

JAMES LEWIS BAKER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of James Lewis Baker.

Jim Baker of Springfield, Ohio, was born June 18, 1945, and his life was dedicated to his family and neighbors. His acts of charity and goodwill made him well-known and loved in his local community and his energetic presence will be missed.

A 1963 graduate of Northeastern High School, Jim served in the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman, conducting a tour in Vietnam and achieving the rank of sergeant. He received the Bronze Star for bravery as he was the first to respond in an emergency, saving the life of a fellow officer.

After his service, Jim established his family in Springfield, Ohio, with his wife, Jean (Woolweaver) Baker, and two sons. He was a local area businessman and served as the traffic control officer for the Springfield Police Department until his retirement. Jim was an active and respected member of the community, known best for his hard work and willingness to help others. He received the Springfield Citizenship Award for heroically assisting police officers in capturing a suspect.

Jim Baker, 64, had an enthusiasm for life that left an impression on each person he was encountered. He was a corner stone of the community and his life is an outstanding example of good citizenship. It is a privilege to honor his life today.

JOHN E.D. BALL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I call to the attention of the House the passing on March 25 of John E.D. Ball, 77, a resident of Vienna, Virginia, who was the founding president of the National Captioning Institute and two-time national Emmy Award winner for his television engineering work.

Mr. Ball was a native of Glasgow, Scotland. An avid electronics buff as a teenager, he was a graduate of Glasgow's Royal College of Science and Technology. He served two years in the Royal Air Force as a radio signaller and 13 years with the BBC. Recruited by Computer Sciences Corporation, he and his family arrived in the United States in 1966. He joined the Public Broadcasting Service in 1971 and helped implement the first domestic satellite distribution system. Completed in 1978, the project won Mr. Ball his first Emmy award for engineering.

His interest in developing closed captioning for television programs was spawned in 1972 when he attended a briefing at Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University) and was struck by the enthusiasm from the largely deaf audience following a demonstration by ABC-TV and the National Bureau of Standards of a subtitling system for the deaf. He worked over the next 7 years at PBS to make closed captioning television a reality and in 1980 accepted

on behalf of PBS a second national engineering Emmy Award.

Mr. Ball's effort led to the establishment later that year of the National Captioning Institute, a nonprofit that worked to expand the availability of closed captioning, for which Mr. Ball served as the founding president and chief executive officer for 15 years. At the urging of NCI and others, Congress passed the Television Decoder Circuitry Act in 1990 that required new televisions with screens larger than 13 inches to be equipped with closed-captioning technology. Today the "talking TV" logo has become one of the most recognizable symbols in the country.

For his exceptional dedication and work, Mr. Ball was awarded an honorary degree from Gallaudet University and also received a distinguished service award from the American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Madam Speaker, we extend our sympathies to Mr. Ball's family, including his wife, the former Elizabeth Rodger of Vienna, Virginia; three sons, Norman Ball of Leesburg, Adrian Ball of Arlington County and Evan Ball of Vienna; and a grandson.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a resolution to support the goals and ideas of the International Year of Biodiversity and to recognize the importance of biodiversity to ecosystems and human well-being. As our understanding of the interactions between humans and the environment grows, it has never been more evident and is highly dependent on our natural resources for the ecological goods, services and raw materials that underpin our economies, provide for our well-being, and are functional to many cultures. And accordingly, many of the goods and services on which we depend, both directly and indirectly, are supported by Earth's rich biodiversity.

Biodiversity describes the variety of plant and animal life on earth, the places they inhabit, and the interactions between them. Today scientists have identified over 1.7 million species and have estimated that at least 13 million are in existence. Biodiversity allows ecosystems to be resilient in the face of change, which is critical to consider as we move toward a world where increasing population, economic growth, and unpredictable climate will place additional pressures on our natural resources.

This resolution to support the goals and ideals of the International Year of biodiversity which I have introduced today, recognizes the environmental and societal value of diversity and the urgent need to protect this precious global heritage.

Globally, 35 percent of mangrove swamps have been removed, 40 percent of been cut down, 50 percent of freshwater wetlands have been lost, and 20 percent of coral reefs have been destroyed. While some of these losses might be restored in the future, regrettably

many species and habitats, once lost, are gone forever. Moreover, the current pace of habitat loss is rapid, as more natural areas are altered or removed to provide for agriculture and aquaculture production, housing and urban industry and recreation. In my home territory of Guam, we are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including increasing sea temperature, ocean acidification, and sea level rise, which threaten biodiversity within marine habitats. International and domestic conservation strategies are necessary to prevent the unfettered loss of critical areas of biodiversity, in Guam and globally, to ensure that ecosystem goods and services—such as shore protection and sustainable fisheries—are provided future generations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this important resolution to reaffirm the United States' global leadership and longstanding commitment to the preservation and conservation of Earth's biodiversity, and to raise awareness about biodiversity's important role in supporting ecological and human well-being across the world.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BETHESDA PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH, YORK COUN-
TY, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I want to call the attention of the House to a landmark event in the Fifth Congressional District of South Carolina. On Sunday, May 2, 2010, the Bethesda Presbyterian Church of York County will celebrate its 250th anniversary. For 2½ centuries, Bethesda Presbyterian Church has kept the faith, preaching the gospel and bearing witness to its faith through Christian service and community leadership.

Worship at Bethesda began in the 1760s among some one hundred forty families, most of whom had immigrated from northern Ireland by way of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the low country of South Carolina. Bethesda Presbyterian Church was formally organized in 1769, and became instrumental in forming other Presbyterian churches in our area. According to church records, its outreach included two churches in western Mississippi.

During the Revolution, after the fall of Charleston in 1781, Bethesda became a stronghold of resistance to the British. Its members figured prominently in the Battle of Huck's Defeat at the nearby Williamson Plantation. In the early 1800s, Bethesda was the site of evangelical meetings, now called the Great Awakening, which inspired the creation of churches throughout the upcountry of South Carolina.

The Bethesda church buildings have undergone various changes over the years, but the church's exterior still reflects the simple, old meeting house design, and the cemetery on the grounds is as hallowed as it is historic. In 1977 the Bethesda Presbyterian Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Despite the social changes of 250 years, war, economic crisis, and the ravages of time,