

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the leadership, staff and membership of Central Church of Christ Cleburne, TX on the observance of the church's 125th Anniversary.

On October 13, 1996, our community will celebrate the church's dedication to Biblical teachings, practice, and devoted service to the citizens of Cleburne, Johnson County, TX.

In 1871, following the Civil War, the Church of Christ was established as a stabilizing force for a county in the great State of Texas. Much of the growth and development of north Texas came as a result of migration of veterans and their families from the war ravished area of the South.

The congregation began meeting in the courtroom of the Johnson County Courthouse. From this beginning, it moved to permanent facilities in the western part of the country. In 1880, it moved to a new building in Cleburne. The church now enjoys a prominent position in the religious community through its many programs of worship, education, missions and service to the community, State, Nation and the world.

For 125 years, Central Church of Christ has continued the great principles established by our Founding Fathers and guaranteed by our constitution.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, my colleagues and fellow citizens of the 12th District in the great State of Texas, in extending our congratulations to this congregation on this momentous anniversary

CLIFTON HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next month, my friends at the Clifton Heights Fire Department will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Accordingly, I want to pay tribute to these Americans who have put their lives on the line daily to protect the citizens of Clifton Heights, PA.

In 1896, by order of the courts, the Clifton Heights Fire Protection Association and the Clifton Heights Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company received their charters. For nearly 60 years, the two companies operated separately to provide the citizens of Clifton Heights with superb fire protection. In 1956, putting all rivalry aside, the two companies agreed to disband and join together to form one entity—the Clifton Heights Fire Company.

Since 1956, the Clifton Heights Fire Company has been one of the best trained and most aggressive companies in Pennsylvania. With support from local officials and the community, the Clifton Heights Company has emerged as a model of excellence in firefighting capability. Over the years, the company

has successfully procured only the best state-of-the-art firefighting apparatus. Modern equipment combined with excellence in training has resulted in a first class company in which we can all take great pride.

As a former volunteer fire chief and founder of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know firsthand the dedication, determination, and hard work associated with the firefighting profession. Yet, all too often we take for granted our local fire and emergency service personnel.

With this in mind, I want to thank the brave men and women of the Clifton Heights Fire Company for all they have done over the past 100 years in making the community of Clifton Heights a safer place to live. Congratulations and I wish you luck in your next 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OFFICE  
OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES'  
HEARING OFFICERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, October of this year, marks 8 years since the adoption of the House Fair Employment Practices Resolution, House Resolution 558 of the 100th Congress. At that time, this legislation established a new direction for addressing employment discrimination matters within the House of Representatives. The resolution prohibited discrimination against all House employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, and age. Additional employment legislation expanded upon these rights.

For the expressed purpose of addressing these employment issues. The resolution also created a new administrative process consisting of counseling, mediation, and adjudication. This House-designed process has been administered, during these 8 years, through the Office of Fair Employment Practices and the Fair Employment Practices Review Panel.

With the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act and the establishment of the Office of Compliance, we are now transitioning to a new era concerning employment rights in the Congress. Nevertheless, we are here today to pay special tribute to a select group of individuals who have been a part of the House Fair Employment Practices' process during its tenure: the hearing officers.

A critical component of the Fair Employment Practices' process has been the adjudicatory or hearing stage. Under this system, hearings have been conducted and decisions rendered by individuals who have come from the ranks of employees within the House of Representatives, with background qualifications in this area. These dedicated men and women have given their time and talent to provide every grievant a fair and impartial hearing.

Many hours of time have been given, time given without compensation, to the activities involved: The Background preparation for hearings, the actual conducting of hearings, the review of documents, the research time in the law library, and the writing of decisions.

Over the course of these 8 years, nine individuals have served the House with distinction as hearing officers under the Office of Fair Employment Practices. As an indication of the

bipartisan nature which has been afforded to this process and which these hearing officers have upheld, each of the individuals was jointly appointed to the hearing officer position by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on House Oversight and its predecessor.

