

TRIBUTE TO EDUARDO P. GARCIA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in the near future, I will have the honor of presenting World War II veteran Eduardo P. Garcia with the Prisoner of War Medal at my District Office in Montebello, CA.

Mr. Garcia, born and raised in El Paso, TX, and now a resident of East Los Angeles, joined the U.S. Army on August 9, 1943, at the age of 26. After 8 weeks in boot camp, he was assigned to the 180th Infantry regiment, 45th Infantry Division and had his first taste of combat in North Africa. In January 1944, Mr. Garcia's regiment was reassigned to assault the beaches of Anzio, Italy, as part of the Allied effort that eventually ended Mussolini's fascist rule. On May 26 of that year, Mr. Garcia was wounded in battle just outside of Rome. But his wounds did not end his service in the war.

Corporal Eduardo Garcia was released back to his regiment in August 1944 as it began to liberate Southern France. The following month, during an intense battle with many American casualties, his regiment was surrounded by German forces and captured. Mr. Garcia and his comrades were marched to Germany where they were held in a prisoner of war camp. Life in the Nazi POW camp was harsh. Prisoners were given little to eat and were forced, in their weakened condition, to march through the snow from one POW camp to another. Those who fell from exhaustion had to be carried by their fellow soldiers or risk being shot to death by the German guards. After enduring eleven months of Nazi capture, Russian forces freed Eduardo Garcia and his comrades from their POW camp in July 1945.

Corporal Eduardo Garcia was discharged from the U.S. Army on October 31, 1945. He was decorated with the European, African, and Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, the Good Conduct medal, and the Purple Heart.

Eduardo Garcia went on to marry his late wife, Carmen, and raise four children. Since 1962, he has lived in Los Angeles and now has eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I am proud to count Eduardo Garcia as one of my constituents. His bravery, service, and dedication to our great nation are an inspiration for us all.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION
FREEDOM ACT**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricul-

tural education program. Think of this for a moment, these kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them.

It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in this Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

CELEBRATING THE 150-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH**HON. MERRILL COOK**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the University of Utah on their 150th Anniversary. On February 28, 1850, the Utah State Assembly ordained the University of the State of Deseret, better known today as the University of Utah. Since its creation, the University of Utah has conferred over 180,000 degrees, making it the state's most profuse provider of higher education. In addition to its educational excellence, the University of Utah is also a leader in cultural, social, scientific, economic, medical, and artistic contributions. I would like to take this time to honor the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Utah for enriching the great State of Utah and the Nation.

From its early years as the first university established west of the Missouri River, the University of Utah has been the meeting place for great ideas. Today with undergraduate and graduate enrollment nearing 26,000, and students representing all 29 Utah counties, all 50 states and 102 foreign countries, I am proud to say that the University of Utah is indeed a diverse population. Coupled with its dynamic student population, is the University's excellent academic offerings. I would like to take the time to mention a few of the numerous programs which deserve recognition.

The College of Fine Arts has the nation's first college ballet degree program, and Utah's only doctoral program in Music. The College of Law is Utah's only LL.M. degree and graduate certificate in land, resources, and environmental law. The School of Medicine is the only medical school in the Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana region. The College of Science is home to Utah's only Bioscience Undergraduate Research Program and Ph.D.

in chemical physics, as well as the only Cooperative Education Program in mathematics with the Navajo Indian Reservation at Monument Valley High School. The School of Mines and Earth Sciences is Utah's only baccalaureate and graduate programs in geophysics, meteorology, and geological, metallurgical and mining engineering. In research, the Energy and Geoscience Institute is the world's leading research center in geothermal energy. The Huntsman Cancer Institute is forging new ways to diagnose, treat, cure and prevent cancer using expertise in genetics and related scientific fields. And finally, the University of Utah's athletes and teams, have won 75 national championships and 51 conference team championships since 1983.

This topic I share today is very dear to me, because in 1969 I graduated from the University of Utah. Also, my father was the head of the department metallurgy. As I reflect on my alma mater, I see that the University of Utah is a place that shapes young minds and where students launch their educational endeavor. I would describe my academic experience as eye opening, similar to someone opening a fire hydrant of knowledge, and telling me it is OK to take a drink. My experiences extended beyond the classroom; I recall meeting with friends in the Union Building, studying on the lawn, or taking a walk along President's Circle, and of course, U of U athletic games. I am proud to be a part of the University's educational excellence and am honored to speak upon it on its 150-year anniversary.

HONORING THE AFRICAN WES-
LEYAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH ON THEIR 234TH ANNI-
VERSARY CELEBRATION**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church (known as Bridge Street AWME Church) on their 234th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed something tremendous that should be honored.

This historic institution, now entering its third century of service to the church and community, has always focused on providing spiritual, social, educational, and recreational activities for the Bridge Street parishioner and for the community at large. This church, located in the heart of the Bedford Stuyvesant community, has a long proud history of overcoming adversity to continue to survive.

The earliest records of the church date back to 1766 when a British captain named Thomas Webb began holding open air services in downtown Brooklyn. Captain Webb was a convert of John Wesley, the father of Methodism in America. In 1794 the congregation purchased the land on which they held these open air services from a wealthy Brooklyn landowner named Joshua Sands. Later a small church was built, and as was the custom in those days to name streets and buildings after wealthy landowners, the church was named The Sands Street Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church. The congregation consisted of whites, free blacks, and ex-slaves. The ability of blacks and whites to worship together in

the beginning of the church's history fore-shadow its unique ability to overcome any challenge it may face.

By the end of the 19th century, the AWME church had survived almost two centuries of struggles, disappointments and oppression. From its origins in 1766, the AWME Church has been a standard bearer for the family of man, especially in the Brooklyn-Long Island area. From Sands Street, to High Street, to Bridge Street, and to Stuyvesant Avenue, the Church has overcome every major obstacle encountered on its Christian journey.

