

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. POWERS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Charles E. Powers, the former mayor of Fort Mill, SC, a town I have the honor of representing. I call his service to the attention of the House because his long years in office are a model for local government.

Charles Powers served as mayor of Fort Mill for 24 years, and before that, as a member of the city council. During all these years, he worked and raised a family, but the City claimed his devotion. As mayor, he was totally committed. Fort Mill came first.

While serving as mayor, Charles Powers oversaw his small town as it grew and grew in the backwash of Charlotte, NC. He made sure that Fort Mill got its share of the growth, yet never lost its hometown quality, its hospitality and friendship. He helped Fort Mill remain a special place, and not become a bedroom suburb of Charlotte. He had the vision to see the need for a new city hall, for a local library, for a visitors' center on Main Street, and for numerous other projects. Under his leadership, things got done. Fort Mill flourished as an all-American town.

In his latest race for re-election, Charles Powers did not have the good fortune of winning, but he took defeat with the grace and goodwill that always marked his years in office.

Just a few days ago, Charles Powers, in his well worn role as ambassador of good will, opened the door of a local convenience store, and spoke kindly to the stranger going out. Before he realized that the man had just robbed the store, the stranger turned his pistol on Charles Powers and shot him. Fortunately, Charles Powers survived the assault, and is out and about Fort Mill again.

Local elected officials like Charles Powers deal with problems that nettle people most, from potholes to public schools. Leaders like him solve those problems and make our democracy work and our communities livable. When they step down after years of service, they deserve our recognition and respect.

IN TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as it marks 100 years since its doors first opened for classes.

The school, which is known throughout Georgia as ABAC, has grown from a high school with three instructors and 27 students to more than 3,600 students with a reputation as one of the Nation's 10 best community colleges.

Located in Tifton, GA, the school is the product of a 1906 Georgia law that established a district agricultural high school in each of Georgia's congressional districts. Mr. H.H. Tift successfully led an effort to secure the

school for Tifton, which outbid other area cities. The school—originally named The Second District A&M School—opened its doors on February 20, 1908.

Madam Speaker, students received a high school education that let them go on to careers in farming, business and medicine, but as education improved in rural areas, the State saw the need for a men's senior State college in South Georgia. In 1924, the school began the transition from a high school curriculum to a college program as the South Georgia A&M College.

This would be the first of several changes to the school's name and purpose. The biggest change came in the midst of the Great Depression in 1933, when the college's focus was narrowed to just agriculture and home economics and it was renamed the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to honor a Georgia signer of the United States Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the school's focus has expanded over the years and now includes 57 diverse programs of study, including bachelor of applied science degrees in diversified agriculture and in turfgrass and golf course management.

ABAC's programs in turfgrass and golf course management have been cited as some of the best in North America, and the college has also been recognized for its top marks in student-facility interaction and academic challenge.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in honoring ABAC for its 100 years of service to Georgia's students.

HONORING CLARENCE, NEW YORK

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration and recognition of the 200th anniversary of Clarence, NY.

The roots of this historic town date back to 1799, when Asa Ransom became the first to settle there. Ransom opened a tavern, sawmill and gristmill in the area that is today known as the Clarence Hollow. Also among the first to settle in Clarence was Asa Harris, who opened a tavern on the other side of the town in 1807.

It was 1 year later on March 11, 1808, that Clarence was incorporated. This made Clarence the oldest town in Erie County. After its incorporation, Clarence continued to attract farmers and businesses; churches also began to spring up throughout the 52 square mile town. This growing town played a large role in Western New York during the War of 1812. When people fled the City of Buffalo in 1813 due to the fires set by the British, many took refuge in Clarence. Among those who sought shelter were the Salisbury Brothers, who published the Buffalo Gazette from the Asa Harris Tavern.

The late 1800s saw a number of cultural advances in the then small town of Clarence. The first carousel built in the United States was constructed in Clarence in 1897 by Carl Newman and Carl Landow. This hand operated carousel was utilized by the people of Clarence for over 30 years. Also, the impor-

tance of education has a strong history in the town. In 1897, the Parker Union Academy received a large addition, including two towers, one for an observatory and one for a bell. The dedication to the improvement of the school system has been a tradition carried on to the current students in Clarence. A most recent achievement in this area was the Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence award that Clarence High School earned in the 2001–2002 school year.

After World War II, Clarence experienced a great period of growth. The population rose from 2,948 residents to about 13,267 by 1960. The population was not the only thing growing in Clarence in the first half of the twentieth century; the discovery of natural resources opened the doors for many businesses and industries. After gypsum was detected in 1925, the National Gypsum Company was formed and mined for gypsum until 1982. Other resources that were discovered in Clarence during this period were sand and gravel, which provided supplies for many important industries in western New York.

The expansion of industry and culture was also fueled by the implantable pacemaker, patented by Wilson Greatbatch in 1962. Following the invention of this lifesaving device, Greatbatch founded the Wilson Greatbatch LTD. in 1970. The location of this research facility in Clarence opened the doors for a number of employment opportunities and technological advances.

Finally, the history of Clarence can not be discussed without noting that the town's greatest resource is the hard-working members of the community. In Clarence, you find generous, down-to-earth, friendly people who are willing to help their neighbors. More than anything else to celebrate on this 200th anniversary is the good-hearted and gracious people of Clarence.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its rich history, agricultural tradition, innovation, and its wonderful residents, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Town of Clarence.

HONORING STATION POINT ALLERTON AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE SUMNER I. KIMBALL AWARD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those serving in the United States Coast Guard at Station Point Allerton of Hull, Massachusetts. They are the proud recipient of the prestigious Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award.

The crew at Station Point Allerton has upheld a long tradition of life saving and mission excellence that was started by Joshua James and Sumner Kimball, the General Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service from 1878–1916. James and Kimball were among the most celebrated life savers in the world and they both served just a short distance from their current Coast Guard station.

The Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award was established in April of 2001 to recognize United States Coast Guard Boat Force units