

the annual Christmas party for her program participants, their families and friends. This event was eagerly anticipated every year as a time to come together to enjoy the holidays. When called upon by Carm to assist with party plans, volunteers could not refuse. Carm, through her volunteer crew, prepared all the food, provided music and hung decorations, all of which were done with tremendous energy and care.

On a personal level, I have witnessed Carm's interaction with her clients. It is easy to notice her genuine affection for them, as well as their fondness for her. She always approached her work with a compassionate heart, a cheerful smile, and a wonderful sense of humor. She will be sorely missed by clients and colleagues alike.

Because of this level of dedication, it is with great pleasure that I commend Carmel Casabona for 20 years of hard work and public service. I join with her daughter Tracy, her three granddaughters, family members, and friends in thanking her for caring so much for her clients, and in wishing her a very enjoyable retirement.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA KIRIE STEWART

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, education is in crisis today in America. That is why I think it is important to recognize an outstanding teacher. I rise today to recognize Barbara Kirie Stewart, daughter of a colleague and friend of mine, James C. Kirie. Mrs. Stewart teaches at Brentwood Academy in Tennessee where an endowed chair for history has recently been established in her name. This honor could not have been bestowed on a more deserving or dedicated woman, one who truly understands the joy of giving—to her students, her friends and family, and to future generations.

The endowment chair lets the rest of the world know how integral Barbara is to Brentwood Academy. Mrs. Barbara Stewart came to Brentwood Academy in the fall of 1972, in time to see the first class graduate the following spring. She brought with her a B.A. degree from Lindenwood College and the gift of making history come alive through her effective classroom teaching style.

Barbara's work with the Youth in Government program and as the founding sponsor of the R.O. Beauchamp chapter of the National Honor Society are just some of the many community enrichment activities with which she has involved herself. Barbara's devotion to students and education has taken her through 25 years as the History Department Chair at Brentwood Academy. Along the way, she also earned an M.A.T. from Vanderbilt. Those who have known Barbara in the classroom have discovered qualities that cannot be captured: an enthusiasm that stamps her presence into their memories forever.

Mrs. Barbara Stewart's former students say it best \* \* \*.

I became a teacher because of your inspiration. Thank you for all you did for me as a student and all you have inspired me to do as a teacher.

I can still hear your voice and recall the enjoyment of learning history from you.

You taught me to always ask why, not just who and when. That has made all the difference.

Yours is the one class from my high school days that continues to capture my imagination and still sends me to the bookshelves scrambling for more information.

No teacher in high school or college taught me as much as you. No teacher taught me how to learn as well as you. And no teacher was ever as hard as you either!

Every once in a while there is a teacher who, with contagious enthusiasm, is able to impact knowledge and show genuine interest in her students, thus earning their affection and respect in return. Thank you for being one of those rare teachers.

The longer I live, the more I realize that your hard work, dedication, and selfless service has enriched my life in countless ways.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Kirie Stewart Endowed Chair for History preserves the legacy of academic achievement lived out at Brentwood Academy through Mrs. Barbara Stewart—an exemplary citizen whose excellence in teaching is unsurpassed.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL UNION NO. 433

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union Number 433. Local 433 is celebrating their 110th anniversary.

On May 11, 1889, 12 carpenters were granted a charter by the United Brotherhood, forming Local 433. This small group of 12 has grown significantly in membership, to its present total of 435 members.

The impact of Local 433 is highly visible in the Belleville community, as Local 433 has been instrumental in the construction of Belleville Area College, the St. Clair County Courthouse, and Scott Air Force Base, among others. Local 433 is currently working on the expansion of the MetroLink light rail system.

From its inception to today, the men and women of Local 433 have made invaluable contributions to the community, through their contributions to charity and civic events. One of Local 433's greatest achievements is its apprenticeship program. This four year program gives young carpenters the chance to learn from the community's established carpenters. There are currently 44 apprentices in this program, which was established over thirty years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Local Union Number 433 as they celebrate their 110th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK GREEN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained this morning, and

missed roll call vote #108. Had I been present I would have voted "Aye."

CONGRATULATING THE RAPE COUNSELING SERVICE OF FRESNO ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno, Inc. (RCS), on occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Rape Counseling Service is a victim advocacy agency. Its mission is to alleviate the trauma due to sexual assault and/or child molestation, to educate the public and to raise the level of awareness regarding rape and child abuse prevention.

RCS made its start with a small core of volunteers meeting in a dorm room at California State University Fresno. It now has a staff of 33 members, and 52 volunteers who aid in crisis intervention, prevention education, a 24-hour hot-line, hospital and court advocacy and individual counseling.

For the past seven years, RCS has been ranked the number one rape crisis center in the state of California by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, and for the past six years, has been the number one funded agency by Fresno County. The U.S. Department of Justice has named the RCS Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) as one of only two programs in the state to be listed in Promising Practices, a report to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women.

Over the years RCS has established a strong working relationship with the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's office. It also interacts with other community-based organizations: Sanctuary, House of Hope, Human Services Coalition, Fresno County Child Abuse Prevention Council, The Fresno Policy Academy and Comprehensive Youth Services.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The services provided are invaluable to the well-being of the community and victims of assault. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing RCS many years of continued success.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF RADIO VISION: 19 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the volunteers of Radio Vision of Orange County, New York for their 19 years of dedicated service. Radio Vision Volunteer Day this year is Saturday, May 15th. Radio Vision is a closed circuit service for the blind and sight impaired of the Mid-

Hudson region of southeastern New York. Over 600 blind and virtually handicapped listeners are informed of local events, news, sales, and a variety of other information only by volunteers.

