

HONORING NEW HOPE BAPTIST
CHURCHS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Hope Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas, which will be receiving a State Historical Marker from the Texas Historical Commission on October 15, 2000. New Hope Baptist Church was the first African-American Baptist Church and was officially founded on August 12, 1906, but existed quite some time before that date. The church was first organized by the Rev. Stevenson, Sis. Copeland, Sis. Laura Hebert, and Sis. Sharlit Bill. New Hope was originally located on Titsingh Street (now known as Marian Anderson Avenue).

As the African-American population grew, a larger place of worship was needed and a one-room building was rented on West 10th Street. The Rev. A.D. Hendon was the first official pastor and served one year and 11 months. Professor A.J. Criner was the first Chairman of the Deacon Board, as well as the Principal of the African-American public school. The New Hope Baptist Church had 14 charter members, and some of the early members included: Rev. Stevenson, Sis. Copeland, Sis. Sharlit Bill, Sis. Laura Hebert, Nora Wade (King), Will King, M.G. Glass, A.J. Criner, Nellie Jones, Rev. A.D. Hendon, W.M. Richardson, Vallie Brown, J.W. Willis, W.P. Powell, A.W. Edwards, and Willie Braxton.

The one-room building was used as a stable during the week. On Saturdays, the members would start clearing out the stable and assembling makeshift benches with boxes and planks for members to sit on. There was no pulpit. The minister would stand in front of the congregation with his Bible in hand and preach. The building would often flood and leak when it rained. Rev. J.E. Nelson was the second pastor and served one year, through 1909. During his administration, the first church was built at the same spot where the old structure stood. Hurricanes reportedly blew down two church buildings and early records were lost in floods and storms.

New Hope developed a close relationship with the first Methodist Church of Port Arthur and Israel Chapel A.M.E. Church on Texas Avenue. Each alternated its services to allow the other to hold worship services in its sanctuary during a building program. Rev. J.W. Williams came in 1910 and rebuilt the church that was destroyed by a hurricane. However, this building was soon destroyed. Mr. Speaker, throughout the 20th Century New Hope Baptist Church should serve as an example to us all—always keep the faith and hope to rebuild.

TRIBUTE TO BETSY CROWDER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor Betsy Crowder, a well-known and loved constituent who distinguished herself in so many ways and whose life was cut short on September 29, 2000.

Born in Boston, Betsy Crowder's love and appreciation for the environment developed early on when her parents would take their four daughters on camping trips in Canada during the summer. She met her late husband Dwight in 1949, when they were both members of the Stanford University Alpine Club and they were married a year later. In 1960, the Crowders built a home in Portola Valley and became very active in local conservation issues.

Betsy Crowder served on numerous County and local advisory committees for land use and trails including the Portola Valley Conservation Committee, the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the San Mateo County Bikeways Advisory Committee, the Committee for Green Foothills and the Planning and Conservation League.

Betsy Crowder also served as a Planning Commissioner for Portola Valley from 1972 to 1977 and as an environmental planner for the City of Palo Alto from 1972 to 1980.

Since 1989, she was a member of the elected Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), including two years as President of the Board in 1993 and 1998. During her tenure on the Board, MROSD's lands grew from 32,000 acres to 43,000 acres and she was a very active member on MROSD's Coastal Advisory Commission for the District's plan to annex the San Mateo County Coast.

Mr. Speaker, Betsy Crowder was an exceptionally kind and selfless woman dedicated to her family, her community and her country. Her tireless commitment and stewardship of the environment inspired everyone. She lives on through her two children, two grandchildren, three sisters, 15 nieces and nephews, and through all of us who were blessed to be part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a uniquely wonderful woman who lived a life of purpose and to extend our deepest sympathy to her daughters, Wendy and Anne, and the entire Crowder family.

POLISH OFFICERS MONUMENT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on Nov. 19, 2000 the National Katyn Memorial Committee will dedicate a monument in Baltimore, Maryland to the memory of more than 15,000 Polish Army officers who were massacred by Soviet soldiers in the spring of 1940.

In September, I was honored to accept an award on behalf of Congress presented by Father Zdzislaw J. Peszkowski, a survivor of the massacre. The medal was presented on behalf of the Katyn families in recognition of U.S. congressional hearings conducted in 1951 and 1952 that focused world attention on this World War II massacre that occurred in the Katyn Forest.

While this massacre occurred more than 50 years ago, it is important that we remember what happened. In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet Union invaded from the east. In 1940, more

than 15,000 Polish Army officers were placed in detention, then taken in small groups, told they would be freed and then were gunned down in the Soviet Union's Katyn Forest. In 1943, the German Army discovered the mass graves, which the Russians tried to blame on the Germans. It was long suspected that the massacre was the work of the Soviets. Final proof came in 1989, after the fall of the Soviet Union, when President Gorbachev released documents that clearly proved the Soviets, with the full knowledge of Stalin, had carried out the massacre.

For more than a decade, the Polish-American community has raised funds to construct a fitting memorial to honor the victims of the massacre. The 44-foot statue has been permanently installed near Baltimore's Inner Harbor at President and Aliceanna Streets. I want to commend the Polish-American community and Alfred Wisniewski, Chairman of the National Katyn Memorial Committee, and the entire committee, for their tireless efforts in making this memorial to the victims of this atrocity a reality.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of these murdered Polish Army officers. The Katyn Memorial in Baltimore will be a lasting reminder to all of us that we must never tolerate evil and tyranny and that we must continue to speak out for justice and tolerance.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF
PUERTO RICO

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, both the House and Senate have approved an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the Office of the President as requested by the President for a grant to the Elections Commission of Puerto Rico to be used for voter education on and a choice among the options available for the island's future political status. This marks an historic step forward in two key respects in the process of self-determination for the almost four million American citizens of Puerto Rico.

First, it represents the first authorization from Congress for the United States citizens of Puerto Rico to choose the ultimate political status for their island. Presidents since Truman have been seeking such an authorization and each House has passed similar language in the past, but the same language has never passed both Houses and been enacted into law. Our approval of this appropriation should be read as Congress' determination to resolve the century-long question of the island's ultimate status and let Puerto Rican Americans choose a fully democratic governing arrangement if they wish to replace the current territorial status.

Second, by adopting this provision as part of the unanticipated needs account of the Office of the President, it is Congress' intention that its support for a future vote in Puerto Rico be coordinated with the Administration's efforts to provide realistic options to be included on the ballot in the island's next referendum. In recent months the President has brought Puerto Rico's major political parties together in an unprecedented effort to define the available