

Reverend Dr. Figueroa is a graduate of Boys High School, Hunter College and Manhattan Bible Institute with honors. In his continued pursuit of academic and spiritual excellence, he received a Doctorate in Divinity from the National Theological Seminary of the Commonwealth University of St. Louis, Missouri and a Doctorate of Theology from the St. Paul Bible Institute.

As a child, Rev. Figueroa enjoyed the benefit of a spiritual nurturing environment—living in a household surrounded by Spirit filled believers. His spiritual renaissance occurred at the Institutional Church of God in Christ under the Pastorate of Bishop Carl E. Williams, Sr. While at Institutional, he worked in numerous positions serving the Savior and the church well.

Acknowledging his call to the ministry in August of 1976, the inevitable happened, he followed in the lineage of his grandfather, the late Reverend David A. Figueroa, Sr., Pastor of the Mount Zion Pentecostal Faith Church and his father, Reverend Ronald Figueroa, Assistant Pastor of the New Life Tabernacle, making him the third generation of preachers. In 1978 he was ordained as an Elder by Bishop Carl E. Williams, Pastor of the Institutional Church of God in Christ International.

The Reverend's unique and inclusionary character and ministry forged interdenominational relationships that transcended traditional religious barriers, walls and spiritual stereotypes in an effort to advance the Kingdom of God. His skillful presentation of the Gospel and his sense of civil and community duty has brought him to the attention and demand of many distinguished religious and political organizations who have benefited from his expertise.

In January 1998, the Presiding Prelate, his Eminence, Bishop Carl E. Williams Sr. and the Board of Bishops of the Church of God in Christ International, officially proclaimed Reverend Dr. Eric R. Figueroa Sr. as Bishop-Designate in the Lord's Church.

After several years of fruitful Evangelistic Ministry, Dr. Figueroa organized and founded the New Life Crusade Ministry in 1981. As this phase of ministry developed it was evident that God had higher heights destined for the ministry. In 1983 God gave Rev. Figueroa a vision for a church called New Life Tabernacle. On August 21, 1983 New Life Tabernacle was founded with seven members dedicated unto the Lord. Over the past 15 years New Life Tabernacle has grown in numbers, exceeding a membership of 400.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in saluting Reverend Doctor Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. Bishop-Designate.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF ELDERTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you and my colleagues a very uplifting story about an extraordinary group of young people in Elderton, Pennsylvania.

Two years ago, under the guidance of some very enthusiastic and involved high school

teachers and the sponsorship of the Armstrong-Indiana County Intermediate Unit, a group of six high school students started a program called Applebee Pond. The program, which was created by the Mercer County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc., involves a puppet show performed by a group of high school kids for grade school children. However, this program is not merely an extracurricular activity—it is much more. That's because the purpose of the program is to teach very young children of grade school age the dangers of smoking.

The group of high school students, which now numbers over twenty students ranging in age from 14 to 18, travels to grade schools throughout the area putting on a variety of programs for a very attentive audience of children. The message of avoiding smoking is delivered to the younger children through puppet characters they enjoy and is positively reinforced through the older kids, who they look up to and who serve as powerful role models.

As priceless as is the lesson being taught to the youngsters, though, perhaps the most extraordinary thing about this program is the impact it has had on the high school students—both those participating in the program as well as their peers. Participation in the program is selective and competitive. The students must maintain good grades and promise not to drink, smoke, or be involved with any drugs. Since the program started, the students associated with it have become so popular by setting an example of a healthy, athletic, positive lifestyle, that other students have actually quit smoking to be able to join. Parents praise the program and call to find out how their children can participate. Their brightly colored, easily recognized T-shirts are proudly-worn status symbols. They work well with their teachers and are well-known within their community. Some students who have graduated even come back to spend time helping out with the program.

At a time when young people are so often noticed only when they do something wrong, I am very proud to be able to share with you the story of these terrific teenagers and the wonderful gift they are giving to their classmates, their community, and to themselves. They are demonstrating what cool really is—being a leader, a good student, and living a healthy lifestyle.

TRIBUTE TO ADA HESS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to say goodbye to a dear friend, Ada Hess of El Centro, California. Ada passed away this past summer and I would like to take a moment to recognize the friendship given to me by such a good and beautiful person.

