125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. PETE GEREN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the leadership, staff and membership of Central Church of Christ Cleburne, TX on the observance of the church's 125th Anniversary.

On October 13, 1996, our community will celebrate the church's dedication to Biblical teachings, practice, and devoted service to the citizens of Cleburne, Johnson County, TX.

In 1871, following the Civil War, the Church of Christ was established as a stabilizing force for a county in the great State of Texas. Much of the growth and development of north Texas came as a result of migration of veterans and their families from the war ravished area of the South.

The congregation began meeting in the courtroom of the Johnson County Courthouse, From this beginning, it moved to permanent facilities in the western part of the country. In 1880, it moved to a new building in Cleburne. The church now enjoys a prominent position in the religious community through its many programs of worship, education, missions and service to the community, State, Nation and the world.

For 125 years, Central Church of Christ has continued the great principles established by our Founding Fathers and guaranteed by our constitution.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, my colleagues and fellow citizens of the 12th District in the great State of Texas, in extending our congratulations to this congregation on this momentous anniversary

CLIFTON HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, next month, my friends at the Clifton Heights Fire Department will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Accordingly, I want to pay tribute to these Americans who have put their lives on the line daily to protect the citizens of Clifton Heights, PA.

In 1896, by order of the courts, the Clifton Heights Fire Protection Association and the Clifton Heights Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company received their charters. For nearly 60 years, the two companies operated separately to provide the citizens of Clifton Heights with superb fire protection. In 1956, putting all rivalry aside, the two companies agreed to disband and join together to form one entity—the Clifton Heights Fire Company.

Since 1956, the Clifton Heights Fire Company has been one of the best trained and most aggressive companies in Pennsylvania. With support from local officials and the community, the Clifton Heights Company has emerged as a model of excellence in firefighting capability. Over the years, the company has successfully procured only the best state-of-the-art firefighting apparatus. Modern equipment combined with excellence in training has resulted in a first class company in which we can all take great pride.

As a former volunteer fire chief and founder of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I know firsthand the dedication, determination, and hard work associated with the firefighting profession. Yet, all too often we take for granted our local fire and emergency service personnel.

With this in mind, I want to thank the brave men and women of the Clifton Heights Fire Company for all they have done over the past 100 years in making the community of Clifton Heights a safer place to live. Congratulations and I wish you luck in your next 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OFFICE OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES' HEARING OFFICERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, October of this year, marks 8 years since the adoption of the House Fair Employment Practices Resolution, House Resolution 558 of the 100th Congress. At that time, this legislation established a new direction for addressing employment discrimination matters within the House of Representatives. The resolution prohibited discrimination against all House employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, and age. Additional employment legislation expanded upon these rights.

For the expressed purpose of addressing these employment issues. The resolution also created a new administrative process consisting of counseling, mediation, and adjudication. This House-designed process has been administered, during these 8 years, through the Office of Fair Employment Practices and the Fair Employment Practices Review Panel.

With the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act and the establishment of the Office of Compliance, we are now transitioning to a new era concerning employment rights in the Congress. Nevertheless, we are here today to pay special tribute to a select group of individuals who have been a part of the House Fair Employment Practices' process during its tenure: the hearing officers.

A critical component of the Fair Employment Practices' process has been the adjudicatory or hearing stage. Under this system, hearings have been conducted and decisions rendered by individuals who have come from the ranks of employees within the House of Representatives, with background qualifications in this area. These dedicated men and women have given their time and talent to provide every grievant a fair and impartial hearing.

Many hours of time have been given, time given without compensation, to the activities involved: The Background preparation for hearings, the actual conducting of hearings, the review of documents, the research time in the law library, and the writing of decisions.

Over the course of these 8 years, nine individuals have served the House with distinction as hearing officers under the Office of Fair Employment Practices. As an indication of the bipartisan nature which has been afforded to this process and which these hearing officers have upheld, each of the individuals was jointly appointed to the hearing officer position by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on House Oversight and its predecessor.

With pleasure, I would now like to recognize these individuals for their outstanding work: Michael L. Murray; Henry J. Schweiter; Randel K. Johnson; Ellen L. Weintraub; Charles J. Willoughby; Ariel R. David; Edward W. Hoskins, Jr.; Daniel J. Levinson; and Joseph Gibson.

A special note of thanks to Jim Schweiter who has served as a hearing officer for 6 years, taken on the greatest number of cases, and has served as a special resource to the staff of the Fair Employment Practices' Office. In all but title, he has been the senior hearing officer.

I would also like to thank the staff to the Office of Fair Employment Practices for their service to the House of Representatives, Joseph P. Horn, Ruby McCall-Bunch, Rebecca Miller, and Particularly the OFEP Director, William X. Baranowski.

This opportunity to acknowledge these highly dedicated individuals is a small measure of our greatful appreciation for the work they have done in this unique role, on behalf of the House of Representatives. To all of you, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your outstanding work, and best wishes for your continued successful careers.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 4012—MEDICARE WAIVER FOR THE WELLNESS PLAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 30, 1996

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on legislation I introduced earlier this year to temporarily waive the Medicare enrollment composition rules for the Wellness Plan in Michigan. The bill enjoys bipartisan support in the House and Senate and passed the Commerce Committee on September 18 by a unanimous vote.

H.R. 4012 would allow the Wellness Plan a waiver from the so-called 50–50 rule, which requires that any plan which serves as a Medicare HMO have at least 50 percent of its enrollees as non-Medicare and non-Medicaid recipients. The Wellness Plan is a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) federally qualified HMO which serves a predominately Medicaid-based population.

This plan had begun to serve the Medicare population under a health care prepayment plan. However, HCPP contracts were effectively frozen as of January 1, 1996, as a result of changes made under the Social Security and Technical Corrections Act of 1994 which subjects HCPP contractors to MediGap laws. Because of this, the Wellness Plan has been unable to enroll any more Medicare beneficiaries.

This plan has been recognized by two Secretaries of HHS and by Presidents Bush and Clinton. It serves a substantial portion of the Medicaid population in southeast Michigan and has been doing so for almost 25 years. It is financially sound and has an unblemished