With pleasure, I would now like to recognize these individuals for their outstanding work: Michael L. Murray; Henry J. Schweiter; Randel K. Johnson; Ellen L. Weintraub; Charles J. Willoughby; Ariel R. David; Edward W. Hoskins, Jr.; Daniel J. Levinson; and Joseph Gibson.

A special note of thanks to Jim Schweiter who has served as a hearing officer for 6 years, taken on the greatest number of cases, and has served as a special resource to the staff of the Fair Employment Practices' Office. In all but title, he has been the senior hearing officer.

I would also like to thank the staff to the Office of Fair Employment Practices for their service to the House of Representatives, Joseph P. Horn, Ruby McCall-Bunch, Rebecca Miller, and Particularly the OFEP Director, William X. Baranowski.

This opportunity to acknowledge these highly dedicated individuals is a small measure of our grateful appreciation for the work they have done in this unique role, on behalf of the House of Representatives. To all of you, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your outstanding work, and best wishes for your continued successful careers.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 4012—MEDICARE  
WAIVER FOR THE WELLNESS  
PLAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on legislation I introduced earlier this year to temporarily waive the Medicare enrollment composition rules for the Wellness Plan in Michigan. The bill enjoys bipartisan support in the House and Senate and passed the Commerce Committee on September 18 by a unanimous vote.

H.R. 4012 would allow the Wellness Plan a waiver from the so-called 50-50 rule, which requires that any plan which serves as a Medicare HMO have at least 50 percent of its enrollees as non-Medicare and non-Medicaid recipients. The Wellness Plan is a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) federally qualified HMO which serves a predominately Medicaid-based population.

This plan had begun to serve the Medicare population under a health care prepayment plan. However, HCPP contracts were effectively frozen as of January 1, 1996, as a result of changes made under the Social Security and Technical Corrections Act of 1994 which subjects HCPP contractors to MediGap laws. Because of this, the Wellness Plan has been unable to enroll any more Medicare beneficiaries.

This plan has been recognized by two Secretaries of HHS and by Presidents Bush and Clinton. It serves a substantial portion of the Medicaid population in southeast Michigan and has been doing so for almost 25 years. It is financially sound and has an unblemished

record of providing health care to this population.

Although the bill had passed the major committee of jurisdiction and enjoyed bipartisan support in the Senate, it became a victim of time constraints and was not able to be scheduled for a vote in the House before Congress adjourned for the year. Nonetheless, we made important progress this year and I believe we are in solid position to pass this bill early next year when Congress reconvenes for the 105th Congress. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee and the House leadership to achieve this goal.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM CLINGER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY  
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Representative BILL CLINGER well in his retirement. He has been extremely lucky in this life, with a lovely wife, Julia, four wonderful children, Eleanor, William III, James, and Julia, and two precious grandchildren, Sara and Charlotte. I feel sure that the future only holds more blessing for BILL CLINGER.

Congressman CLINGER was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives back in 1978, and he has been a fixture here in Congress ever since. He has worked hard as chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee and vice chairman for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

His work here in Washington has not gone unnoticed. He has earned the respect and admiration of all of his colleagues. I have enjoyed working with BILL for the last 20 years, and he will be missed in Congress after he retires.

#### THE MAN FROM MEMPHIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my distinguished colleague from Tennessee, the Honorable HAROLD FORD. During 11 consecutive terms of service in this body, HAROLD distinguished himself as a champion for meaningful welfare reform and an advocate for economic development for both urban and rural America. He will long be remembered as one who served his constituents with the same fervor that he dedicated to the crafting of legislation in the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

Because of his leadership, Central Station in downtown Memphis was revitalized; the Memphis Housing Authority was able to devote \$47 million toward its revitalization programs; and Memphis will now have a new Job Corps Center. His work as chairman and the ranking Democrat of the Ways and Means Sub-

committee on Human Resources in large measure enabled us to enact a welfare reform bill that strengthened the initiatives for work without hurting the Nation's vulnerable children. I personally enjoyed the ability to work with him on health care reform issues in the 102d and 103d Congresses.

