

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ST. MARK AME CHURCH CELEBRATES 133 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2002 St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church will celebrate its 133rd anniversary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1869, a time when African American's made up less than 1 percent of the city of Milwaukee's population, St. Mark A.M.E. Church was founded in a former site of a German Congregation. Although no longer at that location today, St. Mark is one of the oldest, largest and most influential congregations in Milwaukee.

The A.M.E. Church in the United States was founded out of the Methodist tradition but with its roots in the segregationist attitudes of that period in our history. In 1787, a group of slaves and former slaves in the Philadelphia area withdrew from St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church when they were not permitted to sit with the congregation, but were forced to sit separately in the gallery. They formed their own church, the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, and committed themselves to living the gospel and adopted the motto of "God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man Our Brother." After its founding, the A.M.E. church spread quickly throughout the Northern states, and eventually moved into the South after the Civil War.

Eighty-two years after the A.M.E. church's founding in the United States, a group of African American activists came together in Milwaukee, to establish St. Mark. Several of St. Mark founding members had a positive and permanent impact on the African-American Community in Milwaukee and Wisconsin. Mr. Ezekiel Gillespie, a former slave from Georgia who served as chairman of the group that founded St. Mark in 1869, filed a historic lawsuit that eventually led to full suffrage for African-Americans in Wisconsin. The Reverend Eugene Thompson, a former pastor at St. Mark, was one of the founding board members of Columbia Building, which in 1924 began helping African-Americans buy homes in the Milwaukee area.

This history of living one's faith through activism provides the foundation for a legacy of service to the community. Current initiatives and ministries at St. Mark are operated through the Lovell Johnson Quality of Life Center, and include counseling for alcohol and drug abuse; assistance with economic development, education and employment opportunities, as well as environmental preservation. The church also created the Anvil Housing Corporation and was the first African-American congregation in Wisconsin to sponsor senior citizen and disabled housing. St. Mark also fosters public service and patriotism in its youngest members through its sponsorship of Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

So it is with great pride that I congratulate the congregation of St. Mark A.M.E. Church and its Pastor, Reverend Michael A. Cousin, on 133 years of giving glory to God by living the gospel and serving our community.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESTORING FOOD STAMPS ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of restoring food stamps eligibility to legal permanent residents. In 1996, Congress stripped legal immigrants of eligibility for food stamps and a variety of other benefits. As a step in the right direction, President Bush proposed to restore food stamps benefits to low income legal immigrants. The President's position on this issue makes sense. The food stamps program is a critical safety net that allows working men and women to feed their families during hard times. All a household needs to qualify is a low income. However, thousands of legal resident families go hungry each day.

Legal residents pay taxes and their labor helps drive the economy. Yet, even hard working families may have a difficult time putting food on the table. A recent study by the Urban Institute found that 36 percent of New York City's limited English Proficiency households, during the previous year, had been unable to acquire adequate food at one time or the other. Food stamps can help provide these needy families with a temporary safety net during difficult times. Hunger does not limit itself to U.S. citizenship. Therefore, we should not create a policy to systematically deny food to needy tax paying immigrants in this country.

But when the conferees to the Farm Bill met last week, Republicans did just that. They crafted a food stamp provision that essentially denies benefits to legal permanent residents of the United States, even though this position is in direct opposition to the President's proposal of restoring food stamps to low income immigrants who lived in the U.S. for at least five years. The Republican's food stamp proposal is much more restrictive and would severely limit legal resident's eligibility and basically punish them for being non-citizens. It is unfortunate that the President's own party is undermining a bi-partisan efforts to help feed the working poor.

Recently, Republicans fashioned themselves as being pro-Hispanics. At the same time the Republicans were courting the Hispanic vote, they were cutting assistance that would help needy working legal immigrant families put food on the table. Democrats have fought for equal rights and just treatment for immigrants, as well as for restoring benefits to immigrants workers. If Republicans were really

concerned about the immigrant community, they would restore food stamps eligibility for legal permanent residents.

HONORING RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. He is also the President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis, and Chairman of the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. I would like to share the following article that was written by Rabbi Zoberman and appeared in the Virginian-Pilot on April 12, 2002.

AN OPEN LETTER TO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT ON THE OCCASION OF ISRAEL'S 54TH ANNIVERSARY

Your present living accommodations are a far cry from a past of world capitals hopping. However, you are reliving the "glorious" 1982 days in Lebanon under siege by the same Sharon encircling you again. In truth, you are both caged in as long as there is no peace for your respective peoples.

