

music, dance, theater, film, and literary arts. (3) Sustainable Resources—Leadership and funding from public and private sector guarantee the program's strength and growth.

MEASURE O PUBLIC SAFETY QUARTER-CENT SALES TAX  
MEASURE

A quarter-cent public safety sales tax measure was placed on the November 2004 ballot, which came to be known as Measure O. The measure generates approximately \$7 million per year for Police, Fire, and Gang Prevention and Intervention efforts. The ordinance set up a citizen oversight committee and has strict rules preventing any "supplanting" of existing services or funding in the General Fund. This project has allowed significant progress to be made in vital areas at a time when core public safety was threatened.

MAYOR'S GANG PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Four years ago, the city of Santa Rosa took aggressive steps to address the rise of local gangs. The city began with a public outreach campaign to educate the community on the growing threat, and followed that up with trips to other cities where staff and policy leaders were able to learn from their programs. In addition, the Mayor became actively involved by establishing the Gang Prevention Task Force in order to confront the issues and the risk to youth. The Task Force consists of policy leaders from throughout Sonoma County, school officials, law enforcement and officials from non-profit and social service organizations. In addition the move was not a drain on existing public resources, and was primarily funded by a quarter-cent sales tax measure that dedicates 20 percent to gang prevention and intervention measures.

While the Santa Rosa delegation brought home the top honors, every member of the delegation was able to learn from the other finalists. As a result they have returned to Santa Rosa, not only energized, but armed with fresh ideas to improve their community. I am very proud of their achievement, Madam Speaker, and invite all of my colleagues to visit this lovely community in the Sonoma County wine country just north of San Francisco.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
MICHAEL BECHERT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Indiana's native sons who served his country honorably in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was deeply saddened to learn that Staff Sergeant Michael Bechert of New Castle had succumbed to wounds he suffered in Baghdad last month when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Staff Sergeant Bechert served in the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Division, 1st Infantry Division since 2001. He received numerous meritorious citations during 2 enlistments and 6 years in the Army, all stationed in Germany where he lived with his wife and young son. He was serving his second tour in Iraq.

The infantry is the oldest of the combat arms. From the dawn of time, wars have been predominantly fought by men on foot. Staff Sergeant Bechert continued that proud tradi-

tion as an expert soldier who had mastered the skills of an infantryman and served bravely in combat.

Staff Sergeant Bechert was the recipient of the Expert Infantryman Badge and Combat Infantryman Badge, highly regarded decorations in the U.S. Army that certify his elite skills and service to his country in combat. His other medals include an Army Commendation Medal for heroism and a Purple Heart for a previous injury. He will be awarded posthumously with a Bronze Star and a second Purple Heart because he died in the line of duty.

We all owe a debt that can never be repaid to Staff Sergeant Bechert's family and friends for the tragic loss of husband, father, son, friend, citizen, soldier and hero.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my profound sadness to the community at the loss of this talented young Hoosier who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve and protect these United States. Let us remember Staff Sergeant Bechert, his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE  
RIGHT REVEREND PHILIP  
AQUILLA BROOKS II

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I respectfully submit the following resolution, this 18th Day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II has rendered a lifetime of devoted service to his ministry in Detroit, Michigan. He is the founding Pastor of New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Detroit, Michigan, where he has served for over 54 years. Since 1975, Bishop Brooks has been the presiding prelate of the Historic First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan, which is also known as the Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction. In 1984, and each quadrennial since, the Lord has honored Bishop Brooks' dedication and loyalty to His work through the favor of men, by elevating him to the presidium of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and the largest African-American Pentecostal Denomination with an estimated 6.5 million members in over 59 countries. He now serves the Church as the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II is an individual with great vision and focus. Bishop Brooks established the March of Faith Telecast and Radio Ministry, which has ministered to countless millions across the nation in their homes, hospital rooms and behind prison bars for nearly three consecutive decades. Always the innovator, Bishop Brooks was the first among his peers on the General Board to establish a presence for his local church and Jurisdiction on the World Wide Web. He was among the first to broadcast his Sunday morning worship services via the Internet in a live Web cast every Sunday morning;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II compassion for all of God's children has caused him to expand his local church ministry into the areas of education, senior housing, food programs and other community out-

reach programs. He is the founder of the Grandmont-Rosedale Christian School and Day Care. He is the president of the New St. Paul Non-Profit Housing Corporation. This is a Community Development Corporation responsible for the building of Faith Manor Senior Citizens Apartments on the campus of New St. Paul Tabernacle. Under Bishop Brooks' visionary leadership, New St. Paul Tabernacle distributes hundreds of Thanksgiving baskets to needy families each year, offers tutorial services to students, and provides business incubator programs to foster entrepreneurship;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II is the third-longest serving Church of God in Christ bishop in the 93-year history of the church's influence in the State of Michigan, and is the senior Bishop in the mid-west region, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Ontario, Canada. He was consecrated Jurisdictional Prelate of Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction in 1975 by the late Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. During his tenure, Bishop Brooks' programs and initiatives have benefited all citizens of the State of Michigan. His latest contribution is the formation of the first black-owned Mortgage Company in the Church of God in Christ—Faith Community Mortgage LLC;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II established the nation's first Blue Cross/Blue Shield Program for local pastors, life insurance for local pastors and a Compensation Program for widows of local pastors. He lead the Jurisdiction in purchasing and renovating Northeast Michigan's jurisdictional headquarters, Cathedral Conference Center. He is directly or indirectly responsible for purchasing, financing, renovating, or building new churches for over 50 pastors within the jurisdiction;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II has served for almost a quarter of a century, as a member of the Presidium of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. First elected in 1984, Bishop Brooks is now serving in his sixth term. In addition to these duties, Bishop Brooks served for 12 years as a member of the board of directors of First Independence Bank; and serves on the board of directors for the famed Museum of African American History based in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II was inducted into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum as a result of his contributions to the field of music in years past as a musician, and Music Department President, and presently, a worshiper; and

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II, on April 11, 2007, was elevated to the Office of Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. by Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

Whereas, we the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus extend our sincere appreciation and highest respect to Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II and the entire COGIC Denomination.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we celebrate and honor the elevation of Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II for his lifetime of devotion, dedication, dignity and honor; his faithful service to all human beings, and for being a worldwide spiritual leader, especially within the Church of God in Christ.

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II, the family and that a copy be placed in the records of the Church.