

DR. CHRISTAL M. ALBRECHT
LEADS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION
BOARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alvin Community College President Dr. Christal M. Albrecht for being appointed as the president of the National Council for Workforce Education. Dr. Albrecht has served on the board for many years, including many roles such as Regional Director, Vice President of Government Relations and Executive Committee Member.

The National Council for Workforce Education serves as the national forum to affect and direct the future role of two-year and other postsecondary institutions in workforce education and economic development. I'm confident Dr. Albrecht will help provide outstanding conferences and offering a forum for practitioners to learn from each other's best practices.

On behalf of all residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I'm pleased to recognize Dr. Christal M. Albrecht and her contributions to the Alvin community as well as helping to improve postsecondary education across America. We are all proud of Dr. Albrecht and wish her the best of luck as President of the National Council for Workforce Education Board.

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE AND GARY
ALGER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Connie and Gary Alger of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on May 29, 1966 at Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Clarinda.

Connie and Gary's lifelong commitment to each other, their children and grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I salute this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Connie and Gary on this momentous occasion.

HONORING SWEET CANAAN
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise day to honor a historic church, Sweet

Canaan Church of God in Christ. It has shown what can be done through the years of dedication of a progressive church.

The historic Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ, which is the second oldest Church of God in Christ in the World and is located at: 1946 Bellbottom Road in Lexington, MS 39095.

"The first church added to the number professing sanctification was located in Carroll (Holmes) County sixteen or seventeen miles north of Lexington, Mississippi." This statement is from the book: "Fifty Years Achievement from 1906-1956 A PERIOD IN HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST"; By Charles H. Pleas, reprint 1991 p 5. The Editorial note stated: The Historic Sweet Canaan church is located near the Carroll County line but it is actually in northern Holmes County just south of Carroll County.

Sweet Canaan began as a little prayer mission in a wayside house of Professor Allen Taylor. Allen Taylor's property was located on Bell Bottom Road which is located about ten to fifteen miles north of Lexington. During those days Elder Morgan Williams was in charge of the small congregation. In the year 1909, the prayer mission decided to organize itself and the name Sweet Canaan was chosen. Prior to selecting the name Sweet Canaan, the church was known as the "Colored Sanctified Church." It was through continuous fervent prayer that other community people soon joined the early saints.

The present site of Sweet Canaan was once the spot where cattle of Professor Taylor grazed. Professor Taylor donated the land to the church for the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00), a legal formality.

Although the small congregation did not have seats, the community was blessed. Mr. Isaac Randle was given a few dollars to bring some sweet gum logs to be used as seats in the prayer mission. Recognizing the small congregation's perseverance, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, Founder of the Church of God In Christ, appointed Elder Jeffery A. Lewis as their first pastor. He was also appointed the first Overseer of the State of Mississippi. At that time, the whole state was under one jurisdiction.

Sweet Canaan is blessed to have had its first three pastors to serve as state overseers; they were Elder Jeffery Lewis, Elder Stephen Rice, and Elder James Henderson. Sweet Canaan is also blessed to have had the jurisdictional supervisor of women for northern Mississippi, Mother Sarah Ann Braggs Gaston, as a member during her youth. Bishop Timothy Titus, Prelate of Northern Mississippi Jurisdiction, preached at Historic Sweet Canaan during his early years as a young preacher. The late Bishop Louis Henry Ford, former Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, often talked about his experience when he preached at Sweet Canaan, when he was a child and a student at Saint Academy and College in Lexington.

The first State Holy Convocation of the Church of God In Christ was held at Historic Sweet Canaan.

Former Pastors of Sweet Canaan were: Elder J.A. Lewis, Elder Stephen Rice, Elder Fred Winans, Elder W.B. Hedges, Elder D.R. Curry, Elder James Lee, Elder James Henderson, Elder D. Pitchford, Elder J.L. Pleas, Superintendent Fred Wade, and currently Elder Dr. Percy Washington, Sr.

The first deacons of Sweet Canaan were Brother Phillip Blake, Brother Louis Brooks and Brother Charlie Randle, and Mother Abbie Banks was the church mother.

Some of the early saints of Sweet Canaan were: Professor Allen Taylor, Brother Louis Brooks, Brother Willis Randle, Brother Frank Blake, Brother Jessie Banks, Brother Frank Hoover, Brother Ben Simmons, Mother Sara Booker, Mother Ina Jenkins, Mother Ida Wilson, Mother Abbie Banks, Mother Ella Taylor, Mother Emma Brooks, and Deacon Payton Smith.

