

in fact lengthened, even though their preference status is improved.

My bill will end this unwitting penalty of citizenship and allow the approved petition, originally filed by a legal permanent resident, to keep that given priority date or place in line should a reclassification of a sponsor occur. This will ensure that a family member will not have to wait for a longer period just because his or her petitioner became a U.S. citizen.

We should not continue to penalize both those who we welcome to the responsibility of citizenship and their families. I urge the bill's passage.

HONORING REV. DR. AND MRS.
F.O. HOCKENHULL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan to honor their

Pastor the Rev. Dr. F.O. Hockenhull and First Lady Marion J. Hockenhull for 35 years of dedicated service to the Church community. On Friday, March 26, 2004 the congregation of First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church will gather to honor their Pastor and First Lady during a special dinner to be held at the Holiday Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

1 Cor. 4:1–2 reads: “Let a man consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have exhibited the character of true Christians. They have dedicated their lives to spreading the word of God to all of mankind. They are leaders who lead by example. They set high standards for themselves and the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Their serious stance on education and the teaching of Christ have helped their church to blossom into one of the most influential church families in the city of Flint. Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have worked as a team for 35 years of build a strong ministry at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Hockenhull beyond his duties as Pastor is the

President of the Great Lakes Baptist District Leadership and Educational Congress-Flint, Michigan, Associate Director General, National Baptist Congress of Education, and Co-Chair of the Stewardship Commission, National Baptist Convention, USA, to name a few. Proverbs 31:29 reads: “Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.” Mrs. Hockenhull is a virtuous wife, mother, and child of God. Her commitment to spreading the gospel of Christ is unwavering. She is an impressive role model for young women. Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull have made sufficient contributions to both the City of Flint and the State of Michigan. The First Trinity Missionary Baptist church family thanks their Pastor and First Lady and so do the citizens of the communities they have inspired. I pray that God will continue to bestow his blessings upon Rev. and Mrs. Hockenhull and the First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church as they continue their march onward as Christian soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring two of my dearest friends, Rev. and Mrs. F.O. Hockenhull for 35 years of commendable service to community.