

National "Future of the Church" Conference, Washington, D.C.

National Black Clergy and Black Religious Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Future of the Church Conference—Washington, D.C.

Saint Meinrad Seminary.

Pacific Coast Religion Congress—Keynote Address, Los Angeles, California.

Institute for Black Catholic Studies—Xavier University; New Orleans, Louisiana.

Black Catholic Congress—Keynote Address, Atlanta, Georgia.

Inner-City Teacher's Conference, Oakland, California.

Black History Month Celebration, Museum of Natural History, New York, New York.

Symposium on Black Performance, Columbia University, New York, New York.

North American Conference on Incultration in the Church, Rome, Italy.

Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois—City-Wide Black Catholic Revival.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration—St. Francis, New York, New York.

Black History Month Celebration—San Francisco, California.

Peace and Justice Center Lecture Series—Cincinnati, Ohio.

New York Archdiocesan Institute for Elementary and Secondary Teachers, New York, New York.

Major Superiors of Religious Men Conference, San Antonio, Texas.

Archdiocesan Afro-American Theology Conference, Los Angeles, California.

"100 Years of Catholic Social Thought"; International Conference, San Francisco, California.

National Association of Anglican Women, Washington, D.C.

National Black Theatre Conference, Winston Salem, North Carolina.

International Black Women's Conference, New Jersey.

Inter-faith Celebration of Martin L. King, Jr. Day, Angelican Cathedral, Garden City, New York.

National Catholic Educational Conference, St. Louis, Missouri.

AEEE National Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Inter Faith Ecumenical Service to Initiate: Stop the Violence Week, Temple Emmanuel, New York, New York.

Conference on BLACKS IN SILENT FILMS—Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

The International Chapter Convocation of the FMM Congregation—Boston, Massachusetts—December 1996.

National Black Catholic Congress, Covington, KY. Keynote, 1999.

National Black Theatre Conference, Winston Salem, N.C., 2001.

International Silent Film Festival: Le Giornate Del Cinema Muto, Sacile, Italy, Guest and Speaker for the Festival.

National Black Catholic Congress, Chicago, Illinois, 2002.

Keynote Speaker for the 100th Anniversary Celebration for the oldest Black Catholic Church in Indianapolis, IN—Holy Angels Parish.

Scholarship Fund Raiser for the University of Michigan Theatre Department, Ann Arbor, MI.

Black History Month speaker for St. Paul of the Ship Wrecked—San Francisco, CA.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANK WEDDIG

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Frank

Weddig and thank him for his dedication and service to the Colorado General Assembly as a member of both the State Senate and House of Representatives. Frank has brought an outstanding level of energy and integrity to the Colorado General Assembly throughout his years of public service, and as he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a great legacy of commitment to the people of Colorado.

Representing the people of Arapahoe County in District 36, Frank was elected in 2000 based on his fair and balanced approach to government and his previous political experience. In 1977, he was appointed to the Aurora Parks and Recreation Board; in 1979, he was named to the Aurora Planning and Zoning Commission; and from 1981 to 1994 served on the Aurora City Council. In 1994, he received an appointment to the State Senate and was subsequently reelected in 1996, before running for the State House of Representatives in 2000. During his tenure in the General Assembly Frank has worked hard to improve education and promote fiscal responsibility. During his last term, he sat on the Local Government Committee and the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this nation to State Representative Frank Weddig for his selfless efforts of public service during his tenure in the Colorado General Assembly. The level of integrity and honesty he has displayed while serving his district and the people of Colorado has earned the respect and admiration of his peers. I would like to extend my congratulations to Frank on his retirement and wish him and his wife Pat all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO COL. CELIA Y. BRAMBLE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Col. Celia Y. Bramble in recognition of her dedication to the work of Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn.

Celia Y. Bramble is currently an Associate Executive Director for Training and Organizational Development at Kings County Hospital Center. She began her career at Kings County Hospital in 1967 after migrating from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She moved up the ranks from Staff Nurse and Head Nurse to administrative positions through academic achievement, clinical competence and dedication.

In her current role, Celia has overall responsibility for planning, coordinating and developing educational programs for professional and support staff within the Central Brooklyn Family Health Network. This includes overseeing over 40 training initiatives managed by Community Health Partnership funds. One of her greatest rewards is to see support staff, who she has coached and mentored, become practical and registered nurses. One of her major achievements is the 100 percent success rate that she has had in preparing students to take the New York State Board for Nursing examination.

Ms. Bramble is also responsible for coordinating clinical experience for students in 14 programs of nursing. She serves on the advisory board of 7 of these programs. In her role as board member, she provides guidance to faculty to include the need for curriculum changes to support current trends in nursing, so that new graduates can successfully make the transition from student to practitioner. Some of her recommendations resulted in programs of nursing adding Cultural Diversity, Pain Management and Introduction to Nursing Management to the curriculum.

Ms. Bramble received her undergraduate degree from CW Post College, Long Island University; a Master of Arts in Teaching in Nursing and a Masters in Education from Columbia University. She also holds a Certification in Nursing Education and Staff Development from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Among her professional awards are the New York State Nurses Association Nursing Education Award and the Health and Hospitals Corporation Multicultural Award for developing programs to promote tolerance for a culturally diverse workforce.

