

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MID-MAINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner.

Each year, the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce recognizes local businesses, business leaders, community service projects and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy business environment. These individuals and businesses are committed to strengthening opportunity and increasing prosperity in Maine.

This year's award recipients include: Megan Williams, recipient of the Rising Star Award; Bert Languet, recipient of the Outstanding Professional Award; Michelle LePage, recipient of the Customer Service Stardom Award; the Waterville Opera House, recipient of the Community Service Project of the Year Award; Peter Schutte, recipient of the Business Person of the Year Award; Delta Ambulance, recipient of the Business of the Year Award; Shawn Michaud, recipient of the Elias A. Joseph Award; and Scott Bullock, recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and the region, Maine is a better place in which to live and do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and these individuals and businesses on their outstanding service and achievement.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL P. DOUGLASS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commemorate and acknowledge a long-time curator from western Wisconsin, Mr. Michael P. Douglass. Michael is a knowledgeable, hard working man from Grant County who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Wisconsin Historical Society as site director at the Villa Louis historic site in Prairie du Chien.

I'm very proud of the extraordinary dedication and positive contributions that Michael has made during his time at Villa Louis—a National Historic Landmark that was the estate of the prominent H. Louis Dousman family in the 19th century. Thanks to the stewardship of Michael, since his very first day at the site on August 4, 1983, the Villa Louis mansion has been restored and renovated to what it once was, making it one of the most well-tended historic sites in Wisconsin. Michael discovered distant Dousman relations and brought back many of the mansion's original furnishings; throughout this process, he helped to preserve and share accurate accounts of Wisconsin's history.

The Wisconsin Historical Society and people of Wisconsin have greatly benefited from his extensive knowledge of the Dousman family and dedication to Villa Louis. Michael excelled in the mission of the Society—to preserve and share stories of Wisconsin history. Good narratives bring past events back to life, and Michael has undoubtedly and successfully championed these efforts in the expansion and enhancement of the collections of Villa Louis. I commend Michael Douglass for his extraordinary efforts in bringing history to life.

Mr. Michael P. Douglass's hard work and 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Villa Louis is truly deserving of recognition. It is with great pride that I rise today and congratulate Michael on a job well done, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the dedication of the First Missionary Baptist Church's newest house of worship. For over 20 years the Reverend has served as Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, and has lead this congregation in the Building project which resulted in this church.

Rev. McClanahan was born in Louisiana where he received a calling from God at a young age, preaching his first sermon on September 4, 1984, and eventually becoming ordained at the New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Willie Minor, on September 21, 1985. He was brought to Maryland shortly thereafter, and has officially served as pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church since March of 1990.

The First Missionary Baptist Church has a rich history in Maryland. The church was started as a Prayer Band in October of 1945 by Martha Hickenbotom, as a way of giving the African Americans of Lexington Park a place of worship. Service was initially held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Colson, but as the congregation grew, so did their need for space. For a brief time the Prayer Band made their home in the then USO Building, until on April 19, 1947, at the suggestion of Brother Ivory Moore, then the prayer leader for the Prayer Band, they purchased the first acre of land the church calls home today. Since then, through segregation and beyond, the church has continued to grow and faithfully serve the African American community of Southern Maryland.

It is truly my honor to pay tribute today to Rev. Roderick McClanahan, and the First Missionary Baptist Church, a shining beacon for all of Southern Maryland.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERLIN REPSHER FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE BANGOR, PENNSYLVANIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Merlin Repsher, who was recognized on Saturday, April 6, 2013 by his fellow firefighters for 50 years of brave service and leadership with Rescue Fire Company No. 1 of the Fire Department of Bangor, Pennsylvania.

Within those five decades, Mr. Repsher served as the chief engineer of the company. He also served as Fire Chief for five years. Merlin additionally always served as a mentor and trainer to new recruits, passing on his extensive knowledge to the next generation of firefighters. In that capacity, he worked as a teacher in the Northampton County Fire School.

Firefighters are often known for their dramatic acts of courage and quick-thinking in the field, but I understand that what a small community sometimes needs most is dogged dedication to the basic public-serving roles, including the civic administrative roles, on which everyone in town depends. Being there for one's neighbors—and always being there—is a quality to which we should all aspire. Fifty years in a demanding position, assisting those in need week in and week out, is quite an impressive record.

I ask everyone in Bangor and northern Northampton County to join me in congratulating Merlin Repsher for his decorated service to his community.

TRIBUTE HONORING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 192nd anniversary of Greece's independence, which we celebrated on Monday, March 25. This event commemorates the day in 1821 when the people of Greece reclaimed their heritage as democratic citizens and restored democracy to their nation.

The ancient Greeks established the world's first democratic government, and contributed to our own understanding of the world in diverse fields such as mathematics, philosophy and medicine. The democratic principles set forth by the ancient Greeks were the archetype for Americans to establish a democracy in 1776 and have guided our nation ever since. These classical ideals inspired our own founding fathers and shaped the United States Constitution which we are sworn to uphold as Members of Congress.

America's relationship with the people of Greece runs deep. Since the birth of our nations, the ties of democracy between Greece and America have been unwavering. The strong partnership between our two countries