

for me to be able to celebrate this week with my lovely wife, Christy, to whom I have been married to for 22 years.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVARRE HIGH SCHOOL LADY RAIDERS WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM AS STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Friar, Alyssa Jones, Chelsea King, Heather Lynch, Kylie Shelley, Morrigan Webb, Praise Pettus, Sarah Cox, Savannah Rodwell, Skye Barberi, Taylor Smith, and Coach Garrett Bagley of the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on earning their school's first state title.

On Saturday, February 9, 2013, under the coaching and leadership of Garrett Bagley, the Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team became Florida High School Athletic Association State Champions. After finishing in second place for the past three years, victory for the Lady Raiders was that much sweeter. This season, through the perfect blend of perseverance, discipline, focus, and desire, the Navarre Raiders were ultimately triumphant and defeated two-time defending state champion, Spruce Creak, for the title in a close 24–23 win.

A commendable eleven members of the lady Raiders team performed exceptionally well at the sectional competition and qualified for the State Championship. Of those eleven teammates, six lifters earned themselves individual medals with senior Amanda Friar leading the team as the 110-pound weight class individual gold medalist, followed by Skye Barberi and Praise Pettus finishing with second-place showings, Alyssa Jones and Kylie Shelley finishing fourth, and Chelsea King finishing sixth. I am certain that their impressive victory will continue to be a cherished moment in each of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Navarre High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. TOMMIE L. LEWIS IN HONOR OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th pastoral anniversary of Dr. Tommie L. Lewis, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Since 1982, this dedicated servant has

led the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church to new horizons in ministry. I am pleased to honor Pastor Lewis and join with his congregation in celebrating 30 years of excellence in leadership and service to the Lord. Pastor Lewis answered his call to minister on January 6, 1973 at the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. For more than 40 years, Pastor Lewis has been led by his faith to minister and spread his message of service and commitment to mankind. While he has served at other churches, Pastor Lewis is most celebrated for all that he contributed to the Bethel Baptist Church family, affectionately known as "Bethel Nation". Under his 30 year leadership, Bethel Nation has grown to a membership of over 5,000 worshippers and currently stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration in the Pratt City community. Pastor Lewis has shaped a legacy defined by numerous ministries that reach far beyond the church sanctuary. In both his professional and spiritual life, his character has been defined by his willingness to serve, his unselfish generosity and his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. He uses his clergy position as a powerful force for good throughout this world.

Pastor Lewis is an accomplished biblical scholar. He attended the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia. Pastor Lewis is also the recipient of various honorary doctorate degrees as a result of his varied contributions to the ministry and public service. Through the years, in addition to his dedicated service to Birmingham, Pastor Lewis has also sought to share his spiritual teachings all over the world. He has ministered to and delivered sermons throughout the United States, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. But no matter where his ministry has taken him, Pastor Lewis is forever committed to home. Pastor Lewis has led by example and displayed his commitment to public service through his affiliation with various religious and civic organizations aimed at empowering the lives of those that he serves. His involvement include but are not limited to: the Pratt City Ministerial Alliance, the Birmingham Metropolitan Baptist Ministerial Conference and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Pastor Lewis also worked to transform the trajectory of his community through his service as former Captain of the Bessemer Police and Fire Department Chaplaincy Corps and the former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jefferson County Transit Authority. Pastor Lewis currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Jefferson County Commission of Economic Opportunity and State President for the National Rainbow Push Coalition. In 1998, he received one of Birmingham's highest honors when he was inducted into the City of Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens.

In the aftermath of the April 2011 tornadoes, which completely destroyed Bethel Baptist Church, Pastor Lewis' faith and determination has been unwavering as he continues to minister to his congregation as they rebuild a stronger Bethel Nation. He continues to be grounded in God's mercy and grace giving hope to the hopeless and providing opportunities for the least amongst us.

While his contributions and accolades are large in number, I am especially grateful for the servant leadership that Pastor Lewis has

shown to the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. He has made an indelible imprint on the lives of so many of us through his ministries. We are blessed by his visionary leadership. Therefore, it is with pride and a humble heart that I pay tribute to Pastor TL Lewis in recognition and appreciation of his 30th pastoral anniversary at Bethel Baptist Church. And so it shall be transcribed in the annuals of the United States House of Representatives that special recognition be made to Reverend Dr. Tommie L. Lewis on behalf of a grateful nation.

HONORING CHIEF APOSTLE  
ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Robert Lee Williams, Sr., and Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., are celebrating the elevating of Bishop Williams to Chief Apostle after years of pastoral and stellar leadership to his church and our community; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and congratulate Chief Apostle Williams as he is elevated to this position of great recognition and great responsibility in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim November 11, 2012 as Chief Apostle Robert L. Williams, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of November, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO HADIYA PENDLETON

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman who had really just begun to embark upon her life's journey, but Hadiya Zaymara Pendleton was taken from us too soon on January 29, 2013 as a result of senseless gun violence.

No words can ease the pain of losing a child, Mr. Speaker. To Hadiya's parents and loved ones I can simply offer them a word from scripture. In Luke 18:16 the Bible tells us