

steps of the Statue of Liberty and feel the warmth of heart that the immigrants felt when they first arrived in America. I need to look at the Liberty Bell with glistening eyes and understand its full meaning. To be a good American in the future, I must learn, understand, and accept all of America's past.

Right now, the opportunities to serve my country are limited, but are, by no means, small. For the land itself, I recycle, I put trash in the trashcans to keep our streets clean. I plant trees to keep our environment healthy. For my fellow citizens I keep myself clean and presentable, I work hard for my money, and buy American products. I do not judge others in an unjust manner, if at all. I abide by the great laws of the country, and I keep myself up to date with the current affairs of America. After all the opportunities and services that America will have provided me by the time I am twenty years old, I will be obliged, not by law but by choice, to give back. I feel that the best way to help America is to help others in the name of my country. I am provided with such an opportunity by organizations like the Peace Corps. Then, in my adult years, I shall be fully prepared to choose a job that will help fellow Americans. I shall work honestly, hard, and be a good citizen. I shall vote and pay my taxes on time. All these things may seem small and trivial to some, but to me, they are ways I can give back to a country that has given so much to me.

America is truly the land of opportunity. My service to America is to grab all the opportunity that is thrown my way and make the most out of it, so that later in my life as an American I am able and ready to provide such an opportunity for others.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIE L. STRAIN

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William L. Strain, Assistant Director of the Communications Department at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. On March 31, Mr. Strain retired from the extension service after 45 years and two months of service.

Mr. Strain is a native of Morgan County, Alabama and a graduate of Morgan City Training School in Hartselle, Alabama. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee Institute where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to Mr. Strain's academic accomplishments, he served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In 1958, Mr. Strain served the people of Alabama as an Assistant Negro County Agent in Butler County. He went on to serve similar positions in Coosa and Tuscaloosa Counties respectively. In 1971, he served as the plaintiff in the civil action landmark court case *Strain vs. Philpot*, which establish the tone to bring about equal opportunity for Extension minority employees and clients, throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation.

Ever since that landmark case, Mr. Strain continued to dedicate his life to improvements in the Extension Service. He served as a member of numerous professional associa-

tions and has received many awards for his outstanding leadership in higher education, development of community relations and professional involvement in local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to add that I am honored to stand here today and congratulate Mr. Willie Strain. He was a trailblazer in his field and paved the way for many African-Americans.

#### GALBRAITH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX YEARS, 1843-1999

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers, members, and friends of the Galbraith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for "156 Years of Charting Our Legacy Through Spirituality With an Unchangeable God."

Mr. Speaker, Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church was organized before slavery was abolished and while the city of Washington was still in its infancy. The church grew out of the efforts of the late Bishop Singleton T. Jones, then pastor of the Zion Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Southwest Washington. He extended the borders of Zion by establishing a mission in the northwest section of the city. In 1843, with a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne on New Avenue, Northwest, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, the mission was established. Rev. Singleton T. Jones preached the sermon. Professor R.H. Dyson, Chorister of the then noted Clintonian Songsters, furnished the music. Six members joined the mission—Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, and two other individuals whose names have been lost in history. Rev. Richard Tompkins, a local preacher from Zion Wesley Church, was appointed to take charge and served for approximately ten months.

The Mission struggled and fluctuated for a period of eight years until its reorganization in 1852, under the leadership of Rev. R.H.G. Dyson. The success of the Mission at this time was due primarily to the efforts and determination of Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and Mr. Julius Warren, the Assistant Class Leader to Rev. Dyson. The first building, a room 8 feet by 20 feet, was erected by Mr. Payne and was used for Sunday School and preaching services on Sunday, and for day school taught by Miss Martha Ross. As there were few facilities for the education of Black children in those days, the church served a double purpose.

After only two months, the church became too small for the congregation. Mr. Payne stretched a number of tents in the rear of the building, providing accommodations for three hundred people. In 1853, because of the danger and lack of protection from a band of lawless white men, who amused themselves by stoning the tents during services, Mr. Payne erected another home for the mission with two stories.

Upon the recommendation of Presiding Elder J.H. Hammer, Rev. Dyson joined the Annual Conference May, 1853, and was again sent to the Mission. In the fall of 1852, a lot

was purchased on L Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, Northwest for \$225.00. The owner, Dr. Hall, donated \$25.00 for the purchase price, and Brothers Julius Warren and Payne each paid \$25.00 for a deed of trust. Mr. Naylor, a builder and contractor, agreed to build a church for a reasonable sum to be paid in small amounts. The cornerstone was laid in 1853, the first to be laid by the Colored Masons of Washington. Rev. Dyson selected the name "Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Chapel" in memory of Bishop George Galbraith. The dedication was March 1854.

Mr. Speaker, this city is grateful for the spiritual guidance and the progressive leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Frederick B. Massey, Sr., and those who preceded him, coupled with the cooperation of the officers and members of Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church.

#### IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JANE ZEIS, IN CELEBRATION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jane Zeis. On Friday, April 30, 1999, Jane Zeis will retire from her position as Clerk at the Ottawa County Board of Elections.

Jane Zeis is truly a committed employee and a valuable asset to the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Having started as a part-time employee in early January of 1978, Jane worked diligently as Ottawa County began to register its voters, and very soon thereafter was hired to a permanent, full-time position. Her dedicated efforts and outstanding contributions over the past twenty-one years have enabled Ottawa County to have one of the best Boards of Elections in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Zeis embodies the very spirit of American workmanship through her conscientious attention to detail. In doing her job of processing changes of address, absentee balloting, and ensuring the country's precinct maps are up-to-date, among many others, Jane has performed utterly wonderfully. Her meticulous organizational skills and motivation have produced a thorough and complete county planning commission guide including precinct, school, and congressional district information.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is very evident that Jane Zeis has given freely of her time and energy to assist in the preservation of American ideals. Our electoral process is the backbone of our nation, and those individuals, like Jane Zeis, who worked hard to make that system free and democratic are true American patriots.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jane Zeis. On the occasion of her retirement from the Ottawa County Board of Elections, we thank her for her service and we wish her all the best in the future.