

The Claretians are a Catholic missionary order founded in Spain in 1849 by St. Anthony Mary Claret. In 1906, the Claretian Missionary Fathers arrived in California to work in the San Fernando Mission. Two years later, the missionaries moved their headquarters to San Gabriel Mission where they continue to preach today. In 1910, the Claretian Fathers traveled 10 miles west to expand their ministry to La Placita.

Father Rosendo Urrabazo characterizes the missionary vocation of the church as "bringing the message of God's love, mercy and justice to every part of the world." This guiding principle is clearly evident at La Placita where the Claretian Fathers' dedication to spiritual and community service makes the church a home and refuge for people of all faiths and backgrounds.

On any given weekend, thousands of parishioners from all walks of life attend religious services at La Placita offered in both English and Spanish. Whether the parishioners are homeless, recent immigrants from Mexico, Central and Latin America or vacationing families, La Placita welcomes everyone with open doors, love and compassion.

Each week, pastoral services at the church include: 30 regular Masses; weddings and Quinceañeras; 10 scheduled hours of confession; baptism celebrations (totaling more than 25,000 last year alone); and religious education programs for children, youth and adults. The church also offers a monthly program to provide liturgical services to residents of a local housing project.

In addition to addressing the spiritual needs of its parishioners, the church helps struggling families in a wide variety of ways. Assisted by more than 80 volunteers, the parish operates a full time social office that organizes community outreach services and programs, including a health clinic, English classes, food distribution for the elderly, meals for the homeless, legal aid for immigrants, income tax help and a weekly 12-step program for persons suffering from addiction.

Madam Speaker, over the past 100 years, many Claretian missionaries have dedicated their lives to serving the families of the La Placita community. This anniversary, however, three missionaries in particular will be recognized for their outstanding service at the church's May 20 centennial dinner celebration.

Selected by the centennial celebration committee for their tireless pastoral and humanitarian service, the following missionaries will be honored: Fr. Tomas Maten, CMF (1900–1975) who defended the rights of the displaced residents of the Chavez Ravine area now the site of Dodger Stadium; Fr. Luis Olivares, CMF (1934–1993) who worked tirelessly to bring the cause of the homeless and immigrants to the attention of local and national policy makers; and Fr. Albert Vazquez, CMF, (1928– ) educator and pastor who shaped the pastoral direction of the parish and its school for more than 27 years.

Today, the clergy and parishioners of La Placita continue the tremendous work and legacy of these three exemplary missionaries.

Recognizing the tremendous needs of immigrants to our country, the church is a local leader in raising awareness and support for comprehensive immigration reform. During the 1980s, the church called itself a sanctuary for refugees threatened with deportation to El Salvador. In recent months, I have had the privi-

lege of participating in two immigration town halls held at La Placita, both of which were attended by hundreds of area advocates demanding the reform of our nation's broken and unjust immigration laws. The seamless transformation of this historic church from a place of worship to a town meeting hall for political action truly typifies the Claretian Fathers' dedication to achieving justice and social change on behalf of their parishioners and our community.

Beyond the walls of La Placita, the Claretian Fathers' prayers could be heard across the country and throughout the halls of Congress on September 19, 2007 when Father Richard Estrada accepted a rare invitation to give the opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives. Calling on lawmakers to draw strength from their diversity and make laws to protect all of God's children, he prayed for God to, "Inspire our nation's leaders to seek justice, defend liberty and unite diverse cultures and languages."

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Claretian Missionaries' service at La Placita, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating them for their devotion and enormous contributions on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community, and I extend to the Order our best wishes for many more years of doing God's work in the historic area of our great city's birth, Downtown Los Angeles.

#### HONORING MARJORIE BUTLER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marjorie Butler on the occasion of her 100th birthday. A longtime resident of the Hudson River Valley, 43 years ago Dr. Butler helped establish the Black Studies Department at the State University of New York at New Paltz. At that time in 1967, only a handful of schools had established similar departments, but today, more than 250 colleges and universities are engaged in the exploration and analysis of the history and culture of African people in the United States, Caribbean, and Africa. Dr. Butler is truly a pioneer of this important academic discipline.

