

good, humble people who loved God, worked hard, and struggled to make a better life for themselves and their children.

I also saw their needless pain and suffering due to their poverty and lack of healthcare resources.

I vowed at the age of four to become a doctor and serve them.

As a freshman pre-med student at UCLA, I stayed awake at night on the top bunk bed of my tiny dorm room thinking about the difference I would one day make.

After graduating from Harvard's medical, government, and public health schools, I returned home as an emergency medicine physician as promised.

I rolled up my sleeves, organized, and went to trailer parks, rural community parks, and the poorest communities to help.

I saw familiar faces with familiar stories of suffering still living in poverty and resource-poor communities.

That is why I founded the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative in 2010, along with my wife, Monica, and our good friend Chauncey Veatch, to address our local healthcare access crisis.

We produced a report and a strategic improvement plan. Our most important solution was the expansion of a healthcare district.

Today, I am very happy to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District to cover all medically underserved communities in the valley.

It is significant, because the district has an annual multimillion dollar budget that funds healthcare and public health programs that improve the public's health.

That means more providers caring for more patients and providing much-needed services like pediatric specialty care, mental health, veterans' health, senior services, and provider pipeline programs.

It is proof that good things happen when good people come together to do good work.

I would like to thank California Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia for answering the call and stepping up to be a champion for the expansion of the district.

He got the bill to put expansion on the ballot passed into law, and together, we helped build local support by putting out fires and persuading others of the big idea.

I also want to thank Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez. When the expansion of the healthcare district was under threat, Supervisor Perez and I worked closely to convince other county supervisors how much our communities would gain in both improved health outcomes and increased economic activity.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the expansion.

There were many other champions who pulled their weight and got the job done.

Thank you to the leadership of the Desert Healthcare District itself, including the President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Les Zendle, previous CEOs Kathy Greco and Herb Schultz, and Interim CEO Chris Christensen.

Thank you to board members Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Kay Hazen, and Carole Rogers, who voted in favor of expansion, and the many, many other staff members who have helped ensure this advocacy ran smoothly.

Several key healthcare organizations were instrumental in this success.

As the largest provider for the east valley, Tenet Healthcare has been enormously supportive by prioritizing the health of their patients above all else.

Thank you to Borrego Community Health Foundation for your generosity and leadership to help create this victory.

Thank you to Planned Parenthood for your tireless work, and thank you to Building Healthy Communities, Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo, and Eisenhower Medical Center.

Thank you to James Williamson, who led the campaign.

Thank you to Barbara Fields, Juan Armenta, Mary English, Walter Clark, Oscar Armijo, Richard Meyer, and Jack Marco, whose generosity never wavered throughout this journey.

Thank you to the voters who approved the expansion measure by an incredibly large margin.

Thank you for helping to make the dream I had as a boy from a farm-worker trailer park a reality.

Together, we are improving lives and making a difference.

□ 1045

#### NINETY YEARS A PREACHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and one of the most revered ministers of the gospel that the Chicago metropolitan area has ever known.

Reverend James Bass was born on May 7, 1920, to the late Frank and Hattie Bell Bass in a rural Mississippi town.

James began school at the age of 6 in a little church house near Sunflower River Road, where he attended with his two brothers and one sister. His first teacher, Mr. Lee, taught all of the classes that were in session when the farming seasons were not in force.

As a little boy, James loved playing marbles, pitching horseshoes, and playing church, with him preaching. He also would preach the funeral for any of the animals that died and became known as the boy preacher.

Every Sunday, James attended church with his family in their mule-driven wagon. In 1929, he officially joined church after sitting on the

mourners bench during a revival. He continued to grow and develop, got a job at the church as custodian, and attended and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School in Ruleville, Mississippi.

In 1938, James revealed his calling and preached his first sermon as a full-fledged minister at the age of 18.

On December 7, 1941, James was drafted into the military and served 3 years in the U.S. Army during World War II. He carried no weapon and continued his ministerial work.

After being discharged, he returned home and enrolled at Tougaloo College in 1948, majoring in history. He attended the Mississippi seminary in Jackson in 1951. He became pastor of the Mt. Israel Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where he sponsored a radio broadcast for senior citizens and those who were sick and shut in.

In December of 1955, James was invited to Detroit to preach a revival at Canaan Baptist Church. On the way back, he stopped in Chicago to visit his brother and sister and was honored to preach at the Greater Open Door Baptist Church.

In August of 1956, Reverend Bass organized a small mission. The mission grew, and the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September of 1956.

He returned to Chicago and commuted between Chicago and Mississippi for 6 years, and, after fasting and praying, he decided that his type of ministry really needed to be in a large urban city.

In 1967, Reverend Bass and Helyn Maxine Julius were united in holy matrimony and were blessed with two children, Vincent in 1968 and Vikkeda in 1970.

Under Reverend Bass' leadership, Mt. Olive grew into a substantial Baptist church, with significant influence in the community.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came to Chicago and lived on the West Side, Reverend James Bass was there with him and stood shoulder-to-shoulder when others sleekeed away or refused to stand.

Reverend Bass was known as an activist, independent-minded preacher who used his pulpit effectively to foster something called liberation theology. He will be remembered as one who knew that the doors of the church must be open both ways: inside so that people could come and be spiritually nurtured, but also outside so that they could use the information for the benefit of themselves and their communities.

For more than 90 years, Reverend James Bass preached what he called the gospel. He was an effective messenger, and what a messenger he was. May his soul rest in peace.

#### HONORING JANET WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from