

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP AND MRS. COUSIN OF THE BRIDGE STREET A.M.E. CHURCH AS THEY HOST THE 174TH NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip Robert Cousin, Sr., the 96th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination as he joins over 100,000 congregants from throughout New York State and the Nation to celebrate their religious and cultural heritage, while also attending worship and legislative sessions. Founded in 1787, the African Methodist Episcopal church is the oldest of its kind in the United States and has grown up to 7,000 churches nationwide. Bishop Cousin has worked tirelessly to mobilize African-American communities throughout the United States with his spiritual strength and courageous leadership. The people of Brooklyn and New York have benefitted a great deal from Bishop Cousin and the Bridge Street A.M.E. church as he hosts another spiritually enlightening conference.

I would also like to honor Mrs. Margaret Joan Cousin for her work in expanding AIDS education and awareness within the African-American community in the United States. As a dedicated leader and educator, Mrs. Cousin was responsible for developing the national standard for a curriculum in African-American culture, education and history—a model that has been adopted by academic institutions nationwide. Her work as a teacher in North Carolina has earned her the esteemed honor of Teacher of the Year, and was awarded Supervisor of Quadrennium by the Women's Missionary Society from 1987 to 1991. Mrs. Cousin has brought boundless energy and vision to the Eleventh and First Episcopal Districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church with her focus on AIDS education.

It pleases me greatly to participate in this historic conference. I wish all the friends, families, ministers, community leaders and supporters of the Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal Church abundant success in organizing the New York annual conference.

KATHRYN SOSINSKI, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kathryn

Sosinski, winner of the 1996 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kathryn is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, MI.

Kathryn Sosinski is an exceptional student at Bronson High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kathryn's involvement in student government and school activities began her freshman year and continued through her senior year as the class president. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Varsity Club. Kathryn was a member of the homecoming court and attended Girl's State. Outside of school, Kathryn has spent much of her time volunteering for several local organizations.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kathryn Sosinski for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

NATIONAL COALITION OF TITLE I/CHAPTER 1 PARENTS—REGION II
22d ANNUAL IN-SERVICE PARENT
TRAINING CONFERENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 31, 1996, at the Sheraton Hotel in Eatontown, NJ, the National Coalition of Title I/Chapter 1 Parents—Region II will hold its 22d Annual In-Service Parent Training Conference.

It is with great honor that I pay tribute to the National Coalition of Title I/Chapter 1 Parents and proclaim this day as "Title I Day". Title I is the largest federally funded elementary and secondary education program. Evolving from President Lyndon Johnson's Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Title I has provided academic assistance to economically and educationally disadvantaged children. In a time when spending cuts for educational programs are threatening the futures of our children, I have stood up to defend and maintain the educational system in this country. It is a welcome relief to see the fine work that this organization is responsible for and to know that parents everywhere are receiving the necessary assistance for improving the quality of their children's education.

Mr. Speaker, this 22d annual conference is an important event and one that should re-

mind us all of the importance of a sound educational system and the future of our children that we hold in our hands.

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE BY THE
INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate 10 years of dedicated service by 10,000 volunteers of the Interfaith Shelter Network in San Diego County, CA.

Ten years ago, the Network began as an idea in the minds of several people who were trying to resolve some problems of the homeless in the region. In 1985, the Network was formed as a joint effort between San Diego County community, civic, and religious leaders—and it started on a small scale, with approximately a dozen congregations.

The Network offers 8 to 10 weeks of shelter for each participating guest who is referred by a social service agency. Congregations provide sleeping accommodations and meals as the guests work on transitional plans with their social service agencies to get back into their own housing. Participating congregations have developed a family-style environment where the volunteers become an important extended family for their guests.

Responding to the need with rapid growth, the Interfaith Shelter Network now includes more than 130 Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i congregations in seven regions of San Diego County. More than 4,100 people have been provided with over 81,000 nights of shelter—and more than half of the 4,100 guests have left the Network's shelters for their own housing. When the program started, many of the people served were single men. Two years ago, families became the largest group served, as they also became the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

The Network, administered by the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County under the supervision of Executive Director Glenn Allison, began its second program in 1990—the Transitional Housing Program. To date, this new program has assisted more than 25 families, including 110 people, with education and counseling.