Before her retirement in 1984, as the chair of the department and a professor of psychology, she drew from her life experiences to provide an enriching learning environment for thousands of students, many of whom went on to adopt her goals of human progress and equality as their own. It is because of the leadership, personal courage and dedication of individuals like Dr. Marjorie Butler that our nation has overcome many of its greatest civil rights challenges. Her contributions and devotion to this cause must be recognized and understood and cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate and honor Dr. Butler on her 100th birthday and for her many years of hard and deeply effective work and her service in the cause of social justice.

#### TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 14, 2010*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. As we arrive at another tax filing deadline, I am pleased to support many of the measures to assist taxpayers and improve the Internal Revenue Code that have been discussed in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight.

I just returned from a tax day event in my district, where I heard from several folks who live in the Second District about how they are saving money this tax year because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other recent tax cuts. As North Carolina's only Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I am proud to work to promote tax fairness for all Americans. In fact, the vast majority of middle-class North Carolinians are receiving larger refunds or paying less taxes than they were last year or the year before because of our action.

However, many Americans have difficulty navigating the complexities of the tax code. They need to know where to turn for information, which is one of the things we discussed at Monday's tax day event. I am pleased to support this bill because it will help taxpayers get assistance in filing their taxes. Under the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, we will provide referrals from the IRS to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs), increase funding for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, expand outreach for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), make sure the IRS notifies taxpayers of unclaimed refunds, and help protect taxpayers from identity theft. H.R. 4994 will also improve tax fairness by studying the delivery of tax refunds and the effectiveness of collection alternatives. The bill also fixes the outdated tax treatment of business cell phones, so that businesses do not face the double burden of providing phones to their employees and also paying taxes for them as a benefit.

Our goal should be to make our tax code more fair and workable for individuals, families, businesses and employees across the country, and this bill does just that. Improving the process for millions of taxpaying Americans should be a bipartisan priority. I support H.R. 4994 and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in working together across party lines and voting for its passage.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF FRESNO COUNTY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County, California, on this occasion of their 60th anniversary aptly recognized as, "60 years of Hope and Opportunity."

Meeting the needs of our community has been and continues to be, the Boys and Girls Clubs' highest priority. Clubs provide young people that do not have adult care or supervision at home with people that care about them. Our local organizations have programs and services that promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence.

Boys and Girls Clubs enable all young people, especially those in the most need, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. We are very fortunate for the guidance that these individuals give to the future leaders of our community. The work that these volunteers do can never be underestimated.

The Boys and Girls Clubs believe, as do I, that volunteers make a powerful difference in the community. Their service, advocacy, leadership and mentoring have touched countless lives throughout our Valley. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful group of men and women as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County celebrate their 60th Anniversary of "Hope and Opportunity."

TRIBUTE TO INTELLIGENCE SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER JAMES K. BROWN

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown for his 20 years of dedicated service in the defense of the United States of America.

Petty Officer Brown enlisted in the United States Navy in June 1990 and went on to Great Lakes Recruit Training Center, for his basic training. After graduating from Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois in August 1990, James went to Cryptological Training Command at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Through out his years of service, Petty Officer Brown has distinguished himself as the Leading Petty Officer in the Intelligence Department and as the special Security Officer for the Command in many ways exemplified by the awards and ribbons he has collected throughout his service. During his assignment to the USS *Wisconsin* (B-64), he participated in Desert Shield and Desert Storm earning a Flag Letter of Commendation along with Navy Combat Action Ribbon and various other awards. While aboard the USS *Nassau* (LHA-4) Petty Officer Brown also earned the Blue Nose certificate. He also was part of the support team for the Desert Fox and Kosovo operations.

