

On behalf of the Congress of the United States of America, I am proud to extend our highest praise to John W. Moody. We thank him for his continuing dedication to teaching and his willingness and ability to challenge and inspire students to strive for success.

STATEMENT ON VETERANS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago Democrats fought to pass the GI bill. The GI bill provided assistance for veterans to pay for a college education, purchase a home, and find a job.

Today, Democrats are still fighting hard to make sure our veterans have the benefits they need. We are fighting to improve the health benefits for veterans, to end the Widow's Tax and the Disabled Veterans Tax.

Last year, I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Backlog Reduction Act of 2003 to help the 450,000 veterans who have claims pending for federal benefits.

But as Democrats continue to fight for our veterans, Republicans continue to underfund the programs that are so important to our veterans. House Republicans have passed a budget that underfunds veterans health care by \$1 billion, meanwhile they have managed to find room for more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Our brave men and women in uniform are serving our country. They are sacrificing for our freedom. It is our duty to make sure that they are taken care of when they return home.

Republicans have broken the promise the GI bill made 60 years ago.

Not one Republican has taken a stand against the Bush budget proposal.

Our soldiers are fighting our enemies abroad. They should not have to fight our government at home too.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP HAMEL HARTFORD BROOKINS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins one of eight legendary leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who will be retiring at this year's Quadrennial Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Bishop Brookins was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Payne Seminary.

Prior to his election to the bishopric, Bishop Brookins pastored First AME Church in Los Angeles, California leading them through the building of a multi-million dollar cathedral. He also served as the first black president of the Wichita Ministerial Alliance. Bishop Brookins worked in the world of politics as manager and advisor helping to elect Thomas Bradley as Mayor of Los Angeles. He also served as

president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Western Region, and as vice president of Operation PUSH. Further, Bishop Brookins founded the Martin Luther King Student Fund, organized the first Interfaith Service at the Hollywood Bowl, and also lead the Primary Convention to elect the first black city councilman and Second Convention to elect the first black school board member.

Elected at the 1972 General Conference held in Dallas, Texas, Bishop Brookins was assigned to the 17th Episcopal District. He was inspired by the people's struggle for freedom, and became an active participant in their cause. As a consequence, Bishop Brookins was barred from Rhodesia in 1975. He participated in the 6th Pan African World Congress in 1974. Bishop Brookins also served and revitalized the 5th Episcopal District by purchasing and building new churches, sending ministers to organize new churches in Southern California, and establishing an Economic Development Fund for the District. Bishop Brookins also served in the 2nd, 12th, and 13th Episcopal Districts, and is a past Ecumenical Officer.

Bishop Brookins is married to Rosalyn Kyle Brookins and they have three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Bishop Hamel Hartford Brookins upon his retirement from the Bishopric. He has provided tremendous leadership for the AME Church and his long history of religious and political service and leadership will influence generations for many years to come.

THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my views on the conflict in the Middle East.

I am deeply saddened by the seemingly endless bloodshed in the Middle East. The conflict has claimed the lives of too many innocent victims, Israeli and Palestinian alike. I have always believed and continue to believe that the United States has a role to play in assisting and supporting a negotiated peace in the region. I do not seek to assign blame but instead to ensure that we do all we can to achieve that end. I have no illusions that this conflict will be easily resolved, or that the United States can impose a solution—all we can do is urge the parties to make peace and support a process that offers some chance of success.

I support a two state solution to the conflict in the Middle East with Israel and Palestine coexisting as democratic states with secure, internationally recognized borders. Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and certain areas of the West Bank presents an opportunity to get the peace process moving again and to lay the foundation for an eventual Palestinian state. However, I do not believe that withdrawing from these areas, in and of itself, will bring peace. We, and others in the international community, need to work with Palestine to end terrorism and foster and build a strong, stable democracy. Until this goal is

accomplished, I strongly support Israel's right to defend herself against attacks. Israel is currently building a security fence to block out suicide bombers and others wishing to harm Israelis. I have concerns over the placement of the fence in certain areas and it is my hope that this fence will be a temporary structure that can be dismantled when peace is achieved. Lastly, I believe that all final status issues, including final borders and refugee issues, must be negotiated by the parties and supported by all nations committed to peace, so that Israel and Palestine can feel confident that their agreement will endure.