You itched to duel again (for the last time?) with your old nemesis, otherwise how explain the Second Intifada following Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount. You trapped each other; he aroused you enough for a pretext of rash action, yet you catapulted him to become a Prime Minister! Soon you may have the time to check out for yourself the over 800 references to Jerusalem in the Hebrew Bible, but why doesn't your Koran mention it even once?

I wanted to believe that you transformed yourself from the terrorist you were—a freedom fighter to you—to a statesman representing a long-enduring people abused as a pawn by its Arab brethren. Your partner to the sacred opportunity and responsibility was an Israel weary of wars imposed upon it, yearning for normalcy and that elusive peace it has sought all along. When entering into official peace with Egypt, entailing painful compromises, it was Sharon as Defense Minister who dismantled the Israeli town of Yonit. I resisted those doubtful of your famous handshake's sincerity with martyred Rabin—it cost him his life—when signing the 1993 Oslo Accords on that beautiful day at the White House, facing a breathless world celebrating a hopeful beginning. Remember the reward of a Nobel Peace Prize? How have you fallen, Ya Raees.

Of course, the murder of your friend Rabin by a Jewish zealot profoundly affected you for you were justly proud of "the peace of the brave" with your "brother" Rabin. Then came vicious terrorist attacks on Israelis by Muslim extremists who opposed your peace, and Israel's political power in the only Middle East democracy shifted to the Right. Netanyahu, the victor with an American accent, claimed you were not sincere (were you?) and that Israel risked too much. He

• 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.

lost the confidence of the Israeli voter in the absence of peace progress, facilitating the Left's comeback with Barak at the helm. Barak miscalculated, focusing on the Syrian track and neglected to develop the same bond you enjoyed with his mentor Rabin. I empathized with your changed status, but as a leader you should have stuck to your people's welfare. Finally when Barak took a visionary and valiant step beyond Israeli premises before him, with President Clinton's enormous input and personal stake, you simply walked away from the deal of your life. Abandoning your cause of peace, you inexplicably chose the path of violence of your own Arab enemies.

Didn't you realize that indiscriminate suicide bombings with no moral inhibitions, wreaking havoc on Israeli civilians could not indefinitely be tolerated? Did you try to trigger Sharon into a harsh response, gaining from it? Well, he held back, though no nation would have delayed a far more severe answer, particularly an Arab state unencumbered by that democratic stuff and the Judeo-Christian all-consuming regard for a single human life. Why not allow your youth to grow up as God intended them instead of sacrificing your people's future on the revived pagan altars of demonic hate. When Israeli families sat down for a Passover Seder (ironically it's about freedom and standing up to terrorism) at that doomed hotel in Netanya, you greeted them with a massacre. That proved the turning point and you really cannot blame Sharon, you gave him no choice.

Oh yes, an event called September 11 shook great America and President Bush declared a global war on terrorism. Did the Palestinians have to cheer when we were so diabolically attacked as they also did during the 1991 Gulf War in support of Saddam Hussein who underwrites your suicide bombers, always backing evil-doers and losers? Though fifteen of the nineteen hijackers were Arabs, you failed to halt that ship of arms from Iran, and carelessly leaving your signature on incriminating terrorist documents. It is clearer now that the line of American defense and civilization's survival run in Israel, and the unimaginable demise of that small but determined democracy would signal America's fall and both linked propositions are preposterous. Perceived weakness invites the bullies' aggression. The world is yet to accept an Israel that is not the traditional Jewish victim, with Israel bashing the new anti-Semitism. The shameful specter of burning synagogues has returned to a hypocritical Europe.

Lastly, before Israel celebrates at this season its hard-won independence after two millennia of powerlessness and persecution, it pauses to recall a Holocaust you seem to care little about and I cannot forget for I am son of survivors. That monumental tragedy gave the final push for Israel's rebirth, etching forever upon Jewish consciousness the call, "Never Again". Do you see why doves like me feel betrayed by the "new Arafat", concerned about creating a hostile twenty-third Arab state so close to the only Jewish state? There is one word we Jews have never dared erase even in our darkest hours and we had many of them, for it is our ultimate weapon. Guess, Arafat, it is "Shalom".

ELWYN, INC'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute and honor the accom-

plishments of Elwyn, Inc. on its 150th Anniversary Year of exemplary service to people with special needs in Pennsylvania.

Elwyn, Inc. is among the oldest and largest human services organizations in the nation. Founded in 1852 in the Germantown section of Philadelphia by James B. Richards, a teacher, and Dr. Alfred L. Elwyn, a physician, Elwyn is now a community-based network of programs headquartered in Middletown Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania and serving 12,000 children and adults with disabilities and disadvantages each year in Delaware, New Jersey, California and Pennsylvania.

