

quality and reliable services that Elford provides in central Ohio. I am proud to recognize and honor Elford for a century of service to the Columbus area and for its record as a company that has positively shaped our community.

HONORING MRS. FRANKIE  
DRAYTON THOMAS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community—specifically to the Broward Democratic Party.

Mrs. Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton. She attended public schools and graduated in 1946 as an honor student from Industrial High School. In order to further her education, she attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated in 1950. She received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. Subsequent to that time, she returned to West Palm Beach and became the first black college trained social worker hired by the Department of Public Welfare. She enjoyed a fruitful and productive career as a social worker having worked both in the State of Washington and Florida. In 1995, she retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services.

In an effort to complement her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas was involved in many political, social and family endeavors such as co-founder, national president and executive director of the Charmettes Inc., which has 19 chapters both nationally and internationally; founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Board of Directors of the Urban League; the first African-American female in the nation to be head of the Board of Directors of South East Hospice; and Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was on the management team of the Democratic Broward County Executive Committee and served as the First Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party. She also served as Parliamentarian for the Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She organized and executed many political forums and helped with many campaigns including Governor Bob Graham, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, many of the Broward County Commissioners and School Board Members, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President William J. Clinton.

Mrs. Thomas was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She is survived by her husband, James Thomas Sr. This union produced two children, James Thomas Jr. and Iola Thomas Mosley, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Thomas for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions she made to the betterment of Broward Democratic Party will never be forgotten.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GUILD  
OF AMERICAN PAPER CUTTERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening celebration of the Guild of American Papercutters National Museum which will take place on March 20, 2010 in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The twenty-two year old guild has partnered with Laurel Arts at the home of the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, and will bring to the area the ancient art form of papercutting, which dates back to Fifth Century China. The Guild of American Papercutters (GAP) museum will feature a number of exhibits and artwork created by past and present guild members as well as the international community. Such exhibits will feature artwork from Polish, Dutch, German, Swiss, Mexican, and Israeli artists.

The Guild currently retains over four hundred members, in which every state in the United States is represented. Before the new two hundred sixteen square foot gallery was completed, the GAP held traveling exhibits in a number of locations throughout the country, beginning with its 1989 debut at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In their new gallery, the GAP plans to hold regularly scheduled hands-on workshops and guest presentations to further introduce this artistic technique to the ninth district of Pennsylvania.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating this achievement of the Guild of American Papercutters, and wish them the best of luck and continued success in their new National Museum. May it be a creative outlet for generations of artists to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARBLE CITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING  
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention

today to pay recognition to the congregation of Marble City Baptist Church, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year.

Marble City Baptist Church, formerly the Gantt's Quarry Baptist Church, like so many other congregations across East Alabama, has been a staple in the community since it came into existence. In 1968, the church received the new name we know today. Pastor Dr. Michael Trull plays a substantial role in helping the church lead its ministry.

On February 13, Marble City Baptist Church held a reunion from the day into that night. This gathering brought close to 300 people back to the church. The following Sunday, a congregation close to 400 people came together for the 100-year anniversary service.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next 100 years of ministry in the Sylacauga community.

RECOGNITION OF THE COLUMBUS  
COMPACT CORPORATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its service to the city of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Compact Corporation, or the Compact, is a nonprofit community development organization that works to improve the quality of life in the central city neighborhoods of Columbus. On March 10, 2010, Columbus Compact Corporation will celebrate its 15th anniversary of serving central Ohio residents and businesses.

The Compact's mission is to act as both a catalyst for positive change and agent for the growth and development of central city Columbus. Since 1999, the Compact has led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-designated "Columbus Empowerment Zone." This program implements community redevelopment strategies and directs resources to rebuild the city's most distressed urban neighborhoods, making Columbus a happier, healthier, and more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Compact also lends money to new and existing businesses to create jobs and bring vital goods and services to Columbus. Over the last 15 years, the Compact has focused on developing real estate in concentrated areas and on a scale that allows for larger redevelopment in the neighborhoods of Columbus while enhancing the variety and quality of the housing stock.

The Columbus Compact Corporation strives to improve the city of Columbus by strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging people to reach their full potential. The Compact is continually working towards creating a healthy, thriving central city that is filled with successful and economically secure individuals, families, and businesses. I am proud to recognize and honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its 15 years of dedication to improving the quality of life in the city of Columbus.