

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DENBIGH  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, First Baptist Church Denbigh in Newport News is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The story of First Baptist Church Denbigh begins in July 1862 as the Civil War raged. A Recognizing Council was called to meet at the old Denbigh Baptist Church. They chose Rev. Peter Banks to lead the congregation. Rev. T. G. Wright became the second pastor, serving from 1863 to 1869. During his administration, the white community returned to claim their church building. Rev. Wright and congregation moved to the current location, building a small house of worship.

During the tenure of Rev. T. G. Nettles (1870–1881), a larger house was built to accommodate increased membership and the church was renamed to "First Baptist Church of Warwick County." Other ministers were Reverends Watt Talton (1882–1883), J. B. Whiting (1883–1887), Robert H. Nazareth (1887–1912), T. C. Williams (1912–13), A. A. Hudgins (1913–26), Isaac Daniel (1926–32), J. D. Atkins (1933–40), and Joseph H. Brown (1941–48), all of whom added to the church in both physical form and spiritual leadership. During this period, the church was renamed "First Baptist Church Denbigh."

For the next ten years, the church received sermons from Reverends B F. Burton and I. L. Buie along with other leaders. Later ministers were Reverends Samuel Fladger (1959–63), T. T. Brown (1963–67), and Albert L. Hill (1968–73), who initiated a bond sale to build a new air conditioned facility, with an indoor baptismal pool, which held its first services in 1972.

Rev. Herbert A. Hill, Jr. began his pastorate in 1974 and gave the church the strength to endure though a tragic fire in 1986 which destroyed the church edifice. For a time, services were held in schools and other places in the community. In 1987, Rev. Hill's tenure as pastor ended and associate pastors provided guidance to the flock.

In 1987, Edward Talton, a deacon for more than 40 years, was called into the ministry. Rev. Talton preached only two sermons from the pulpit before his death, but his life was a sermon in itself. In 1988, Rev. Haywood Barnes was voted to serve as interim pastor. Since 1988, Rev. Ivan T. Harris has led services, assuming the full-time pastorate in October 1991. Through Pastor Harris' efforts, the church's 25 year mortgage was burned on October 9, 1994—after only 6½ years.

Over the years, the First Baptist community has continued to flourish. Successful fund-raising has afforded the church handicap-accessible transportation, a new Church Bell, an Education Center, Child Development Center,

Family Life Center, and modern technologies. In addition to Sunday prayers, the church offers Summer Bible School, The Bible Institute, and GED, Homebound and Short Term Suspension programs. It provides over 30 ministries and is home to several choirs. The Church leads charitable causes including the The Hunt Food Locker, Food Mobile, Summer Feeding Program, an Outreach Center for women's transitional housing, a Clothes Closet, and the adoption of a low-income neighborhood.

Perhaps the most notable activity of the church is their African Village Adoption Project, initiated in 2005. Members have selected a native from Benin, Africa for adoption. The Church as a whole has provided a water well, microbanking program, motorcycles, books, a Christian School, and medical and worship facilities.

As First Baptist Church Denbigh gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future. I would like to congratulate Pastor Harris and all of the 2,500 members of First Baptist Church Denbigh on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

GARTH PATTERSON—FRIEND OF  
THE FISHERMEN, FRIEND OF  
MASSACHUSETTS, AND MY  
GREAT FRIEND

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have never had to learn more about an issue in my life than when I learned in 1992 that the City of New Bedford and its fishing industry was included in the new Congressional district that I have proudly represented. New Bedford is one of the most successful fishing ports in the county, and in fact for the 12th consecutive year New Bedford had the highest-valued catch of any port in the United States. Fishing is not only a vital part of the economy of the region, but an integral component of its culture and social makeup. I could not represent the needs of such a unique community without a talented staff, and I am honored that my long-time aide, Garth Patterson, is the recipient of the 2012 Friend of the Fisherman Award recognizing his exemplary work.

He received this award from the fishing community of New Bedford because of the high quality of the work he has done to provide the kind of first-rate public service and advocacy that is so essential to the continued survival of the fishing industry. In some cases, our advocacy can be uncomplicated, but there are also cases where mastering a very complex body of data is essential if we are to do our job right. Garth provided me with an extraordinary degree of technical expertise, practical knowledge, political savvy, and an ability to understand all viewpoints and articulate his own. He has been an enormous asset not only to me, but also to those concerned with the survival of the fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I join the fishermen in thanking Garth. He is a tireless advocate for the com-

munity, and his nearly quarter century of public service is the quintessential model of how constituent relations should be conducted. I am proud that he is receiving this award, proud of his hard work for the people of Massachusetts, and proud to call him my friend.

RECOGNIZING DR. PAT STROH

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 20, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, and Congressman PETE STARK to recognize Dr. Pat Stroh, the Director of the Family and Children's Services Program in Contra Costa County and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement.

Dr. Stroh earned her Master's Degree from Ball State University and her Doctorate in Education Early Childhood Focus from Walden University. Prior to coming to Contra Costa County in 1998, she served as Director of Head Start in Lexington, Kentucky and directed a U.S. Army Child Development Program in Europe.

Over the years, Dr. Stroh's outstanding work in public service has demonstrated her strong commitment to the children and families of Contra Costa County. Under her leadership, Contra Costa's Head Start Child Development Program's enrollment more than doubled and expanded from a part-day, part-year schedule to close to a full-day, full-year program. In addition, during very difficult economic times, Dr. Stroh was also able to more than double the program budget.

Dr. Stroh's interest and influence extends well beyond our county's borders. As a member of the Board of the National Head Start Association as well as the California Head Start Association, she has worked diligently to enhance and expand the collaborative efforts of these organizations. Pat has also served as Validator and Mentor with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. As a result, the United States Congress was quick to recognize Dr. Stroh as the 2008 California Head Start Association Administrator of the Year for Invaluable Service to the Community.

Our community and Dr. Stroh's colleagues have honored her numerous times, recognizing her passion for children and her ability to develop programs that improve their chance of success in the world. As we well recognize, the success of our children bodes well for the success of our families and our entire community.

Today, we invite our colleagues to join us in honoring Dr. Pat Stroh once again for her dedicated service to the families and children of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join her family, colleagues and friends in congratulating her on a long and highly successful career and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.