I fear that the issue of peace in the Middle East will be brushed aside during campaign season. We must not merely call for peace, we must make it a priority. To this end, I have sent a letter, which I have attached and will submit for the record, to President Bush asking that he appoint two individuals, a Democrat and a Republican, to help the parties seek peace and set forth a practical agenda for doing so. This dramatic gesture would remove peace-seeking from partisan politics and make plain to the world that Americans are united in their commitment to finding a peaceful solution. I personally am determined to do all that I can to ensure that this issue remains at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy and that progress is made toward finding a peaceful resolution.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
June 7, 2004.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
*The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to you because I believe that the United States must, as it has in the past, take action to advance the cause of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I do not seek to assign blame, but to end the bloodshed.

Prime Minister Sharon's disengagement plan presents an opportunity that ought not to be lost by inaction. I share your conviction, expressed last month, that "all final status issues must still emerge from negotiations between the parties. . . ." I share, too, your belief that the United States has a role to play in fostering such negotiations. The suffering is acute, for both Israelis and Palestinians. Insofar as we can help bring the parties together, we ought to take action now. Our good offices should not be suspended because of the election campaign.

Therefore I respectfully urge that you appoint two Americans, a Republican and a Democrat, to help the parties seek peace. I would not presume to dictate your choice: there are wise and just men and women in both parties. I ask that you select a bipartisan pair and offer their services to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, to meet with them, together or separately, to set forth a practical agenda for seeking peace.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO,
Member of Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MERLE F. PETERSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MARION BERRY and I rise today to honor the

memory of Merle F. Peterson of Dumas, AR. Strong leadership, vision, concern for others, and philanthropy were enduring legacies left by Merle Peterson. He died on March 19, 2004 after having served his nation, state and Dumas with distinction.

After graduating with an electrical engineering degree from Arkansas State University, he came to Dumas in April of 1939 to operate a service station his father had bought. In November of that year, he was married to Deloris Ellegood, and together they built a successful Ford automobile business.

When Mr. Peterson volunteered for the Army Air Force in 1942, he rose to captain and served overseas three years with a bomber squadron in Africa and Italy. His wife kept the business operating during those years. After selling the Ford dealership in 1976, they continued their business and farming operations through Peterson Enterprises and jointly led in service and philanthropic endeavors for over 64 years.

After World War II, Mr. Peterson realized that Dumas faced major economic challenges in order to prosper. With other Dumas leaders, he worked to establish an industrial foundation and organized a drive to buy land for development as an industrial park.

Mr. Peterson founded Dumas State Bank, now Simmons First, and was its board chairman. His financial acumen led him to serve on the boards of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, State Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Fund of Arkansas.

Fully devoted to his church, First United Methodist of Dumas, he was active in the Methodist Men's Class, chaired the administrative board and many committees, and served in important roles in the Little Rock Conference.

A mainstay of the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club, he was chosen Citizen of the Year in 1952, and 50 years later was still working with enthusiasm for projects to benefit Dumas. An early supporter of Arkansas Community Foundation, he was a founding board member of Dumas Area Community Foundation. He and his wife established scholarships at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Dumas High School.

A loyal Democrat, he served as a state senator from 1960 through 1966, was chairman of the County Committee for 10 years, and was a volunteer staff member for Governor Bill Clinton for 12 years. He was a leader in the Clinton gubernatorial and presidential campaigns, and was named to the U.S. Electoral College in 1996. He received the Arkansas Democrats' top award in 1994.

Many state leadership and service accolades were bestowed on Mr. Peterson, but he always credited the people of Dumas for their support. He served for the betterment of many and leaves a huge legacy to fill.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN HURST ADAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop John Hurst Adams, one

of eight legendary leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who will be retiring at this year's Quadrennial Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

Bishop Adams was born in Columbia, SC, where he now lives after years of serving congregations and communities across our Nation. He grew up in the Waverly neighborhood of Columbia, which is located in the Sixth Congressional District which I proudly represent in this august body. He attended Waverly Elementary School, Booker T. Washington High School and John C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. Bishop Adams continued his education at the Boston University School of Theology, Harvard School of Divinity, and Union Theological Seminary.

