

Rev. Dingle will retire at an October 26th celebration in his honor. He and his wife Marguerite Dingle will, however, continue to serve Advent ministries and the community on a part time basis.

It is with great honor that I commend Rev. Dingle for his commitment to the community and dedication to enriching the lives of his parishioners. His presence at the Church will be sorely missed, however his spirit will live on forever within those who he has touched.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the attention of my colleagues the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Ways and Means with regards to H.R. 2646.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
September 17, 2001.

HON. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMBEST: I am writing concerning H.R. 2646, the "Agriculture Act of 2001," which was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Agriculture on August 2, 2001.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has long maintained a jurisdictional interest over matters concerning trade. Contained in the bill are two provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. Sec. 127 of the bill changes the level of import quotas on cotton permitted under U.S. law, and Sec. 146 requires importers of dairy products to pay assessments applied to domestic dairy producers to offset the costs of dairy sales promotion programs. These provisions fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration we will not seek action on these particular proposals. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee's jurisdictional prerogatives on these measures or any other similar legislation, and it should not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2646, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on these matters be included in your committee report.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
September 18, 2001.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: As you are aware, on July 27, the Committee on Agriculture favorably reported H.R. 2646, the Farm Security Act of 2001. As ordered reported, H.R. 2646 contains matters within the jurisdiction of your committee.

In the interest of expediting consideration of this matter by the House, I respectfully

request that you forego seeking a referral of this bill. I understand that such an action does not waive your committee's jurisdiction, and I will support your inclusion as additional conferees in any eventual House-Senate Conference on this bill, should you seek it.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. I will insert a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2646 on the Floor.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my Colleagues to a new book written by a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt" vividly conveys the fear gripped a young girl as her family home was posted for sheriff's sale.

This story about life during the Great Depression truly depicts what America is all about, and should be a must-read for all Americans. Author C. Coco DeYoung based the award-winning novel on her family's experience, with vivid details brought to her through her family's tradition of storytelling.

Though written as a children's book by a former educator, the short novel is equally compelling to adult readers. Published by Delacorte Press, the book won the Sixth Annual Marguerite de Angeli Prize for historical fiction and the 2000–2001 Keystone to Reading Book Award. Selected by Booklist as a Top 10 First Novel of 1999, and a Teachers' Choices 2000 by the International Reading Association, this book has also been recognized as a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People by the Children's Book Council and the National Council of Social Studies. To date, it has been nominated for state book awards in seven states.

The story is based on real events involving De Young's grandfather, and her father whose childhood is depicted in the character role of Charlie Bandini in the book. As a six-year-old boy, Charlie injures his leg, the bone becomes infected and doctors want to amputate. Charlie's father (De Young's grandfather in real life) uses everything the family owned to borrow \$5,000 to bring in a doctor from Massachusetts to save the leg. But as the Great Depression set in deeper, he cannot keep up with the payments through his business as a shoemaker in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "Papa" Bandini, an Italian immigrant, spoke five languages doing business with the various immigrant groups that had settled in the mill town. Despite their difficulties, he sometimes feeds hobos who come to the house for food, and when customers had no money, he would accept produce from their gardens as payment for fixing shoes.

Having witnessed the fate of neighbors whose homes had been posted for Sheriff Sale, the sense of security of 11-year-old Margo Bandini crumbles when she comes home to discover that her own family home had been posted by the Sheriff.

As the family struggles and grapples with their fears, desperate to save the family from despair, Margo writes a letter to the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Distributor Random House, in its Online Teachers Guide available free at www.randomhouse.com, says the book is an excellent tool not only for teaching about the history of the Great Depression, but also for teaching about brotherhood, family, pride, fear and courage.

The real-life Coco family became one of the first in Johnstown to receive a loan through the Home Owners Loan Corp., a New Deal relief project created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. And De Young's father, the book-character "Charlie," remarkably is now in his 77th year of working in his shoe business—he's been at it since the age of six.

A "Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt" creates a vivid sense of time and place during the Great Depression and tells a heart-warming story of one family's struggles and courageous triumph through dark times. I recommend it to anyone.

A TRIBUTE TO WAR DOGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on November 11th, the citizens of our country will celebrate Veteran's Day. We use this day to acknowledge our veteran's contributions to our national security and to recognize the sacrifices given by the members of our military.

But let us not forget about the courageous efforts of the war dog.

Over twelve thousand dogs served in World War 11, fifteen hundred in the Korean War, and more than four thousand in Vietnam. These brave dogs have served as sentries, scouts, messengers, trackers, and mine-sniffers.

The Humane Society of Greater Miami honors war dogs by flying an American flag over the grave of Fella, a war dog who is buried in their Oak Lawn Pet Cemetery. Fella served in the Pacific during World War 11 and was credited with saving many lives. This Veteran's Day, the Humane Society of Greater Miami-Dade will honor America's war dogs at Fella's memorial. Miami's K-9 officers and their partners will also be honored at this event.

Please join me in honoring all who served in the U.S. Military this Veteran's Day, including our faithful war dogs who dedicated their lives to the duty of protecting our soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay for tonight's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both H. Con. Res. 244, authorizing the printing of the Our American Flag publication, and H. Res. 250, urging the Secretary of Energy to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 125th Anniversary of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

One hundred twenty-five years ago, a group of Lutheran pastors, including Dr. William A. Passavant, selected a section of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, now known as Observatory Hill on Pittsburgh's Northside, for a new Lutheran congregation. A half-acre of land was purchased for the construction of the congregation's first building. It occupied the space where the Incarnation Academy stands today.

