

IN HONOR OF THE UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH MOVEMENT OF NEW YORK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a vital community organization that has affected real change in its short history.

On May 10, 1992, Reverend Zachary G. Jones held its first worship service in the Charles Angel room of the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Center. On that historic Sunday afternoon, Reverend Jones ministered to approximately 15 people. The group heard what continues to be the core message of the church to this day, "God is Love and Love is for everyone" and "Let nothing or no one separate you from the Love of God". During that time many people with alternative lifestyles felt that they were turned away from their traditional houses of worship because of their orientation and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Since that first service, now Bishop Zachary G. Jones has built a congregation of more than 600 members and over 200,000 people of faith from New York City and around the world have attended his services. In addition, today, Unity Fellowship Church Movement of New York has a permanent location at 230 Classon Avenue in Brooklyn. Clearly, this church has filled a void.

Unity Fellowship Church Movement of New York's mission states that it is a social justice ministry that teaches freedom on all levels of racial, sexual, religious and social-economic oppression. They carry out their mission through a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of the community and their parishioners, such as, their hunger program which has fed over 5,000 homeless individuals and families; their creation of the "Unity in Community Week" to publicly address homophobia, health education, racism, and violence based on sexual orientation; "Unity fellowship breaking ground" an organization dedicated to providing social services to support gay and lesbian youth in Brooklyn. This is the first organization of color in New York dedicated to the needs of the Lesbian and Gay community on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Zachary G. Jones fulfills his mission every day as he reaches out to people outside of the regular church setting who share a commitment to God but have lacked the opportunity to practice their faith freely because of their sexual orientation. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this unique and vital organization on its 10th Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS HAAS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of the House the bravery of Chris Haas, a sixth grader who is captain of the Safety Patrol at North Hartsville Elementary School in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Last December, Chris saved a fellow student from serious injury. Because he was on

the alert, he noticed a girl's book bag and shirt caught in a car's rear tire, and saw that she was being pulled under the car before the driver knew what was happening. Chris jumped in front of the moving car and stopped it. His bravery saved the young girl from serious harm.

Students like Chris Haas report for duty on Safety Patrol every school day at North Hartsville Elementary School. Dressed in orange safety hats and belts and silver badges, they can be found helping students get safely across the street, and in and out of cars.

I want to salute Chris Haas for his courage and recognize all the other members of the Safety Patrol for helping make North Hartsville Elementary School a safe place to learn.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I represent the great City of Cleveland Ohio, which is home to the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame and also music legends such as the singing group the O'Jays.

The O'Jays had legendary hits in the 1970s like "Climbing the Stairway to Heaven," "Back Stabbers," and "For the Love of Money".

Just like in the 1970s when these songs of conscience were the rallying cry for so many around the country, they still have relevance today when you consider how we in Congress have yet to pass a true and comprehensive prescription drug benefit for our greatest treasure—Senior Citizens.

I hope people remember the titles of these songs when trying to figure out why we in Congress have yet to pass what we promised you sometime ago—Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

Yes, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have touted a new Medicare reform package that is suppose to address the ills of those Americans who are forced to decide between eating or taking their medicine—Senior Citizens.

I don't know a song title that would address this concern but I believe one of the three songs, I mentioned is appropriate and believe if you listen very closely to the tone my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are humming it just might be one of these songs—like "Back Stabbers" or "Climbing the Stairway to Heaven".

My personal favorite is "For the Love of Money" which was one of the O'Jays greatest hits. In one stanza in the song, the lead singer states, "For the love of money, a person would steal from his own mother."

This is what is happening in many cases because I know many of my colleagues are not listening to their conscience but rather House Leadership—Leadership which does not want to see a true comprehensive prescription drug benefit this Congress but would rather wait.

Waiting is an indication that many more people will continue to suffer because of inaction on our part.

I was raised to believe that a broken promise is equivalent to stealing.

But House leadership wants us to keep dancing. I pose the question to all—What are we dancing to?

It seems that my colleagues once again have dropped a quarter in their rhetorical jukebox that plays music that they want us to dance to.

But this time, I hope all of America listens closely to the beat and is not fooled by the words of the song or its rhetoric. Because if you listen closely you will hear:

LOWER THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS NOW

Translation. Take credit for minimal discounts that are already available.

GUARANTEE ALL SENIOR CITIZENS PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Translation. Promise seniors an inadequate drug benefit offered by private insurance companies.

IMPROVE MEDICARE WITH MORE CHOICES AND MORE SAVINGS

Translation: Shift costs to seniors and limit choice of providers.

STRENGTHEN MEDICARE FOR THE FUTURE

Translation: Undermine Medicare by forcing seniors into private insurance and HMOs for drug coverage.

Stop the dancing! Stop the music!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 130, I was unavoidably detained with other matters. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

OUR SERVICEWOMEN FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM DESERVE FREEDOM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the House denied itself the opportunity to address a discriminatory practice affecting the women serving in our military. An amendment which would have required equal treatment of servicewomen overseas was prevented from coming to the floor. I consider this a great loss to all those who serve in our military and all Members of Congress who wished to express their conviction that our military can and must treat its members fairly.

The military currently requires or strongly encourages servicewomen to wear abayas and headscarves, complete coverings of their bodies, while off-base in Saudi Arabia. The military makes no such recommendations to servicemen to dramatically alter their appearance. The government of Saudi Arabia does not require non-Muslim women to wear abayas, and the U.S. State Department does not encourage its female embassy employees nor tourists to wear abayas.

I believe it is important to remember that the women who have served in our military have not always responded to a call. For many, they proudly volunteered long before a call was ever sounded.

During the American Revolution, wives followed their husbands into war, mothers followed their sons. They brought water and supplies, they tended the wounds of those who