

officer I didn't have the heart to do it," he said, adding that he is concerned about how the U.S. treats civilians in present-day conflicts, such as the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I don't know whether we'll ever get out of this war. There are way too many people getting killed," he said, voicing anxiety that America may be losing men and women it will need in the future. He sees a national indifference to the value of life expressed both in our foreign policy and in social practices such as legalized abortion.

"God is not dead," Woodley warns. "I might lie to you but that Bible's going to come true."

When he returned to Mississippi after his Army days, Woodley studied at Campbell College in the Jackson area and became an AME clergyman. He served for more than 40 years as a presiding elder in the church, which means he was responsible for helping the bishop to supervise preachers. He became senior presiding elder of the Eight AME District, comprised of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Woodley settled in Mount Bayou with his wife, Willie Thelma Woodley, who was a native of the historic settlement founded by former slaves of Joe Davis.

Shelton Woodley of Mound Bayou, one of the minister's sons, says his own service in the Vietnam War helped him to appreciate and better understand his father's experiences.

The elder Mr. Woodley, who stays busy keeping up the shrubbery at his home and at the Mound Bayou branch of the Bank of Bolivar County, says he hates to be idle. He recalls how hard work shaped him as a child.

"I picked 200 pounds of cotton in Stringtown, Mississippi, when I was nine years old," he says with a smile.

Most of us are aware of the contributions that men like Rev. C.L. Woodley and the Buffalo Soldiers have made to the preservation of our Nation and our democracy.

In the history of the Buffalo Soldiers there were not only men that served, but women as well. Cathy Williams, the only woman who served in 1866 as a Buffalo Soldier, also deserves recognition by the House; therefore, these are men and women of courage, bravery, and honor.

The remarkable irony of the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and many other African American soldiers like Rev. Woodley is that they fought to preserve the high ideals of liberty, freedom, and democracy; however, they were fighting for principles and privileges that they themselves were being denied on their own soil.

Mr. Speaker and to the Members of Congress, too many times do we celebrate the men and women of our armed services and veterans after they are no longer with us. I ask you to join in saluting Mr. Woodley and the men and women of the Buffalo Soldiers, to ensure him while he is living and well that we are grateful and indebted to him and others like him for his service in the United States Army.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2005, I was absent for several votes for personal

reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote No. 251, Weiner Amendment regarding funding for COPS program, "no"; vote No. 252, Inslee Amendment regarding funding for NOAA, "no"; vote No. 253, Hayworth Amendment regarding contribution to U.N., "no"; vote No. 254, Flake Amendment regarding Cuba "no"; vote No. 255, Hinchey Amendment regarding medical marijuana "no"; vote No. 256, Jones of Ohio Amendment regarding the EEOC "no"; vote No. 257, Hostettler Amendment regarding Southern Dist. of Indiana case "yes"; and vote No. 258, Sanders Amendment regarding Section 215 of PATRIOT Act "no".

IN HONOR OF BISHOP RICHARD R. WILLIAMS AND BISHOP ELAINE WILLIAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bishop Richard R. Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, as they are honored by their congregation for founding the Mt. Calvary III Deliverance Outreach Ministries International, Inc., a spiritual haven of assistance, support and services focused on the most vulnerable citizens of our Cleveland community.

Bishop Richard Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, united in marriage for nearly twenty years, are also unified in their unwavering advocacy and service on behalf of at-risk children, and are united in their outreach work that includes offering educational programs and counseling services to youth and adults who are suffering from HIV and AIDS. Bishop Richard Williams has initiated and supported numerous HIV and AIDS prevention programs throughout our community. He is a certified instructor in the African-American HIV/Aids Program through the American Red Cross, and is state certified in Communicable Disease Management/First Aid.

His remarkable rise from the darkness of his own personal suffering, is an unending source of inspiration and strength for children and adults who are lost in a cycle of pain, struggle and uncertainty. The community outreach and ministry that exists at the heart of Mt. Calvary Ministries begins at home. Over the past eighteen years, Bishop Richard Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams have opened their hearts and homes as foster parents. The Williams' have welcomed the most vulnerable and at-risk children into their lives, from babies, to children, to high-risk teens, offering an abundance of love, guidance, security and hope, where none existed before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bishop Richard R. Williams and Bishop Elaine Williams, co-founders of the Mt. Calvary III Deliverance Outreach Ministries International, for nearly twenty years of compassionate service as teachers, mentors, foster parents and healers. Their unified commitment, kindness and caring for the children of our community has served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and will forever reflect faith, hope and light throughout our entire community.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS CONKLIN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous career of Mr. Thomas Conklin, a physician and visionary.

After graduating from Louisiana State Medical School, Dr. Thomas Conklin became board certified in psychiatry and administration and established a private practice in his hometown of Ellington, Connecticut. Dr. Conklin left his practice with twenty years of experience in search of a place where he could administer medicine. In 1992 Dr. Conklin became Director of Health Services at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr. once said upon meeting Dr. Conklin how amazed he was with his dedication, innovation, and willingness. Dr. Conklin saw a lack of attention from the local community towards inmates, especially through proper medical care. Dr. Conklin once called correctional facilities "reservoirs of illness" because these facilities can harbor many diseases like HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis which endanger the local population when released inmates bring these diseases out into the public. Instead of waiting for these diseases to breakout into the public, Dr. Conklin took a proactive approach by beginning a Public Health Model. This revolutionary system established relationships with inmates by using local health physicians and setting up neighborhood health centers.

As a result of Dr. Conklin's persistent efforts, today 100 percent of Hampden County inmates obtain a complete physical exam, and over 90 percent of those inmates being released keep medical appointments in the community. In 1998 the National Commission for Correctional Healthcare selected Hampden County Correctional Center as facility of the year. Dr. Conklin's efforts brought national attention to the growing risks from lack of inmate healthcare within corrections facilities. Dr. Conklin's model now serves as catalyst for other correctional facility health programs nationwide.

Dr. Conklin continues teaching other facilitators about the Public Health Model through producing publications and leading numerous health conferences. As a member of the NCHC-NIJ expert panel on mental illness, he led Hampden County Correction Facility to new groundbreaking achievements. Through his compassion, Dr. Conklin has been able to make his dreams as a visionary become reality for all that helps regardless of their wealth or status. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Conklin's commitment and leadership during his forty years of service as physician and administrator are more than worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 13, I was absent for votes on