

who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of our elderly turn their lives around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade County into a veritable loving community.

Tonight's tribute is genuinely deserved! I salute Mr. John L. Stokesberry, a very dear friend, on behalf of a grateful community that he truly loved and cared for. I bid him now Godspeed on a well-deserved retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HOUSTON FAMILY REUNION

#### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "26th Annual Houston Family Reunion." In 1975, the children of Butler H. and Ida Bell Houston organized the very first "Houston Family Reunion." This annual week-long celebration culminates each year on Independence Day, July 4th. This year the Houston Family will meet in Houston, Texas, at the Westchase Hilton and Towers.

The Houston family's roots sprout from the small town of Plant City, Florida. This year, more than seven generations of Houston descendants will travel to Texas from as far away as Illinois, California, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Arizona, Georgia, and the District of Columbia. There are no obstacles too large or distances too far, to separate this family on the event of their annual family reunion.

The Houston family is a very distinguished group of people. Among them are several professionals; doctors, lawyers, accountants, and educators. The values of honor, integrity and education are deeply instilled in the Houston family. They place a strong emphasis on the importance of community involvement; hence, their involvement in the many Christian organizations in Houston.

This year's reunion will highlight the current matriarch of the Houston family, Theodosia (Aunt Louvenia) Houston Knighten. Theodosia is the oldest living child of Butler H. and Ida Bell Houston. During this year's festivities, Dr. Joe Reed, Sr., the family's historian, will present an in-depth look at the family's ancestry.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year's reunion; however, I extend my best wishes for a fun and memorable event. I also wish them continued success in future celebrations.

IN HONOR OF DR. THEODORE J.  
CASTELE, M.D.

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a great man, Dr. Theodore J. Castele, on his achievement of the 2001 West Side Ecumenical Ministry's Lamplighter Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Castele, the first television news doctor in the country, has served the Cleveland and

global community in many different capacities. He is most known for almost a "billion video house calls" where he discussed everything from the latest medical breakthroughs to the cure for a common cold.

His professional duties led him much further than television. Dr. Castele is also affiliated with Case Western Reserve University where he has been Interim Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Affairs, and is now Chairman of the Dean's Technology Council. Since 1961, Dr. Castele has taught medical and surgical interns at Lutheran Hospital and recently he began teaching at Fairview Hospital. His love of medicine and his true desire to help people in need have boosted his professional career to astounding heights.

However, Dr. Castele is not only active in the medical community. He has contributed thousands of hours to countless community organizations including The Humility of Mary Health Care System, the Health Museum of Cleveland, The Boy Scouts of America, and many others. He was recently recognized by the American Medical Association for his outstanding contributions to the community and was also named "Outstanding Man of the Year" by the Eagle Scout Association of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Theodore Castele for a lifetime of dedicated service. Dr. Castele has remained active in the medical and local community his entire life. His love has touched so many in Cleveland. I am proud to have such a dedicated community leader in my district and wish him the best of luck in the future.

#### HONORING MATT PATRICK

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Matt Patrick, former Executive Director of the Boulder County AIDS Project (BCAP). After having served the people of Boulder for nearly six years, Matt has left BCAP to become Program Officer for the Gill Foundation, based in Denver. With him serving as director, BCAP experienced an evolution of philosophy.

Under Matt's guidance, the BCAP budget doubled to nearly \$1 million and the staff grew by 50 percent. Importantly, during his time as Executive Director, BCAP expanded its outreach programs to target the workplace as well as Latino/a communities. Further, BCAP was selected as the best non-profit in Boulder County three times under Matt's direction and received numerous other awards.

Matt was also instrumental in the evolution of BCAP as a multiculturally proficient organization. As Executive Director, Matt incorporated policies and procedures to enhance the diverse nature of BCAP. Now there is multicultural training, a diversity coordinator and an agency wide multicultural staff.

During his tenure with BCAP, Matt and his staff gave much thought as to whom the agency's clients were—whom it was BCAP should be serving. According to Matt, "To me the reality of our mission is twofold—to serve people living with HIV and to slow the spread of HIV infection in the community." Simply consid-

ering those infected with HIV as clients of BCAP was not enough for Matt; it was only half the mission. In fact, in the year 2000, BCAP had 35,000 educational contacts as where six years ago this number was around 10,000.

