

held next week in the Lewiston/Auburn communities of Maine. The event, "Celebrating the Women of L/A," will honor women who have touched the lives of others in their communities.

For decades, the women of Lewiston and Auburn—like those throughout Maine, the nation and the world—have raised children, served as caregivers, worked inside and outside the home, and volunteered their time and talents. They have maintained a strong and quiet foundation for our families that has nourished us all. The celebration will recognize all that women bring to families and our community.

Those submitting nominations were asked to briefly describe what it was about the nominee that made her such a special and important part of the community. Here are a few examples:

"Life has not been a cakewalk for you, nor was life meant to be. However, each challenge you faced was met with the steadfast determination to overcome and survive and never to succumb. All of this has given rise to a woman who now lives life to the fullest, to a mother who loves her children insurmountably and to a co-worker who leads by example and a steadfast desire to accomplish."

"You are extremely special to me because you have every quality that I would like to have when I myself become a mother. You are caring, loving, kind, strong (emotionally), strict (when necessary), good cook, helpful, and most of all being independent and such a hard-worker. I admire you for all these things."

"She is an ordinary woman, who did an extraordinary job raising five children, after the accidental death of her husband. . . . She has never, ever complained, always with a smile. She has 'Looked to the sun and the shadows have fallen behind.'"

"I would like to honor this woman today because if I could be half the woman she is, my life would be full."

"She gently pushes me forward with my personal growth. . . . I want her to know that she touches my life in a very special way. . . . She has helped me to learn to love myself. In return, I am learning to love others."

"Plain and simple, she represents what a good leader should be."

These are but a few examples of the testimonials received on behalf of the honorees. They speak to the importance and influence that these women have had on their families, colleagues, and communities.

I am proud to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the following Women of L/A here in the House of Representatives. The Honorees are Marcia Akers, Carol Arone, Lucinda Athertone, Susan Breau, Joan Collins, Rebecca Cutler, Clare Darcy, Jackie D'Auteuil, Julie D'Auteuil, Rachel D'Auteuil, Katherleen White Fallon, Julia Hixon, Dawn Humason, Debra Leigh Humason, Elizabeth Kennedy, Geneva Kirk, Mary Martin, Susan Nichols, Sister Jeanne Nicknair, Lillian O'Brien, Mary O'Leary, Claire Ouellette, Cindy Palmer, Helene S. Perry, Barbara Robertson, Maca Roddy, Linda Rolfe, Donna Steckino, Kaileigh Tara and Dottie Perham Whittier.

These 30 women are all extremely deserving of this recognition, and I congratulate them as they are recognized for their effort in the home, in the workplace and in the community. I know that they are also representative of many other women throughout the commu-

nities and as we honor them, we also look around at the many other women who have made positive differences in L/A. I offer my thanks and best wishes to all the women of L/A for making Lewiston and Auburn such a strong and vibrant community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLESSED HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church, located in Houston, Texas.

Almost 50 years ago, Rev. Jesse E. Green first sought to hold a revival in Wallisville Garden Addition. With the counsel of Brother James Anderson and assistance from the Noble Smith family, a meeting place was found at 3741 Colvin Street.

On May 1, 1950, the first services were held at this location. With 19 congregants in attendance, Rev. Green preached, appropriately enough, from John 1:15 with the theme "Jesus Turns on the Lights." With the support of ministers from across the Greater Houston area, the week-long revival services were a success.

On May 10, Rev. T.T. Anderson of Beaumont, Texas, called a special meeting of those who had attended the revival and organized a church with the temporary name of "The Wallisville Garden Station." Bros. Anderson and N. Smith were elected deacons, with Bro. Anderson also elected Sunday Church School Superintendent. Sister M. Anderson became Mission President, and Rev. Green was officially elected Pastor of the congregation.

One week later, a permanent name for the church was selected and the Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church was officially born. Over the first 20 years, the church prospered, growing to include not only the original building, but many additions as well. In 1970, the membership decided that a new building was necessary, and so on March 7, 1971, Blessed Hope moved into its second official home.

Again, the church was blessed with growth, both spiritually and numerically. On August 7, 1993, Rev. Green proudly led the congregants into the third home for the church, where services are still held today.

As they celebrate both the new millennium and 50 years of praising God, the members of Blessed Hope reflect on the past and look ahead to the future. Rev. Jesse E. Green, founder, longtime pastor, humble servant, and good friend, has been called home by our Lord. The new pastor, LaKeith D. Lee, and the congregation have worked hard to pay off the church mortgage, honor Rev. Green with a new library building, and have completed a Youth Education Building. Further, Blessed Hope has managed to expand its ministry to include outreach, education, evangelism and young adults, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Blessed Hope Missionary Baptist Church on their successes over the first 50 years, and look forward to the many more years of good works and holy worship to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE MILLS CORP.

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an organization which has added much to the rich history of the State of New Jersey that is being feted today because of its many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that we gather here in honor of the Mills Corp. based in Arlington, Virginia to recognize its years of commitment and service to people from the State of New Jersey and throughout the nation.

The Mills Corp. is a special company because it trains and hires unemployed people who are able and willing to work. This company is one of 12,000 businesses nationwide participating in the Welfare to Work Partnership begun in 1997. This nonprofit partnership works to help people move from welfare to good jobs without encroaching upon any current workers. Mills Chairman and CEO Laurence Siegel stated the company's objective for this program, "We need to institute programs to assist individuals who live under conditions that typically make employment difficult to achieve."

In November of 1999 during his "New Markets Initiative Tour," President Clinton cited one company as a leader and role model for this program, the Mills Corp. He noted that the Mills Corp., a board member of the Welfare to Work Partnership, has shown the way for other businesses to make this idea work in New Jersey. The Mills Corp. has already had success with its Jobs Initiative program in other states. Katy Mills, the first of its five Jobs Initiative prototypes, opened in Houston, Texas on October 28, 1999. This mall has already hired 200 employees.

The Meadowlands Mills Mall, planned for Carlstadt, New Jersey is the project where the Mills Corp. has incorporated the Welfare to Work program in New Jersey. The company plans to train and hire scores of low-income Newark residents to work at the facility. This program is patterned after Mills' other initiatives that have been successful throughout the nation.

Additionally, The Mills Corp. remains committed to their new employees. This dedication includes a remarkable pre-employment training and a career development center at the mall. The center will provide retention and career advancement services. In this spirit, the President stated, "The Mills Corporation made a \$1 million commitment towards pre-employment training and career development center on-site at the Meadowlands Mills Mall, which will provide job retention and career advancement services for all mall employees," during his visit.

Mills is a company with a long and storied history of community involvement. The company funds children's sport teams, public school computer labs, health fairs and high school safety programs. In addition, Mills has underwritten the development of environmental education curriculum in public schools with the Smithsonian Institute.

The accomplishments of the Mills Corp. and its leadership in the Welfare to Work Partnership are contributions to society of the highest order. It has made a commitment to the workers and citizens that stand to be left behind in