

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. NANCY KOTOWSKI

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Nancy Kotowski, who is retiring after serving three terms as the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Kotowski dedicated forty-six years to a career in education. Throughout this time, she made invaluable contributions to educational opportunities offered to students on the central coast of California.

Dr. Kotowski earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Dayton, a Master's degree from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. During this time, Dr. Kotowski also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon where she was recognized as a "Volunteer of the Year" for her development work in education. This experience provided the basis for a lifelong dedication to improving education systems, especially in economically disadvantaged communities.

Dr. Kotowski's career on the Central Coast began at the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) in 1992. She quickly advanced to Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, where she served with distinction for ten years, followed by another three years as Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Her dedication and distinct talent in these positions led to her election as Monterey County Superintendent of Schools, where she began in January of 2007. She was reelected twice as voters continued to recognize her true devotion to students and unique ability to ensure that our education system serves student bodies that are diverse in culture, language, and socio-economic status.

As Monterey County Superintendent, Dr. Kotowski streamlined MCOE operations, secured numerous grants to expand MCOE programs, and implemented a new accounting system and solar power project. She worked closely with Monterey County's twenty-four school districts, local higher education institutions, and directly with community members to improve the quality of education delivered to Monterey County students. Dr. Kotowski's commitment to public service has been recognized by many organizations. She was honored with the Champion of Education for Students of California by the California County Superintendents Association in 2010, Public Official of the Year Award by the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce in 2013, Talcott Bates Award by the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Monterey County in 2015, and the Summer Matters Bridge Builder Award by California Department of Education in 2016.

Dr. Nancy Kotowski's legacy of public service is impressive and has made an immeasurably positive impact on the lives of students on the Central Coast. I am honored to recog-

nize this legacy, and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Kotowski all the best on her well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLYWOOD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hollywood United Methodist Church in Hollywood, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of its Red Ribbons of Hope.

Hollywood United Methodist Church (HUMC) was founded in 1909, when the first congregants began organizing. As the congregation grew, a decision was made to build a new home for the church. Designed by renowned architect Thomas P. Barber and based partially on the English Gothic style of London's Westminster Hall, construction began in 1927 and in 1930, the stately church was unveiled, lauding its illustrious reign as a Hollywood landmark. In 1981, the church was declared as a Historic-Cultural Monument by the City of Los Angeles, and in 2015, a second campus, the Toluca Lake Campus of Hollywood United Methodist Church was opened.

Since its inception, HUMC has provided spiritual guidance and tangible support to the Hollywood area community—working to fulfill its mission to be an inclusive, vibrant, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. This ideology is apparent in the church's many programs and ministries that include Homeless Ministry, Youth Programs and participation in mission efforts assisting those in need by rebuilding lives and homes in the U.S. and abroad.

Perhaps the church's most recognized ministry however, is its compassionate hospitality to people living with HIV/AIDS. For many years, the church has offered pastoral counseling and supportive services referrals to persons and their families living with HIV/AIDS. HUMC supports outreach efforts for Project Angel Food, The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, The Wall/Las Memorias and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and congregants participate in the annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles. In 1993, HUMC installed its Red Ribbons of Hope—red ribbons being the universal symbol of support and awareness for those living with HIV/AIDS—on both campuses to proclaim the church as "a sanctuary of hope and love."

I am proud to recognize Hollywood United Methodist Church's on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its Red Ribbons of Hope, and I invite all Members to join me in honoring this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY IN WESTERN NEW YORK OF REV. DR. T. ANTHONY BRONNER AND THE 19TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY OF ELIM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to acknowledge Bishop Bronner, Senior Pastor of Elim Christian Fellowship on his 25th Pastoral Anniversary in Western New York and the 19th Church Anniversary of Elim Christian Fellowship. In keeping with the theme of this celebration, "And the Journey Continues" we are all confident that Bishop Bronner will continue his visionary leadership in faith, his powerful sermons and his traditional and progressive ministerial approaches to producing spiritual growth and development. Just as Bishop Bronner did early on when he began his pastoral experience in 1992, his crusade to reach souls in regional prayer meetings and grow the church and its ministries continues.

Bishop Bronner purposefully builds churches. As an Undergraduate at Temple University, Bronner founded Bridge the Gap Christian Campus Ministry. Fresh out of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Bishop Bronner was called to Calvary Baptist Church in Buffalo and the Church grew exponentially under his leadership. From there, Bishop Bronner founded Elim Christian Fellowship in 1999 and a second church in Rochester bearing the same name in 2002. Bishop Bronner ensures these churches maintain vision and purpose by creating a ministry network called, Turning the World Upside Down Covenant Fellowship, Inc. This all-encompassing ministry offers seminars, workshops, revival meetings and teaching materials that are spiritually relevant.

Elim, "known as a place of refreshing" offers ministries that speak to the human condition in ways that are sensitive to the needs of all individuals. It's no wonder that Elim Christian Fellowship and Bishop Bronner in particular, attract such a following. Bishop Bronner has made it his mission to embrace all people without regard for differences or stations in life. This evening, we see Bishop Bronner's vision come to life. Elim is a diverse community strongly supporting racial, gender, cultural and denominational reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled and honored to join the members of Elim Christian Fellowship as they commemorate their Church Anniversary and the 25th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Bronner. May the church and its leadership continue its quest for renewal and growth in God's love and care.

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