By expanding educational and outreach programs, Matt Patrick served his community, the community of Boulder, Colorado as few have. I recognize his service and pay him honor.

#### HONORING PASTOR FREDDIE GARCIA

#### HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Freddie Garcia for his hard work and contributions made throughout Texas, New Mexico, California, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. Pastor Garcia's hard work and commitment to God has improved and affected many lives.

Pastor Freddie Garcia was born June 10th, 1938 in San Antonio, Texas. Growing up, Pastor Garcia faced many difficult situations; his largest obstacle was drug addiction. Pastor Garcia overcame his addiction to drugs upon finding and devoting his life to God. In June 1966, Pastor Freddie Garcia married his wife Ninfa. The two have been happily married and are committed to a life with God.

Pastor Garcia graduated from the Latin American Bible Institute in California in 1970. In 1972, Pastor Freddie Garcia and Ninfa founded Victory Fellowship Outreach. The program provides teachings on issues such as: family, education, discipline, the church, and community while also focusing on individuals in need of reconciliation and rehabilitation. Victory Fellowship Outreach has cured over 13,000 people from drug addiction.

Within Victory Fellowship Outreach there are many other ministries that reach out to help troubled individuals. The Victory Home-Christian Rehabilitation Center is open 24 hours and located in drug infested areas of San Antonio. The Center feeds and houses women and men in need of shelter and healing from life-controlling addictions. The Center has expanded across the United States and abroad. The Victory Leadership Academy has a two-year curriculum designed to equip workers with the skills necessary to run Christian rehabilitation centers. These centers also exist across the United States and throughout the world. Campus Outreach is a Youth Task Force comprised of former gang members who confront and challenge both junior high and high school students with lectures, discussion panels, classroom participation, and one on one interaction to discuss the evils of gangs and drugs. Victory Fellowship Outreach also offers Drop-In Centers which are located within housing projects offering emergency housing for troubled individuals and Jail and Prison Ministries which provide inmates with personal visits and Bible Correspondence Courses.

In 1988, Pastor Freddie Garcia published *Outcry in the Barrio*, an autobiography. In 1990 former President Bush presented him with the Achievement Against the Odds Award.

Pastor Garcia is a model citizen helping others with troubled pasts and troubled lives become model citizens. I would like to thank Pastor Freddie Garcia and his wife Ninfa for all they do, have done and will continue to do in the name of God and a better America.

#### DISCUSSION ON U.N. CONFERENCE ON RACISM

### HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, ANC leader Thozamile Botha once said, "We cannot choose war, we have come from war". To my colleagues and friends here today, I say that we cannot choose racism, because we have come from racism. It has brought us, and our children nothing but strife and sorrow. We all need each other in this new era of globalization. The time has come for us to stop harming each other because of our differences, and start using our differences to strengthen our weaknesses.

Racial discrimination has been an historical tragedy in all countries. Those countries, which enjoy lavish wealth today, do so because they were the oppressors of yesterday. Now, stands an opportunity to stop the cruel cycle of racial discrimination.

Historically, social structures and cultural beliefs combined to legalize racial oppression. Many lost opportunities or faced obstacles to living a prosperous life because of racial discrimination and abuse. The message rings loudly throughout any society as to which lives are considered more valuable. This instantly creates intense conflict within society.

A society that places and holds certain citizens in poverty and at a disadvantage with respect to occupation and education create an environment that induces many negative social ills—poverty, illiteracy, and crime are just a few. If all persons are expected to support and abide by the system, then the system should value all life equally. Those who will receive unequal treatment from the system may not honor it with equal respect.

The Conference on Racism focused initially on dismantling apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid fell, but just as with slavery in the United States, the remnants of inequality still remain.

International conflict now goes beyond nations going to war with one another. The wars of "the post, cold-war era", involve conflict among groups and neighbors who have lived side by side for generations. The world has become a new and politically unfamiliar place to many, and with unfamiliarity brings the desire to cling to that which they know and condemn that which is unfamiliar.

Why are so many countries afraid to address the issue? We know racism is everywhere, and it threatens to overwhelm us all if we do not place safeguards to prevent the harm it would incur.

The root of racism is fear. Fear of not being on top, fear of not being given preferential treatment, fear of competing for resources. However, the most powerful fear is one of a diminished self-worth. Too often those who perpetuate racism have intertwined their feelings of worth and confidence with the comparative status of those around them.