In addition, Petty Officer Brown participated in the two crucial deployments USS *Carl Vinson*, launching the first attack on the Global War on Terrorism into Afghanistan in response to 9/11 and addressing heightened tensions off the coast of North Korea. During the second deployment off the coast of North Korea, he participated in FOAL EAGLE and TANDUM THRUST. While on board he pursued his associates degree in General Studies while earning his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Spe-

cialist pin and a Navy Achievement Medal. In the spring of 2003, he took orders to the Joint Military Intelligence College where he spent one year earning his bachelor's degree in Intelligence. Following his pursuit of education, he took orders to the Chief of Naval Operations where he pursued and finished his Post Graduate Education in Intelligence Studies. While stationed at the Pentagon, he received another Navy Achievement Medal and the Chairman of the Joint Chief Staff badge.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, like Petty Officer Brown, who have dutifully a nobly answered the call to service for our Nation. They put themselves in harm's way to make our country safer. On behalf of the Michigan 4th Congressional District, I thank First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown for his dedicated service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARGARET WADE-LEWIS

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis whose remarkable contributions to African American equality in the United States should be noted for the record.

In 1974, she joined the Black Studies Department at State University of New York at New Paltz where she worked to enrich the lives of thousands of students until her death late last December. The passing of Dr. Wade-Lewis is a major loss for the department, the college and the New Paltz community. Her contributions to our state's education system and history can be traced through her life achievements.

Dr. Wade-Lewis was born in Haskell, Oklahoma and remained in Oklahoma for her childhood and collegiate years. She attended Langston University, where she obtained a bachelors and masters degree in English. She later attended New York University and, from there, was the first African American woman to graduate with a Ph.D. in Linguistics.

During her tenure at SUNY New Paltz, Dr. Wade-Lewis' commitment to her students was unparalleled. She was involved in a variety of organizations, including the African Women's Alliance, The New Day Theatre Ensemble, and the New Paltz Voices of Unity Gospel Choir. She was also an advocate for student scholarships, which resulted in hundreds of students receiving financial support to attend and graduate from SUNY New Paltz.

Some of the most prized achievements of Dr. Wade-Lewis include being the longest serving Chairperson of the Department of Black Studies, which under her leadership obtained national recognition. Additionally, she administered the Affirmative Action Program, and held the lead position on the Scholar's Mentorship Program, which provided mentoring and networking opportunities for high achieving students of color and interested students of all ethnic groups. The program succeeded in promoting an increase in performance levels and retention rates for students of color at New Paltz.

Dr. Wade-Lewis was a friend and mentor to many in the community of New Paltz. She was

a pioneer who incorporated Black Studies into many aspects of the University's curriculum. Her programs drew nationwide acclaim and attention to inequalities in education. I would like to recognize all of Dr. Wade-Lewis' achievements throughout her life and take this opportunity to express my belief that her memory and achievements will live on for many years to come.

ANNY ROSA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 15, 2010*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anny Rosa who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anny Rosa is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anny Rosa is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Anny Rosa for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 14, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 and the common sense, bipartisan reform it represents.

Consistent with its oversight responsibilities, the Ways and Means Committee routinely reviews the tax code with an eye towards updating antiquated provisions and making it more taxpayer-friendly. Towards that end, today's legislation modernizes the rules governing employer-provided cell phone use to eliminate nuisance paperwork. It requires the IRS to pay interest on refunds related to individual tax returns that are filed electronically if the refund is not paid within thirty days. And it provides taxpayers with better notification on issues ranging from the Earned Income Tax Credit to identity theft.

Since the April 15 tax deadline is tomorrow, I would be remiss if I did not point out that the improvements made by today's legislation come on the heels of one of the largest middle class tax cuts in American history. Under the Recovery Act's Make Work Pay credit, over 95 percent of Americans got tax relief at a time when families and our economy needed it most. As a result, recent economic data clearly show we are transitioning from recession to