

RECOGNIZING ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Paul United Methodist Church in my home state of Texas. After enriching the Dallas community for more than a century, St. Paul United Methodist Church has been recognized as a Texas Historic Landmark. The historical recognition of this church and its congregation in the Dallas community is an honor long overdue.

As a proud public servant of the thirtieth Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to see this tribute bestowed upon St. Paul United Methodist Church. With a rich history deeply rooted in education, dating back to the early periods of the Emancipation Proclamation, St. Paul served as one of only a few schools open to African American children during this turbulent time.

For well over a century, St. Paul United Methodist Church has been a pillar in the faith community of Dallas, answering the call to serve District 30 constituents through fellowship, ministry, and safe haven. I am honored to represent St. Paul and its congregation in the U.S. House of Representatives. I deeply value this historic landmark, and I congratulate St. Paul United Methodist Church on this outstanding honor.

In honor of its numerous years of service, ministry, and leadership, I encourage my fellow colleagues and state legislatures to recognize the value in the deeply enriching culture of historic landmarks such as St. Paul United Methodist Church. Through their tireless efforts to serve their surrounding communities, they will provide enrichment for years to come.

HONORING RON BADGER

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Hoosier state, many small towns and cities take pride in their locally owned businesses. These small shops often have storied pasts and are unique for their high quality services and homey appeal. It is businesses like these that are the backbone of Indiana's economy.

One such business is Badger's Shoe Repair located on East Main Street in New Albany, Indiana. Currently owned and operated by Ron Badger, Badger's Shoe Repair has been providing high quality shoe and leather service repair since its opening by Ron's father, Morgan Badger, in 1940. There is much history in this store, finding its start during a time of shoe rationing in World War II. Many small shoe repair stores have come and gone since that time yet Badger's has remained a staple of the community.

For nearly 75 years, customers from all around the region have come to Badger's for not only its fine craftsmanship but also for the outstanding customer service. Each customer receives the highest quality of care and serv-

ice while Ron also offers that unique Hoosier hospitality.

Ron Badger took over the family business in 1974 when his father retired after 34 years. At the age of 35, Ron gave up his career in clerical work to become his own boss and take over his father's store. Ron has stayed true to the old ways of shoe repair, using the same techniques and equipment that his father did. This high-quality work and personal attention to detail has attracted some elite clientele, including boots used at the world-famous Churchill Downs.

Unfortunately, Badger's Shoe Repair will be closing on December 31st of this year for the last time. After many years of hard work, Ron Badger has announced his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge Ron for his unique contribution to the Hoosier community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Ron Badger on all his wonderful accomplishments. His family owned store's success serves as a shining example for many small business owners throughout Indiana and the rest of the country. I know that his family and community are proud that he kept Badger's Shoe Repair open and successful for so many years. His hard work and Hoosier charm will surely be missed in the New Albany community.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently a very special event took place in my District in East Tennessee.

For three days in September, Medal of Honor recipients were honored at the Medal of Honor Convention in Knoxville.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be given to military personnel. Recipients must meet a very high standard of "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty."

There are less than 100 living recipients of this award—an elite club of brave soldiers unmatched anywhere. The word hero is used way too frequently these days, but this was a gathering to honor true American heroes.

A few months ago, I attended a reception at the East Tennessee Historical Society and planned to attend some of the events over the Medal of Honor Convention weekend. Unfortunately, my son Zane ended up in the hospital for 5 days, and I spent most of the weekend at the hospital or helping to care for my 18-month-old grandson.

It was a great honor for this convention to be hosted in East Tennessee. My state has a deep history of military service and is very patriotic.

Tennessee is known as the "Volunteer State" because of the high number of volunteer soldiers during the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War.

It is also home to Alvin York, who is thought to be one of the most famous Medal of Honor recipients.

Medal of Honor recipient Gen. George Gillespie of Kingston, Tennessee, actually redesigned the Army medal, and many of our Na-

tion's first Medal of Honor recipients are buried in Tennessee.

Joe Thompson and convention co-chair Chris Coyne worked for three years to bring this event to Knoxville. It could not have happened without their dedication, creativity and patriotism.

Dozens of Medal of Honor recipients were honored during the convention, including Supreme Court Justice Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr. and retired Col. Jack Jacobs, now an NBC News military analyst, who declared Knoxville "to be the most beautiful place in the country."

Mr. Speaker, this convention was a great honor for East Tennessee and a testament to the patriotism and spirit of my District. I call this convention's success to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD, and I hope everyone takes a moment to honor these soldiers whose sacrifice for our freedom can never be repaid.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009 the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,994,739,178,153.43. We've added \$7,367,862,129,240.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FORECLOSURE PROTECTION FOR
MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS
LEGISLATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to recover, some military servicemembers, particularly those leaving active duty, are facing financial challenges, such as find new employment, among other things. Additionally, a slow recovering real-estate market in some areas of the country can make it difficult for military members to sell their homes or purchase new ones upon receiving new orders.

That's why I'm introducing legislation today, with the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK, to provide a one year extension of foreclosure protection for military servicemembers leaving active duty. In 2012, Congress extended the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act protection against foreclosure for military personnel from three months to a year post-military service to help give servicemembers time to get on their feet financially and avoid the stress of potentially losing their home. These financial challenges still exist for many service members, particularly those re-acclimating to civilian life after serving abroad.

Extending this one-year protection from foreclosure time frame for an additional one-