The 10th anniversary of the Interfaith Shelter Network will be commemorated with an anniversary service and Thank-You Picnic this coming Sunday, May 19. On this joyous occasion, I commend the Ecumenical Council, the city and county of San Diego, and the many private donors who, with their donations and other means of support, have made the idea of the Network a reality.

I commend the guests of this program who have enriched the lives of their host congregations and those who, with determination, have left the ranks of the homeless.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

And I commend the thousands of volunteers from the Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i communities who, with their generosity of time and spirit, have made the Network work.

So often, we look around at the problems overwhelming our cities and despair that nothing can be done. In contrast, the Interfaith Shelter Network is an example of how people can make a positive difference in their communities.

REV. BILLY GRAHAM: A SOCIETY POISED ON THE BRINK OF SELF-DESTRUCTION

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend to you and our colleagues the following transcript from the marvelous speech by the Rev. Billy Graham delivered in a jam-packed rotunda on May 2, 1996. I urge everyone to heed its words.

THE HOPE FOR AMERICA
(By Dr. Billy Graham)

Mr. Vice President; Speaker Newt Gingrich; Majority Leader Bob Dole; Senator Strom Thurmond; Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate; distinguished guests and friends.

Ruth and I are overwhelmed by the very kind words that have been spoken today, and especially by the high honor you have just bestowed on both of us. It will always be one of the high points of our lives, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this unforgettable event. We are grateful for all of you in the Senate and House who have had a part in it; and President Clinton for his support in signing the resolution.

As we read the list of distinguished Americans who have received the Congressional Gold Medal in the past—beginning with George Washington in 1776—we know we do not belong in the same company with them, and we feel very unworthy. One reason is because we both know this honor ought to be shared with those who have helped us over the years—some of whom are here today. As a young boy I remember gazing at that famous painting of Washington crossing the Delaware. Only later did it occur to me that Washington did not get across that river by himself. He had the help of others—and that has been true of us as well. Our ministry has been a team effort, and without our associates and our family we never could have accomplished anything.

I am especially grateful my wife Ruth and I are both being given this honor. No one has sacrificed more than Ruth has, or been more dedicated to God's calling for the two of us.

However, I would not be here today receiving this honor if it were not for an event that happened to me many years ago as a teenager on the outskirts of Charlotte, North Carolina. An evangelist came through our town for a series of meetings. I came face-to-face with the fact that God loved me, Billy Graham, and had sent His Son to die for my sin. He told how Jesus rose from the dead to give us hope of eternal life.

I never forgot a verse of Scripture that was quoted. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (*John 1:12, KJV*). That meant that I must respond to God's offer of mercy and forgiveness. I had to repent of my own sins and receive Jesus Christ by faith.

When the preacher asked people to surrender their lives to Christ, I responded. I had little or no emotion; I was embarrassed to stand with a number of other people when I knew some of my school peers saw me; but I meant it. And that simple repentance and open commitment to Jesus Christ changed my life. If we have accomplished anything at all in life since then, however, it has only been because of the grace and mercy of God.

As Ruth and I receive this award we know that some day we will lay it at the feet of the One we seek to serve.

As most of you know, the President has issued a proclamation for this day, May 2, 1996, to be a National Day of Prayer. Here in Washington you will see and hear of people throughout the District of Columbia praying today. It is encouraging and thrilling that here, and across the country people have committed themselves to pray today for our leaders, our nation, our world, and for ourselves as individuals. I am so glad that before business each morning, both the House of Representatives and the Senate have a prayer led by Chaplain Ogilvie of the Senate, who has had so much to do with this event today, and Chaplain Jim Ford, who used to be chaplain at West Point when I went almost every year to bring a message to the cadets.

Exactly 218 years ago today—on May 2, 1778—the first recipient of this award, George Washington, issued a General order to the American people. He said, "The . . . instances of Providential Goodness which we have experienced and have now almost crowned our labors with complete success demand from us . . . the warmest returns of Gratitude and Piety to the Supreme Authority of all Good." It was a message of hope and trust, and it also was a challenge for the people to turn to God in repentance and faith.

