

With his mother's passing immediately prior to his high school graduation, Marvin Williams moved to Brooklyn where he found work in order to send money home to his younger siblings for their education. He joined the United Pentecostal House of Prayer where he accepted his call to the ministry. After 18 years of faithfully serving at the United Pentecostal House of Prayer, he accepted the assistant pastorship position at St. Matthew Glorious United Church of God. After serving in the position of assistant pastor for four years, Reverend Williams founded St. Stephen United Church of God in 1974, which was renamed Greater St. Stephen United Church of God after moving to its new home in 1980.

As Pastor, Marvin Williams' church operates as a non-profit community based organization that offers a variety of community programs including a soup kitchen, food pantry, clothing bank, as well as both after school and summer day camp programs. Reverend Williams is also renowned for sponsoring programs, which assist individuals in moving towards self-sufficiency by helping them to get jobs by training them, and building connections with agencies that will hire.

Reverend Williams' success in the Church has not been limited to being the founder of the overwhelmingly successful Greater St. Stephen Church, but also extends to his exaltation to the office of Overseer as well as his consecration as a bishop in 1998. Bishop Williams also serves as Chairman of the General Board of Directors of the United Church of God of America Incorporated in addition to holding membership on many other prestigious boards.

Bishop Williams is married to Callie Louise Powell. Together they have been blessed with eight children, thirteen grandchildren, and a host of godchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Marvin David Williams devotes his life to serving his community through his church. As such, he is indeed worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FALUN DAFU

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the determination and perseverance of the Falun Dafa, a peaceful movement seeking freedom to think as they wish and believe as they choose.

But freedom they cannot have, as long as the Chinese-dictatorship government remains strong; i.e., as long as the rest of the world is willing to ignore the pervasive human rights abuse ongoing throughout China.

The Chinese government is "cracking down," i.e., executing as many followers they can capture, while much of the rest of the world looks the other way. Unbelievably, the world even awards China as host of the 2008 Olympic Games—Games meant to celebrate life and the human spirit. China celebrates neither; rather, China bathes in blood. As Am-

nesty International recently reported, more people have been executed in China during the past three months than in all the rest of the world during the past three years.

I support the efforts of the Falun Dafa to realize freedom, and pray that the day may soon come when the citizens of China, and all the world, will be free to worship the religion of their choosing and enjoy the basic human right of religious freedom. That is what the Pilgrims came to America for, and it is disheartening that freedom remains elusive for so many people nearly four-hundred years since the Pilgrims' perilous departure across the seas.

It is past time for America and the world to take a proactive stand against the alarming human rights abuse in China. As we speak, another will likely be executed, or as the Chinese officials may report, another will commit "suicide."

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are looking down the fangs of a dragon. There have been forty-nine Falun Dafa deaths reported in the past month; tens of thousands are suffering in labor "re-education" camps where the use of torture, forced confessions, arbitrary arrest, rape, and denial of due process are reportedly rampant. We must stop this death and dying at the hand of Communist Chinese dictators. I hope that the world will soon unite in proactive support for the freedom of mankind that so many have given their lives for. Let them not die in vain.

I appreciate this opportunity to lend my support to the efforts of the Falun Dafa Practitioners to realize freedom, and I wish them well in their quest for this ideal. May this serve as opportunity for the world to do right.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE GOODDECURNOU'S COURAGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, sometimes there are people that inspire others, just by living. George Gooddecurnou is one of those rare people. George has been faced with the strongest of adversity and has slowly triumphed. His survival after what should have been a fatal accident four years ago is due in part to a miracle, but also due to George's fighting spirit.

Four years ago, George an avid cyclist from Golden, Colorado, was riding in a race in Santa Fe, New Mexico when a drunk driver crashed into him at seventy miles per hour. It was a miracle that George was still alive when his wife, Luann, was rushed to his side in the emergency room. Luann's training as a physical therapist alerted her to the immediate conclusion that there would be severe brain damage, when she noticed that George's right hand was clenched in a fist. The severity of the damage would be unclear until George woke up from his coma. Doctors predicted that George would never walk again, and that his mental capacity would be diminished. George rejected this prognosis, and has gone through numerous types of therapy to achieve his new goal, to ride in a 100-mile bike tour again.

George has come along way in four years, he now speaks complete sentences, although the effort exerted to express his thoughts is great, he does not give in. George's refusal to accept his injury, and his chance meeting with the therapist Rick Olderman, are the factors that brought George to another race in Santa Fe. Rick understood George's need to ride a bike once again, and gave him the encouragement George needed. Three years after the accident George was on a bike again. Although the ride lasted only five minutes, it exhausted George, but left him with a feeling of gratitude. Four years later amongst the other two thousand cyclists, George Gooddecurnou, mounted his bike. He pedaled for 29 miles, leaving him with a mixed feeling of pride and sadness.

George has already set a goal of 50 miles next year for the race in Santa Fe, and will continue to push himself to the limits. His fighting spirit and courage against adversity is an inspiration to all, and that Mr. Speaker, is why I believe Congress should honor George. I wish him the best of luck in life, and I will be rooting for him to accomplish next year's goal of 50 miles in Santa Fe.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN H. SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Helen H. Smith of Marion, South Carolina, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in public service. I join the citizens of Marion County in expressing our deepest gratitude for her outstanding service.

Helen Smith was raised in Marion, South Carolina. After graduating from Mullins High School, she attended Columbia College. She and her husband, Mr. Rupert W. Smith, Jr., are the proud parents of Rupert W. (Smitty) Smith, III. Mrs. Smith has worked for Marion County for twenty-one years, retiring as the Director of the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission. She distinguished herself by graduating from the Institute of Government for County Officials, and became a key figure in the South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials, commonly known as SCARE. Mrs. Smith has served SCARE as Director of the Sixth District, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President. She also served as the historian of SCARE, and wrote the first history of this Association.

Mrs. Smith has received much recognition for her contributions to the Marion County community. She was honored with three outstanding service awards from the SCARE Association, was the recipient of the Betty Moore Award, and was presented with two awards from the South Carolina House of Representatives in recognition of her contributions to the election process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Helen H. Smith for her many years of service to her community and for her significant contributions to the South Carolina election process. I wish her the happiest days in a well-deserved retirement.