

and for his dedication to service. May he rest in peace.

**RECOGNIZING GENTLE MEN
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND THE SHELTER FOR ABUSED
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN
NAPLES**

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three Naples men who have traveled 1,256 miles by bicycle from Naples, FL to Washington, DC to raise awareness for Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence (GADV), an initiative of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, FL. GADV calls on men to stand as equal partners with women to end domestic violence.

GADV seeks to prevent the generational cycle of abuse through prevention programs such as Raising Gentle'men, a school-based curriculum, which teaches boys and young men that strength does not equal violence and true gentle'men exhibit the traits of respect, loyalty, honesty and accountability. GADV dispels myths of masculinity as based on aggression, and is working toward a cultural shift that will eliminate domestic violence.

GADV is associated with The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, which does excellent work as well. The shelter not only operates as a haven for survivors of domestic violence, but performs outreach and operates prevention programs in the community. The work that the shelter does has touched countless lives, strengthened the community, and drawn praise from various sectors of the South Florida community, including schools, police officers, and those involved with the judicial system.

According to the National Council Against Domestic Violence, one in four women have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Numbers like that are far too high. We have a responsibility to continue to create policy that prevents, protects and prevails over domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Colin Estrem, Gordon Kellam and Glen Schwesinger for their mission to raise awareness for the Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence program and The Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Naples, and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this worthy cause.

SUPPORTING EARTH DAY 2016

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Earth Day, the day set aside to honor our planet and formerly renamed as International Mother Earth Day, in 2009 by the United Nations.

For more than four decades, Earth Day has brought Americans together to honor our

moral responsibility to preserve our planet, protect our environment, and address the pressing challenge of climate change.

Across the country, families and students spend this day serving their communities, cleaning up their neighborhoods, promoting conservation, and participating in the effort to ensure clean air, clean water, and a cleaner planet.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, originating in the United States, and becoming recognized worldwide by 1990.

On the very first Earth Day, 46 years ago, 20 million people gathered in the streets of America to protest the environmental damage caused by industrialization and gave birth to the environmental movement.

Every year on April 22, men, women, and children collect garbage, plant trees, clean up coral reefs, hold teach-ins, sign petitions, and plan for a better future for our planet.

I commend the schools and communities celebrating Earth Day for a whole week to expand the time frame that people focus on the earth and how they can preserve it.

On Earth Day 2012, more than 100,000 people rode bikes in China to reduce CO2 emissions and save fuel.

In an Earth Day celebration in 2011, 28 million trees were planted in Afghanistan by the Earth Day Network.

In Panama, 100 endangered species of orchids were planted and maintained to prevent their extinction in honor of Earth Day.

This Earth Day we must take the opportunity to act to keep America number one in science, technology, and renewable energy.

For Congress, Earth Day must be a moment to build on American efforts to invest in clean energy jobs, to strengthen industries of innovation, to decrease harmful emissions, to cut energy costs for consumers, and to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

This day must represent a clarion call to renew our commitment to defend our natural resources and reverse the ill effects of climate change.

On Earth Day, Democrats and Republicans should commit to working side-by-side with the American people to create a future of sustainability for our children and grandchildren, prosperity and opportunity for our families and communities, and security and energy independence for generations to come.

I urge all Members to join me in celebrating our planet and assuring a longer and healthier life for all creatures inhabiting her bountiful realm.

**HONORING CALVARY M. B.
CHURCH**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a church family whose desire is to do God's will, Calvary M. B. Church. Calvary M. B. Church has served the Yazoo County community over a century through faith and service.

Calvary M. B. Church desire is to bring people closer to the Lord. They want to build the foundation of faith in young people and remind the Yazoo community that anything is possible through love, faith and prayer.

Calvary, located on Broadway, began welcoming the community to its services over 100 years ago. November 15, 2015 will mark 131 years of praise, prayer and worship.

On April 1, 1889 a small group purchased a lot for \$50 which became the site of Calvary. For an additional \$35, another lot was purchased along with the original and this site would later develop into the modern day church.

According to church history notes the first pastor was Rev. Phillips. As the years progressed the congregation grew, even amidst growth, there were challenges. Small fires struck the church. Over the years several pastors called Calvary home. But it seemed like perfect timing when Pastor RaSean O. Thomas arrived at Calvary in 2009. Pastor Thomas is a product of Calvary.

Calvary has a rich history within the Yazoo community, its recent ministries and growth show what can be done through strong prayer and fellowship. Currently, the church has two hundred members and growing. The church has Sunday School, morning worship every Sunday, Wednesday night Bible Study, monthly street evangelism and prayer services, outreach project health fairs, men and women empowerment conferences and other ministries. There is always something going on inside the walls of Calvary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Calvary M. B. Church for its dedication to serving the community and doing God's will.

**CELEBRATING THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to submit the following remarks:

As we celebrate the 68th Anniversary of the State of Israel, heir to the Jewish people's long and proud legacy of the spirit uplifting humanity, it remains an enlightened Western island of progressive values retaining its democratic essence in a wide sea of barbarism and backwardness begrudging the survival of the world's only Jewish state.

In fact, no other democratic nation-state's very existence is questioned except Israel's. This is in spite of its enduring roots in its historic land, and world renowned accomplishments in the arts, sciences, and high-tech industries. It proved an unrivaled ability to rise from two millennia of exile, oppression, and an unparalleled Holocaust consuming a third of the Jewish people. Israel's renewed emergence against great odds is an affirmation of the transforming power of hope, and the rightful restoration of the Jewish people's human dignity and standing in the community of nations. It is the divine fulfillment of prophetic promise, with the challenging mandate and expectation to create a model society.

Today's troubled Middle East, home of humanity's inspiring Biblical Exodus, is in dire need of replacing degradation with dignity, and unremitting terrorism with humane