

and began sinking a large mine shaft 647 feet deep, one and one-half miles southeast of town. Because of the sinking of the Keller mine and the extension of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad into the rich coal fields of the region, Sesser was born. After it was discovered that a deep vein of coal lay under this area, the news traveled fast and people of many nationalities came to Sesser to work.

Two railroad officials, John C. Elliot and John Sesser, a surveyor from whom Sesser received its name, laid out the original plat which contained a square of sixteen blocks. This original plat ran from the railroad to the City Hall and two blocks north and two blocks south of Main Street (Franklin Ave). Sesser was later appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as a member of the Railway Labor Board in Washington D.C. in 1920. Later he served as a Vice-President of the Cuban Railway.

Homes and businesses sprang up fast. Most of the businesses were two story buildings with rooms above to handle the people coming to work in the mines in Sesser. In 1912, the Sesser City Board made contact with the Egyptian Light Company to furnish power and electric lights for the City. Sesser's first sidewalks were made from railroad ties with hitching racks along both sides of the street. In 1912, concrete sidewalks covered eight miles within Sesser.

Sesser's first high school began in 1919, the opera house, drug stores, hotel and restaurants were soon opened. Water and sewer systems were completed in 1914 and a dial system was installed in 1954. Sesser's City Hall was completed in 1967 and the Franklin County Housing Authority approved 30 rental units in Sesser in 1968. Two factories serviced the Sesser area, Sesser Concrete was built in 1946, making concrete blocks and other products and Lyn Gai Garment Company manufactured ladies apparel.

Sesser Sheltercare Home, a 60 bed health care facility, was opened in 1970. This facility is located on farm property previously owned by my mother and father-in-law, George and Eloise Cockrum. This facility was purchased and renamed Redwood Manor. Several rural county schools were in session at one time and now they are housed in one location.

Sesser today is a community of over 2000 and boasts hotels, restaurants and community churches. It remains a vital part of the economy of Franklin County and southern Illinois.

This year, Sesser celebrates its centennial and also commemorates the 49th year of the annual Sesser Homecoming, an event which draws people from throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and the people of the City of Sesser, Illinois on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
REVEREND HARRY CRENSHAW

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Jerusalem Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio will bid a fond farewell to its revered patriarch, Reverend Harry

Crenshaw. With the coming of spring, Reverend Crenshaw retires as pastor of the church after a lifetime of service to his flock and that of the larger Toledo community. Truly a community leader, long recognized as the voice of the church, Reverend Crenshaw has been a mainstay of the Jerusalem congregation and its neighborhood for decades. He is a man for others.

"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits at the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the Law of the Lord; and in His law does he meditate both day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of the water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper." (Psalms, 1:1-3)

Within the words of this passage lies Reverend Dr. Harry Crenshaw. A man of God, he lives the Word in thought and deed, and has imparted his love of that Word to generations. Through his strength and wisdom he has provided counsel to thousands. The esteem with which he is held is testament to his prominent role in the lifeblood of the community and the personal lives of the people to whom he ministers.

While no one can build a church alone, Jerusalem Baptist Church and its ministry, the Jerusalem Outreach Center, are attributable to the passion and perseverance of Reverend Dr. Crenshaw. His guidance and leadership have been a primary force in the growth of the church and its neighborhood mission, particularly its embrace of our youth. He has come to embody faith and hope for the next generation of our community.

Reverend Dr. Crenshaw has earned his rest as he takes his leave from the day-to-day operations of the Jerusalem congregation. Yet, his abiding goodness lives strong in each of us whose lives he has touched. We know he will remain involved in its activities for the church and its works are a part of him. Reverend Dr. Harry Crenshaw's soul will echo on in the buildings' walls and the congregation's hearts for many years to come. He came this far by faith with his beautiful wife, Frances, and he led us all to a more humane and compassionate community and world.

THANKING OUR TEACHERS MAY 2-
8—TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Albert Einstein once said that "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge". I rise today to thank our Nation's teachers for their exceptional work, compassion and dedication to our children everyday. Although May 4th was National Teacher's Day, this entire week, May 2-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week.

I think everyone can think back and remember that one teacher that touched their lives—whether it was the one that taught you to read, gave you the confidence to learn more, made you feel smart and knowledgeable or was the one solid, caring adult in a child's life. The origins of Teacher Day are not too de-

fined. Around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day. It wasn't until March 1985, when National Education Association (NEA) and the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May with the first Tuesday remaining as National Teacher's Day.

Teachers are true heroes in our communities, who through their dedication to children work millions of small miracles every day. Henry Brooks Adams, a historian and grandson of President John Quincy Adams once said that "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." We must never forget to thank our teachers for their service to our society and for creating a better, smarter and hopefully kinder future generation.

HONORING JERSEY CITY HUDSON
CITY LIONS CLUB

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club in celebration of its 50th anniversary. The Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club (JCHCLC) celebrated with a 50th Anniversary Ball held on Saturday, May 1, 2004, at Puccini's Restaurant in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Since 1954, the Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club has fulfilled the motto of the International Lions Club of "We Serve," and has taken an active role in civic, cultural, and social events. With a membership of dedicated men and women, the JCHCLC has provided exceptional services for our community, promoting a better quality of life for the people it touches.

Working with local churches, hospitals, clinics, summer programs, shelters, and food banks, the Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club has given all its support in gathering necessary supplies and food to help those in need, taking tremendous pride in the positive difference it makes in the lives of the people in its community and around the world.

Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club is renowned for its sight-related programs. Working with St. Joseph's Home of the Blind, the JCHCLC has provided services, including guide dogs, walking canes, vocational training, summer camps, books on tape, spring barbeques and Christmas parties. They also provide vouchers for Lenscrafter, so that children, who would otherwise have no access, can purchase eyeglasses.

At the 50th Anniversary Ball, the Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club honored former JCHCLC President Frank Walsh (1973-1974), who was presented with the "Lion of the Year Award" for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service over the years to the JCHCLC.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the members and officers, past and present, of the Jersey City Hudson City Lions Club in recognition of their outstanding contributions and caring dedication to our community over the last 50 years.