From its pulpit, some of the greatest preachers and orators of the last two centuries have challenged many to higher heights and consistently championed the cause for all men to exist as children of God equal to one another. Throughout the years, the AWME church has made lasting and significant contributions, not only to education and religion, but to every other major profession which helps to shape the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker they are indeed a "Great People, and a Great Church, Serving a Great God."

REPORT FILING FOR H.R. 701

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I filed the bill report for H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999. This bill represented an agreement fashioned after five days of Resource Committee hearings and months of Member negotiations. On November 10, 1999, the Resources Committee ordered this historic measure out of Committee by a bipartisan vote of 37-12.

This legislation is the most comprehensive conservation and recreation legislation the Congress has considered in decades and provides permanent funding for valuable conservation and recreational opportunities that will benefit the lives of all Americans.

Title I provides \$1 billion each year to create a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of OCS activities and provide funds for the conservation of coastal ecosystems. Several provisions ensure that the valuable funding provided by this title does not prove to be an incentive for additional oil and gas drilling, especially in areas subject to pre-leasing, leasing, or development moratorium. The intent of this legislation is to provide for conservation and recreational opportunities, and the authors and supporters deliver on that pledge.

Title II provides \$900 million to guarantee stable and annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized level. This dedicated funding would provide for both the state and federal programs included in the LWCF, while protecting the rights of private property owners. Even with the protections won during our negotiations, some feel this bill does not adequately address property rights. While not eliminating land acquisition nor the Land and Water Conservation Fund, H.R. 701 creates a Federal land acquisition process and provides safeguards to private land owners that dramatically improve the status quo.

Title III provides \$350 million for wildlife conservation and education. This title, crafted by Congressman DINGELL and myself, uses the successful mechanism within the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly known as Pittman-Robertson). The new source of funding will nearly double the historic contribution made by sportsmen through Federal funds available by Pittman-Robertson and the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act (commonly known as Dingell-Johnson). Since 1937, these programs have contributed more than \$5 billion, matched by the states, to benefit wildlife and fish.

Title IV provides \$125 million to be used for matching grants for local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities, and provide for the development of improved recreation programs, sites and facilities.

Title V provides \$100 million for the programs within the Historic Preservation Act, including grants to the States, maintaining the National Register of Historic Places, and administering numerous historic preservation programs, including support for Congressionally authorized Heritage areas and corridors.

Title VI provides \$200 million for a coordinated program on Federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources that are threatened with degradation, and protect public health and safety.

Title VII provides \$150 million for annual and dedicated funding for conservation easements and funding for landowner incentives to aid in the recovery of endangered and threatened species.

Since oil and gas royalty payments are not deposited into the federal Treasury as an end-of-year lump sum, revenue held within the "CARA Fund" accrues interest. Up to \$200 million of this annual interest will match, dollar for dollar, the amount appropriated during the annual Congressional Appropriations process for the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes and Refuge Revenue Sharing programs. This provision is intended to fully fund these two programs.

Because of the breath of this measure, H.R. 701 enjoys the support of 294 Members of Congress. These supporters range from the most southern areas of Florida to my most Northern home of Alaska. Countless governors, county commissioners, and mayors have rallied around this initiative. I hope that the Congressional Leadership joins with us to pass this historic bill into Law this year.

HONORING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELLAIRE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the First Baptist Church of Bellaire for 60 years of service.

The First Baptist Church of Bellaire is proud of its reputation as a church where congregants can worship in a friendly atmosphere that is especially supportive of families.

Established in 1940, First Baptist Church of Bellaire now exceeds 500 members who participate in the various musical programs, youth and children's ministries, activities for seniors and singles, support of foreign missions, and more. One to its finest ministries is the Bellaire

Christian Academy, which takes students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade.

The First Baptist Church of Bellaire is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, which supports 4,000 international missionaries. It is also affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Houston-area Union Baptist Association. More than ten percent of the church's annual budget is dedicated to the support of missionaries.

The driving force behind much of what goes on at the first Baptist church of Bellaire is Pastor Frank D. Minton of Wichita, Kansas. Pastor Minton came out of pastoral retirement from the First Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska to join the First Baptist Church of Bellaire in 1995. He has put First Baptist Church of Bellaire on the move. The Church building has a new look, a new orchestra in the Worship Service, and increased children's and outreach ministries.

His credentials include a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Divinity from the University of Oklahoma, and another Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. His book, "Baseball's Sermon on the Mount," published by Broadman Press, combines his seminary training with his baseball experience. He has also served or led assorted pastors' conferences and outreach programs. Minton and his wife, Joyce, have four and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, our community institutions are only as strong as its members, and the members of the First Baptist Church of Bellaire have in a short sixty years established a very important cornerstone of the Greater Bellaire Community. I congratulate all the members of the First Baptist Church of Bellaire on their 60th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family I was unable to attend votes recently. Had I been here I would have made the following votes: Rollcall No. 8—"aye"; No. 9—"aye"; No. 10—"aye"; No. 11—"aye"; No. 12—"aye"; No. 13—"aye"; No. 14—"aye"; No. 15—"aye"; No. 16—"aye"; No. 17—"aye"; No. 18—"aye"; No. 19—"aye"; No. 20—"aye"; No. 21—"aye"; No. 22—"aye"; No. 23—"no"; No. 24—"aye"; No. 25—"no".

TRIBUTE TO LEOLA HAGEMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to an extraordinary woman and member of our community, a constituent of the 15th Congressional District in New York from the time I was first elected. Leola Hageman, who died on February 1, served her community over the last 40 years with energy, dedication, intelligence, creativity and love. Her passing is an enormous loss for the