

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 133rd Elected and Consecrated Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Harry L. Seawright. Bishop Seawright has spent more than 37 years in ministry as presiding prelate of Alabama's 9th Episcopal District. On June 25, 2019, Bishop Seawright was invested and elevated, becoming President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a tremendous and well-deserved honor within the church and the community.

Bishop Seawright has been preparing for this most recent and elevated recognition for most of his life. A fourth-generation A.M.E., Bishop Seawright's faith was nurtured from an early age, both at home with his family and within his first church, Prodigal A.M.E. in Swansea, South Carolina. Alongside his faith, Bishop Seawright ingrained an innate work ethic after seeing his mother widowed when he was only five years old. Born to a family of sharecroppers and lacking financial resources, Bishop Seawright's mother worked tirelessly to care for her seven young children. Like his mother's, Bishop Seawright's relentless work ethic, buoyed by his unflappable faith, was and still is, the driving force behind his many accomplishments.

Having witnessed first-hand the challenges that his mother faced in attempting to provide for seven children with only a ninth grade education, Bishop Seawright took his mother's insistence on education to heart, remaining in South Carolina to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Benedict College. He then continued on, earning his Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. Bishop Seawright remains interested and invested in many businesses in addition to his work within the church.

It was not just education that Bishop Seawright's mother emphasized as a crucial guiding force for future success. Bishop Seawright's mother instilled in her son a deep and unwavering faith, which he, in turn, saw mirrored within her, even during the family's darkest struggles. "My mother was a praying woman," Bishop Seawright said. "She had a lot of faith and courage." That faith and courage remained evident over the course of many moves, many job changes and many days of wondering if and how she would be able to feed her children. Nevertheless, Bishop Seawright's mother never gave up her faith in God's will, nor did her son.

In 1976, Bishop Seawright accepted his call to ministry, and in 1977 was admitted to the South Carolina Central Annual Conference, by the late Bishop Frank M. Reid, II. He was later ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in the Washington Annual Conference in 1979 by the late Bishop Henry W. Murph and as an Itinerant Elder in 1981 by Bishop John Hurst Adams.

In 1978, Bishop Seawright served as Interim Pastor of St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in St. Matthews, S.C., as well as staff minister at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Washington,

D.C. In 1981 he received his first pastoral appointment, to Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church in Jessup, MD, where he served until 1983. Between 1983 and 1986, Bishop Seawright served as pastor of Hemingway Temple A.M.E. Church in Jessup, MD, before being assigned to Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Brandywine, MD.

Bishop Seawright served Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty years, longer than anyone else in the church's history. During his tenure, he led the church in a \$1.6 million construction project, building a gorgeous sanctuary that will serve as a reminder of his commitment to his faith and to Union Bethel for many generations to come.

Early in his ministerial journey, Bishop Seawright met his future wife, Sherita Moon Seawright. He was still a sophomore in college when they met, unaware that she would soon be his wife, partner, inspiration and support. The two married in 1982, and have been blessed with two beautiful children, Shari Nicole and Harry Matthew.

After 30 years of service, in 2016 Bishop Seawright left Union Bethel and prepared to transplant his life and family to Alabama, having accepted an appointment in Alabama's 9th Episcopal District. Moving to Birmingham, AL provided Bishop Seawright fresh opportunity to focus on engaging and mentoring other pastors throughout the region. Further, Bishop Seawright took advantage of the opportunity to develop several new programs, including the Life Center at Daniel Payne Plaza.

The Daniel Payne Plaza is an invaluable community resource, providing struggling community members with the opportunity to earn a GED and gain certifications in a multitude of vocational areas, including food preparation and construction. The program's goal is to transform how the 9th district serves not only the church, but the community. Thanks to the challenges he faced throughout his childhood, and the resilience he witnessed within his mother, Bishop Seawright is uniquely positioned to understand the value of quality education, and as such, is determined to provide educational opportunities to all those he serves.

Bishop Seawright's 37 years of tireless service have earned him a rightfully exalted position within the community. His most recent appointment, to President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, further solidifies his impressive and well-deserved reputation as a leader, mentor and spiritual guide. He has given more than can ever be repaid, and both the church and community owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. On a personal note, I want to thank Bishop Seawright for his continued support and encouragement of my home church, the Historic Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma, AL.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the many accomplishments of Bishop Harry L. Seawright. We pay tribute to his distinguished career for the betterment of the State of Alabama and extend deep appreciation for his exemplary service as the Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 12, 2019 during roll call no. 250, on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF H.R. 2740

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of those provisions of H.R. 2740 that reflect the President's proposals to continue funding for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants, two programs under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Substance use disorders have ravaged large parts of this country, including parts of my home state of Ohio.

Madam Speaker, over the next 24 hours, about 130 Americans will die from an opioid-related overdose, close to 84 infants in Ohio will be born suffering from the horrific symptoms of drug withdrawal, and over 20 million people across the country will continue to battle with addiction.

In 2017, it is estimated that over 19.7 million Americans battled a substance use disorder. That's not to mention the approximately \$740 billion annually that drug abuse and addiction costs American society in lost workplace productivity, health care expenses, and crime-related costs.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to this crisis. Both addiction and addiction treatment are extremely complex. However, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants have helped countless communities across the country. To be sure that these funds are being used efficiently, they must be directed toward those programs which employ an evidenced-based approach to treatment and recovery. In particular, community-based recovery support programs, like SMART Recovery in my own district, have proven crucial in encouraging those suffering from addiction to stay on the proper path to recovery.

One of my top priorities has been ensuring the federal funding Congress has provided to combat the opioid epidemic effectively supports the life-saving work our local communities carry out on the front lines of this crisis. While there is still work to be done, it is encouraging to see that Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and State Opioid Response Grants are helping organizations in Northeast Ohio and across the country save lives.

That is why I am proud to rise in support of these provisions.