

AMERICAN HOME OWNERSHIP ACT
OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3899, the American Homeownership Act.

Passage of this act is intended to allow working Americans the opportunity to own a home who otherwise would not have been able to afford one.

There are many hard-working citizens whose income does not stretch far enough to fulfill the dream of homeownership. Despite their efforts, their dreams and hopes are shattered. They work as hard as other citizens, but the cost of ownership is out of reach. H.R. 3899 will begin the process of restoring hope to those in our society who are not looking for a free ride, but are hoping for freedom of choice as to where they live. Passage of the bill will be a demonstration that hard work is not in vain.

It is also important to recognize that the American Homeownership Act will have a positive impact on future generations of working families.

Millions of children are witnesses to the hardwork performed by their parents.

Many of these children are living in substandard apartment buildings, because their working parents have been denied the opportunity to own the homes that they have hoped and worked for year in and year out.

H.R. 3899 changes that.

This bill will help move families from overcrowded and dilapidated houses that destroy lives into houses that sustain lives.

How will H.R. 3899 do these things?

This Act requires federal agencies to promote homeownership by encouraging and expanding the production of affordable homes.

Agencies are required to closely monitor any impact of their practices and policies on the availability of affordable housing.

When there is a negative impact, alternatives to reverse the impact must be pursued.

H.R. 3899 grants states and local governments funding to reduce the barriers of accessibility of homeownership. Under the bill, the FHA must take a more proactive role in servicing potential home buyers.

These measures are necessary, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that working families are afforded the same opportunities as any other families in this country.

The United States Census Report of 1990 documents that there are 202,736 households in my District.

Of this figure, 76,632 units are rental households, and there are 23,866 vacant housing units. The low income families in my District continue to be challenged by many housing problems. These include overcrowding, physically inadequate housing due to incomplete plumbing and kitchen facilities, high rent burdens, and high owner costs.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that successful passage of H.R. 3899 will alleviate some of the major housing problems of my District. This will include a reduction not only in the vacant housing units.

We must not overlook that it is well-known that stable housing will always have a positive impact on children.

I also believe that passage of H.R. 3899 will have a long term, positive impact on the children of families who will be able to buy and move into a home as a result of this Bill. I believe, in the long run, with passage of this Act, children will stabilize in the school setting, grades will improve, neighborhoods will grow and we will give children the greatest opportunity, a chance to live and a chance to experience what this Nation offers.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3899 is a bill that will benefit all of society.

I support this measure, and encourage the support of my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO REV. MANUEL
CHAVIER**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Reverend Manuel Chavier of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Reverend Chavier, founder and pastor of the International Church of the Nazarene, is one of New Bedford's most respected and dedicated leaders. He has devoted his pastorate to the need of the Portuguese-Cape Verdean community of New Bedford and will be honored for fifty years of service to his church and community at a dinner on Saturday, October 17. Though I regret that I am unable to join in the celebration at that time, it is with great pride that I join his family, friends and the members of his congregation in saying thank you and congratulations to Reverend Chavier for his decades of valuable contributions to the spiritual and cultural life of the New Bedford area. I ask that the excellent New Bedford Standard-Times article on Reverend Chavier and his remarkable career be printed here.

[From the New Bedford (MA) Standard-Times, Oct. 3, 1998]

DINNER TO HONOR NAZARENE PASTOR

(By Robert J. Barcllos)

NEW BEDFORD.—The Rev. Manual Chavier, founder and pastor of the International Church of the Nazarene, will be honored by members of his congregation and friends at a dinner this month.

The event is scheduled for 1 p.m. next Saturday at White's restaurant in Westport.

In celebrating the golden jubilee of their pastor, members also will celebrate five decades of a congregation that began with 23 members and now numbers more than 600.

"Retirement is not on my mind yet," said the Rev. Chavier. "I just had a physical last week and everything looks good. As long as the machinery keeps running, I'm going to keep going."

The 75-year-old pastor was still a ministerial student at Gordon College in 1948 when he accepted an invitation from the Portuguese Free Gospel Mission to be a guest speaker. The mission, which met at Odd Fellows Hall, had been started by Adeline Domingues.

The Rev. Chavier, a native of Lincoln, R.I., accepted an invitation to serve the mission as pastor in June 1948 and was formally installed in February 1949 when the mission

was constituted a church as the Cape Verdean Nazarene Society. The 23 original members included seven from the First Church of the Nazarene, among them Mrs. Domingues. The church met at 223 Acushnet Ave. from April of 1949.

The Cape Verdean Nazarene Society was incorporated on July 31, 1951, as the Portuguese Church of the Nazarene, and plans began for a new church to be located at 483 Purchase St. The church was dedicated in June 1956.

Reflecting changes in the ethnic and racial composition of a congregation formed to serve the Portuguese-Cape Verdean community, the church was renamed as the International Church of the Nazarene in October 1976.

One of the high points in the Rev. Chavier's career was the dedication of the present main church building at 278 Pleasant St. on Nov. 11, 1984.

"I'd love to put up another building," said the Rev. Chavier. "I've been in three building programs with one building in two phases. My future desire is to honor a great servant of God, Carolyn Wilder."

Ms. Wilder, who died on Oct. 4, 1997, was an adjustment counselor who also served as head of the Sunday school and Christian education program in the church for 20 years during which she was a tremendous influence, the Rev. Chavier said.

The Rev. Chavier's plans include developing a good communications center for the church. Funds are being raised for that project.

The pastor still travels each year, conducting Spiritual Life Crusades. Most recently, in late July and early August, he had 11 speaking engagements in Bear Lake, Nova Scotia, for a 27-church gathering of the Canada East District of the Church of the Nazarene.

He is booked for speaking engagements next year in Indiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Assisting the pastor at the church are his son and assistant pastor, the Rev. Manual Chavier Jr., formerly a pastor in Bermuda, who serves as minister of education and outreach, and the Rev. Jon W. Heim, minister of music and counseling.

They will be joined by Steven A. Margeson, the congregation's new youth pastor, who will receive his preaching license during the 6 p.m. service Sunday at the church. Mr. Margeson, 44, a real estate agent and self-employed carpenter, and his wife Michelle are members of the Rev. Chavier's congregation and have run the youth program there for 1½ years.

The Rev. Chavier's son-in-law, the Rev. Edmund J. Gomes, and his daughter, Ruth, are teaching at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

Rev. Chavier has graduate degrees from Eastern Nazarene College and Bridgewater State College and earned certification as a teacher. He is a World War II veteran.

Outside of his pastoral duties, the Rev. Chavier has been very involved in community affairs. He has worked as an English teacher at Normandin Junior High School and served as a trustee of the New Bedford Free Public Library for five years, being vice chairman for one year. He also has served as a director of the Kiwanis Club, the Legal Aid Society, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. At one time, he had a weekly religious program on radio station WBSM.

He received the Duncan A. Doton Human Relations Award in November 1996, one of many recognitions he has received over the years.

The pastor and his wife, the former Elizabeth G. McKinney of Everett, make their home in Fairhaven.