

economic prosperity of the Central Georgia region. All areas of community life in Macon—education, race relations, economic development, social services and recreation—have been improved through the tireless efforts of these individuals.

In addition to this group's selfless work as individuals, they also achieved great things by working together to help Macon. One of their most lasting and important contributions to Macon was their collective effort to found and fund NewTown Macon, a non-profit organization focused on the revitalization of downtown Macon.

Macon, Georgia is one of the great cities of the American South. With 5,500 individual structures and 11 districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Macon's downtown is a textbook of historic architecture. Like many other American cities, however, Macon's downtown struggled during the latter part of the twentieth century as families and businesses moved to the suburbs. By the mid-1990s, much of downtown Macon was shuttered and neglected, and many historic properties were in danger of being permanently lost. These five leaders recognized that a region cannot escape the fate and reputation of its central city, that decaying urban centers limit the growth and prosperity of entire regions. They acted decisively to form a public-private partnership that began changing the face of downtown Macon.

In the fourteen years since NewTown's founding, more than \$350 million has been invested in downtown and the renaissance of Macon's urban center is well underway. Businesses and families are moving back downtown, historic properties are being restored to their earlier grandeur, and civic pride is growing. I am confident that these achievements would not have happened without Kirby Godsey, Bob Hatcher, Bill Hutchings, Charlie Jones, and Juanita Jordan's determination and leadership. Macon is a better city for their efforts.

Please join me in thanking these great and influential individuals for their contributions to Macon and the State of Georgia.

HONORING PASTOR RUFUS
BRADLEY, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor Rufus Bradley, Sr. and New Life Ministries as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. A Silver Year Anniversary banquet will be held on September 25th in Saginaw Michigan to commemorate the event.

Pastor Bradley has been ministering for over 30 years. He graduated from the United Theological Seminary and the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership. He has studied under several mega church pastors and is well versed in the Purpose Driven Church Concept. As the author of "Learning My Finances," Pastor Bradley conducts seminars to teach day to day budgeting for God's people. He serves on the vision casting team of the Lutheran Association and he is a board member of the Saginaw Clergy Community Development, Inc.

As the founding pastor of New Life Ministries, Pastor Bradley has watched the congregation grow to 450 members. In 1999 New Life became a Purpose Driven Ministry with a vision based upon Luke 2:52: "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." In keeping with this passage, Pastor Bradley guides people to grow intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially. In his continuing call to minister, he founded the "Mission in the City Movement" to rebuild Saginaw and to connect people to the Vision, to God and to a Better life. He believes in ministering to the whole person and to grow a healthy, balanced church.

Pastor Bradley is joined in his ministry by his wife, Relinda Bradley. She serves as the Teens Ministry overseer. They have two children, June and Rufus, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the work of Pastor Rufus Bradley, Sr., and New Life Ministries. I pray they will take the words of the prophets Habakkuk and Isaiah to "write the vision" and "do a new thing" and go into the community with enthusiasm to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

IN HONOR OF 21+ INCORPORATED

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of 21+ Incorporated, which ensures fire safety in group homes for disabled persons. 21+ in Toms River, New Jersey provides opportunities to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

21+ was horrified to find that various group homes do not have certain fire prevention tools such as sprinkler systems. Once 21+ discovered that New Jersey's Department of Development Disabilities would provide funds to retrofit group homes with sprinkler systems, they made it a priority to help make the community safer. By adding sprinklers, 21+ plus ensures the safety of one of Ocean County's most vulnerable populations.

Especially during these tough times, we must commit to enriching the community around us. 21+ took it upon themselves to fix a major problem facing group homes in Ocean County. Due to their efforts, 21+ has improved life for the residents of New Jersey's Third District.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the Toms River Fire Prevention Bureau, the NJ DDD and 21+ for all their efforts to improve the safety of the residents of Ocean County.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND JOY OF RABBI JOSEPH GITIN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, accom-

plishments and joy of Rabbi Joseph Gitin who recently passed away after a long career of exuding positive, loving energy to not only those of his own congregation and faith—but also to the extremely diverse population of San Jose and Silicon Valley, California.

At the age of 104, Rabbi Joseph Gitin was considered one of the oldest Reform rabbis in the world and presided over San Jose's oldest Reform temple for the longest tenure of all its rabbis. In fact, he had been rabbi emeritus at Temple Emanu-El on University Avenue in San Jose, California for more than 30 years.

When he arrived in San Jose in 1950, he was the city's only rabbi. He served at Temple Emanu-El until 1976. During that tenure, he worked alongside two Christian ministers, to speak at churches about their religious similarities. The Reverend Paul Locatelli, who died this summer at age 71 and was the former president of Santa Clara University, presented Rabbi Gitin an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1996 for "promoting interfaith dialogue and interracial cooperation."

Gitin was perhaps best known for his work in the interfaith community. By some accounts, about 30 percent of his funerals were for non-Jews, which speaks to his enduring compassion and ability to comfort those in the last stages of their lives.

Rabbi Gitin fought hard for the passage of civil rights, equal voting rights and equal housing bills. He also worked to protect the civil rights of the gay and lesbian communities. His actions are noted in the 91st CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which states how he measured his success not by his numerous awards and honors but by the good deeds that he tried to perform every day. It was true back then and rings with even more clarity as we reflect upon his life.

Gitin served on a staggering number of civic boards, including the Red Cross and Community Chest; the Heart Association and the Tuberculosis Society; the Municipal Entertainment Commission and Agnews State Hospital; the county Advisory Committee on Children and Youth; and the Bicycle Court. He was a lifetime Rotary member and was a judge pro tem in the juvenile courts.

It is my distinct honor to have Rabbi Gitin's presence, compassion and love for humankind in my Congressional district. My sincere condolences are extended, to his daughter, Judi Elman Harris, and son, David Gitin.

HONORING THE 136 TEACHERS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S 11TH DISTRICT WHO RECENTLY EARNED NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary teachers in western North Carolina who have earned National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. These dedicated professionals have demonstrated a commitment to improving the standards of education for our Nation.

National Board Certification is a distinction which certifies teachers who set a higher