We are standing at a similar point in our history as less than four years from now the world will enter the Third Millennium. What will it hold for us? Will it be a new era of unprecedented peace and prosperity? Or will it be a continuation of our descent into new depths of crime, oppression sexual immorality, and evil?

Ironically, many people heralded the dawn of the 20th Century with optimism. The steady march of scientific and social progress, they believed would vanquish our social and economic problems. Some optimistic theologian even predicted the 20th Century would be "The Christian Century", as humanity followed Jesus' exhortation to love your neighbor as yourself. But no other century has been ravaged by such devastating wars, genocides and tyrannies. During this century we have witnessed the outer limits of human evil.

Our mood on the brink of the 21st Century is far more somber. Terms like "ethnic cleansing" "random violence" and "suicide bombing" have become part of our daily vocabulary.

Look at our own society. There is much, of course, that is good about America, and we thank God for our heritage of freedom and our abundant blessings. America has been a nation that has shown a global compassion that the rest of the world seemingly does not understand. After World War II because we had the Atom Bomb, we had the opportunity to rule the world, but America turned from that and instead helped rebuild the countries of our enemies.

Nevertheless, something has happened since those days and there is much about America that is no longer good. You know the problems as well as I do; racial and ethnic tensions that threaten to rip apart our cities and neighborhoods; crime and violence of epidemic proportions in most of our cities;

children taking weapons to school; broken families; poverty; drugs; teenage pregnancy; corruption; the list is almost endless. Would the first recipients of this award even recognize the society they sacrificed to establish? I fear not. We have confused liberty with license—and we are paying the awful price. We are a society poised on the brink of self-destruction.

But what is the real cause? We call conferences and consultations without end, frantically seeking solutions to all our problems; we engage in shuttle diplomacy; and yet in the long run little seems to change. Why is that? What is the problem? The real problem is within ourselves.

Almost three thousand years ago King David, the greatest king Israel ever had, sat under the stars and contemplated the reasons for the human dilemma. He listed three things that the world's greatest scientists and sociologists have not been able to solve, and it seems the more we know, and the greater our technology, the more difficulties we are in. In perhaps the best-known passage of the Old Testament, Psalm 23, he touches on the three greatest problems of the human race.

First, David said, is the problem of emptiness. David wrote: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." He was not talking just about physical want, but spiritual want.

I stood on the campus of one of our great universities some time ago, and I asked the Dean, "What is the greatest problem on your campus?" He replied in one word: "Emptiness." The human heart craves for meaning, and yet we live in a time of spiritual emptiness that haunts millions.

"Nirvana" is the Hindu word for someone who has arrived into the state of perpetual bliss. Media reports said that Kurt Cobain, the NIRVANA rock group's leader, was the pacesetter for the nineties, and the "savior of rock and roll." But he said the song in the end which best described his state of mind was "I hate myself and I want to die!" And at age 27 he committed suicide with a gun.

Second, is the problem of guilt. David wrote: "He restoreth my soul, he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." Down inside we all know that we have not measured up even to our own standards, let alone God's standard.

Third, David pointed to the problem of death. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." Death is the one common reality of all human life. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown did not realize his time had come when he stepped on that plane in Croatia a few weeks ago.

From time to time I have wandered through Statuary Hall and looked at all those statues of some of the greatest men and women in our nation's history. But one thing is true of every one of them: They are all dead.

Yes, these three things—emptiness, guilt, and the fear of death—haunt our souls. We frantically seek to drown out their voices, driving ourselves into all sorts of activities—from sex to drugs or tranquilizers—and yet they are still there.

But we must probe deeper. Why is the human heart this way? The reason is because we are alienated from our Creator. That was the answer David found to these three problems: "The Lord is my shepherd." This is why I believe the fundamental crisis of our time is a crisis of the spirit. We have lost sight of the moral and spiritual principles on which this nation was established—principles drawn largely from the Judeo-Christian tradition as found in the Bible.

What is the cure? Is there any hope?

Ruth and I have devoted our lives to the deep conviction that the answer is yes. There