

IN HONOR OF FR. JAMES E. GOODE  
OFM, PH.D.

## HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Father James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D. in recognition of his dedication and commitment to his community, his faith, and in his work in the battle against AIDS.

Father James E. Goode, OFM, Ph.D. is the leading Black Catholic Evangelist in the United States. He is known as the Dean of Black Catholic Evangelists having preached the first Black Catholic Revival in America (1974). The first Black Catholic Revival was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Father Goode has preached all over the world and is one of the most sought after African American Catholic priests. Father Goode and Rev. Jesse Jackson preached at the Vatican during the Black American Voices in Rome celebration, an event that was sponsored by the Vatican and the City of Rome.

Father Goode was an elected member of the New York City Community School Board in District 16 for two terms. He was the former President of the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission. He also headed the first San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Drug Addiction and served as a Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families. He was also a Commissioner for the San Francisco Delinquency Prevention Commission, as well as the San Francisco AIDS Council.

Father Goode is a native of Roanoke, Virginia and a proud Franciscan Friar of the Order of Friars Minor, Province of the Immaculate Conception in New York City (ordained May 13, 1974, NYC). He has earned his Doctor of Philosophy, with a major in Psychology, from Union Graduate School, his Master of Theology, from the University of the State of New York, St. Anthony Theological Seminary, his Master of Divinity, from the University of the State of New York, St. Anthony Theological Seminary, his Master of Arts in Educational Psychology: from the College of Saint Rose, Albany, New York, and his Bachelor of Arts, from the University of the State of New York, Immaculate Conception Seminary.

He was the Founding Pastor of the Faith Community of Black Catholics, Our Lady of Charity (1974) in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Under his leadership this declining parish came alive and became authentically Black and Catholic. Our Lady of Charity became a model for Black Catholic worship, education, community outreach and ecumenism. Father Goode assisted the larger Black Catholic Community of Brooklyn by serving on many boards and councils. He was the first chairman of the Office of Black Ministry in the Diocese of Brooklyn. By God's grace and mercy and through Father Jim Goode's gift of preaching and healing, thousands have come home to the Catholic faith. His motto: "Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine and no matter how hard the task or how difficult the moment I am ready to go in your name". He is a longtime activist and leader of Social Justice and Peace. His untiring efforts to combat

and correct some of society's most urgent problems have been his life's mission. This activism has led him to develop the 1st Annual AIDS Summit for Black Catholics on Saturday, December 1, 2001. The theme of the conference is: "Lift every life, help is on the way."

Mr. Speaker, Franciscan Father Jim Goode's entire priestly life has been dedicated to the spiritual and psychological growth and development of his people. He is a voice for the voiceless in their quest for human rights. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

## DENNIS O'DELL; VETERANS COME FIRST!

## HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Dennis O'Dell of San Diego County who has been selected as the winner of the 2001 Maxine Waters Award for Courage, to be presented by AMVETS Post #66 on January 12, 2002 in Cathedral City, California.

Dennis O'Dell is a resident of my Congressional District. He was born in September, 1949 in Maryville, Missouri to Doris V. Shell O'Dell and Norman C. O'Dell. His father was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the European-African-Middle East Theater Campaign Medal, along with others honors. Dennis was raised in El Segundo, California and attended El Segundo High, El Camino College in Torrance, and Penn Valley College in West Los Angeles.

He served in the United States Marine Corps and received his honorable discharge in 1969. He began a career as a policeman in Missouri in 1979 and, after being wounded three years later, he became a business owner in Missouri.

However, his roots were calling him back to California, and he returned in 1983, working for a Security Company in Beverly Hills and for the Santa Monica Airport Police. In 1986, he went to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Police Officer, was promoted to Police Detective a year later, and to Criminal Investigator in 1993. While working on criminal cases at the West LA VA Medical Center, Long Beach VA Medical Center, and the Sepulveda VA Medical Center, he had a conviction rate of 90%. He retired from the VA Police Department in 1995 after re-injuring his old wound while arresting three suspects who were attempting to sell drugs on the VA hospital grounds, and he has dedicated the past several years to veterans' causes. He is also a champion of the rights of workers, serving for several years as Union President/Business Agent of American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), Local 1061, at all veterans' hospitals in Southern California. He won 90% of his labor grievances with management during his term and helped to bring the Union local out of trusteeship and return it to the members.

Dennis has been a Life Member of the California Narcotic Officers Association and of

AMVETS Post#2 in Culver City. He is a member of the VVA Chapter #53 in Redondo Beach, the American Legion Post #46 in Culver City, the Marine Corps League of San Diego East County, the Hermosa Beach Veterans Memorial Commission, the AMVETS National Committee on Homeless Veterans, the Advisory Committee of the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, and the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Committee. He has held elective office of the California Democratic Veterans Caucus.

He serves on the Board of New Directions, a long-term program for homeless veterans with drug and alcohol addiction with a spectacular success rate of 85%. He helped New Directions raise \$5 million to restore a 60,000 sq. foot, three story building with the assistance of Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and helped to guide the donation of a new state of the art kitchen by AMVETS Department of California Service Foundation.

Dennis is immediate Past State Commander of AMVETS, which has over 10,000 members in California. During his term, more women, people of color and gays joined AMVETS than any period in history. He also served AMVETS as Post #2 Commander, District 2 Finance Officer, Southern Area Commander, California Department Commander, and Trustee of the AMVETS Department of California Service Foundation.

Through his participation in these many organizations, his achievements for veterans are too numerous to mention. He helped to get Veterans' Memorials in Hermosa Beach and in Palm Springs, and wheel chair buses for the VA in West Los Angeles and for the State Veterans Home in Chula Vista. He has handed out over 4000 blankets to homeless veterans, he started a web site for California AMVETS, and helped in writing a Veteran Plank for the California Democratic Party Platform.

The Maxine Waters Award for Courage, which Dennis is receiving, is named for Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, Representative of California's 35th Congressional District who has been invited to attend the award ceremony. Dennis made headlines when he gave a key to Congresswoman WATERS so she could make an unannounced inspection of a VA hospital locked-down psychiatric ward. The Congresswoman found the conditions deplorable, and sweeping reform took place. Dennis has shown other courageous action by walking with MAXINE WATERS and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, with the news media, from his union headquarters to the Director's Office of the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center to hand over thousands of pages of documents to the Director showing the alleged misappropriation of funds and misuse of VA land at this Medical Center. He undertakes these courageous actions despite the fact that he has had severe heart problems.

As a Member of the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committee, I thank Dennis O'Dell for his dedication and for his achievements on behalf of our nation's veterans. I am pleased to recognize Dennis O'Dell for his service to veterans and to congratulate him as the recipient of the Maxine Waters Award for Courage.