The gentleman from Tennessee will be sorely missed. I am gratified, however, that his son Harold, Jr., is poised, to continue his legacy in the 105th Congress. I wish him the best in his retirement from this body and I am certain that he will continue to be a voice that speaks in the people's interest.

#### HONORING JOHN KABLER, A VOICE FOR PRESERVATION OF OUR WATERWAYS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Kabler, one of Maryland's most effective and respected environmental leaders; no one worked harder than John to protect the Chesapeake Bay. As regional director of Clean Water Action, John Kabler showed citizens of Maryland how to work together for a better environment.

John's quiet constructive approach to leadership is well described in a brief tribute published in the New Bay Times. Because we all have much to learn from the way John helped Maryland and the Nation, I would like to share this article with my colleagues and the public.

[From the New Bay Times, Aug. 8, 1996]

APPRECIATION: JOHN KABLER

(By Joe Browder)

John Kabler's life was about protecting water: assuring safe drinking water for all Americans; working to save the Chesapeake and his hometown rivers and streams that nourish the Bay, restoring the Everglades waters flowing to coastal south Florida's mangroves and corals and cities. The difference John made, in these and other issues that help shape our lives, actually came from his love of life and people. John loved his family most of all; few persons so accomplished in public service remain so deeply grounded in the love of family and friends.

My wife Louise Dunlap and I began working with John in the '70s and came to know him better through three paths. For Louise, the intensity of a political campaign during the 1984 presidential primaries and work on the Clean Water Fund's board. For me, the continuing struggle to protect the Everglades. For both of us, living in Anne Arundel County and treasuring every moment spent with John and Sandy.

John took joy from the absurdity and dignity of America's political process. He relished helping people realize that they can be powerful when working together. He believed that citizens, informing themselves and sharing their knowledge, can and should define the rules that everyone must play by.

John knew that both nature and neighborhoods are usually the losers when politicians make deals with polluters. But John remembered what was worth fighting for, so he understood that there is no more important struggle than against the impulse to let either conflict or compromise become ends

in themselves. When colleagues would form a circle and fire on each other, he was kind enough to help all the wounded.

John also believed that so long as the right things happen, it doesn't matter who appears to be responsible. That's why John's fundamental role in protecting the Bay was only recently given wide recognition, when the Governor of Maryland proclaimed John an Admiral of the Chesapeake.

In the Everglades, John's team demolished the myth about immigrants' indifference to the environment. Talking with thousands of households in south Florida, John's Clean Water surveyors repeatedly found Spanish-speaking families expressing the highest level of support for protecting the Everglades and making polluters pay.

When the Everglades was betrayed by the sugar industry's pet politicians and frustrated citizen leaders turned on each other or lashed out at government workers, John counseled better ways. Whether managing small armies or nurturing new leaders, John guided by teaching and learning.

John experienced what nature gives us, so his work was founded on understanding what is really to be won or lost. He believed in justice, for everyone, and saw the connection between social opportunity and the integrity of nature. He was awed by the majesty and intricacy of being while loving people—as a part of life and one person at a time.

John left us as gracefully as he lived with us. He is on his present journey filled, and filling us, with all the love a person could hope to give or get.

#### SOUTH DADE MOTORSPORTS EXHIBITION CENTER

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 30, 1996*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support efforts to create jobs for the people I represent. In this regard, I rise in support of the economic development project planned for the Homestead Motorsports Complex. The international motorsports exhibition facility will be a major, year-round economic development vehicle which will go a long way toward revitalizing the hurricane ravaged Homestead and south Dade communities. The exhibition facility is expected to bring in more than half a million tourists per year and generate more than 100 jobs in a wide variety of areas. The job creation will be even greater throughout the community. The project is also a public-private partnership, with the private sector committed to contributing one-third of the development costs, State and local governments another third, and the Federal Government the remaining third.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the economic distress which continues to plague Homestead and south Dade and the strong economic development potential of the proposed motorsports exhibition center, I strongly believe that this project deserves grant support from EDA in fiscal year 1997. I am hopeful that the Commerce-State-Justice Appropriations Subcommittee will join me and my south Florida colleagues in urging EDA to give expeditious and favorable consideration to this important project.