

day of independence be celebrated for all that have called Lebanon home and those abroad who are proud to be defined by the Lebanese history and heritage that contributes to the character of both individuals and nations around the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT JAMES
A.M.E. CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 150 years. The congregation of St. James A.M.E. Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a worship celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the Church at 1002 Sixth Avenue in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, the St. James congregation emerged from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Reverend William Gaines serving as the first pastor in 1864. Today, the physical body of the church serves as a reflection and memorial of past members and pastors who contributed to its preservation. On September 29, 1980, the church was listed on the National Historic Register.

In an 1873 act, the Georgia Legislature granted St. James A.M.E. Church the land on which it stands and the first cathedral construction was completed in 1876. The ornately carved front doors, built by slaves, are the oldest parts of the church and are a reminder of the history of strength and perseverance behind the congregation.

Since its founding, St. James has endured several additions and renovations, all of which help tell the story of the church, its members and its fifty-one former leaders. In 1886, Reverend Larry Thomas oversaw the construction of the bell tower, which still stands today as a symbol of the Church's concrete mission to serve its congregation and community. Reverend Harold I. Bearden, who served from 1940 to 1948, installed the pipe organ that is still heard during church services today.

In 1988, St. James purchased property for a new parsonage, and by 1996, the conversion of the old parsonage into an administrative building was completed under the leadership of Reverend Scottie Swinney. The building now houses offices, a conference room, music room, clothing and food bank, and archives room, which collectively aid in the fulfillment of the church ministry. After Reverend Swinney's tenure, Reverend Richard Washington was pastor of the church. The church is now pastored by Reverend Joseph Baker, Sr.

In 2004, St. James erected an Elevator Tower to accommodate all members of the congregation. The building includes classrooms, accessible bathrooms, a stewardess room, and an elevator that services the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. To commemorate this achievement, a time capsule was deposited behind the Elevator Tower cornerstone to be opened in 2054.

Throughout all of these changes, the church has consistently maintained its presence as a center for spiritual, educational, professional, and civic gatherings within the African American community.

The second oldest church of its denomination in Georgia, St. James A.M.E. Church has served as pillar of faith and community for 150 years. The spirit within the congregation and their commitment to the growth of St. James is both admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia for their dedication to helping one another, serving the community, and above all, worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE
VILLAGE OF LYONS 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Lyons, Illinois, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Lyons enjoys a long and colorful history, beginning in the late 17th century when the explorers Louis Joliet and Father Pierre Marquette began their quest for a western passage to the Pacific. After deciding to return home to Green Bay, Wisconsin, the explorers learned about a path from the Pottawatomie Native Americans traveling with them, a path that connected the Chicago and the Des Plaines Rivers, and included the future site of the Village of Lyons. Two hundred years later this swampy path would become the Illinois & Michigan Canal, one of the most important canals in the history of the United States, and a primary reason why Chicago became the nation's transportation hub. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which replaced the Illinois & Michigan Canal, remains a critical link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

As Chicago grew so did Lyons, but the residents never forgot the historically important site on which their Village was founded and built. Today, a statue stands at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site to honor that history.

Along the banks of the Des Plaines River sits another historic site, the Hofmann Tower. Built in 1908, the tower sits next to the former site of an electric dam Hofmann built and was meant to attract visitors to the area to enjoy the river and its banks. In 1978, Hofmann Tower was named to the National Register of Historic Places and Mayor Getty is currently working on plans to restore it.

I am proud to represent the Village of Lyons as it prospers today under the leadership of Mayor Chris Getty. On November 15, I will join the mayor and the residents of Lyons at Crystal Sky Banquets to celebrate the village's 125th anniversary.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the residents of Lyons, Illinois on the 125th anniversary of their village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the village continue to thrive as a close community.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN C.W.
BILL YOUNG

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I mourn the passing of Chairman C.W. Bill Young—an inspiring colleague and an outspoken champion for the United States Military. His passing will leave an enormous void in the U.S. House of Representatives where he has served for 43 years and was admired and respected for his strength, leadership and unwavering commitment to military strength and freedom around the world.

It was my honor to serve with him as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. As the longest serving Republican in the House and former Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee, he was true inspiration to me and every Member who had the privilege to serve our country alongside him. I will miss Chairman Young as a colleague and a friend.

I extend my heartfelt prayers and condolences to Chairman Young's family, especially his wife Beverly, who was his constant companion, champion of military families, and a true inspiration in her own right. The U.S. House of Representatives and the United States of America has lost a hero and he will be sadly missed.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANON'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Lebanese American communities in our district, who are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Lebanon's independence. On November 22, 1943, Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea that human rights were global and that it was ready to be a full partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon participated in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America and followed the words expressed by the poet Kahlil Gibran, that "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own." The contributions of those early immigrants and those who followed helped to build our nation.

Since 1965, over 135,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. Ohio has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in our nation and our citizens are richer for it. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values; the result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.

In fact, Toledo, Ohio became the first major city in America to elect a citizen of Lebanese ancestry to the position of Mayor, Mr. Michael Damas who served with distinction.

