

night school and then City College and junior college and finally the community college, as we know it today.

And although at one time the classes at one of these local colleges was considered less prestigious than at the four year colleges, that is no longer true today. In response to a growing need, as community colleges' facilities and curricula expanded, so did their reputations. Today, while community colleges continue to serve those who, because of families and jobs, need to stay close to home, they also serve those who recognize that many community colleges provide specialized programs that rival those available at four-year universities.

I hope that everyone of you as you go forward will also look back and remember that you are carrying the torch for all those educators and students whose commitment and vision made today's community college a reality. And I hope you will tell all of your friends and families and neighbors that the first step toward realizing the American dream begins with an education, and that a first-class, top-notch education is accessible in their backyards, right here at Ann Arundel Community College. I hope that you will never take for granted the history of freedom and opportunity that made it possible for you to take that step. And I hope, as you go forward, that you will never miss the opportunity to say, with great pride, as I say tonight, I am a graduate of Ann Arundel Community College."

TRIBUTE TO MONUMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH—105TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the Monumental Baptist Church of Jersey City, New Jersey as it celebrates its 105th anniversary. Established in 1900, Monumental was incorporated in 1904 and has been serving the needs of its congregation and the community continuously.

Throughout the illustrious history of Monumental Baptist Church, effective leadership has been at the core of all the accomplishments the church has had. Beginning with Pastor William Edwards and continuing with Pastors Garlick, Smith, Fitzgerald, Webb, Ashley and the current pastor, Reverend Joseph L. Jones, Sr., Monumental has made many enhancements over the years. In addition to its leadership, the success of all of Monumental's initiatives can be attributed to the faith, hope, commitment and prayers of the loving membership that fill the pews of this landmark facility. In fact, Monumental Baptist Church is blessed to have 55 members who have fifty or more years of continuous membership. Clearly, that statistic is representative of the marvelous activities taking place at the church.

Recently, Monumental Baptist Church was officially approved as a 501(c)(3) religious organization. The church's finances have improved over the years enabling the on-going renovations and upgrades to church owned properties.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Monumental Baptist Church and the surrounding community have every right to be pleased with the lasting contributions that the church has made to the residents of Jersey City. I am pleased to congratulate Monumental Baptist Church on its 105th anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. NELSON "FUZZY" THOMPSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Doctor Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson, a minister, humanitarian and a political activist whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all Kansas Citizens. After 14 years of service, on June 5, 2005, Rev. Thompson retired from his pastoral helm at Mason Memorial United Methodist Church, which is the cause of recognition and celebration of the dedication that he exudes in all aspects of service to the Kansas City community.

Rev. Thompson's reputation as a community leader extends beyond the local or national level, but is inclusive of the international community. He was one of 22 U.S. ministers that traveled to South Africa on a fact finding educational exchange, at the request of Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and the South African Council of Churches. "Fuzzy," as he is affectionately known, was one of three U.S. ministers to conduct Easter services for U.S. hostages held in Tehran, Iran in 1980. He was also one of 17 U.S. ministers and activists who served as official observers for the first election ever held in South Africa that allowed the right to vote to all races. He said it was a humbling experience seeing people lining up the night before and standing in line for blocks in order to exercise their right to vote for the first time.

Since 1984, Rev. Thompson has been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He served as Regional Coordinator of Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 Presidential campaign and as the Missouri State Coordinator of the Jackson Campaign in 1988. "Fuzzy" is currently President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He has served on the boards of Freedom Incorporated as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Black Adoption Program and Services, Human Rights Commission of Kansas City, Missouri, and Northwest Political Faction. He has been involved in helping to solve the problems of young adults, especially in the areas of education and unemployment. He held the position of Executive Director of the Martin Luther King Urban Center for 30 years.

Rev. Thompson graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry at St. Paul School of Theology. He has been married 39 years to Cheryl (Love) Thompson. His mother, Marvia Thompson, was a founding member of the St. James United Methodist which I pastor. In 2003, we joined Rev. Thompson to celebrate and mourn her death and life. He baptized my youngest son, Evan, and he has been a friend and a confidant to me for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson for his relentless efforts in extending service not only within the areas surrounding Kansas City, Missouri and the United States, but for his contributions to the global community. I urge my colleagues to please join me in congratulating "Fuzzy" on his retirement as Pastor of Mason Memorial United Methodist Church, for we know that he has not retired from the ministry nor from the community, because God's work is never done.

RECOGNIZING JOHN NEARY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tremendous career of Mr. John Neary, an educator and friend who will be formally honored on June 10, 2005, at his retirement celebration in Concord, California.

Mr. Neary has over thirty-three years experience as an educator for California's youth, including twenty-six years with the Mt. Diablo Unified School District. His remarkable commitment to the educational system began in 1972 as a classroom teacher and athletic coach. Since then he has served as teacher, coach, athletic director, vice principal and principal. In all of these roles he delivered high-quality education and maintained a strong commitment to his students. Mr. Neary works with incredible heart and has consistently placed "the student first" in all his endeavors. He routinely showcased his commitment by attending every school event from drama to water polo.

For the past seven years Mr. Neary has served as principal of Clayton Valley High School. The students and faculty have been fortunate to have him at the helm and will surely miss his presence. Mr. Neary has invested all that he has to give and is well loved and appreciated as a result of his dedication.

I congratulate Mr. Neary for his hard work and dedication to the students, faculty and community. I am pleased to join with Mt. Diablo Unified School District and Clayton Valley High School in recognizing his outstanding commitment toward education and send my best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Hunger Awareness Day and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, which is located in my congressional district.

National Hunger Awareness Day was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention.

The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, plenty of local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center, AFAC, seeks to remedy this problem by distributing bread, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. The Arlington Food Assistance Center currently distributes approximately 1100 bags of groceries each week to over 900 clients, nearly half of whom are children. Each week,