

THANK YOU, WILLIAM C. AYRE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the heart of our democratic system of Government is local government. People concerned about the current situation and future of their communities depend upon local government to meet their most immediate needs. And the success of local government depends upon dedicated individuals who are willing to deal directly with both the people and the issues on a daily basis.

For the past 18 years, Genesee Township, within my congressional district, has had the good fortune to be ably represented by William C. Ayre, as the Township's Supervisor. He is retiring after 18 years of commitment to making Genesee Township a constantly better place, and he is being recognized for his service tomorrow evening.

William Ayre is one of those individuals who works at causes in which he believes. In addition to having been Township Supervisor for the past 18 years, he has also served on several Genesee County committees, the Mass Transit Authority, the Genesee County Economic Growth Alliance, the Flint Area Narcotics Group, as well as several positions within the Michigan Townships Association. In fact, he served as the president of the Michigan Township Association in 1995, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Associations of Towns and Townships.

His commitment is no surprise to anyone who knows him, as best evidenced by his 36 year marriage to his wife, Sandra. His two children and seven grandchildren who have seen his commitment to his community, and know of his dedication to this nation through his service in the Air Force, including 3 years in Germany, have had the kind of guidance and role model that we hope for for all children.

Mr. Speaker, as William Ayre continues his commitment to his community by now moving on to another position with the Genesee County Road Commission, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join me in thanking him for his years of service, and wishing him the very best in all that lies ahead for him and his family.

ALBANIA TAKES A GIANT STEP BACKWARD IN DEMOCRACY

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 26 the world watched as Albania, Europe's poorest country, which for decades has suffered under a fanatical strain of communism, held its first elections since the Democratic Party defeated the former Communist Party. But what we saw did not even remotely resemble the makings of democracy. The elections were riddled with fraud, coercion, and other violations before, during, and after the voting. To put it simply, these elections were neither free nor fair. According to a June 6 article in the Washington

Post these elections were the most flawed elections held in Eastern Europe since 1989.

Mr. Speaker, when compared to the authoritarian ways of its brutal past, Albanians have made commendable strides in both economic and social reform. But lingering human rights problems and the inability to develop certain democratic institutions raise very serious questions regarding Albania's future.

These recent elections, which are the culmination of an emerging pattern of authoritarian tendencies, should stand as a loud, clear signal to the world that Albania has strayed from the course of democracy. Albania's failure to embrace democracy threatens the stability of the entire Balkan region.

As a champion of democracy throughout the world, the U.S. Government must not, and cannot, ignore the fact that this election was neither free nor fair. It is incumbent upon us to speak out against oppression and subversion of democratic institutions in the struggling countries which are attempting to build them. We must hold accountable those who perpetrate election abuses, or democracy will never take root in Albania.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in working to increase security in the Balkan region by urging the Albanian Government to hold elections which are free, fair, and subject to international monitoring. The Albanian people deserve the opportunity to exercise their new democratic ideals, and they deserve our full support.

RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE FLOYD FLAKE AND BISHOP DON- ALD HILLIARD

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 22, 1996, the Cathedral Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Donald Hilliard, Jr. community affairs complex. The building will be named in honor of Bishop Donald Hilliard, the pastor of the Cathedral Second Baptist Church.

My friend and colleague, Congressman Floyd Flake, will be the featured guest speaker of Saturday's grand event. Reverend Flake not only represents the sixth congressional district in the State of New York but also is the distinguished pastor of Allen AME Church, Jamaica NY, which boasts more than 6,000 members.

Rev. Congressman Floyd Flake, a man with a vision of empowerment for the African-American people, no doubt will provide an inspiring message on Saturday. As pastor of Allen AME Church, a post he assumed in 1976, he has founded the Allen Housing Development Fund Corp., Allen Christian School and Multipurpose Center, Allen Home Care Agency, Allen Housing Corp., and the Allen Neighborhood Preservation and Development Corp. Furthermore, through numerous other clerical, civic, and community organizations, Reverend Congressman Flake has sought to provide spiritual sustenance reaching far beyond the walls of church. He also shows his tenacity in the House of Representatives as he fights for racial justice and equal rights for all Americans.

Similar to his colleague, Bishop Donald Hilliard, an active and dynamic leader, has also sought to improve the life of not only his members, but of the surrounding area of Perth Amboy, as well. Bishop Hilliard, who currently serves as the senior pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Perth Amboy and Bishop elect of the covenant fellowship of pastors, churches, ministries, and the cathedral assemblies, has nurtured and watched his church grow from a membership of 135 to more than 4,000. Furthermore, he has witnessed the church's budget increase from \$73,000 to \$3,000,000 annually. Not only does this make his church one of the fastest growing in the State, but is has been cited as a model church for growth by American Baptist churches, U.S.A., as well.

Since 1983, when Rev. Dr. Donald Hilliard was called to pastor the Cathedral Second Baptist Church, both the congregation and church have experienced tremendous growth. The successful purchase and renovation of the historic Majestic theater in downtown Perth Amboy has provided a new house of worship for Bishop Hilliard and his members. The cathedral blends turn of the century elegance with state-of-the-art technology to provide its worshipers with a unique combination of history and future dreams. The church also purchased the historic ELKS lodge, directly across the street from the cathedral, which now has been converted into the Family Life Enrichment Center. This facility is complete with an elegant banquet hall with adjoining kitchen facilities, a library, a learning center, and a computer lab. Renovations are continuing on the third and fourth floors which will house offices, classrooms, a lecture hall, and a liturgical dance/cultural arts studio.

Mr. Speaker, while Bishop Hilliard came to the Cathedral Second Baptist Church with such credentials as his Bachelor of Arts from Eastern College and Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, he still found time to complete his Doctorate of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary, Samuel D. Proctor Fellow.

This dynamic speaker has had the honor of speaking at various churches, conferences, and conventions across the United States and Nigeria, West Africa. He was a visiting lecturer at Boston University, an adjunct professor at Princeton Theological and New Brunswick Theological Seminaries and adjunct faculty at Essex County College.

For more than 12 years, Bishop Hilliard has served as a member of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. The national conventions consist of more than 30,000 churches and 8 million Baptist members across the country. He is also affiliated with the American Baptist churches, U.S.A., the Progressive National Baptist convention, the NAACP, United Negro College Fund, served on the advisory board for the Ronald McDonald children's charity, Multicultural advisory board at Eastern College, St. David's, PA, National Advisory Board at the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce, Middlesex County Youth Services Commission Minority Subcommittee and the Perth Amboy Special Improvement District Committee. Moreover, he has received an award from Soul Brothers Inc. Community Award for outstanding efforts in uplifting the community, the Ronald L. Rice Award for outstanding human services from the NUAC of New Jersey, he

was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award from Drew University, Madison, NJ, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Moorehouse College, named executive of the year by Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce. He was selected as the distinguished alumnus of the year, 1995, by Princeton Theological

Seminary and the Evangelism Award by American Baptist Church, U.S.A.

This exceptional pioneer was licensed into the Gospel ministry in 1976 and ordained in 1978. He is married to Minister Phyllis D. Thompson Hilliard and the father of three daughters, Leah Joy, Charisma Joy, and Destiny Joy.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a pleasure to pay tribute to the Cathedral Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, its great leader, Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr., and their distinguished guest, and my illustrious colleague, the Rev. Congressman Floyd H. Flake.