

Americans longer than any property in the United States. Founded in 1794, Mother Bethel Church is the oldest incorporated African-American church in the country.

The foundation has launched an ambitious effort to construct a new facility that will house an expanded Richard Allen museum, an interactive learning center, and archives focused on the story of Richard Allen. The ultimate goal of the Mother Bethel Foundation is to celebrate and affirm what the Church and its founder have meant to generations of Americans.

In honoring the established Foundation, one must not forget to honor Mother Bethel's distinguished founder, Richard Allen, for whom the Richard and Sarah Allen Center is named. Richard Allen was a man who overcame tremendous obstacles to foster change for the betterment of African-American people. Born into slavery, Mr. Allen purchased his freedom through an agreement with his master.

Rev. Allen eventually responded to a call to preach and became a regular preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. Due to segregationist practices at St. George's Church, Rev. Allen founded Mother Bethel Church.

While Rev. Allen is best known for founding Mother Bethel Church, he provided more to the African-American community. He was a critical member in the formation of the Free African Society, an organization to offer security and the benefits of association to Philadelphia's free blacks. He also joined with Absalom Jones to organize the Black Legion, a group of 2,500 men who defended Philadelphia against the British during the War of 1812.

Mr. Speaker, Philadelphia is America's most historic city. But, Mother Bethel stands out as one of our most cherished sites. It is a privilege to recognize an organization with such an admirable goal. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Mother Bethel Foundation as it begins its campaign this Juneteenth.

LET'S KEEP ALL
REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the privately funded and privately constituted "Continuity of Government Commission" has recently proposed that, for the first time in our Nation's history, we should allow the appointment of members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Not only does this proposal fail to comport with the intention of the founders of this nation, but, even worse, it advocates a solution that has been repeatedly rejected by this body.

The report of this so-called "Commission" makes clear that while the Senate has, from time to time, voted to pass constitutional amendments allowing for the appointment of House members, this body has always jealously guarded its status as "the people's House" by failing to pass such amendments. A brief history review may be in order at this point. First, our Nation has been under attack from foreign powers in the past, such as in its nascent years when the British were con-

stantly "coming." In our own century, we faced an attack on Pearl Harbor as well as the very real threat of nuclear annihilation. Now, because we have learned that our Capitol was a potential target in a terror plot, there is an outcry from some corners regarding our vulnerability. Our government leaders are no more vulnerable today to mass extinction than they were 20 years ago. Our top-flight military makes us, in many ways, less vulnerable to attack and the assassination of our leaders than we were 200 years ago.

Even if we were to sustain such a devastating attack, the nightmare scenario painted in the first report of the "commission" is not only far-fetched, but also admits of a plethora of potential solutions already existent in our current constitutional structure. Though the report endeavors to cast doubt on the legitimacy of those structures, it is unsuccessful. Moreover, what could be more offensive to our republican form of government and of more questionable legitimacy, than to have a slew of un-elected "representatives" outvote elected people on the floor of our U.S. House?

Let's face it: we can scare people and doom-say anytime we wish, but it would only be in the case of a nearly complete annihilation that our government would fail to function. In such an instance there is no "system" that will preserve our government. On the other hand, if we surrender the right to elect people to the U.S. House of Representatives, under any circumstances, we will get on a slippery slope away from the few remaining vestiges and most precious principles of the government left to us by our founders.

In the event that this "proposal" gets more serious and is given long-term attention, I will place in the record more detailed statements defending the notion of an all-elected House of Representatives, and explaining the fallacies and illogic found in this report. For now Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to go on record as among those who would fight to the last to preserve the principle of a House of Representatives consisting entirely of members elected by the people.

HONORING DOUGLAS PERRY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor the life of Douglas Perry and to recognize his lifelong contributions to his community. He was born on February 8, 1920 in Somerville, Massachusetts and passed away earlier this week, on June 2, 2003.

Doug was much more to me than a resident of my Congressional District, he was my friend. I first met Doug and worked with him when I served on the San Diego City Council. I immediately noticed his enthusiasm and his seemingly unlimited energy on behalf of the San Ysidro community where he lived. Because of his work, he was known as the unofficial "Mayor of San Ysidro".

He moved to California in 1936 and served in the U.S. Navy, in North Africa and the Philippines, from 1942 to 1946. He met and married Jean Alexis Wadleigh in 1949, and they lived in the Inland Empire until their move to San Ysidro in 1974.

He was involved in many roles in the activities and organizations of San Ysidro. He served as President, Executive Director, and Information Center Manager of the San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in keeping the Chamber growing in membership. He organized and managed a Chamber Visitor's Information Center for several years, giving tourist information to thousands of visitors every month. It was through his efforts that the San Ysidro Chamber was designated the official Certificate of Origin supplier for the importation of goods by Mexican businesses—a vital part of the Chamber today. He took the lead in obtaining the first-ever fireworks in San Ysidro by developing plans for the Chamber to sponsor the first two years of exciting 4th of July displays and continuing to organize these yearly festivities.

Doug was Chair of the San Ysidro Redevelopment Project Area Committee, Vice President of the San Ysidro Senior Center, Chair and Vice Chair of the Southern Area Committee, Board Member of the South Bay YMCA, and Vice President of the San Ysidro Senior Center. He made possible communication cable at the Senior Center, soliciting a free donation from Cox Cable.

He was Treasurer of the San Ysidro Little League and was a member of Senior San Ysidrans. At the Sister of Nazareth, San Diego Mission, he was House Father for nine years.

As a member of the Park and Recreation Council, Doug represented the San Ysidro Recreation Council, supported their Annual Christmas events, acquired a big screen TV by soliciting donations, and raised funds for the La Mirada School Joint Use Turf Project. He played a significant role in opening the building at Larsen Sports Field, Cesar Chavez Community Center. He worked in obtaining Beyer Undeveloped Park.

He further obtained funding for the Coral Gate Neighborhood Park and the Larsen Field Parking Lot expansion, security lights and ball field renovation. All in all, he raised tens of thousands of dollars for projects and special events in San Ysidro. He worked to get donations for the Annual Food Drive. As you can see, Doug's commitment was to the community as a whole.

Doug was joined in all of his endeavors by his wife of 52 years. Together, they had four children: Philip Perry of Escondido, California, Kim McCormick of Rancho Cucamonga, California, Brooke Barbee of Alta Loma, California, and Craig Perry of Upland, California. His six grandchildren are Steven Barbee, Paige Flick, Brandy Barbee, Michael Perry, Christopher McCormick, and Scott Perry—and his two great-grandchildren are Tessa and Jacob Weir.

My condolences go to Doug's fine family. He will be missed, but his memory will live on in his beloved community of San Ysidro.

A TRIBUTE TO ALAJANDRA PENA

HON. EDLOPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Alajandra Pena in recognition of her outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.