I salute Elwyn, Inc. on the outstanding role it has played in teaching people with disabilities and disadvantages how to be as productive and independent as possible. The longevity of the organization is a testament to its deeply committed staff, board members, families and financial supporters who all play an essential role in the ongoing evolution of the collective energy focused on helping people with special needs. I join with the residents of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in celebrating Elwyn, Inc.'s 150 years of making a difference.

I would like to include a brief history of Elwyn to be printed at this point.

THE HISTORY OF ELWYN

In 1852, James B. Richards, a teacher, came to Philadelphia and opened a private school for "mental defectives" on School Lane in Germantown. He enlisted the sympathies of Dr. Alfred L. Elwyn, a physician, and together they were able to arouse interest in the endeavor in Philadelphia. Their efforts led, in 1854, to the incorporation of The Pennsylvania Training School for Idiotic and Feeble-minded Children, later renamed the Elwyn School. An appropriation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of \$10,000 and provisions for ten students were obtained. The school and its 17 students were moved to Woodland Avenue in 1855. Edouard Seguin, then a political refugee from France, was appointed educational director the following year.

Before the end of the decade, dissension and financial difficulties threatened to close the new school. Richards retired from the field of special education. Dr. Joseph Parrish was appointed Superintendent and was able to bring about financial stability. An additional appropriation of \$20,000 by the legislature for buildings provided an opportunity for expansion and the search for a permanent location began. Dorothea Dix, who had paved the way for humanitarian treatment of both the mentally ill and mentally retarded in Massachusetts, assisted in choosing a new site, fifteen miles south of Philadelphia at Media. Miss Dix was instrumental in securing state appropriations for the new campus.

In 1857, the cornerstone of the main building was laid, and the new school was dedicated to the shelter, instruction, and improvement of mentally retarded children. On September 1, the entire school and its 25 children, attendants, and teachers were loaded into two Conestoga wagons and brought to their new quarters. The formal opening took place on November 2, 1859.

In the early days, Elwyn was a simple, insular, self-contained, and self-sustaining community. The emphasis at Elwyn, and at institutions across the nation, was on segregating people with mental retardation and providing them with care away from the community, for life. In the 1960s, Elwyn began to turn away from the closed institution model, moving toward helping people

with disabilities to live and achieve their fullest potential within the larger community.

In 1969, Elwyn established a rehabilitation center in West Philadelphia. Delaware Elwyn in Wilmington and California Elwyn in Fountain Valley opened their doors to the community in 1974. In 1981, the Training School at Vineland in New Jersey came under Elwyn's management, and in 1984, Elwyn initiated programs for both Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem, Israel.

Today, under the leadership of Sandra S. Cornelius, Ph.D., the eighth president of Elwyn, the agency continues to lead the way by developing innovative, dynamic programs for adults and children with physical and mental disabilities, mental illness and socioeconomic disadvantages. The new century finds Elwyn with an expanded continuum of care, offering new services in the areas of juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and case management, and a strong resolve to help people build better lives long into the future.

THE GOOD PEOPLE, GOOD GOVERNMENT ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Good People, Good Government Act." This legislation is the first step in addressing the pressing human capital needs of the federal government. The human capital issue, first deemed the "quiet crisis" twelve years ago by the Volcker Commission, has now become the central concern for federal agencies.

More than half—53 percent—of the federal workforce will be eligible to retire in the next five years. This includes 71 percent of the government's senior managers—those specialists and supervisors who ensure that government accomplishes its critical missions on behalf of the nation.

These talented people provide a myriad of services, including protecting the air we breathe, the food we eat, and our shores against terrorism.

It is our duty in Congress to ensure that we have qualified people ready to take their place once they begin to retire while also retaining the people we currently have to ensure that there is no significant decline in the quality of service that our federal government provides.

Right now, we have an opportunity to do exactly that.

After September 11, the American people learned the essential role that civil servants play in all our lives.

There was a collective understanding that a nation is only as strong as the people who serve it and that "the bureaucrats in Washington, DC" are working for us, not despite us.

This renewed pride in public service translated to a renewed interest in seeking employment with the federal government.

We, in Congress, must capitalize on this interest. My legislation attempts to do just that.

The first title of the bill would establish a Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) in each executive agency and strengthens the authority and credibility of federal human resources directors. The structure of the position would be similar to that of the Chief Financial Officer