a beacon for all Americans who aspire to improve their own lives and the lives of others. D.R. Miller was believed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that today the House pay tribute to Mr. Circus: D.R. Miller.

A TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL POLICY FORUM

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks to Israel Policy Forum.

Since its founding in 1993, IPF has been a vigorous and effective advocate for Middle East peace and Israel security. Few organizations have done so much to shape public attitude's about the peace process or to educate decision-makers about the significance of American international leadership.

On November 20th, the directors, members, and friends of Israel Policy Forum will hold their second Tribute Dinner. In addition to celebrating recent progress in the Middle East peace negotiations and welcoming Prime Minister Ehud Barak, this event will also be an occasion to recognize the outstanding contributions of several remarkable individuals.

Nathan Gantcher has devoted his considerable intellect and energy to the challenges of business, education, and community service. A towering figure in the world of finance, he is widely respected for his exceptional professional skills and deep devotion to principle.

Robert Lifton has contributed to remarkable range of fields, including law, real estate, entertainment, finance, and health care. His personal commitment to American-Israeli relations is evidenced by his leadership of groups as the American Jewish Congress, AIPAC, the Council on Foreign Relations, and many others.

Norman Pattiz is the founder and Chairman of Westworld One, the undisputed leader in the radio industry, with some 7,000 affiliated stations worldwide. His business acumen is matched by a powerful commitment to quality programming, and a creative understanding of the media's role in shaping a stronger society. His devotion to promoting Middle East Peace is prodigious, and he has pursued this goal both through personal involvement with Middle Eastern leaders and through tireless activism in the American Jewish community.

Peggy Tishman is a nationally-recognized philanthropic leader, whose devotion to the Jewish community has been particularly inspiring. She was the first President of the merged UJA-Federation, where she helped lay a strong foundation for the future success of the organization, and where she demonstrated the character and charisma that would make her such an invaluable resource to a range of civic endeavors.

I am very pleased to join in this special tribute, to express my enormous pride in IPF's fine work, and to salute the examples of dynamic public advocacy IPF's honorees and leaders set every day.

CONGRATULATING ST. SAVA'S SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I congratulate St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana, as it celebrates its 85th Anniversary as a parish this Sunday. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Jovan Todorovich on this glorious occasion.

On November 20th, St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox Church will open its 85th Anniversary celebration at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Reverend Todorovich will begin with a liturgy, followed by a blessing of a new icon painting, and a Parastos, or ceremony for the dead. Beginning at noon in the church's small banquet hall in Hobart, Indiana, the celebration will continue with a Pomen ceremony, a wreath laying, taps, and a service by the American Legion in honor of all veterans from St. Sava's congregation. A banquet will be served at 1:00 p.m. in the main hall in Hobart. Entertainment will be provided by Drina Tamburitza, and Nikola P. Kostich will be the guest speaker at this gala occasion. Nikola Kostich is an attorney from Milwaukee and is the lead counsel for the Serbian Republic and for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

A church of humble beginnings, St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox Church was founded in 1914 in Gary, Indiana by about 200 immigrant families. Today, it is home to 625 families. During the past 85 years, the congregation at St. Sava's has worshiped in five different locations and weathered a major disaster when one church building was destroyed by a fire. The history of the parish, from both a joyous and sorrowful perspective, will be remembered Sunday when the church celebrates its 85th Anniversary.

The church's roots go back to a group of Serbian immigrants who first formed a choir. In 1914, the choir members began meeting for church services at a hall located near 13th Avenue and Washington Street in Gary. By 1915, they had built and consecrated a church in Gary at 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street. In 1938, a new church was built at 13th Avenue and Connecticut Street. The congregation remained there until 1978, when the church burned down. The congregation held services at a hall located on their picnic grounds in Hobart, while they raised money to build a new church in Merrillville. In 1983, the church broke ground at 9191 Mississippi Street in Merrillville, and in 1991, the church was completed and consecrated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the parish family of St. Sava's Serbian Orthodox Church, under the guidance of Reverend Jovan Todorovich, as they prepare to celebrate their 85th anniversary. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of the love and devotion they have displayed for their church throughout the past 85 years.

HONORING SOUTH POST OAK BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the congregation of South Post Oak Baptist Church in my home district of Houston, Texas for celebrating their church's 40th anniversary. The South Post Oak Baptist Church family has been a pillar of the community, effectively ministering to its members for four decades.

South Post Oak Baptist Church was organized October 4, 1959 as a separate entity of Almeda Baptist Church and was incorporated in 1961. From its humble beginnings, the church has been a viable point of spiritual reference for the community. Under the leadership of Rev. Remus E. Wright, the membership of the church has grown rapidly, from 300 in 1991 to more than 4,500 members in 1999.

Over the past decade Rev. Wright and his wife Mia have worked to make South Post Oak Baptist Church, "A Positive Place in a Negative World." Their endurance and tremendous energy in addressing the needs of South Post Oak Baptist Church's congregation have served their community well.

The youngest of nine children born to Remus and Elizabeth Wright in Indianapolis, Indiana, Rev. Wright answered the call to the ministry during his mid-twenties, becoming an Associate Minister at Grace Apostolic church. He joined the Pentecostal Ambassadors and recorded two gospel albums on which he sang, wrote and produced most of the songs. Upon relocating to Houston, Pastor Wright found his home at South Post Oak Baptist Church, guiding the church into its largest ever period of growth. The Church's focus has been on the family; the responsibilities of men; special needs of our senior citizens; and "real life" programs for youth. Rev. Wright's focus on families is a major reason why he now devotes his energy to ministering to more than 2,500 families at South Post Oak Baptist Church.

While Rev. Wright's religious and spiritual obligations have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has undertaken his civic duties with the utmost seriousness and passion, serving on several boards and organizations. He serves on two local high school boards, the YMCA board, and is a volunteer with LifeGift Organ Donation Program. He was selected to serve as a Foreign Missionary and Church Planter for the Southern Baptist Association in Zimbabwe, Africa. Most recently, he became part of an on-going Summer Leadership Institute Program at Harvard University designed to strengthen faith-based programs throughout urban communities in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, South Post Oak Baptist Church has much to celebrate on its 40th anniversary. The church has been a haven for its community. Since its beginnings four decades ago through the last 8 years of unprecedented growth, South Post Oak Baptist Church should be commended for its dedication to God and commitment to the needs of its congregation and surrounding community.