

women in the ministry were rare, Bishop Reems would not be denied and continues to follow her calling.

With little more than faith and a vision, the Center of Hope Community Church was founded in 1968 with four members. Today its membership exceeds 1500. Bishop Reems has a uniquely charismatic and humorous preaching style. Her sermons speak to people's hearts and are rich with poetic commentary, startling insights, and contemporary applications of the Bible's message. Her devotion is evidenced through a practice of intercessory prayer and fasting that has made her dear to the congregation of Center of Hope. In the audience, passionate praise, worship, and spontaneous dancing always punctuate her words.

The hallmark of Bishop Reems' ministry is her tireless compassion for people in need. Her non-judgmental attitude is one of the keys to her success in helping recovering drug addicts, prostitutes, prisoners, ex-prisoners, the homeless and others. Bishop Reems' drive is evident in her successful efforts to open a 56-unit senior housing complex, a 17-unit transitional housing program for homeless single women with children, and a 150-unit affordable housing complex. Additionally, she has founded a number of community-based services and is chairman of the boards of Hope Housing and Hope Development Corporations.

In 1988, Bishop Reems organized the E.C. Reems Women's International Ministries. Under her direction and leadership, its charter is to encourage and energize women to be active partners in the gospel and to work in their local churches. Each year the participation continues to exceed the previous year. E.C. Reems Women's International Ministries also organizes and hosts regional conferences around the USA.

She wrote two books, "Counting Everything as Joy!" and "Through the Storm." In addition to her ministerial duties, she is the loving mother of two sons, Brondon and Brian. Her husband Paul Reems passed away recently after 41 years of devoted marriage.

Finally as I honor Dr. Reems today, I want to thank her on behalf of the entire 9th Congressional District for being a great religious and community leader. Bishop Reems has shared her wisdom and provided me tremendous support. Most of all, I thank her for her friendship and prayers.

I take great pride in joining her friends, family, and members of the congregation to salute the extraordinary Bishop Ernestine Cleveland Reems.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF
CALCUTTA

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to one of the 20th century's greatest public servants, the Honorable Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whose birthday was August, 27 and who will be beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome on October 19, 2003. Her life was a steadfast devotion to providing needed assistance to the most destitute of her fellow neighbors.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Albania, August 26, 1910. She decided to become a Roman Catholic Sister at the tender age of 18. She left home to join a community of Irish nuns in Calcutta. Here she took the name 'Sister Teresa,' after Saint Teresa of Lisieux, the patroness of missionaries. She spent the following 17 years teaching and being principal of 500 students at St. Mary's High School.

In 1946, she fell ill with suspected tuberculosis and was sent to the town of Darjeeling to recover.

"It was in the train I heard the call to give up all and follow him to the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor," she recalled. Pope Pius XII would later grant her permission to leave her order. She arrived in the slums of Calcutta to start a school for children. It was there that she was first addressed as Mother Teresa.

Her impact was mostly felt in her adopted home, Calcutta. Over time, the work of her order, the Missionaries of Charity would spawn a global network of homes for the poor reaching from Calcutta to New York, including one of the first homes of AIDS victims. Missionaries of Charity continues its service to this day in locales across the United States and throughout the world. By 1996, she was operating 517 missions in more than 100 countries.

Mother Teresa was a paradigm of humility. When Pope Paul VI gave her a white Lincoln Continental, she auctioned the car, using the money to establish a leper colony in West Bengal. Despite her humble nature, even she was not without critics for holding steadfast positions against abortion, divorce and war.

Mother Teresa was undeterred by criticism stating, "No matter who says what, you should accept it with a smile and do your own work."

After an increasing frequency of heart problems, she passed away on Sept. 5, 1997.

When asked how she managed to do all she did, Mother Teresa responded, "What matters is why you do it. If you do it out of duty or obligation, it will deplete you; but if you do it out of love, it will not; it will energize you."

These words should be taken to heart by all public servants, in the House of Representatives and beyond.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to a landmark institution from my district. The First United Methodist Church of Pueblo, Colorado has served its parishioners and our community for one hundred forty years. By working to promote a spirit of unity and co-operation, the church has shaped the Pueblo community for the better. For its many years of service to the people of Pueblo, I am honored to pay tribute to the First United Methodist Church here today.

Founded in 1863, the First United Methodist Church has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of its parishioners and the community

at large. Its work includes everything from promoting its missionary efforts to reaching out to less fortunate members of the community. First United Methodist is also active in the Pueblo Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program to house homeless families, and the Downtown Cooperative Care Center, a program to provide food, clothing, and assistance to the less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, First United Methodist Church's efforts to meet the needs of the community and foster a spirit of generosity are an inspiration to us all. The church is the kind of institution that our community turns to for guidance and encouragement in their daily lives, and I am honored to join with my colleagues today in thanking the people of the First United Methodist Church for their tireless work.

TRIBUTE TO ZONIA SANDOVAL
WALDON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements and invaluable contributions of Zonia Sandoval Waldon over the last 30 plus years in Santa Clara County. Her dedication to families, adults and children has been laudable.

Born and raised in El Salvador, Zonia Waldon came to the United States at age eight and went to school in San Francisco and Daly City. She is a proud mother of twin sons and has resided in Santa Clara County most of her adult life.

Ms. Waldon began her career with the Social Services Agency in 1972 starting out as an eligibility worker—what was then referred to as the "blind unit." The unit was unique in that it combined the efforts of all staff members including eligibility, social workers and supervisors in resolving issues.

Learning to work well with people, both clients and staff, Ms. Waldon was given increasingly more responsible positions such as: Supervisor for General Assistance, Supervisor for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Supervisor for the Medi-Cal Unit at Valley Medical Center. Zonia's ability to "get the job done" led to her next assignment as District Office Manager of the East Valley Office of Social Services. Her role in management of facilities led to other managerial roles such as branching into labor management issues. She served as Steward, State Delegate, and Negotiator for the Union Local 535, SEIU. Zonia created the first Supervisory Chapter of Union Local 535. She was a co-founder and served as the first President of the Supervisory Chapter.

Other projects Zonia was involved with included a Family Preservation Pilot Project awarded by the State Department of Social Services. Highlights of accomplishments included: parent education, child respite care, counseling, development of Family Resource Centers, community-based child welfare services and community collaboratives. She also helped to initiate the Youth Leadership Gang Prevention Program funded by the State and the City of San Jose Mayor's Gang Task Force. This program currently serves youth