The present pastor, Elder Dr. Percy Louis Washington, was appointed to serve on May 18, 2003 by Bishop T.T. Scott. Pastor Washington and his lovely wife, Glenda, have five sons and nine grandchildren.

He and the Sweet Canaan congregation have worked hard together to preserve the history of Sweet Canaan by enclosing the whole building inside the Dr. Tyree and Mary Carr Multipurpose Building. The beautiful Carr Multipurpose Building houses not only the entire historic church, but it houses the fellowship hall, residential quarters, office and classroom space.

On July 18, 2013, Bishop Charles Edward Blake, the Pastor of West Angeles Cathedral in Los Angeles, California, and the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., visited Historic Sweet Canaan. They were joined at Sweet Canaan by General Board Members, Bishop Brandon Porter of Memphis, Tennessee, and Bishop Wooten of St. Louis, Missouri. Also joining Bishop Blake were several other bishops and more than half of the Trustee Board of the Church of God in Christ.

Pastor Washington has said many times; "When I went to Sweet Canaan, on my way to the church I saw many cows. When I got to the church I saw a honey bee hive in the back of the church. I knew I was in the right place. For I was in the Land of Milk and Honey—in the land of Canaan—Sweet Canaan."

Sweet Canaan oftentimes invites many to praise and worship with them every Sunday. Their Prayer service begins at 9:00 a.m., Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday Worship Service starts at 11:00 am.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic Sweet Canaan Church of God in Christ.

IN MEMORY OF ERNEST HARRY
"PETE" DENT SR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, July 13, 2016, a funeral service was held for Pete Dent at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina. As a dedicated family man and respected business leader, he will be greatly missed. I am grateful for his service as a member of the U.S. Air Force and I would like to extend my deep sympathy to his family during this time of mourning. He will be buried at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.

A thoughtful obituary was published in The State newspaper on July 12, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—A funeral service for Ernest Harry "Pete" Dent Sr., 82, will be held at

11:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Burial will be in Fort Jackson National Cemetery at a later date. The family will receive friends following the funeral service in the Family Activities Building at the church. Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel, is assisting the family.

Mr. Dent died Sunday, July 10, 2016. Born in Columbia, he was a son of the late Arthur Kibler Dent Sr. and Elinor Stiller Dent. He was a member of the U.S. Air Force Class of 55K Bantam, stationed at Spence AFB in Moultrie, Ga. He enjoyed a 30+ year career selling automobiles in Columbia, primarily Chevrolets with Love Automotive and Central Chevrolet. Many of his long term friendships were initiated from his auto sales. In his post-retirement years, he enjoyed his part-time work with Lorick Office Products, allowing him more opportunities to spend time with his son. He was a member of Woodlands Country Club where he enjoyed his weekly rounds of golf with friends and family.

Surviving are his wife, Mary T. Dent; son and daughter-in-law, Harry and Andrea Dent; daughter and son-in-law, Patti and Shawn O'Rourke; grandchildren, Ernest Harry "Trae" Dent III, Aydan Leigh O'Rourke, Ryan Michael O'Rourke; stepson, Tony Ramsay; stepdaughter, Tanya Ramsay Daniels (J. Sam); and stepgrandson, Holt Daniels; first wife and lifelong friend, Nadine Cantey and "husband-in-law", John B. Cantey. He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Ashley Nicole Dent.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ashley Dent Foundation, 303 N. Woodlake Drive, Columbia, SC 29229-8933, where funds will be directed to organizations participating in Alzheimer's research.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF BRASELTON, GEORGIA

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Town of Braselton, Georgia. Braselton is located partially in the Ninth Congressional District, which I proudly represent. The town limits straddle four different counties, and spreads into adjoining districts represented by my fellow Georgians, Mr. WOODALL and Mr. HICE.

The town has a rich history. In 1884, John Oliver Braselton opened a general merchandise store and laid the foundation for what would become the great town of Braselton.

Braselton quickly became a prominent economic and geographic center in Northeast Georgia and prompted town officials to seek legal incorporation on August 21, 1916.

John Oliver Braselton's three sons expanded the original general store to include a bank, a grocery store, and a feed and seed outlet all while maintaining its reputation as a social center of town.

