

Madam Speaker, the class of 1957 consisted of 848 members, 21 who went on to achieve the rank of admiral or general. Of those graduates, 568 were commissioned in the Navy with 160 attending naval flight school; 203 served on Navy destroyers; 42 on auxiliary ships; and 94 on capital ships, including aircraft carriers. Another 104 graduates of the class served in naval submarines. The remaining graduates went on to serve in other branches of the military, including 64 who went on to join the Marine Corps and 206 who were commissioned into the Air Force.

Madam Speaker, of the 848 members of the class of 1957, 534 members served 20 years or more in their respective military branch. After their service was completed, 169 classmates went on to become executive officers of their respective businesses with 33 serving as CEO. Notable classmates include Huntsville, Alabama resident Fritz Steiner; Apollo astronaut Charlie Duke; Brad Parkinson, who developed the global positioning system (GPS); and Lee Hyatt, a Vietnam prisoner of war who survived 2,050 days of captivity in North Vietnam.

Madam Speaker, these men have proudly served their country and their community for over a half-century. On October 27, 2007, the surviving members from this class are meeting to celebrate their 50th anniversary. It is my privilege to rise today to congratulate these outstanding individuals for their devotion to duty, significant accomplishments, and unswerving dedication to the United States.

HONORING ALVIN W. SMUZYSKI

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative JIM MORAN, I rise today to recognize Alvin W. Smuzynski, Jr., recently retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia.

We are all aware of the national affordable housing problem that is especially acute in Washington and other metropolitan areas. Low and moderate rental properties are out of reach for scores of our most vulnerable citizens. For nearly three decades, Mr. Smuzynski used his time and talent to increase affordable housing in northern Virginia—as a Commissioner on the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority; as a volunteer for Wesley Housing Development Corporation; as a Board member; Board Chairman; and as President/CEO of Wesley Housing.

True to its mission, Wesley Housing, under Mr. Smuzynski's leadership for the last 9 years, pioneered affordable housing solutions that have stabilized and strengthened families, neighborhoods, and entire communities throughout northern Virginia. During his tenure as President/CEO, more than half of the organization's 1,267 units were built or acquired. Under his leadership, Wesley Housing achieved the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers' (HAND) 2006 Developer of the Year Award and Leadership Fairfax's Regional Leadership Award.

Mr. Smuzynski forged ahead on innovative projects. He built northern Virginia's only bar-

rier-free apartment community for low-income, severely physically disabled individuals—the 22-unit Coppermine Place I in Herndon—selected as HAND's 2007 Best Project in northern Virginia. The project was awarded the first Accessible Design Award by the Coalition for Housing Opportunities In the Community for Everyone, Inc. (CHOICE).

In 1999, Mr. Smuzynski completed Wesley Agape House, a 12-unit apartment house for individuals and children living with HIV/AIDS—the first project of this type in northern Virginia. Mr. Smuzynski's advocacy efforts were vital to establishing a non-competitive tax credit pool for preservation projects in northern Virginia. In 2005, his work with the Washington Metro Bankers' northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance resulted in the establishment of Fairfax County's innovative "Penny for Housing Fund." The trust fund supports preservation and development of affordable housing. Even in retirement, he continues to work with other counties in northern Virginia to establish affordable housing programs and funding sources. For these efforts, Mr. Smuzynski was inducted into the Virginia Housing Coalition's Affordable Housing Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Alvin Smuzynski for his selfless commitment to meeting his community's needs. His legacy of growth, perseverance, and innovation was built on his dedication to balancing northern Virginia's housing needs. I call upon my colleagues to join me on commending him for his past success and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WILSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chris Wilson of Kansas City, Missouri. Chris is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chris has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chris has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chris Wilson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO NEW EBENEZER
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today on behalf of New Ebenezer Baptist Church. This beacon of hope in

Florence, South Carolina has provided faith and fellowship for its congregation for 100 years.

The rich history of this Florence religious institution began on August 5, 1907. The land for the church was donated by the late Deacon James Norwood, and New Ebenezer has stood on this same site for a century. In the early years, the church was served by Reverends A.J. Streater, Bass, T.T. Tucker, Sasser, and D.J. Johnson.

In 1927, Reverend J.L. Brooks became the pastor of New Ebenezer and served as its spiritual leader until 1941. He was succeeded by Reverend W.A. Johnson, who grew the church spiritually and financially. Under his leadership, the present block structure was constructed in 1949. Ten years later, Reverend E.D. Dixon took over the helm of the church and succeeded in increasing the membership and paying off the church's mortgage.

Dr. John Julius Abney became the minister of New Ebenezer in 1963. He oversaw a tremendous time in the church's history. In his first year, a block hut was added to the church. His vision for the church's expansion was further realized with the addition of new properties and the expansion and renovation of the exterior and interior of the main sanctuary. These changes included the addition of a vestibule, the erection of the education building, the cornerstone laying for the main sanctuary, and renovations of the parsonage. It was in 1966, under Dr. Abney's leadership that the church received its first charter from the State designating it officially as New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Dr. Abney's tenure of extraordinary change was followed by the service of Dr. William Edward Chancy who also presided over significant growth of the church in both membership and its footprint. Under Reverend Chancy's oversight, properties adjacent to the church were purchased, the parking area was paved, and a new bus was purchased. Perhaps the largest growth in the ministry of the church came with the addition of a child care center on site.

In 1981, Reverend Lewis P. Graham became the leader of the church in which he was raised. This son of the church led the congregation to install a new heating and air conditioning system, purchase a new piano and organ, and pay off the church bus.

Leadership of New Ebenezer fell to the church's officers from December 1988 to October 1989, and they continued to improve the church and its surroundings. Under their leadership, the Missionary Department undertook the project of converting the ladies lounge into a church library. Deacon Hosea Quillen, Sr. and his son donated most of the labor for this effort. The church officers also erected a new steeple and installed a new roof on the main sanctuary. Aluminum siding and painting was done to the exterior of the sanctuary and education building.

In October 1989, Reverend James E. Rutledge was called from East Orange, New Jersey to lead New Ebenezer. Under his leadership, Reverend Rutledge, new stained glass windows were installed, carpet was replaced and the choir loft was moved to the rear of the pulpit. The church was painted inside and out.

In 1993, Reverend Norman Gamble was called to serve as pastor of New Ebenezer Baptist Church and remains its pastor today. His service has involved great changes at the