Ada was born in Buffalo Gap, Texas and after marrying John Hess in 1968, she moved to El Centro where she worked as the secretary/treasurer for their various geological businesses. With a lot of hard work and dedication, their businesses grew abroad and Ada and John soon became world travelers. Following John's death in 1987, Ada continued running these businesses as the sole propri-

etor for nine more years before selling them in 1996.

When I was a young lawyer starting out during the 1970's, I remember how John would always be willing to offer his engineering expertise to assist with my cases. My family and I always knew we could stay with Ada and John at their home in El Centro where we would often go on camping trips to the Colorado River and pan for gold. While my boys and I were trying to strike it rich, Ada would be making sure that everyone had their shovels, pails and a good lunch. After my election to Congress, I always treasured the times when John and Ada would visit me in Washington, D.C., somehow we would always end up exploring Northern Virginia.

John and Ada Hess were great advocates of conservative principles and the Republican party. At one function, I remember how proud John was to show me a bull-moose handkerchief that had been given to his grandfather by Teddy Roosevelt. At other times, Ada would often thank me for helping her with the opportunity to attend a presidential inaugural ball. When I think back upon our fun times together, I realize that I am the thankful one, for having John and Ada as friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) on its 100th anniversary this month and to commend the organization for the work they do on behalf of independent pharmacies across the country. The NCPA represents the pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of nearly 30,000 independent community pharmacies. Independent pharmacists—more than 75,000 nationwide—dispense the majority of the nation's retail prescription drugs.

Independent pharmacists have a tremendous responsibility that is of increasing importance. Patients continue to rely more and more on their community pharmacist for good advice on which medication will help them. With many patients visiting the pharmacy more often than their doctor, community pharmacists continue to use their knowledge when telling consumers the pros and cons to these products. Ninety-eight percent of our community pharmacists make recommendations on over-the-counter drugs and general health care issues. Their expertise is imperative to the health of millions of people across this country and I commend them for a job well done.

Community pharmacists are truly working for the well-being of patients across the country and I am proud to work with them. The National Community Pharmacists continue to play a role in the lives of millions of Americans and I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

NEW REPORT EXPOSES GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMATIC HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, Ram Narayan Kumar, the producer of the excellent video "Disappearances in Punjab", and Cynthia Mahmood, a professor at the University of Maine who has studied issues in Punjab, issued a detailed reported entitled "Disappearances in Punjab and the Impunity of the Indian State." It exposes the brutal tyranny that has been imposed on the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan by "the world's largest democracy."

The report exposes India's "war without quarter" against the Sikh Nation that has resulted in the extrajudicial murders of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The authors describe this "war without quarter" as a "dirty water." The authors note that "the law in Punjab accommodated to, buttressed, and furthered the pattern of atrocities against Sikh citizens that had evolved against Sikh citizens. Minimal human rights were being abrogated in 'the world's largest democracy.'"

These abuses were carried out through mechanisms like the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which permitted virtually unlimited detention of anyone without charge or trial. Even though this repressive law expired in March 1995, thousands of people continue to be held under it.

The report contains extensive discussion of the case of Jaswant Singh Khaira, who was kidnapped and murdered by the police after he exposed the Indian government's brutal mass cremation policy in Punjab. After his report, the Tarn Taran police chief, Ajit Sandhu, told Mr. Khaira, "We can make one more body disappear." It appears that this promise has been kept. Now the police have filed false charges against Jaspal Singh Dhillon, who assisted and continued Mr. Khaira's work. The Indian Supreme Court described this policy as "worse than a genocide." It said that there have been "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale."

The report also demonstrates the weakness of India's National Human Rights Commission, which cannot investigate abuses by the security forces and cannot investigate cases over a year old. The Commission is essentially impotent.

As a result of these abuses, 18 human-rights organizations and 13 individuals who have been active in human-rights work formed the Coordination Committee on Disappearances in Panjab, which then appointed the Peoples Commission on Human Rights Violations in Punjab. This commission has issued 90 citations and taken over 3,000 more cases. The government has taken action to close down the commission and tried to prevent its first meeting from taking place. The report shows that the government has worked to silence human-rights groups through intimidation and violence.