Transformational events paved the way for the growth and prosperity of the town, including the creation of a rail spur and state highways, the continued development of the Braselton Brothers Store, and Governor Ernest Vandiver's decision to route I-85 through the Town. The long term investments and vision of town leaders, the strength of small

businesses, and most importantly the genuine families, all played a large role in creating the community that is Braselton today.

As a sign of its stability and strong family ties, Braselton has elected only 5 mayors in its 100 year history: William Henry Braselton, Lewis Braselton, Henry Edward Braselton, Pat Graham and Bill Orr.

The town's first one hundred years will always be remembered, and have paved the way for its second century of growth and success. I join in saluting Braselton's Centennial Celebration and congratulating its citizens on this wonderful occasion.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN CARLOS MENDEZ PEREZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, who lived in Kissimmee, Florida, and was a resident of my district. Jean lost his life during the tragic shooting at Pulse nightclub in the early morning hours of June 12, 2016. He was 35 years old.

Jean moved to Florida from Puerto Rico when he was a teenager. He quickly made friends and built a new life for himself. He was charming, full of life and had a warmth that everyone loved to be around. Jean loved indulging his nieces and nephews with candy and ice cream. He was humorous and fun-loving.

Jean was a salesman at a perfume store. He assisted a customer, Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, several years ago, who would become his partner in life. Their friends described the moment they met as "love at first sight," and the beginning of their nine-year relationship. The two shared a home, frequented their favorite Hispanic restaurants and loved going to Latin Night at the Pulse club.

Jean and Luis were together at the club on the night of the shooting. The couple died alongside one another that night.

Jean Carlos Mendez Perez will never be forgotten in our pursuit of a more just and loving world. His loving spirit and acts of kindness will live forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

May his family, relatives and friends eventually find solace and comfort, and may he rest in eternal peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN RADCLIFF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman, Carolyn Radcliff, who passed away peacefully on June 17th. Carolyn was a devoted and distinguished public servant. Many of those years were spent here on Capitol Hill as an Administrative Assistant for myself, my predecessor, Rep. Norman Lent (NY) and Rep. William Royer (CA). Prior to her Congressional service, Carolyn served as a Con-

fidential Assistant to the County Supervisor, San Mateo, CA, and as Legal Secretary to the Assistant District Attorney, San Mateo County.

No one questioned Carolyn's love for life. Her laugh was contagious. Her outlook and positive spirit were unmatched. Yet nothing surpassed her devotion and love for her family, especially her son Tadd and her four grandchildren: Cody, Sam, Laney and Cooper. Every holiday and birthday was a required trip to Janesville, WI.

I extend my condolences to Carolyn's family and the many individuals who were honored to call her a friend. She will be missed but never forgotten.

HONORING THE GILFIELD M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Gilfield M.B. Church in Doddsville, Mississippi. The church was founded and built by slaves on the banks on the Sunflower River located on the plantation of United States Senator James O. Eastland in 1894.

The history of the church spans 122 years with records showing three structures as its home, each with its own fascinating and remarkable journey. Early records of the church were recalled and passed down by word of mouth from slaves down to the members of the church which were also relatives. The earliest written record of the church was around the 1980s. Many of the elders and other members were still attending the church, so Ms. Hattie Jordan, a member of the church, volunteered to be the church historian and keeper of the records. She gathered documents, recorded oral stories, researched "leads" of where she could get more information or someone who could corroborate the findings. One source of information she relied on were two cornerstones located on the existing church front in Doddsville. One of the cornerstones was once the original place of the church in 1894, and transferred thereafter to structures one and two.

In 1894 the location of the first church was strategically planned to exist near water. It is believed but not recorded that the location was chosen because the river could be used to secretly baptize members, a practice not openly approved of by plantation owners. Ms. Jordan told the story of how she was baptized in the Sunflower River behind Gilfield M.B. Church in 1953 by Rev. McGee. Gilfield M.B. Church was allowed to exist only because Senator Eastland gave the slaves his approval.

GILFIELD M.B. CHURCH—FIRST STRUCTURE—1894 YEAR: The first pastors of Gilfield M.B. Church at its initial location were: Rev. C.C. Edwards, Rev. Hester, Rev. Hobbs, and Rev. Mose Watson. No written records were kept by slaves. The only source for handing down information was by word of mouth to the younger generation.

GILFIELD M.B. CHURCH—SECOND STRUCTURE—1921 YEAR: The second Gilfield M.B. Church was built a mile down from the first site on the banks of the Sunflower River on