

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE EBENEZER
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
OF HALLANDALE, FLORIDA ON
ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Hallandale, Florida, on its centennial anniversary. In 1909 the church was founded under a rubber tree and counted only three students in its Sunday School class. Since then it has grown into a pillar of the community with broad outreach to those seeking spiritual guidance, religious education, social linkages, and help with their lives.

Throughout the past 100 years Ebenezer has stood up for the disadvantaged and disenfranchised, offering those in need of help comfort, care, and assistance. As the oldest church in the community, Ebenezer has been at the forefront of social and political changes in south Florida. The church and its members were active in the Civil Rights Movement and played an important role in the desegregation of the Broward County school system in the 1960s. The church and its leaders have continued the fight for equal rights and equal opportunity.

Although the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church is no longer located in my congressional district, I am pleased to call its leaders and members my friends. The community of Ebenezer has been there for me at many points in my life and I am grateful for their support and friendship these many years.

Madam Speaker, for 100 years now the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church has ably served the community around Hallandale, Florida. Under the leadership of its past pastors, and its current leader, the Reverend Joe C. Johnson, the church has expanded its membership, performed good works in the south Florida region, and uplifted the members of its community. I wish the church, its leaders, and its members the best of luck in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE VALLEY FORGE
BAPTIST TEMPLE AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Valley Forge Baptist Temple as the congregation celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1984, "The Caring Church" has expanded to accommodate the growing congregation. After holding double Sunday-morning services, a new 32,000

square foot auditorium, nursery and office wing was built in 1996.

Valley Forge Baptist Temple supports more than 160 missionary families and organizations worldwide. Through the faith promise commitments and contributions from its members, the Church uses these funds to help evangelize the world.

Pastor Scott Wendal, Sr. has led the Church for the last 25 years, ministering and serving the people of the community. And the fruits of his labor are a growing congregation and vibrant, innovative programs that enrich lives and strengthen families.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Valley Forge Baptist Temple and in honor of all members past and present.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF COLONEL GARY L. PLUMB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in recognition of the service of Colonel Gary L. Plumb, Commander of the 46th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Colonel Plumb retires today after 27 years of humble service to this great Nation in the United States Air Force, and I am proud to recognize his vast contributions to national security.

Colonel Plumb grew up in Loveland, Colorado. After graduating from Thompson Valley High School, he joined the Air Force and accepted an appointment at the United States Air Force Academy. He graduated from the Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on 2 June, 1982.

After earning his wings and graduating number one in his Pilot Instructor Training Class, Colonel Plumb began his flying career as an instructor pilot at Reese AFB, Texas. Upon graduating Lead-in Fighter Training, Colonel Plumb flew the F-16 while assigned to the 496th Fighter Squadron at Hahn Air Base, Germany. A graduate of the United States Air Force Test Pilot School, he then flew experimental test missions in the F-16 and F-4 while assigned to the 39th Flight Test Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. From there, he attended Air Command and Staff College and then received an assignment to the F-16 System Program Office in Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio where he was Chief of F-16 Combat Capability Development.

Identified as a proven leader, Air Force leadership selected him to command one of the most important squadrons in the Air Force, the 411th Flight Test Squadron. After taking command of the 411th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards AFB, he led developmental flight test for the Air Force's newest fighter, the F/A-22.

The Colonel was then selected to attend the prestigious Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. Following this assignment Colonel Plumb was selected for a joint assignment where he was assigned to the Joint Warfighting Center, Joint Forces Command, Suffolk, Virginia. The Colonel has commanded at the flight, squadron and group level. He is a Command Pilot who has accumulated over 3,400 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft.

Colonel Gary L. Plumb is currently the Commander, 46th Test Wing, Air Armament Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. With over 4,200 military, civilian, and contractor personnel, the Test Wing's primary mission is developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, egress systems, and navigation and guidance systems. The Test Wing manages 26 modified test aircraft; 185,500 square miles of land and water test ranges, plus facilities in six different states. His leadership as the Commander of the 46th Test Wing will ensure the Eglin range complex, a national resource, remains productive and vibrant for years to come. The weapon systems tested in Northwest Florida today maintain U.S. military superiority, provide the equipment and resources for the men and woman serving this Nation to accomplish their missions, and keep them safe.

He is married to the former Robin Church, and together they have three children—U.S. Air Force Captain Jacquelyn Perr; U.S. Army 2d Lieutenant Daniel Plumb; and U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Alexander Plumb.

During his 27 years in the military, he spent almost 8 years serving the Air Force in the First Congressional District of Florida. His tireless work has benefited our community enormously. I'm pleased to hear we will continue to profit from his leadership in the Northwest Florida community as he retires in Niceville.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Colonel Plumb for his excellent leadership and extraordinary service to the United States Air Force. His contributions to national security will continue to benefit the Nation. From all the constituents of Florida's First Congressional District, I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. TAMMIE LEE
DEMLER

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Tammie Lee Demler of Wheatfield, NY, for recently being awarded the prestigious Bowl of Hygieia for her outstanding pharmacy service and leadership in our community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For nearly 50 years, the Bowl of Hygeia award program has been a vehicle to encourage pharmacists to excel beyond their standard job duties and pay back their communities through exceptional public service. Dr. Demler is a well deserving recipient of this award.

Currently, Dr. Demler is the Director of Pharmacy Services for the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. She additionally serves as the Program Director for the Post Doctoral Pharmacy Residency Program at the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In addition to her impressive career, Dr. Demler's leadership has been recognized by her peers as she was the first woman elected President of the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York in the organization's 125-year history.