Mr. Speaker, these events occurred in only one of India's 25 states. There are currently 17 freedom movements within India's borders. The United States is a bastion of freedom in the world. We should not be supporting such

a repressive country. The sanctions we placed on India this spring must be maintained and we should also cut off its U.S. aid. It is now apparent that only when the people of Punjab, Khalistan and the other captive nations of the Indian subcontinent are allowed to claim their sovereignty will their people live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and stability. The United States Congress can help make that happen by declaring our support for free and fair plebiscites on independence in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. By these means we can help end these abuses and bring freedom to all the people of South Asia.

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this report to my attention and his continued effort to free his nation from the repression of the Indian government.

HONORING CLAUDE GANAYE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to World War II hero Claude Ganaye, who in September 1944, was a 16-year-old French national whose actions saved the lives of United States combat troops of the 29th Infantry Division. Veterans of that division gratefully recall his bravery.

Even though Claude Ganaye and his family had been driven from their home in Brest, France, by Nazi troops, young Claude had the presence of mind to note the location of German mines, snipers and gun emplacements. Claude Ganaye found a French-speaking GI, Philip Roy of Company L, 116th Infantry to whom he provided his detailed intelligence. Acting on this information, the 29th Infantry Division was able to avoid casualties while taking enemy positions and capturing 40 prisoners.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Ganaye moved to California where he became a naturalized citizen of the country whose troops he guided from harm's way. Mr. Ganaye resides with his family in the 6th Congressional District whose citizens thank him for the courage and composure he, as a teenager, demonstrated in the mind-numbing conditions that marked the heroic allied invasion of France. It is fitting too, as we honor our veterans, to join them in acknowledging Claude Ganaye's contribution to his adopted nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Claude Ganaye.

PURPLE HEART AND POW MEDALS
FOR JOSEPH LAJZER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 1998, National Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day, our nation finally honored one of the few remaining heroes and survivors of the Bataan Death March. During the graduation of new air men and women from basic training at Lackland Air

Force Base, Retired Army Air Corps World War II veteran Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lajzer was awarded the Purple Heart and POW medals for injuries sustained more than 56 years ago in the jungles of the Philippines.

Joseph Lajzer volunteered for the Army in 1941 at the age of twenty. He was trained as a tanker and his unit, B Company of the 192d Tank Battalion, was sent to Clark Field in the Philippines. Not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked and landed in the Philippines. After many days of intense fighting and desperately short of medical supplies, food, and ammunition, Mr. Lajzer's unit was captured on April 8, 1942. The following day the tragic Bataan Death March began.

The horrors of the six day march defy any description. Nearly 650 American soldiers along with thousands of Filipino soldiers died during the march. For the next three and one half years, Lajzer endured unspeakable pestilence, starvation, and brutality while in captivity. Joseph Lajzer was finally liberated on September 6, 1945, but had to endure additional months in military hospitals recovering from injuries inflicted by his Japanese captors.

Tech. Sgt. Lajzer's services to our nation didn't end after his release. He went on to serve for a total of 25 years, retiring from the United States Air Force in 1966. In spite of his extraordinary service in uniform, Lajzer was never formally recognized. He waited patiently for more than twenty years while administrative and other delays prevented the award of the Purple Heart and the POW medals to this deserving American. Finally, on September 18, 1998, our nation recognized and honored Tech. Sgt. Lajzer.

A SOLDIER BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR AT
BATAAN/CORREGIDOR

A soldier is a nobody, we hear lots of people say. He is the outcast of the world and always in the way.

We admit there are bad ones from the Army to the Marines, but the majority you will find, the most worthy ever seen.

Most people condemn the soldier when he stops to take a drink or two, but does a soldier condemn you, when you stop to take a few.

Now don't scorn the soldier but clasp him by the hand, for the uniform he wears means protection to our land.

The government picks its soldier from the million far and wide, so please place him as your equal good buddies side by side.

When a soldier goes to battle you cheer him on the way, you say he is a hero when in the ground he lay.

But the hardest battle of the soldier is in the time of peace, when all mock and scorn him and treat him like a beast.

With these few lines we close sir, we hope we don't offend but when you meet a soldier just treat him like a friend.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIBBEE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding life of a friend from my hometown, Bonnie Kibbee of Alpine, California. Bonnie passed away last month and I would like to take a moment to commend the