Oftentimes, we take the gift of sight for granted. With the convenience of being able to watch the television or read the newspaper to learn about the world around us, we have little reason to think about the world around us in any other way. However, for the blind, the world of television and radio is not an option. For the blind residents of the Mid-Hudson, turning on the radio provides an equal alternative to the paper and the TV.

Over the past 19 years over 105 dedicated volunteers have kept Radio Vision running for the more than 600 who have no other option. These people have given their time, their hearts, and their voices to those in need. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to speak about the commendable deeds of those at Radio Vision and I invite all of my colleagues to join in praising their devoted work in serving the blind.

JOHN WESLEY A.M.E. ZION  
CHURCH "THE NATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ZION METHODISM"  
CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVER-  
SARY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, "The National Church of Zion Methodism," on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church was established in the nation's capital during a period when free black Americans began and expanded a major effort for self-expression, self-esteem, and freedom. Free blacks established their own churches after they became dissatisfied with their treatment in white-controlled churches, treatment which included their segregation in religious services and disqualification from holding church offices and preaching. Founders of John Wesley experienced this treatment, and were led to leave churches that were discriminating against them.

Led by John Brent and John Ingham, a group called the "Little Society of Nine" withdrew from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church which was under the ministry of white leaders. They met in the home of John Brent at 1800 L Street, NW and formulated plans, which culminated in the Organization of John Wesley Church in 1849. At that time, John Wesley was a dependent church which selected its own locations and ministers. One member of the group, Martha Pennington, organized a "Woman's Aid Society," and raised \$300.00—the greater part of the down payment of \$349.00 required to purchase the church site at 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW. It took two years to build the church. The congregation, led by Rev. Abraham Cole, the first minister, moved into the new church in 1851. In that same year, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards were created. The church established a relationship with the A.M.E. Zion Church, and was legally confirmed in 1904.

Mr. Speaker, founders and early members of John Wesley, like those of many other black churches, were attracted by the doctrine of Methodism. This doctrine, expressed strongly in the sermons of John Wesley and in the hymns of his brother, Charles, proclaimed that no one was too poor, too humble, or too degraded to share in the privilege of divine grace, have a personal intimacy with God, and have assurance of eternal life. Pioneering black Methodists in New York City, led by James Varick, paved the way for the creation of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. From the founders of this church, the organizers and leaders of John Wesley Church in Washington, D.C. were destined to draw their inspiration and guidance. Since 1851, the leadership of the church has been vested in forty ministers.

Mr. Speaker, from 1855 to 1866, John Wesley Church was an important community facility for black education during a time when public schools in Washington were not available to blacks. The church, with the support of philanthropic groups, provided substantial elementary education under instruction from black and white teachers.

The early growth of the church was stimulated by a remarkable group of able ministers. Five of them had been elected bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church by 1904. Very substantial growth was indicated as early as 1884, when the church expanded its edifice by adding a second story. The architectural expansion was made under the supervision of Calvin Brent, the son of founding member John Brent who was one of Washington's first black architects.

For a dozen years before its move to its present location in 1914, John Wesley Church was located at 1121 18th Street, NW. The relocation to 14th Street provided a beautiful, large edifice that many persons felt was an appropriate place to have a national church of Zion Methodism, just as other denominations had a national church in the nation's capital. At the General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, held at John Wesley in 1940, John Wesley was officially designated the National Church of Zion Methodism.

During the twentieth century, the history of John Wesley Church has been characterized by increasing concern for the social welfare and the general quality of life of its members. The church has shown this concern while maintaining a strong interest in the spiritual well-being of its members and others. The ministerial and lay leadership of the church has been in the vanguard of the civil rights movement and the general effort to make Washington and the nation a better place in which to live. Two former pastors, The Right Reverend Stephen Gills Spottswood and Dr. E. Franklin Jackson, national civil rights leaders, were instrumental in the desegregation of public accommodations in Washington, D.C. The church has held sustained leadership roles in the NAACP, assisted in the coordination of the 1963 March on Washington, hosted President Bush in 1989, and will be hosting the cultural program for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Conference later this year. John Wesley Church is a member of the Interfaith Council and Downtown Cluster of Churches. Outreach programs at John Wesley include workshops on domestic violence, care for the senior citizens, feeding the homeless, and awarding scholarships to high school seniors and college students.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the pastor, The Reverend Vernon A. Shannon, the officers and members of the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, "The National Church of Zion Methodism"—a Washington monument beyond the monuments.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL TEAM  
COMPETES IN NATIONAL FINALS  
OF WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE  
CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION  
PROGRAM

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my alma mater, Hillsboro High School, for their participation in the We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program. On May 1–3, 1999 more than 1200 students from across the United States will be in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Hillsboro High School from Nashville will represent the state of Tennessee in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The We the People—The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges. The students testify as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee," that is, the panel of judges representing various regions of the country and a variety of appropriate professional fields. The student testimony is followed by a period of questioning during which the judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities. I wish the student team from Hillsboro High School the best of luck at We the People—national finals.

THE CENTER FOR CIVIC EDU-  
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PLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CON-  
STITUTION" PROGRAM

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 1999*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring an editorial in today's Washington Post about the