Bishop Adams began his ministry with a small congregation in Lynn, MA. He taught at Payne Theological Seminary in Ohio and later served as President of Paul Quinn College in Texas for 6 years and as Chairman of the Board for 8. During his years at Paul Quinn College, the school received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and saw many new building renovations and improvements.

Bishop Adams next served as pastor at First AMEC in Seattle. From Seattle, Bishop Adams went to Los Angeles where he pastored Grant AMEC in the Watts section of Los Angeles. It was also in Los Angeles that Bishop Adams was elected the 87th Bishop of African Methodism.

Upon his election, Bishop Adams served the Tenth Episcopal District in Texas and later left his mark on the Second Episcopal District in the Mid-Atlantic States. Under his leadership, 40 new congregations sprouted throughout the district. From there, he served the Sixth Episcopal District in Georgia where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Morris Brown College, Turner Theological Seminary, Interdenominational Theological Center and the Atlanta University Center. He also served on the Centennial Olympic Committee.

I was very proud when Bishop Adam's service called him to the Seventh Episcopal District in South Carolina, in 1992, to serve over the State's 609 AME churches. He arrived in South Carolina just in time to play a pivotal role in my election to this body. Bishop Adams currently serves the Eleventh Episcopal District, encompassing Florida and the Bahamas.

Bishop Adams is a strong believer that people must join together to do what they cannot do alone. To that end, he has founded the Congress of National Black Churches, the Institute on Church Administration and Management in Atlanta, Georgia; the Richard Allen Service and Development Agency in Washington, DC; and the Educational Growth Organization in Los Angeles, CA. He continues to serve on many Boards including that of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Institute on Church Administration and Management, Joint Center for Political Studies, Children's Defense Fund Black Community Crusade for Children, National Black United Fund, Industrial Area Foundation, National Urban League, and the Palmetto Project.

Bishop Adams has received many fitting honors and awards throughout his 25 years as Bishop. In 1996, he was awarded South Carolina's highest citizen honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in recognition of his contributions to the State.

Bishop Adams is married to his partner in the ministry, Dr. Dolly Adams of New Orleans,

Louisiana. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Bishop John Hurst Adams whose spirit, belief, and kindness have moved communities to action across the Nation. He is a roll model, a friend, an outstanding leader and a great American. His retirement from the Bishopric creates a void that will be hard to fill.

HONORING MARK BEELER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Beeler on his retirement from the Trousdale County Agricultural Extension Service. Mark is a resident of Hartsville, TN, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

For 27 years, Mark has been a dedicated employee of the Ag Extension Service, but the agency has been in his blood for much longer. His father, H.Y. Beeler, is a retired extension agent from Williamson County. Mark began his own career in Hickman County before transferring to Trousdale County in 1981.

In addition to his commitment to Ag Extension, Mark has been a first-rate public servant. As a member of Hartsville's Volunteer Fire Department, he has championed fire-safety education programs. In fact, Mark was instrumental in establishing fire-safety education in the local school system and day-care facilities.

I applaud Mark and all that he has accomplished. He and his coworkers at Trousdale County Ag Extension have made certain that Middle Tennessee farmers have access to the latest technology and techniques. I am sure the Hartsville community will be sad to see him go, but I know I join with them in wishing him a very happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING ALL AMERICANS TO OBSERVE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER, CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, this House must be applauded for the passage of the Resolution (H. Con. Res. 450) I introduced to honor the civil rights martyrs: Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner. These young men were true martyrs, non-violent and self-sacrificing for the highest ideals. In contrast to the suicide bombers who call themselves "martyrs" while taking lives, these heroes placed themselves at risk in order to save lives. The fact that their passion and dedication was expressed in non-violent actions made them no less courageous and brave fighters. On this fortieth anniversary of