

Nearly 200 years ago, certain individuals decided to leave the John Street Methodist Church in New York because of discrimination and denial of religious liberties. These individuals organized what was to become the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Zion was added to their name in 1848 to distinguish this denomination from other African Methodist bodies. The Right Reverend George E. Battle, Jr., bishop of the Pee Dee Conference, has declared a week of celebration for the week of October 1-8, 1995, to commemorate the founding of their denomination.

I congratulate the many churches of the Pee Dee Conference as they celebrate their 200th anniversary and commend them for having kept the faith, and morally and spiritually nourished individuals and families within their congregations, and for having been vital forces in their communities. I extend to the Pee Dee Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church my best wishes for their next century of service.

A TRIBUTE TO COL. CHRISTOPHER
RUSSO

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MATSUI and I rise today to pay tribute to Col. Christopher F. Russo, who is retiring his command of the 77th Air Base Wing, Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, CA.

Colonel Russo graduated from Syracuse University in 1965. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps programs that fall, and received his pilot wings from Moody Air Force Base, GA the following year.

Colonel Russo was deployed to Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, in Vietnam. After his combat tour, he was an instructor at Vance Air Force Base, OK. In 1972, he was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, NV, for his training in the F-111A, and then deployed to Takhli Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, where he completed another combat tour. During his tour at Takhli, he became the first aircraft commander to complete 100 combat missions in the F-111, a record he still holds.

Colonel Russo is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours flying time. He has flown 250 combat missions, with over 500 hours of combat and combat support time. His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal, Republic of Korea Gallantry Cross, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with seven oak leaf clusters, and the Combat Readiness Medal. He holds a master's degree in the International Relations from Troy State University, AL, and is an outstanding graduate of the Air War College seminar program.

Mr. Speaker, we join his wife Pam and his children, Kristen, Jodie, and Nicholas, in wishing Colonel Russo a happy and productive retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BEATRIZ VALDEZ ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant. Please join me in honoring Beatriz Valdez, who has earned the gratitude of the citizens of Los Angeles County for her tireless commitment to good government.

Beatriz Valdez, the eldest of eight children to Maria Del Rosario and Miguel Valdez, graduated from Montebello High School and immediately obtained employment with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Following the principles of punctuality and hard work, she quickly rose from the ranks of secretarial to administrative duties.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1957, Ms. Valdez began working for the county's Registrar-Recorders office. In 1975, Ms. Valdez was appointed to the position of Assistant Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk of the Elections Office and was responsible for the election functions of the department. Her duties included the nomination process, formatting the ballot, processing absentee voters and campaign statements, the official canvass, analyses of legislative proposals and public information functions. In 1984, she also was assigned to oversee the county's 3.6 million voter affidavit file and the processing of an initiative, referendum, recall and nominating petitions.

On March 31, 1993, Beatriz Valdez was sworn in as Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and assumed the position as head of the largest election agency in the United States. She is the first Hispanic-American to hold this position since Ignacio Del Valle in 1850. She is responsible for conducting elections within L.A. County for Federal, State, and local offices, maintenance of an active voter registration program which includes a registration file of over 3.6 million and 4,000 voter outreach locations.

Each year the department provides support services for over 200 school, city and special district elections. Each major election requires the processing of approximately 275,000 voter registration forms, 500,000 absent voter requests, staffing over 6,100 precincts and processing over 500,000 petition signatures. Beyond her electoral duties, she is responsible for the recording of property documents within L.A. County, maintaining birth, death and marriage records, issuing marriage licenses and filing fictitious business names. Beatriz Valdez directs the annual budget of \$60 million, the collection of \$70 million in revenue and staff resources of 700 permanent employees.

Mr. Speaker, Beatriz Valdez is an extraordinary woman who I am proud to count as my constituent. The city of Montebello, the State and the Nation owe her a debt of gratitude. My colleagues in the House of Representatives salute her and wish her well in retirement.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF THE
MAJORITY WHIP TOM DELAY

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996, Messrs. ISTOOK, MCINTOSH, and EHRlich offered very important legislation regarding political advocacy. The amendment was included in the committee reported version of the bill. The legislative measure was successfully defended on the House floor. The amendment to strike the provision by Mr. SKAGGS of Colorado was defeated with 232 Members voting against the amendment to strike.

In my statement I referred to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I stated that organizations from all sides of the political spectrum from Act-Up on the left to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have taken Federal funds and have lobbied for more Federal funds.

It is now my understanding that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce does not receive Federal funds in any capacity that could be used for lobbying purposes.

In no way was it my intention to paint a picture of the U.S. Chamber taking funds for lobbying purposes. Quite the contrary is true. The U.S. Chamber has played an integral role in the revolution that has and continues to take place here in Congress. They have been advocates of the Contract With America and many other important pieces of legislation. Without their support, I am sure that many of the victories we have experienced during the first 8 months of this session would not be a reality. I want to commend the U.S. Chamber for all their hard work and effort and express gratitude for their guidance.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

HON. BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased today to pay tribute to women around the world, from Africa to China, from America to South America, who recently attended the women's conference in Beijing. I want to pay special tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Maryann Mahaffey, president of the Detroit City Council, and one of the participants in this important conference. I want to commend Ms. Mahaffey's leadership in this historic forum, where women of every economic and political stature joined to focus world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families.

Regrettably, I was unable to participate in the Beijing conference, but I have every confidence that the city of Detroit, where my congressional district is located, and the State of Michigan, were very ably represented with Ms. Mahaffey's superior leadership.

I want to also commend the extraordinary contribution of our First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, without whom the conference would have been tragically incomplete.