

Bishop Victor L. Powell, who will celebrate his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Rhema Word Cathedral. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Rhema Word Cathedral in Albany, Georgia.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Powell was born to be a leader. He served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps for nine years. He completed Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School and Defense Mapping School, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bishop Powell also is a certified trainer with the Georgia Department of Corrections and has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers for the State of Georgia.

Since 1990, Bishop Powell has led Rhema Word Cathedral, formerly known as Williams Spring Baptist Church. His God-given vision has taken the church to greater heights than ever before. Bishop Powell pastors one church in two locations—one in downtown Albany and one in Dawson, Georgia. He also founded Stand Up Again, Inc., a subsidiary of Rhema Word Cathedral and outreach ministry that serves local, regional, and even international communities, including Ghana, Guatemala, and Haiti. The Stand Up Again television broadcast reaches people throughout the region on a weekly basis.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Bishop Powell serves as pastor to other pastors all over the world through Covenant Network Ministries. He is also the President and CEO of VLP, Inc., which provides training and motivational speaking to corporations and agencies.

In October 2002, Bishop Powell was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Archbishop Earl Paulk of the International Charismatic Communion of Churches in Decatur, Georgia. Bishop Powell has served on the College of Bishops for the International Charismatic Communion of Churches; the Foundation Board for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital; and Stop the Violence Project. He has also served on the Executive Board of Directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce; Capitol City Bank; Albany-Dougherty Governmental Study Commission; and Lily Pad of Albany.

Using Bishop Powell as a vessel, God has reached into the hearts of many so that Rhema Word Cathedral has welcomed thousands of souls to this prolific ministry. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, his ministry has stretched across the globe. As one of the premier preachers of our generation, Bishop Powell is well-known and sought after for his anointed, sound and understandable proclamation of God's Word. He is motivated by his love for people, his love for preaching, and his belief that no one is beyond God's reach. On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Bishop Powell's sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Bishop Victor L. Powell for twenty-five wonderful years of changing Southwest Georgia for the better, over thirty remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

IN HONOR OF SAN BERNARDINO POLICE OFFICER GABRIEL GARCIA

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Bernardino Police Officer Gabriel Garcia for his outstanding service to the community and for his dedication to the San Bernardino Police Department.

Officer Garcia joined the police force in March 2008 and has since served as a Patrol Officer. His work throughout the years has been described as exemplary by colleagues on account of his extreme professionalism and compassionate nature. Among Officer Garcia's many accomplishments include his highly commended involvement in the San Bernardino Graffiti Task Force. Throughout his tenure, he has received widespread commendation for his assistance with various crimes such as armed robberies and car theft.

At about 2 a.m. on August 22, 2014, Officer Garcia was shot in the head and critically injured while showing his young officer trainee how to conduct a pedestrian check in San Bernardino. Officer Garcia's injuries were so severe that he spent several months hospitalized in critical condition. Due to his life-threatening brain injuries, Officer Garcia was put in a medically induced coma, which he later emerged from in September.

Now, after a triumphant recovery, Officer Garcia is back at the side of his loving family. His recovery is currently being aided by his father, retired San Bernardino Police Captain Ron Garcia, and his mother, Lydia Garcia. They provide full care and support for their son as he takes part in a day therapy program.

Officer Garcia is a testament to the sacrifices that our public safety officials make in order to protect and serve our communities. He is a reminder to all of us that every day, men and women in law enforcement put themselves in harm's way to maintain order throughout the United States. His perseverance through this traumatic event is inspirational, and I wish him a continued recovery.

For his heroic contributions to the community, and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Officer Garcia and his family.

HONORING CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Callaway High School that is located at 601 Beasley Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Callaway is one of seven high schools in the Jackson Public School District, the largest school district in the state of Mississippi.

Built in 1966, Callaway was named after the late Robert M. Callaway, a Lafayette County native. He began his career teaching Choctaw Indians in the mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Before assuming duties as prin-

cipal of Liberty Grove School, later H. V. Watkins Elementary in Jackson, he taught at Darling in Quitman County and Pochontas in Hinds County. He was principal at Watkins from 1936–1956.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Callaway High School.

CONGRATULATING HONDA MANUFACTURING OF INDIANA

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, located in my district in Greensburg, Indiana, reached a significant milestone by celebrating the production of its 1 millionth vehicle on April 8, 2015.

Honda began manufacturing Civic Sedans at the plant in October of 2008 and is the sole U.S. plant producing these vehicles. While most of the production is slated for the U.S. market, the Indiana facility exports to a number of locations around the world. The facility's annual production capacity is currently 250,000 vehicles.

Honda, a Japanese company, exemplifies how strong trade ties can benefit Indiana's economy. Honda purchases parts and materials from 49 suppliers from around the state of Indiana and has spent more than \$16 billion with suppliers in North America since 2008. Additionally, since Honda opened its doors, it has had a strong presence in Greensburg and the surrounding communities, providing thousands of jobs to Hoosiers.

Please join me in congratulating Honda and the more than 2,000 associates at the facility for this major manufacturing achievement.

INSTRUMENTAL LEADERSHIP

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of Alvin Community College's (ACC) outstanding faculty members, Dr. Lynda Vern and Ms. Karen Downey, who were recently named recipients of the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award during the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in Boston. This award recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff.

Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are among more than 60 recipients to be recognized from the great State of Texas. The award recognizes exemplary faculty and staff for their contributions and leadership. Dr. Vern has worked at ACC for almost 40 years and teaches developmental education students while directing ACC's Learning Lab. Ms. Downey has worked with the college for 30 years and teaches in the Court Reporting program. Community colleges play a critical role in shaping and developing the workforce needed to keep our economy strong. The leadership of Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are instrumental in maintaining excellence in education for our community.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey for receiving the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAMIR SALIBA

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in order to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Samir Saliba on his remarkable 51 years as a full-time faculty member at the College. He has had many titles and jobs in his 51 years at Emory, but from my time as a student I fondly remember him as 'Dean Saliba.'

More importantly, I recall the positive influence Dean Saliba had on me. I am confident he has similarly impacted countless people he came across over the years, whether in Virginia or wherever he has been.

Dean Saliba's influence at Emory and Henry, of course, is immeasurable, as he established the Political Science Department and implemented additional, remarkable visions as chair of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Faculty, advisor for the pre-law program, and director of the Center for International Studies. I commend him on these accomplishments, and on his numerous awards and accolades, including the 2014 William and Martha DeFriece Award.

Dean Saliba will soon be taking a well-deserved sabbatical, following his decades of hard work instructing young people and improving the Emory brand not just across the Commonwealth, but across the country. It is my hope that he enjoys this time, and returns refreshed to work on a memoir of his years at Emory and Henry.

I am honored to officially congratulate Dr. Saliba, pay tribute to his legacy, and thank him for all he has done for the Emory and Henry family.

TRIBUTE TO THE ATHLETES OF SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extremely talented Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They have achieved the consensus recognition as the Number 1-ranked and National Championship girls' basket-

ball team in the United States of America, and won the Pennsylvania State Championship (PIAA Class AA), Philadelphia City Championship (PIAA District 12), and the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship.

The Lady Saints put on a dominant performance in their state championship game against the Seton-LaSalle Rebels of Pittsburgh, with a commanding victory of 79–34 to become Pennsylvania State Champions. Not only did they finish their unprecedented season a perfect 30–0, but they've also been recognized as the "Team of the Year" by the Philadelphia Inquirer for the Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania region.

These talented young women were mentored throughout the season by former head coach Letty Santarelli, who was a star-player at Immaculata University, and were led by Head Coach Andrea Peterson. Following this remarkable season, Coach Peterson has been named the Top High School Girls' Basketball Coach in the United States, winning the Naismith National Coach of the Year Award.

I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating this team on an outstanding season.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REVEREND JAMES R. EDWARDS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 16, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the people of Southwest Georgia, the Reverend James R. Edwards. Rev. Edwards is retiring after pastoring the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia for almost twenty years. His friends, family, and church community will honor him at a celebration event on Saturday, April 18, 2015 in Camilla, Georgia.

An Arkansas native, Rev. Edwards began his ministry at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, where he earned degrees in Business Administration and Christian Education.

From there, Rev. Edwards was drafted into the United States Marine Corps and began his active duty career on November 17, 1969 in Parris Island, South Carolina. He served our nation honorably for over thirty years both within the United States and overseas. He was promoted from private to warrant officer, and retired on May 31, 2000 with the rank of Major. He is decorated with the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Following his calling, Rev. Edwards dedicated a significant portion of his time to ministry while in the Marines and afterward. He was ordained a deacon at Christian Valley

Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago, Illinois in 1978. From November 1980 to June 1982, he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher at Marshall Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Midway Park, North Carolina. He then served as deacon and president of brotherhood for Second Missionary Baptist Church in Oceanside, California. While at the City of Refuge Christian Church in Waipahu, Hawaii, he accepted his calling into the ministry, preaching his initial sermon on Thanksgiving Day in 1985. He was ordained at the Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Hawkinsville, Georgia in April 1989.

Rev. Edwards served as associate pastor at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Dale, South Carolina and Grace Christian Church in Kaneohe, Hawaii. He served as pastor at Camp Smith Chapel in Honolulu, Hawaii, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas, and Summerhill Missionary Baptist Church in Pelham, Georgia.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and able leader when Rev. Edwards arrived in Albany, Georgia in September 1995. Throughout his pastoral career, always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Edwards has served on numerous community boards, and as chairman of Faith Community Outreach and the Putney District Union; vice president of the Second District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.; president of the Mitchell County Ministerial Alliance and Baconton Community Group of Churches; chaplain at the Jimmy Autry State Prison; and CEO of the Southwest Georgia Community House of Hope. And even still, while being the lead member in all of these ministries and organizations, he was also a member of the NAACP, National Naval Officers Association, Montford Point Marine Association, American Red Cross, Southern Leadership Conference, Blacks in Government, and Leadership Albany.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Edwards is a man of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, his spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious. Under his leadership, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of light in our community, serving as a voice for the voiceless and guide for the lost by spreading the ministry and the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Along with his extensive church community, Rev. Edwards is surrounded by the love and support of his family—his wife, Ethel Louise Sheffield, and their five children, sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Reverend James R. Edwards for more than thirty years of dedicated service to our nation, twenty wonderful years of changing South Georgia for the better, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.