Seventeen people signed the charter for Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on the first Sunday in October 1876. The Reverend G.H. Gerberding became the first pastor of this congregation in 1876.

In 1914, the cornerstone of the present English Gothic stone building located at 3936 Perrysville Avenue was laid. Several members of the congregation mortgaged their homes to provide the capital for the construction. In 1925, the congregation purchased the nearby Graham Building and enclosed the 12-foot space between the apartment building and the church to provide offices, restrooms, and hallway passage.

Before the Depression, Mt. Zion sponsored both a Foreign Mission Pastor and a Home Mission Pastor. After World War II, the congregation was able to resume its commitment to both missionary fronts.

During World War II, Mt. Zion was the first church in Pittsburgh to dedicate a Service Banner in honor of its 312 men and women who served in the military.

Over the years the congregation has been supportive of Camp Lutherlyn, the Passavant Health Center, Thiel College, and Gettysburg Seminary. In addition, Mt. Zion has hosted YMCA meetings. It has hosted religious classes for students from Perry High School. And it has sponsored a strong Boy Scout troop for 76 years.

Through these 125 years, fifteen pastors have served Mt. Zion. The longest pastorate was that of The Reverend John B. Knisley, D.D., who served the congregation from 1934 to 1959. The congregation has given twelve sons to the ordained ministry, one daughter to the diaconal ministry, and one daughter to commissioned missionary service.

Today, Mt. Zion houses Allegheny Community Services (a subsidiary of Glade Run Lutheran Services), which provides counseling services to youth and family, and the congregation seeks to have more of its building space used by social ministry agencies serving the community.

Mt. Zion began a year-long 125th anniversary celebration in September. Bishop Donald J. McCoid of the Evangelical Lutheran Church's Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod will be preaching at the Reunion Celebration on October 14, 2001. In preparation for this event, the children of the congregation are making a paper chain with approximately 1,800 links. The names of those baptized over the past 125 years are printed on the chain, with one name per link.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the congregation of Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on this happy occasion and wish this community all of the best in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN LOIS BELL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Vivian Lois Bell who served the people of her community in many ways.

From 1967 through 1980, in her position first as deputy clerk and then clerk of Royal Oak Township, Ms. Bell served the people of Royal Oak Township with caring, devotion, and excellence in the many areas under her supervision.

Following her retirement as clerk, Ms. Bell devoted several years providing care for her oldest grandchild before she re-entered the workforce as a secretary for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan. She retired in 1996 and spent her remaining years caring for her grown family of grandchildren.

Ms. Bell will long be remembered for her smile, her encouragement, and her wisdom in all her endeavors. She was dear friend to many and she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to the family and friends of Vivian Lois Bell who passed away September 8, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 2001, my plane to Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C. was delayed because of inclement weather. As a result, I missed two votes on the House floor.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 349 to pass H.R. 717, a bill to support additional Federal research, coordination, information, and education on Duchenne and other forms of muscular dystrophy.

In addition, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 350 to pass H.J. Res. 65, a bill to provide continuing appropriations at current levels through October 16 for all Federal departments and programs covered by the fiscal 2002 spending bills not yet enacted.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JIM ORTIZ

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of Pastor Appreciation Day, I rise to honor Pastor Jim Ortiz, senior pastor at "My Friend's House" an Assembly of God congregation in Whittier, CA. Having served his congregation for 29 years, Pastor Jim dedi-

cated himself to improving the lives of people throughout the 34th Congressional District of California. It is because of his commitment and exemplary service to his congregation and to the community that I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to this extraordinary man.

Born to Puerto Rican parents and a native of New York City, Pastor Jim moved to California with his family and attended Hueneme High School in Oxnard. In 1973, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies and Sociology from Vanguard University (the former Southern California College) and completed graduate studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the C.P. Haggard School of theology at Azusa Pacific University.

Pastor Jim is a model constituent full of kindness, sincerity and dedicated service. His congregation, "My Friend's House" was founded in 1971, with the help of his wife Yollie. Their mission is to preach the gospel in a way that it improves people's lives and positively impacts the surrounding community. Under Jim and Yollie's guidance, "My Friend's House" has grown to an average weekly attendance of more than 400 people including a large number of young Latino families. Their success helped to spawn three sister congregations in various parts of California. Pastor Jim, whose unique style of communication, is both creative and appealing, allows him to capture listener's attention. His uplifting message is born out of his deep conviction that the gospel of Jesus Christ can transform lives and change society for the better. His exemplary lifestyle inspires others to live a life of charity, humility and compassion.

Pastor Jim's countless contributions to the community have touched the lives of many. He established Metro Impact, Inc., a community development corporation consisting of eight ministries dealing with evangelical propagation, economic development, social service and community outreach. Among the various services that Metro Impact offers are, an after school drop-in center for youth, a summer day camp for children, a free computer learning facility and a family enrichment center. Metro Impact also has programs that provide food, recreation and housing for low-income families.

At 52 years of age, Pastor Jim is the longest tenured Pastor in the Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God and also happens to be the youngest. He has devoted most of his life to serving the community and improving the lives of people and families from all over Southern California's 34th Congressional District. Please join me in honoring Pastor Jim Ortiz for all of his hard work and dedication to his family, congregation and community. He is an example of the best in all of us.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEATH OF
MS. ANNA MARIA ARIAS

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the death of a Latina leader and a remarkable person.