

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MONICA'S CHURCH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Monica's Catholic Church in San Francisco's Richmond District on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert McElroy and Fr. John Greene, pastor of St. Monica's Church and chaplain to the San Francisco Fire Department.

The Richmond District of San Francisco had expanded after the 1906 earthquake and its Catholic residents needed a congregation. St. Monica's Parish was founded in January 1911 and the church was built in 1918 funded by donations of the parishioners. From its humble beginnings, when the Richmond District was made up of mostly Irish-American and Italian-American residents, the parish has become a spiritual home to an ethnically and culturally diverse population.

St. Monica's School was founded in 1919 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. It is a co-ed Catholic elementary school that welcomes students from all faiths and cultural backgrounds and well represents the cultural diversity of its neighborhood.

It was my privilege to attend the June 2011 funeral Mass for fallen firefighters Anthony Valerio and Vincent Perez officiated by Fr. John Greene. Each year a Mass is held to commemorate the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Many of these masses are held at St. Monica's because it is a favorite church of San Francisco firefighters for weddings as well as funerals.

All San Franciscans are grateful for Fr. Greene's leadership and his dedication to our first responders. The individuals and families in Fr. Greene's parish have been blessed with a Pastor who has strengthened their church and school, built community and inspired their love for service and their love of God.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMPOWERING AND STRENGTHENING OHIO'S PEOPLE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), an organization dedicated to providing assistance to homeowners who are facing foreclosure, or struggling to make their monthly mortgage payments due to a predatory lending or hardship situation.

The East Side Organizing Project was founded by Inez Killingsworth in 1993 as a means to address the unsafe conditions of her Union-Miles neighborhood. During the early 1990s, ESOP, under Ms. Killingsworth's leadership, began to rally against the lack of credit available to African Americans in the community. When predatory lending in the area increased and more and more community members were facing mortgage payments they could no longer afford, ESOP turned its focus

to addressing this growing problem. ESOP became a statewide venture in 2008, when it opened 10 offices throughout the state of Ohio. The organization was then renamed Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. ESOP acts as a foreclosure counseling agency. Through tactics varying from protesting banks to negotiating agreements between lenders and borrowers to taking financial executives on tours of the collapsing neighborhoods that are in peril due to predatory lending, ESOP has helped thousands of families in Ohio avoid losing their homes. In 2010, ESOP helped save more than 3,200 homes from foreclosure.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People and its advocacy work on behalf of Ohio homeowners.

RECOGNIZING GENE DEWS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary individual—Gene Dews—who has dedicated much of his lifetime to cultivating student athletes in the state of Alabama.

Dews is a Fort Gaines, Georgia, native and a graduate of Clay County High School. He also earned degrees from Georgia Southwestern College and Troy State University.

Dews began his career in coaching as an assistant baseball coach at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. He held that position for 13 years before becoming the head baseball coach at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama in 1990. The next year Dews also became the athletic director at Wallace, a position he held until his recent retirement.

In 2001, Dews switched from the baseball diamond to the softball field and established one of the top community college softball programs in the nation. During his tenure, Wallace Community College won nine consecutive Southern Division championships, three state championships—which included trips to the Junior College World Series. Under Dews' leadership of Wallace's softball team, there were 15 All-Americans for player performance and nine selected as Academic All-Americans.

In 2008, Coach Dews was inducted into the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame—an acknowledgment of his significant and successful career. I applaud Dews for his dedication to student athletes and his involvement with college athletics for 35 years.

I wish Coach Dews the best in his retirement as he spends more time with his wife, Mary Ann, their children and grandchildren—and continued involvement with his church as a Deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Headland, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Gene Dews. I am grateful for his service, and proudly recognize his contribution to the betterment of student athletes, and others, in the great state of Alabama.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SHERIFF JIM LOWMAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of retired Escambia County Sheriff Jim Lowman. Sheriff Lowman was an esteemed leader in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Sheriff Lowman was a respected and vital member of the Northwest Florida community. He served as dean at Woodham High School in Pensacola, Florida, before working as a counselor at the Juvenile Center. Although Sheriff Lowman did not have any prior experience serving in public office, he possessed a vast deal of first-hand knowledge of local law enforcement through his work as a juvenile counselor. In 1992, Sheriff Lowman decided to run for Escambia County Sheriff, and his highly successful campaign reflected his ability to work closely with the citizens of Escambia County to improve the local community. He was elected Sheriff and served in that capacity from 1993–2000.

When Sheriff Lowman's term began in January 1993, he undertook a thorough assessment of the department and concluded that the department was understaffed. In order to facilitate the recruitment of new deputies, Sheriff Lowman encouraged the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to enroll in the Public Hiring Supply Program. The Commission agreed and during Sheriff Lowman's tenure the force was increased by nearly 60 percent.

Under Sheriff Lowman's direction, the Escambia County Sheriff's Department also undertook important measures to tackle alcohol and drug abuse. They forged a close working relationship with the Community Drug and Alcohol Program. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department identified key areas of drug trafficking and worked with the managers of these properties to develop a security plan. Gatekeepers, often off-duty Sheriff's deputies, patrolled the area to ensure that outside drug traffickers could not set up distribution points within housing developments.

Sheriff Lowman also oversaw a \$2 million expansion of the County Jail. This expansion improved county facilities and helped to lessen crowding in the jail. Despite overseeing substantial improvements, Sheriff Lowman was able to run his department in a fiscally responsible manner, and in his final year he returned nearly \$900,000 in unused funds back to the County.

While Sheriff Lowman was an invaluable member of the Northwest Florida community, and many will remember him for his tireless effort combating crime and improving the lives of Escambia County's citizens, he was first and foremost a family man. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Sue, their four children—Jamie, Jennifer Sue, Lesley, and Scott—and their grandchildren, Gavin and Jay Scott.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Sheriff Jim Lowman. A committed community leader and loving family