

Commander Ferguson is a decorated military officer, and a distinguished son of Pennsylvania. The 8th District of Pennsylvania and I are proud to honor him this week.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Pastor, Father Peter Bodnar, and Parish Council President, Nick Rozdelsky, celebrated this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at the Saint Elijah Serbian American Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

Protection of the Virgin Mary Church was originally established in Gary, Indiana, on September 28, 1911, when a group of Slavic, Christian immigrants joined together with the goal of preserving Christian Orthodox religious traditions. At that time, many immigrants moved to Gary in search of employment opportunities created by the growing steel industry. The church services were first held at a rental location in Gary, but a lack of funds led church elder Kondrat Krenitsky to provide a room in his home for services to be held. After some time, members were able to secure a location for the church, and on September 8, 1912, a new church was dedicated and consecrated in Gary, Indiana. The church became widely known as Saint Mary's. The first permanent pastor was Reverend Benjamin Kedrovsky, who held his position until 1957. Saint Mary's continued to grow, and in January 1962, a new church, also located in Gary, was consecrated by His Eminence Archbishop John Garklavs. Nearly four decades later, the church leaders and parishioners built a new church and relocated to its current location in Merrillville, Indiana, where services began in the year 2000.

Other pastors of the parish throughout the years include: Father Sergei Garklavs, Father Peter Rozdelsky, Father John Zabinko, Father Thomas Brown, Father Blagoy Topuzliev, Father William Bass, and current pastor, Father Peter Bodnar.

The parishioners of Saint Mary's Church have always been active and generous in their support of numerous civic endeavors, contributing to projects such as the construction of a Permanent Shrine in San Francisco for the Miraculous Ikon, the Holy Virgin Mary of Kazan, and the Midwest Diocesan Expansion Program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church of Merrillville, Indiana, on its 100th Anniversary. Through many hardships, the members of Saint Mary's have dedicated themselves to preserving Christian Orthodox traditions and spiritual beliefs. For their commitment to service, and for touching the lives of countless individuals, they are worthy of the highest praise.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, One of our closest allies and best friends in the world of nations is the Republic of China (Taiwan).

October 10th will be a very special day for the people of Taiwan as that country will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Taiwan and the United States have been very special and close friends since shortly after World War II, and this relationship was formalized in law by the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Taiwan has seen multitudes of economic miracles take place in the second half of the twentieth century and the early years of this century, because that nation has followed a free market, free enterprise system closer than almost any other country.

I had the privilege of spending a week in Taiwan along with Congressman PETE SESSIONS and former Congressman Sonny Calahan around ten years ago. The Taiwanese people could not have been kinder or more impressive to us than during that visit.

The University of Tennessee started having a large number of students coming from Taiwan in the early 1960s because a man from that nation, Nelson Nee, was head of the U.T. International Students Program. Many of these students became, and many still are, leaders in the Republic of China.

As I was leaving Taiwan during my visit years ago, I asked one of the officials how you said, "Thank you for your friendship" in Chinese. She wrote out the words, "Shieh Shieh Ni De Yo Yi."

Whether this is exactly correct or not, and I hope it is, I will take this time to say I am thankful for the friendship of the people from Taiwan.

I congratulate them on this 100th anniversary, and I believe that as long as they allow their people the utmost freedom, Taiwan will remain a prosperous and dynamic nation into the future.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 27 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are: William Raupp, U.S. Air Force; Russell Blower, U.S. Army; William Brown, U.S. Army; Glenn Butler, U.S. Army; Earl Davis, U.S. Army; Howard Heinz, U.S. Army; LeRoy Hopkins, U.S. Army; David Kyle, U.S. Army; Harold "Bud" Loucks, U.S. Army; Robert Rampy, U.S. Army; Harrison "Robbie" Robbins, U.S.

Army; Anthony DelCollo, U.S. Army Air Corps; Leo Kraft, U.S. Marine Corps; Joseph Lavalley, U.S. Marine Corps; Charlotte "Sharkey" Meyer, U.S. Marine Corps; Michael Pershem, U.S. Marine Corps; Francis Welsh, U.S. Marine Corps; Donald Ayriess, U.S. Navy; John Brazie, U.S. Navy; Jack Buckley, U.S. Navy; Kenneth Deacon, U.S. Navy; Keith Frey, U.S. Navy; Melvin Leroy Kerber, U.S. Navy; Margaret Lutz, U.S. Navy; James Petralba, U.S. Navy; Allan Westphal, U.S. Navy; Frank Smith, U.S. Navy.

These 27 heroes join more than 63,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, D.C. to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Gail Yakopatz for her tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon.

DOE CREEK SCHOOL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, over 140 years ago, recognizing the need for a gathering place of worship and of academics, members of the Doe Creek community built a one-room school house. Fashioned from hewn logs and built on a stone pier foundation during the Civil War era, the school saw its last student in 1948 and fell out of use. Accurately reconstructed and refurbished in 2007, the Doe Creek School is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the remaining one-room school houses in existence, the Doe Creek School continues to be a place of learning and gathering. With funds raised by the Doe Creek community, and built with hands laboring by another's cause, the restoration brought friend and neighbor together in a way that only shared history is able. Just as in generations past, the Doe Creek School will be a place for generations to come to share stories and learn from each other.

I rise today in support of the Doe Creek Restoration Committee as they celebrate being named to the National Register of Historic Places. I appreciate the dedication of all who worked to see this day, and thank the Committee and surrounding community for recognizing the great value in holding firm to one's roots. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking those who offered their time, talents, and treasure to see their history regained.