

the 160th Anniversary of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, AME, Church in Atlanta. For 160 years, Big Bethel AME Church has been a leader in the Atlanta area and a cornerstone of the community. Big Bethel AME Church stands as one of the oldest and most successful churches in Atlanta, and continues its strong community work today. Big Bethel's anniversary, on October 21, 2007, is truly a day for celebration.

Big Bethel AME Church has a rich and remarkable history. After the Civil War ended slavery, Bethel Church joined the African Methodist Episcopal connection in 1865. The AME Church was founded by Richard Allen, a former slave who had purchased his freedom and started the AME Church partly in response to discrimination. Out of the AME church emerged schools, social welfare programs, character building campaigns and national leaders. Big Bethel AME Church was at the cutting edge of these programs and served as a platform for opportunity in the South, especially for African Americans. For example, in 1879, the Gate City Colored School, the first public school for African Americans in the city, was founded in the basement of Big Bethel. Big Bethel AME Church also played a key role in the early development and growth of Morris Brown College, with the college's first classes being held at the church. Throughout its history the pews of Big Bethel AME Church have held such eminent dignitaries as: Booker T. Washington (early 1900s), President William H. Taft (1911), Mary McLeod Bethune (1937), former Georgia governor and former President Jimmy Carter (1970), Nelson Mandela (1990), and, as a successful presidential candidate, William J. Clinton (1992).

Over the many years, trials and tribulations, successes and honors, Big Bethel AME Church has withstood the test of time. Big Bethel AME Church has been well served throughout its history by dedicated leaders, and active congregations. This tradition continues today under Reverend Gregory V. Eason, Sr., who I would like to recognize for his leadership in the community.

In conclusion, it is my belief that we must all dedicate ourselves to the idea of creating what Dr. Martin Luther King used to call the "Beloved Community." Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta has been building such a community for 160 years and I am excited for this community to grow and prosper for another 160 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RODNEY ROBERTSON, MR. LARRY BURGER, AND DR. JAMES T. BLAKE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three patriots who labor in the nuanced field of missile technology for the United States: Dr. Rodney Robertson, Mr. Larry Burger, and Dr. James T. Blake.

Their work—individually and collectively—offers insight into why the United States is a world leader on the cutting edge technology that will determine the future of our nation.

Dr. Rodney Robertson is the Director, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Technology Cen-

ter where he directs the development of space and directed energy programs for support of Army forces worldwide.

Under his leadership, several notable programs were developed that will keep our Nation free and safe: a solid state laser to destroy artillery and rocket fire aimed at U.S. combat forces; a high altitude sensor to provide persistent surveillance and communications over large combat operations; general space-based information (including satellite communications, imagery distribution, and tracking of friendly and enemy forces).

Mr. Larry Burger is the Director of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center where he leads efforts to bring space and missile defense capabilities and concepts to the men and women who fight in theatre.

His technical direction has brought the warfighter experimentation element at U.S. Army Strategic Command (ARSTRAT) in Colorado Springs together with the simulation and analysis capabilities of SMDC in Huntsville, AL to develop advanced warfighting techniques and procedures for the U.S. Army.

To accomplish this mission, Mr. Burger organized the Future Warfare Center into several novel divisions to bring new concepts and technologies to our warfighters. The Frontiers Division, which Mr. Burger also directs, looks carefully at the needs of the Army Future Force more than 15 years out. This division works with the U.S. Strategic Command and participates in wargames at that level.

Dr. James T. Blake is the U.S. Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, which provides modeling, simulation, training and testing to support the soldier in the field. This work informs the Army leadership and tactical commanders in the development of warfighting analysis and alternative solutions.

Dr. Blake joined the Army as a private in 1968 and retired as a Colonel in 1995. He is a Master Army Aviator and served as the Army's Senior Uniformed Army Scientist. After retirement, Dr. Blake joined Texas A&M University as the Program Manager for the Institute for Creative Technologies, an internationally recognized research Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

Dr. Blake received his B.S. degree in accounting from University of Tampa, an M.S. degree in systems engineering from the Naval Post Graduate School, and a Ph.D. degree in computer science from Duke University.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring these great patriots for their work—past and present—which serves to keep the U.S. military the only superpower on the planet.

HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 activities,

and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last 6 years. In 2006 those numbers grew to include: 31 states, 42 California cities, 1,014 activities, with about 3,000 agencies involved and an estimated 300,000 people reached. This year the event will take place throughout 31 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada. BHW has extended its outreach to include participation from 46 Mexican, 11 Guatemalan and 15 Salvadoran consulates.

With the efforts of all participating parties, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of an underserved population, including immigrants and migrants of Mexican and Central American descent. It encompasses an annual week long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops on health care and health insurance referrals, health education and health promotion by encouraging healthy behaviors and routine health care. They also provide information about local social services and clinics. The success of BHW is due to the thousands of organizations and volunteers dedicated to a common cause.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee on their success in bringing the Binational Health Week to their county. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the committee many years of continued success.

CONTINUED PROHIBITION OF INTERNET GAMBLING

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, last year, I cosponsored legislation with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE to help stop the widespread growth of gambling over the internet. Though Federal law already prohibits gambling over telephone wires, the passage of this legislation was necessary to maintain the original intent of the law while also bringing it up to speed with the explosion of current and future technology. However, this update of the law made clear that it would only affect interstate commerce, respecting the rights of States by leaving to them the decision whether and how to regulate gambling within their own borders. New legislation before the Financial Services Committee attempts to undo all of this previous work, instead granting the Federal Government the expansive and exclusive right to regulate all online gambling. This new legislation would represent the first time in history that the Federal Government would be given power to issue gambling licenses, and it marks a significant shift away from allowing States to determine for themselves what type of policy is best. Proponents of this legislation state that the bill offers States the right to "opt out" of this regulation, but the truth is that the States already have the right to determine their own policy towards gambling without any broader Federal regulation that threatens to undermine their control over licensing standards and enforcement actions.