

share of hurricanes and tropical storms since 1998, the year that Cheryl took the reins of the Mobile Division of Alabama Power. As the head of a team of over 400 personnel, she has ensured that we don't remain in the dark even when Mother Nature is at her worst.

Equally important, however, Cheryl has brought much more to our community than just her role as the head of the Mobile Division for Alabama Power. She is an active supporter of many local organizations that enrich our lives and promote jobs.

Cheryl is past chair and a member of the board of the Industrial Development Board of Mobile. She also serves on the boards of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, the executive council of the Mitchell College of Business at the University of South Alabama, the Mobile Symphony, and is past chairman of Leadership Alabama.

A native of Alexander City, Alabama, Cheryl holds degrees from Auburn University and the University of Alabama. She has completed the Advanced Management Program at Templeton University, Oxford, England, and the Women in Power Program at Harvard University.

After joining Alabama Power in 1972, Cheryl worked for more than 2 decades in the Eastern and Birmingham Divisions in corporate marketing. She was named southeast region manager at Georgia Power in 1996, and took over Alabama Power's Mobile operations 2 years later.

Cheryl has been a tremendously positive force in our community and on behalf of the many people in South Alabama who have benefited from her considerable talents, I join in wishing Cheryl and her wonderful husband, Jerry, a well-deserved happy, healthy and prosperous future.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. ANN'S ITALIAN FESTIVAL

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of the St. Ann's Italian festival in Hoboken, New Jersey. This is a momentous occasion for the city of Hoboken and St. Ann's Parish, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this moving and historically important event. This festival not only celebrates the Hoboken community but also the dynamic Italian heritage and culture that has shaped this great city. I am proud of the history of St. Ann's society and festival that was originally established to preserve the customs, heritage, and faith of a group of courageous immigrants from the small town of Monte San Giacomo. Many of these immigrants traveled to New Jersey, a new land with a strange language and customs to seek better opportunities. Bonded by the traditions of their homeland and desire to preserve these customs they created the St. Ann's Society. In later years with perseverance and dedication the society was able to raise enough money to establish the St. Ann's Church on the corner of Seventh and Jefferson in Hoboken. This festival is a celebration of these bold individuals and their devotion in preserving their cherished traditions.

Since the first festival in 1910, it has grown in participants and festivities, again showing the joyful and powerful energy this festival draws from inside and outside of the community. It now features all types of Italian cuisine, including the famous "zeppole" made from a secret recipe that has been faithfully guarded by the members of the St. Ann's Society, and operatic music and singers. The most important aspect of this festival, that has been preserved year after year, is the procession of the statue of St. Ann and a framed picture of San Giacomo, put on display to honor the memory of the St. Ann Society descendants and to preserve their cherished faith and traditions. I know this year's festival will continue to memorialize all the wonderful things this festival has come to represent. I congratulate the St. Ann's society and parish on 100 years of successful festivals.

HONORING WILLIAM BARRY WATTS

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of William Barry Watts and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 88.

Born on May 20, 1922, William Watts dedicated his life to serving his community and his country. Before graduating from Detroit Catholic Central in 1940, William was a tenaciously rugged lineman for the CC football teams of the late 1930's. Bill was an immensely talented musician as well. Having received many an accolade for playing the violin, flute, saxophone, and clarinet, Bill Watts found himself being transferred during World War II from the Army Infantry to the Air Force so that he could join the 535th Air Force Band.

William Watts earned his BA in music from the University of Detroit and his Masters of Music Education from Wayne State University. Returning to his beloved Catholic Central, Bill Watts served as the band director and music teacher at Catholic Central for more than 30 years as his bands won countless firsts in state competitions from 1950–1982. It serves as a true testament to Mr. Watts that many of his former students went on to become band directors, most notably Greg Normandin from the CC class of 1978 who succeeded Bill as he retired in 1982. A true Shamrock for life, Bill Watts was honored by Detroit Catholic Central in 1993 as the winner of the Fr. Canning F. Harrison Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Regrettably, on June 28, 2010, William Barry Watts passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved wife, Caroline. Preceded in death by his son Christopher, Bill leaves a legacy of five children, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, William Watts will be long remembered as a compassionate father, a dedicated husband, soldier, musician, teacher and friend. William was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community and his country. Today, as we bid Bill Watts farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering

patriotism and legendary service to our country and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF GOLD RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING THEIR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the congregation of Gold Ridge Baptist Church, which celebrated its 175th anniversary this year.

Gold Ridge Baptist church, originating as New Hope Baptist Church, was the first Baptist church organized in Randolph County, Alabama. The first church was located at Graham near the old Shiloh Cemetery. The church was moved because there was no bridge across the river, and when it rained people on the west side could not attend the church service.

The celebration will be held on July 25, 2010 under their current pastor, T.J. Morgan.

All of us across Randolph County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 175th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next many years of ministry in their community.

HONORING SAMUEL STATEN, SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, Samuel Staten, Sr., on his retirement from the Laborers' Local 332, and his long and influential career as a great Philadelphian and influential labor leader.

Mr. Staten worked his way up through the ranks, working 10 years as a construction laborer before becoming a Local 332 field representative in 1970. Three years later, he was appointed as assistant business manager, and in 1978, he was elected business manager of the Local 332. Mr. Staten held the position of business manager until May 2008, serving 30 years in that capacity. Mr. Staten officially retired from the Laborers' Local 332 in March 2010, leaving behind a career that was essential in turning the Local 332 into the powerful labor leader that it is today.

Mr. Staten's great leadership does not stop with Laborers' Local 332. Throughout his career, he has held several significant positions including being a board member of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, a member of the African American Chamber of Commerce, president of the Philadelphia Building Trades, and a board member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, among many others. Mr. Staten has continually pushed his labor members and community to get involved with countless organizations, and become active in Philadelphia city politics. He truly is an amazing asset to Philadelphia, and a great friend. Remarkably, Mr. Staten is able to do all of this and still be a genuine family man. He is the proud and loving father of nine children.