

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
JAMES CALVIN HARRIS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the Columbus, Georgia community, the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. After sixty-four remarkable years of serving as Pastor of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Rev. Harris will be retiring this month. A celebration of his well-deserved retirement will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

James Calvin Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia on April 7, 1925 to Elijah and Viola Harris as one of seven children. In 1944, at the age of 18, he began serving our country with courage and distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, Mr. Harris moved to Chicago and worked as a baker and dishwasher but later returned to Georgia to pursue his education. He attended Albany State University and then studied at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.

His first church membership was St. Mathew Baptist Church in Lee County, which was pastored at the time by the late Reverend Allen A. Green. It was by this same pastor that Rev. Harris was licensed to the ministry on July 9, 1939 and ordained as a minister on August 10, 1949.

Early on in his career, he pastored at several churches across Georgia, sharing his passion for the teachings of Christ. Following the path that God set out for him, Rev. Harris eventually came to call Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus his home. When he began preaching at the church, it was a small wooden building with only 100 members. Thanks to his dedication and enthusiasm, Rev. Harris has been able to build the Church's membership to over 1,000 and make several extensive renovations and additions.

Rev. Harris has always been popular with churchgoers because of the energy he brings to his sermons. Known by many as the "singing and preaching" pastor, Rev. Harris even authored and recorded an original song, "God is a Battle Axe." During the Civil Rights Movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often asked him to perform the song to offer encouragement at mass meetings. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, Rev. Harris' spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Harris has worked tirelessly to promote Christian values and put them into action in his community. Throughout his career, Rev. Harris has played a leading role in many religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. He has also been honored with various awards and commendations too numerous to list here.

Rev. Harris has accomplished many things in his life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and his lov-

ing wife, Maggie, who met her eternal reward in 2012 after sixty-seven years of marriage; their seven children, one of whom is deceased; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. On a personal note, I have truly been blessed by Rev. Harris' sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. for sixty-four wonderful years of leadership of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, over seventy-five remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church, and to humankind.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS
AWARDS 2015

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, crime victims are not statistics.

They are real people with real stories who have had something bad happen to them.

As a former judge, I used to see victims in my courtroom every day.

Unfortunately, too often victims are left out of the criminal justice process.

They are also many times overlooked and forgotten in the legislative process.

When I came to Congress, victims did not have an advocate group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

That is why Congressman JIM COSTA, a Democrat from California, and I, a Republican from Texas, founded the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Supporting crime victims is a bipartisan issue.

This week is National Crime Victims' Rights week, and the Victims' Rights Caucus will recognize those tenacious groups and individuals whose life work is to support victims.

I was proud to nominate Truckers Against Trafficking for the Suzanne McDaniell Memorial Award for Public Awareness.

Much like the award's namesake, Truckers Against Trafficking has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

Truckers Against Trafficking is a traveling nonprofit group that works to educate and raise awareness for trafficking in the trucking industry.

These truckers know what signs to look for in a trafficking victim and are proactive in their efforts to rescue these victims from their trafficker.

Congressman JIM COSTA (CA-16) recognized community leader Sergeant Jeff Kertson for the Allied Professional Award.

Sergeant Kertson oversees several units for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This includes the domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, sex offender registration, missing persons/runaways units, as well as a predator program and task force.

Sergeant Kertson really goes above and beyond to make victim services a priority to ensure a safer Fresno community.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award honors the legacy of the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the Na-

tion's oldest three victims' assistance organizations.

Ms. Mary Travers Murphy, nominated by Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), has been a champion for domestic violence victims in her community.

Her work as the Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJCEC) raising funds for domestic violence victims has resulted in the opening of two suburban satellite FJCEC centers in Erie County.

Her efforts have strengthened her Erie community.

Another community leader that deserves recognition is Ms. Kerri True-Funk.

She was nominated for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation by Congressman RODNEY DAVIS (IL-13).

Kerri is the Executive Director of Rape Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services (RACES).

Kerri has championed efforts of prevention and education, which makes her the perfect candidate for the Lois Haight Award, working to prevent crime before it happens.

Kerri deserves to be honored for her work with RACES—reducing the occurrence of sexual assault among individuals with disabilities through empowerment education.

Victim advocates are wonderful people.

Many of them I have met over the years are even more special because they have used their personal experience to help others.

That is what the recipient of the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award did.

William Kellibrew, nominated by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (DC), had a traumatic past but he chose to fight back.

He is the founder of the William Kellibrew Foundation (WKF), a community-driven partnership that advocates on breaking the cycles of violence and poverty.

The WKF provides support networks for victims while they rebuild their lives.

People like William are living examples of how survivors can use their experiences to empower others.

The Victims' Rights Caucus is also recognizing Robin Smith, the founder of Video Action.

Video Action produces training instructional videos to educate victim advocates.

Robin reaches a vast audience through her videos which has spread awareness about victims issues to victim advocates.

Every single one of these recipients are warriors fighting to protect innocent victims and prevent further crimes.

We thank them for what they do for not only their communities, but for our nation.

Restoring the lives of victims is not easy work, but it's the Lord's work, saving people one at a time.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, I was at home in Wisconsin due to an unexpected family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: on roll call no. 162 (H. Con. Res. 25)—