Dr. Demler's dedication to the community has included participation as the Erie County Site Staging manager for the Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team (SMART), organizing the world class Taste of Buffalo as a member of the Board of Directors and Restaurant committee. In addition she has been able to use her professional skills in pharmacy to host her own TV segment on WNY Tonight.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the her dedication to our community and improving the lives of Western New Yorkers, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in congratulating Dr. Tammie Lee Demler for being awarded the prestigious Bowl of Hygeia award.

INTRODUCING THE ESTABLISHING GRANTS FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION PROGRAM

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Establishing Grants for College Access and Completion Act of 2009, a bill to increase the number of low-income students from underserved populations and disadvantaged backgrounds who enter and complete college.

It is well established that students from low-income families are 30 percent less likely to have access to higher education, but the disparity in graduation rates are more pronounced: only 20 percent of the lowest-income students are projected to graduate with a bachelor's degree by 2012, compared to 68 percent of the highest income students.

This bill would authorize Federal funding for the Grants for College Access and Completion program, a competitive grant program to support innovative and effective approaches that are currently improving college-going and college-graduation rates for low-income, high-promise students. Eligible organizations would need to show a proven track record of success in increasing the number of students from low-income and disadvantaged populations who enter and remain in college, and have an independent scholarship program supported by non-Federal dollars. Any eligible organization, under this bill, would be able to enter into partnerships with other entities to

improve their ability to effectively reach low-income and disadvantaged students.

This bill was written to use taxpayers' money wisely. The Federal grants would be used to provide mentoring, academic support, and supportive services to prepare low-income students to attend institutions of higher education, with 15 percent of the funds coming from non-Federal sources. This bill does not provide any money for scholarships; rather, it will be required that the grantees have established and successful scholarship programs. Finally, the bill has an annual reporting requirement of grantees, so that the Secretary can keep close track of their performance.

For example, efforts are currently underway and proven to improve graduation rates of this student population. A Washington State-based foundation, the College Success Foundation, formerly the Washington Education Foundation, is leading the way, by encouraging low-income and disadvantaged students to pursue higher education, and providing them with support and mentoring services to ensure their continued success in college.

Almost 90 percent of today's fastest growing jobs require some postsecondary education. Students who do not attend and graduate from college are increasingly finding themselves shut out of well-paying jobs. Statistics show that an individual without a high school diploma will earn approximately \$1,100,000 less in their lifetime than an individual with a bachelor's degree. Finally, statistics show that the children of college graduates, and even their children's children, are more likely to go on to graduate from institutes of higher education. Should my bill become law, and help students attend and graduate from college, their expected lifetime earnings will more than pay for the little sums of money appropriated through this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to consider this important bill.

HONORING DR. ABE SILVERSTEIN

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Abe Silverstein, an American engineer who played an important part in the United States space program.

Dr. Silverstein was born in 1908 in Terre Haute, Indiana, and earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering (1929) and an M.E. (1934) from the Rose Polytechnic Institute. In 1929, Dr. Silverstein was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) at the Langley research center to work on the design of the Altitude Wind Tunnel. While there, he also directed research which led to increased high-speed performance of most of the combat aircraft of World War II. His work contributed to development of present day supersonic aircrafts.

Dr. Silverstein helped at NASA headquarters to help with the space flights of Project Mercury and the Apollo program. He was also chair to the government commission The Silverstein Committee.

Dr. Silverstein received several awards for his work. In 1984, NASA named him an "Elder Statesman of Aviation." On August 14, 1997, Dr. Silverstein was the recipient of the Guggenheim Medal for significant contributions to the advancement of flight. He later retired to Ohio and spent his winters in Cape Coral.

I would like to recognize Dr. Silverstein for his contributions to this country and we are proud of all his accomplishments. His lifetime achievements are truly commendable.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN CYPRUS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to urge the U.S. to join in the efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the dispute in Cyprus.

The United States, United Nations, United Kingdom, European Union are just a few countries and international organizations who have long been engaged in the efforts to bring about a negotiated compromise to the dispute in Cyprus. I feel it is time that such an agreement is reached. Moreover, I'm pleased that at the end of last year, the Greek Cypriot Leader, Demetris Christofias, and Turkish Cypriot Leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, began U.N.-sponsored peace talks to try to find a solution to the ongoing situation in Cyprus.

I believe this Administration should also take an active role to bring about a solution that would be beneficial for both Cypriot communities. This ongoing disagreement pits two NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, against each other, and therefore, we must quickly find a mutually agreed upon solution.

Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon, testified that "resolution of the Cyprus problem will have a tremendous impact on the region by strengthening peace, justice, and prosperity on the island, advancing Turkey's European Union accession, improving NATO-EU cooperation and removing a source of friction between two NATO Allies, Greece and Turkey."

I agree with the Assistant Secretary Gordon's sentiments and hope the Administration takes the appropriate actions to ensure that an accord is achieved. Any agreement must lead Cyprus to an independent government where both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have equal political rights similar to the 1994 Annan Plan. The Annan Plan would have set up a confederation of two component states—the Greek Cypriot State and the Turkish Cypriot State. Both Cypriot communities would be joined together by a federal government mirrored after the Swiss federal model. The plan included a federal constitution, constitutions for each constituent state, and a string of constitutional and federal laws. It also provided for a Reconciliation Commission to bring the two Cypriot communities closer together and resolve outstanding disputes from the past.

Such a bi-zonal and bi-communal agreement is the best approach and I urge the Administration to actively participate in the peaceful re-unification process in Cyprus.