Hence, we do not struggle to improve life for one group, we struggle to change the false sense of superiority of another group—and it is this fear of losing superiority that frightens most. However, the only cure is to show them that a better world exists, not just for the oppressed, but for them as well. It is a new world that many cannot begin to imagine. It is this world that the U.N. Conference wishes to promote. The reality many people experience in the world today is not just emotionally painful, but it has many other ramifications that fall like stacks of dominoes. The effects of racism spread quickly and can soon pour into every community, harden and form the foundation of social institutions; and every mind of every person becomes polluted.

Our failure to address racism, as an international community is the reason we have so much international conflict. Racism should be viewed as a mental illness, and without a cure or an attempt at prevention, will create the sick atrocities we witnessed in Rwanda and Bosnia. We must find new ways to monitor hate and distrust before it reaches epidemic proportions. As global citizens we face not just diseases of the body, but of the mind and the spirit. We have too long focused on those problems we can see, and have pathetically crawled away from the true source of its origin.

U.S. citizens consider themselves the guardian of individual liberties. It was our political ancestors who created the framework that became the United Nations. It was our first ambassador, Eleanor Roosevelt who established the Human Rights Commission.

The U.S. urgently seeks its renewal on the U.N. Human Rights Commission. To those who wish to accomplish this, I give a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt. "Where after all, does universal rights begin? In small places, close to home . . . unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

I join my colleagues in an earnest plea for the administration and Congress of the United States, to give their full support to the World Conference on Racism and send an official delegation to Durban, South Africa.

We have been a staunch promoter of human rights and underlying any democratic philosophy is the belief that all men are created equal. This is the core of human rights and eliminating racism should be at the core of our domestic and foreign policy. We are not calling upon the world to repent, but to acknowledge the past, refuse to ignore the present and hopefully challenge the future.

#### LABOR AND THE LABOR FORCE

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative BONIOR for organizing a special order on labor and the labor force in our country. Rather than wait until the first Monday in September, I, too, appreciate the role of labor and organized in our economy.

In my District, which is largely the Mississippi Delta, I've witnessed the transition

from agriculture to gaming. Ten years ago, there were no casinos in the State of Mississippi. Today, more than twenty-two casinos operate in my Congressional District. The Second District of Mississippi is one of the more rural areas in the country. While we grow cotton and soybeans and farm-raise 85% of the nation's catfish, we can sometimes lose sight of the men and women who make it all possible.

When we adjourn in the House, most times you can find me headed to Mississippi. When I get home, I hear all the concerns of hard-working folk who just want to make a better way of life for their families. No, they don't complain about how they can't contribute as much as they want to a campaign or how the estate tax is threatening to take away their farm. My constituents just want to be treated fairly and thought of as men and women.

Time after time, we see corporate executives pitted against common folk who want to know that they are not being mistreated. Just like all of us here in the Congress, our workforce wants to enjoy life. There's nothing wrong with paying hard-working people a decent wage. There's nothing wrong with providing a safe working environment. There's nothing wrong with environmental standards. There's nothing wrong with health insurance for the working poor—folks who are too rich for Medicaid but too poor for the HMO's. There's nothing wrong with forming credit unions and providing other benefits to assist our workforce, many of whom are turned away by traditional lending institutions. Mr. Speaker, these comforts are taken for granted by some here in the Congress.

In closing, I ask "What's wrong with an honest day's pay for an honest day's work?" As we carry out our duties in this House, let us not forget the men and women who have made our economy what it is.

#### ASTORIA HARDWARE FIRE

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 19, 2001*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of John Downing, Harry Ford and Brian Fahey—three of New York's Bravest, members of the New York City Fire Department, who were killed in the line of duty on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17.

Every day, firefighters take risks by putting their own lives on the line in an attempt to save innocent people who may be trapped in a burning building or are otherwise endangered by a spreading fire. Heroic action taken by the men and women of the New York Fire Department is not an occasional event, but something that occurs daily. The routine risks they take are not recognized enough by the people who they protect. Unfortunately, it always seems to take a tragedy, like the one which occurred last weekend to fully recognize the heroism around us every day. I am heartened to see the outpouring of sympathy that has been expressed in New York and across the country for these brave men who fell in the line of duty.

Working on Father's Day was just part of the job for these three heroes, who were entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the