As one of the world's early cradles of civilization, Lebanon has persevered, both suffering hardship and sharing in prosperity. Remarkably, the spirit of its people shines through. I join the people of Lebanon, those of Lebanese ancestry around the world, and the Lebanese American community in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT
"BOB" KEHLER

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate General Robert "Bob" Kehler of United States Strategic Command on his retirement from the Air Force after 38 years of outstanding service to our country. I would also like to thank his wife Marjorie for her selfless sacrifice throughout his career, as well as the sacrifices of their two sons, Matt and Jared.

General Kehler's nearly three years as the head of STRATCOM caps an accomplished career that began in 1975 as a distinguished graduate of the Pennsylvania State University Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. Early in his service, he developed expertise in the nuclear enterprise as commander of Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile squadrons at Whiteman Air Force Base, the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, and at Air Force Space Command.

The General held numerous additional leadership positions in the Air Force throughout his many years of service. He represented the Secretary of the Air Force on Capitol Hill as the Legislative Liaison and was point man for the President's intercontinental ballistic missile modernization initiative. After his time on Capitol Hill, General Kehler assumed the position of Director of the National Security Space Office and was tasked with integrating a number of our military's space organizations.

General Kehler has been a forward-thinking leader as evidenced by his achievement transferring the ICBM mission to the Air Force Global Strike Command and helping to create the 24th Air Force to execute the evolving and critical cyberspace mission. With his important work in these areas, there is no doubt that the United States is more prepared today to face the challenges and threats confronting us in the nuclear and cyber domains.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune to work with General Kehler on a number of occasions as the U.S. Representative for Strategic Command's headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. He is a brilliant thinker and I know that he has contributed immeasurably to SRATCOM's global missions.

It is my distinct honor to lead my fellow Members of Congress in thanking General Robert "Bob" Kehler for his exceptional years of service and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

COLORADO HAS THE SECOND
LARGEST AEROSPACE ECONOMY
IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of myself and my fellow members of the Colorado delegation, Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, CORY GARDNER, DOUG LAMBORN, ED PERLMUTTER, JARED POLIS, and SCOTT TIPTON, about our home state's aerospace leadership and the long-term plan for sustaining America's space-faring future. Space technologies benefit the everyday lives of all American citizens and Colorado has the second largest aerospace economy in the United States. In our great state, there are more than 165,000 employees of the aerospace industry, eight of the nation's top aerospace contractors, over 400 space-related companies, four space-related military commands, and universities among the world's best for aerospace-related degrees.

The United States has lost the ability to put people into space with our own national assets at the end of NASA's Space Shuttle program. Colorado is key to regaining the ability for manned space exploration with programs such as Lockheed Martin's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, Sierra Nevada Space Systems' "Dream Chaser" and other low-earth orbit missions aboard United Launch Alliance vehicles. Colorado was a significant contributor to one of the premier space events of this decade. The Mars Science Laboratory "Curiosity" mission, is at the center of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technology, and is also a national leader developing satellites that support and protect our nation's civil, commercial and national security interests.

Colorado seeks to remain on the leading edge of America's space-faring future, pursuing designation as a commercial spaceport and leading advocacy for America's space exploration through organizations like the Space Foundation, Colorado Space Coalition, Colorado Space Business Roundtable, and Colorado's Official Air & Space Museum, Wings Over the Rockies.

Wings Over the Rockies' Spreading Wings Gala on November 16, 2013 will gather hundreds of aerospace executives and enthusiasts to honor leading advocates for America's space-faring future—Astronaut Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., second man to walk on the Moon, and Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, noted astrophysicist and host of the forthcoming "Cosmos" television series.

It is imperative that we strive to preserve and enhance United States leadership in space to inspire young people, spur innovation, and ensure continued national and economic security. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we thank Astronaut Aldrin and Dr. Tyson for their positive vision of our space-faring future and commend Wings Over the Rockies and all of Colorado's aerospace community for their commitment to exploring new horizons in the frontier of space for the benefit of generations of American citizens.

HONORING COLUMBIA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Columbia Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, located in my congressional district, for receiving the Department of Education's prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

Established in 1898 in the heart of the city, Columbia Elementary School is one of Colorado Springs's first elementary schools. Its mission statement defines the core learning objectives of the school:

The Columbia Community will collaboratively ensure that learning takes place for ALL by being responsible, setting high standards and accepting no excuses. Our students will be contributing members of society who are respectful, responsible, and capable life-long learners.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at exceptionally high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon School's flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities.

The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

Columbia Elementary is an "Exemplary Improving School," but it hadn't always been that way, and there is an extraordinary story behind this. Prior to the arrival of the current school Principal, Karen Shaw, five years ago, the Colorado Springs School District had placed the school on "Technical Assistance" status, because the statistical data about academic achievement indicated "low achievement and low growth for a period of several years." Teachers were working hard, but it wasn't organized or aligned, and kids weren't succeeding. Ms. Shaw changed all of that. She brought a small handful of teachers with her from her previous school and through ingenuity and hard work implemented new curriculum and interventions, schedules and methodologies, data procedures and trainings to change the entire culture of the school. So, in five years this extraordinary school has been transformed from "Technical Assistance" to a "National Blue Ribbon School." This new approach transformed "Low Achievement and Low Growth" test scoring to "High Achievement and High Growth."

I am so proud to have a school of this quality in my Congressional District. The strengths of Columbia are its staff, students, families and community. Teachers embrace using data