

inducted into the Chicago 16 Inch Softball Hall of Fame.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Joseph Strzelczyk. A truly dedicated public servant, Joe Strzelczyk made Summit a great place to live. His leadership and dedication to his community was unparalleled and will truly be missed.

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 120th anniversary of New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury, Connecticut.

This weekend, New Hope Baptist Church will celebrate over a century of visionary leadership and faithful service that has contributed to achieving a healthy, thriving community. In 1895, Rev. Thomas Garnett founded the New Hope Baptist Church of Danbury with area residents who were drawn together by faith and kinship.

Eight pastors have led New Hope over the past 120 years, shepherding the parish through many periods of growth. Increasing membership throughout the decades also necessitated expansions in church programs and services as well as physical additions to the church itself. This year, under the leadership of Rev. Leroy Parker, New Hope expanded its ministry to include services in Waterbury to reach even more individuals and families in western Connecticut. Rev. Parker is an inspiring preacher, and I was honored for him to

join me at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC earlier this year.

New Hope Baptist Church is an outstanding example of what a faith community can accomplish through ministry and fellowship. The parishioners are welcoming and eager to share their faith with community members and visitors alike. I enjoy worshiping at New Hope and cherish the friendships I have made.

Congratulations to New Hope Baptist Church on its 120th anniversary.