

HONORING ROBERT LARSON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor my friend Robert Larson and pay tribute to his life and legacy.

Robert Larson was a real estate executive, philanthropist, community leader, and dear friend. His keen knowledge and distinguished career positioned him as one of the industry's most respected executives. He was chairman of the Larson Realty Group, a family-owned real estate investment company; chairman of Lazard Real Estate Partners LLC, a merchant banking business; and chairman of the board of UDR, Inc., one of the country's largest real estate companies. He spent 26 years with the prestigious Taubman Company, where he was elevated to chief operating officer, chief executive officer, vice chairman of Taubman Centers, Inc., and chairman of the Taubman Realty Group during the course of his tenure.

The knowledge and insight Mr. Larson provided the Federal Government in the wake of the Savings and Loan crisis of the 1980s were integral to successfully restructuring our savings institutions and recovering from the crisis. President Bush and President Clinton appointed Mr. Larson to the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, where he served from 1990 to 1995 and was made chairman of the Board's Audit Committee. The Board was established by Congress to provide direction, oversight, and funding to the Resolution Trust Corporation.

Throughout his life, Mr. Larson's commitment to southeast Michigan was unyielding and he worked to bring new investment and opportunity to Michigan's economy. His contributions to Michigan extended far beyond the real estate industry: he served as the director and chairman of the ULI Foundation, a trustee of the Children's Hospital of Michigan, director of the Detroit Zoological Society, chairman of the Cranbrook Educational Community, chairman of the Greening of Detroit, and trustee of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, among many other boards and causes.

Unquestionably, though, Mr. Larson's most durable impact was on his family, his colleagues, and those of us who knew him. We remember him for his profound intellect, his endless energy, and his tremendous warmth. He is survived by his beloved wife, Bonnie, their six children, and eleven grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to them on their loss.

HONORING DAVID THOMPSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. David Thompson, recipient of the Harford County Land Preservationist of the Year award. Thompson is one of Harford County's strongest advocates for the preservation of farmland.

Thompson's interest in horticulture began with his family's vegetable and flower garden.

In 1978, he and his wife, Marilyn, founded a local nursery, which has since grown into one of the region's most respected nursery and landscaping enterprises.

Thompson's leadership in the horticulture community is unprecedented. He is a past president of the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, the American Conifer Society, and the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. Thompson recently stepped down from the Harford County Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board, after many years of faithful service, including terms as Chairman. During his time on the Board, Thompson worked with the County Executive and the County Council to increase the property tax credit for preserved farmland. In 2009, Thompson was named a Master Farmer by the American Agriculturist magazine, becoming only the 48th Marylander to receive this honor.

Thompson strives to promote the green industry and horticulture education in Maryland. He has been an active leader in the development of the Agriculture and Natural Resources program at North Harford High and is a member of the University of Maryland Horticulture Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. David Thompson, Harford County Land Preservationist of the Year. His exceptional advocacy and endeavor to educate others on behalf of the horticulture community is unparalleled.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, despite the unquestionable need for health care reform, some have sought to dominate the health care reform discussion with fear mongering, misinterpretations and misinformation. They have stymied the progression of the reform process in the name of fiscal responsibility, bipartisanship, parliamentary procedure and patriotism.

These justifications are egregious. There is nothing bipartisan about continually opposing a bill that independent federal agencies have repeatedly recognized as a substantive and reasonable approach to reform. There is nothing fiscally responsible about allowing premiums, state and federal health expenditures to rise to unprecedented levels. There is nothing American about depriving men, women, and children of the guaranteed right to health care in the richest country on earth.

Today, when Americans across the country are losing their homes, jobs, health insurance and hope, we as elected officials have the opportunity and duty to deliver. We cannot afford to back down. We have come too far and have too much to lose. Extreme times require extreme measures to ensure that we pass a health care reform bill that America needs and deserves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I unfortunately was absent from a vote in the House.

Without question, in order to put our economy back on track, we must work aggressively to address and lower our national debt. H.R. 4825, introduced by Representatives KIRKPATRICK and PETERS, takes an important step in showing Congress' commitment to addressing the growing problem of our country's debt. By returning unused funds from our Member Representational Allowance to the U.S. Treasury, as many offices already do, we show the American people our willingness to tighten our belts, beginning with our office budgets.

I wish to voice my full support for this important legislation and regret that I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor.

RECOGNIZING NEW MOUNT MORIAH INTERNATIONAL CHURCH'S 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and congregation of New Mount Moriah International Church for celebrating 21 years of fellowship. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize New Mount Moriah, its leader Bishop William Murphy and its congregants on this most joyous occasion.

New Mount Moriah, for the past 21 years, has been a fixture of spiritual communion in the Pontiac, Michigan community. The Church has had several homes in the Pontiac community since its formation in 1989. Since moving to its current location in 2003, New Mount Moriah has made great strides to expand its ministry across southeast Michigan, establishing satellite locations in Mount Clemens and Detroit. With these new locations New Mount Moriah has expanded its membership from the 100 founding members in 1989 to over 1,000 members across southeast Michigan today.

Over the past 20 years, New Mount Moriah has been served by Bishop William Murphy who serves with unwavering commitment and faith as Senior Pastor to its congregants. Bishop Murphy is joined in his ministry by his wife, Donna, who serves as Executive Director for New Mount Moriah's Women's Ministry program. Together they have developed countless programs which have reached beyond the walls of the Church and have touched the lives of so many in the communities the Church serves. These programs include skill-building and self-esteem training for women of all ages, helping them to develop leadership skills needed to serve their community.

For many years it has been my privilege to worship with Bishop and Donna Murphy and