

funding to help the city and residents of Los Angeles.

His career and life have always been centered on the ideals of positive change for Los Angeles. As the first openly gay man elected to the Los Angeles City Council, he serves as an inspiration to others and has set an important precedent for other gay leaders to run for office.

I have personally known Bill for many years and I can say that he is an individual who exemplifies compassion, optimism and dedication to public service. His leadership and charisma have created a needed forum for public dialogue and community exchange for which Angelinos will be forever grateful.

Valley Democrats United is honoring Bill for his "conviction, courage, and integrity" as an advocate for the homeless, tenants, LGBT rights, and innovative transit solutions. He is also being recognized for his public service and for empowering people through the media. I am pleased to join with the Valley Democrats United in honoring, my friend, Bill Rosendahl.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 75th anniversary of Beulah First Baptist Church and its service to the Northwest Florida community.

Beulah First Baptist Church is the second oldest church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Originally known as the First Community Church and then later as the Colored Community Baptist Church, Beulah First Baptist's founding began when its first members were inspired by the desire to learn and heed the Lord's Word. Beginning in 1938, its service to its congregation grew from Bible Study and adult veterans classes held in member homes to an expanded Bible Study and Sunday Church School under the leadership of Reverend O.R. Robinson in 1943. Both the Bible Study and the Sunday Church School are still active today.

Throughout its 75 years, Beulah First Baptist Church has been blessed with the leadership of nine pastors, including: Reverends W. Garrett (1938); H. McNeil (1938); O.R. Robinson (1943); E.W. Thomson (1945); Fitzchew (1952); A.D. Bell, Sr. (1953); David Savage (1969); Matthew Payne, Jr. (1970); and Scottie L. Thigpen (1981 to present).

A true testament to God's work through His people, the Church has experienced much growth over the years, particularly in 1988. This year not only marked the Church's Golden Anniversary, but also a year of many firsts: the Church formed the Women's Fellowship Luncheon, the Church Banquet, and the Intermediate Women's Prayer Breakfast. Additionally, the Church began contributing ten percent of its tithes and offering to local and foreign missions. In recent years, the Church established a singles ministry in 1993 and a Children's Church in 1994. In 1998, Beulah Christian Academy opened its doors as did the Mission Outreach Ministry and the McGriff Office Facility in 2005.

Since its founding, members of Beulah First Baptist Church have helped build God's Kingdom here on earth through their outreach to the citizens of Fort Walton Beach and the surrounding area, and I would like to thank them for their service to Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Beulah First Baptist Church. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing the Church all the best for continued success. May the Spirit of the Lord continue to bless this Church and its congregation.

TRIBUTE TO HARDEEVILLE-RIDGELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an innovative program taking place to incentivize students at a Jasper County, South Carolina middle school. Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School is in a rural, persistent poverty county where more than 20 percent of its population has lived below the poverty line for the last 30 years. Eighty-eight percent of the students who attend Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School qualify for free or reduced lunch. Yet the Jasper County School Superintendent Vashti Washington is working hard to encourage students in this school to focus on their academics raise their self esteem and dream of better of futures.

I am pleased the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation is underwriting the cost of Dr. Washington's program to provide school letters and pins to students at Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle who meet certain criteria established by the school. Students will be awarded letters and pins for certain levels of achievements in the classroom, on PASS tests, and several other extracurricular activities, just as many schools do for athletics. These letters and pins are intended to set up healthy competition among students and to recognize and incentivize their achievements and performances.

I want to highlight four of the students who have demonstrated the drive and dedication needed to earn this recognition. All four of these students have received "exemplary" in at least four areas of PASS testing, which assesses the knowledge of students in the core academic areas of writing, English, math, science, and social studies.

Amber Crosby is an eighth grader who scored exemplary in all five areas of the PASS test. She is an award-winning artist who attended a Visual Arts Summer Academy, and she is also working on her first novel. She is on the principal's honor roll and attributes much of her success to the values instilled in her by her parents who taught her the importance of her diverse heritage, which includes Polish, Russian, Irish, British and Native American descendants. Amber aspires to be an artist or work in veterinary medicine.

Lorena Escobar is an eighth grader from Hardeeville who takes her academics very seriously. An honor roll student, she is currently enrolled in Algebra I Honors, English I Honors

and Spanish I. She enjoys drawing and music, and spending time with her parents and her younger sister. Lorena is passionate about eliminating bullying.

Kaleb Frazier is a seventh grade honors student. His favorite subjects are writing and math. He is also very athletic and plays linebacker for the school football team. In his spare time he writes rap music and spends time with his family. Kaleb hopes one day to be an attorney or a computer engineer.

Cynthia Simental-Parra is a seventh grade student from Hardeeville. She loves math and history and describes herself as "artsy." She enjoys singing, drawing and sewing, and is a member of band and chorus. She is also active in track and soccer. Cynthia would like to become a singer, but if that doesn't work out she would consider running for President of the United States.

These are just four of the outstanding students that will be recognized with a school letter from Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle. It is my sincere hope that they will continue to be wonderful examples to their classmates and that they encourage others to earn their letters as well.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my great appreciation to Superintendent Washington for implementing this visionary program at Hardeeville-Ridgeland Middle School. It is my hope that through such positive reinforcement these and other students will work hard and attain their dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to have it noted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that I was not able to be in Washington on October 14, 2013 for votes because of events in the district.

If I had been here, I would have voted as follows:

On the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair, roll No. 547, I would have voted "no."

On the passage of H.J. Res. 80, roll No. 548, I would have voted "no."

On agreeing to the Grayson amendment, roll No. 549, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MIKKI BELVEDERE

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Coconut Creek Commissioner and Vice Mayor, Mikki Belvedere. Mikki's professional achievements and volunteer work have touched countless individuals and organizations throughout our community, and I want to recognize her for her amazing record of service in South Florida.

Mikki has been a visible fixture in South Florida business community for over three decades, having served as President of Belvedere Insurance and Financial Services since