

body. It is therefore fitting and proper that we commemorate her on her 80th birthday and send her our best wishes here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REV. DR.
THOMAS L. WALKER

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2017

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate my constituent and friend, Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Walker, for 50 faithful years in ministry, and 47 years as pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church.

Dr. Walker, a native of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, was called to the ministry in 1970. At the age of 22, he and his wife Joyce, and their two children, Timothy and Teresa, began a ministry that would inspire and uplift the faithful for decades. Today, under his leadership, the church's community outreach includes TV and radio ministries, a daycare center, a tutorial program, and ministerial trainings.

The church also has a non-profit corporation called the EBC "ATOM" Project, Inc., whose objective is to improve the quality of life for low and middle-income citizens. Dr. Walker has committed his life to serving both his community and fellow man. One of Pastor Walker's many talents is his success as a gospel recording artist. Through song, his messages and voice have uplifted and inspired countless individuals. His signature, "One Day at a Time," continues to inspire hearts across the nation.

In 1996, Dr. Walker received troubling news when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Yet, he would not sit idly by or be sidelined. His perseverance led him to write, "Brother to Brother—You Don't Have to Die of Prostate Cancer." A thoughtful and informative book, Dr. Walker presents an honest account of his challenges and frustrations, with the goal of empowering men and their families. In April of 2014, First Lady Joyce Walker, having battled sickness for many years, was called home to be with the Lord. Dr. Walker remained steadfast and continues to stand as a pillar of strength, persistence, and a living testament of the Gospel.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate this great North Carolinian and ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in expressing sincere appreciation for Dr. Walker's fortitude, faithfulness, and servant leadership on this historic milestone.

RECOGNIZING BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM
"ROBBIE" ROBERTSON ON HIS
PROMOTION IN THE ILLINOIS
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Brig. Gen. William "Robbie"

Robertson on his promotion in rank and to Chief of Staff of the Illinois Air National Guard.

In 1983, Brig. Gen. Robertson became an officer in the 182nd Airlift Wing of the Illinois Air National Guard. Over his years of service, Brig. Gen. Robertson defended our nation in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Joint Forge, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. As a command pilot, he has flown over 4,800 hours in various aircraft. Brig. Gen. Robertson's leadership was critical to the conversion of the unit from the OA-37 Dragonfly to F-16 Fighting Falcon and to the C-130 Hercules, which equipped our Armed forces with tools they need to combat our nation's enemies.

In 2004, Brig. Gen. Robertson took over command of the 182nd Airlift Wing. Under his command, the 182nd Airlift Wing maintained the highest mission capability rates for ten of the past eleven years for all C-130 units. As commander, he is responsible for maintaining the combat readiness of eight C-130 aircraft and over 1,200 Illinois Air National Guardsmen. The 182nd Airlift Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award five times during his tenure.

Brig. Gen. Robertson has committed his life to serving our nation. I am grateful for his leadership and sacrifice in the Illinois Air National Guard. This country is blessed to have servicemen like William Robertson and I extend my sincere congratulations to him on his promotion to Brigadier General.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS
PAPIA

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Louis Papia, 92, of Agoura Hills, California, a constituent of mine who was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, October 30, 2017. Mr. Papia was a decorated World War II veteran who fought in the D-Day invasion with the 1st Battalion, 314th Regiment, 79th Infantry Division. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star and eight other citations, including the Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Emblem, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal with German Clasp, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button for WWII. Mr. Papia was also a recipient of the French Jubilee Medal, for his service at Utah Beach during the Invasion. Mr. Papia received his Bronze Star when helping an Army medic save the life of a fellow soldier while under heavy fire.

Mr. Papia landed at Utah Beach with the 79th, and took part in the Battle of Cherbourg. His initial mission was to battle his way southwest, across the Cherbourg Peninsula. One of the critical missions was to capture the port city so the Army Corp of Engineers could quickly erect a working port big enough to accommodate large U.S. supply ships. The 79th fought in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and in Central Europe,

including Germany. Mr. Papia was under the command of Colonel Olin E. Teague, who later became the 16-term Congressman from Texas's 6th Congressional District. After serving his country abroad in Germany, and as the war in Europe was drawing to a close, Mr. Papia was shipped back to the U.S. where he began to prepare to do his part in Operation Downfall, the planned U.S. invasion of Japan.

Louis Papia is survived by his wife of 65 years, Kay Papia, of Agoura Hills, California, and four sons: Louie, Russell, Mark, and Todd. Mark and Melissa Papia reside in Calabasas, California, with two of Papia's five grandchildren.

Mr. Papia will be remembered for his selfless service to our country, and we are forever grateful to him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 604 I was absent on account of personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAVERACK REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the 250th anniversary of the Reformed Dutch Church in Claverack. Reverend John Gabriel Gebhard dedicated this historic sanctuary on November 8, 1767, adorning the church with the text, "Stand in the gate of the Lord's House, and proclaim there His Word . . . enter in at these gates to worship the Lord." Reverend Gebhard headed the church for the next fifty years until his death, laying the foundation for what would be two more centuries of continued worship and community in central Columbia County.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Claverack's Reformed Dutch Church is a historic treasure. During the Revolutionary War, this building served as a refuge for soldiers and officers. Surrounding the church is the Claverack Cemetery, where Claverack residents connect to the community's earliest members.

The church continues to serve as a center for religious, educational, and community activities. On November 5, 2017, Claverack will come together to celebrate this incredible milestone. I thank Pastor Linda Miles, Vice President and Senior Elder Louise Bliss, Senior Deacon Donna Lynk Campion, and all members of the local Reformed Dutch Church for their contributions to this special community. I am proud to honor the Reformed Dutch Church in Claverack for fostering 250 years of prayer and kinship.