Ms. Bramble's accomplishments extend far beyond her professional affiliations. In 1981, she was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve. Over the years, her devotion to duty, clinical skills and leadership qualities elevated her to the rank of Colonel. Her distinguished military career included assignments in various military hospitals in peacetime and wartime. Her last assignment was Commander of the 344th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Hamilton, New York, until she retired as a Colonel in April 2003. Her military honors include: The Legion of Merit award, the Army Commendation Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, numerous Certificates of Achievement and Letters of Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, Col. Celia Bramble has dedicated her life to providing quality healthcare to both civilians and military personnel. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 11, 2004, during rollcall vote Nos. 153, 154 and 155 I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote Nos. 153, 154 and 155.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH YANKOSKI—A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, CIVIC AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good

friend, Joseph Yankoski, a generous and dedicated community leader who will be greatly missed in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Joe Yankoski, I want to take a few moments to remember his work and the difference he made in the community he served so faithfully.

For many years, Joe served as executive director of employment and training for Delaware County. As Joe led the agency through a time of transition and expansion, he was known for his straightforwardness and positive outlook in seeking solutions to assure that residents receive the training they need to find employment or to advance their careers. His inspirational leadership had a profound effect on helping people to better their lives. Even after his retirement, Joe continued to assist others as a consultant to the Delaware County Workforce. His life was centered around service to others.

Adding to his already extraordinary list of accomplishments in the community, Joe plunged himself into other areas of community service and involvement. He was a member of the American Legion Post 227, the advisory council for the County Office of Services for the Aging, an officer with the American Association of Retired Persons, a member of the Delaware County Retirees, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Navy League.

The example of Joe Yankoski's citizenship and dedication to duty will be his enduring legacy. Representative of the sacrifices of this great country is the proud and gallant record of his service in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He served on the USS *North Carolina*, USS *Catocin* and the USS *Des Moines*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering, a dedicated community leader and friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Joe's wife of 52 years, Nancy and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he affected deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed the vote on Agreeing to the Amendment to the Stark of California Substitute Amendment to H.R. 4279, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements (No. 161). I intended to vote "no."

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, I was unable to vote on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 637, providing for the

consideration of H.R. 4275 (rollcall 156); and on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 638, providing for the consideration of H.R. 4279, H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 (rollcall 157). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both measures.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY SPENCE

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Nancy Spence and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the State of Colorado as a member of the Colorado General Assembly. As a three-term member of the State House of Representatives, she will be remembered as a legislator with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in the community. Let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her tenure in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Representing the people of Arapahoe County in District 39, Nancy was first elected in 1998 after serving many years on the Cherry Creek School Board of Education. Nancy has used this background effectively in the State House, championing public education reform as the Chair on the Education Committee. She also has worked hard for a fiscally responsible government to reduce taxes for small business and the people of Colorado, and served on the Transportation and Energy Committee. Nancy's excellent legislative record has garnered her numerous awards, including the 2003 Student Voice Award by the Colorado Student Association for Higher Education, the 2002 and 2003 Guardian of Small Business award by the National Federation of Independent Business, and the 2002 President's Award from the University of Colorado School of Dentistry.

Nancy's efforts to better her community include extensive involvement with civic organizations. She is a lifetime member of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society; member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, member of the WICHE Legislative Committee, and is a past member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that State Representative Nancy Spence is a person who has demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication and commitment to her life long pursuit of public service. It is her incredible devotion along with her passion for contributing towards the betterment of her community and the State of Colorado that I wish to bring before this body of Congress and this nation. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Nancy here today, and wish her and her husband Peter all the best in their future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO EVA COOPER

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Eva Cooper in recognition of her nursing services to the Brooklyn community.

Eva Cooper has worked at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital and Interfaith Medical Center for over 37 years. Eva is currently the Nurse Manager of four Ambulatory Care sites and the PCAP (Prenatal Care Assistance Program) Coordinator for the Medical Center. She began her career in health care as a Licensed Practical Nurse on a busy 40-bed surgical unit. Eva would always make every effort to give the highest level of patient care. On several occasions, when semi-private rooms were available some patients preferred to remain on the unit, because they were so pleased with the care they were given.

Upon receiving her diploma from the Brooklyn Jewish School of Nursing, Eva began working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit as a Staff Nurse. During her tenure on the unit she was promoted to Assistant Head Nurse in 1988 and to Manager in 1992. Eva was the Chairperson of the Baby Alumni Celebration for 3 years, which focused on the accomplishments of the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) graduates. When the St. Johns Episcopal Hospital and Brooklyn Jewish Hospital merged in 1983, Eva organized the smooth transition of the NICU.

In 1995, Eva was offered an opportunity to become the Nurse Manager of Ambulatory Care Services of the hospital-based Pediatric and OB/GYN Clinic and two community-based clinic sites. Eva regularly participates in community health fairs, stressing the importance of regular visits to the doctor, balanced nutrition and regular exercise. She spearheads the Reach Out and Read Program at Interfaith Medical Center. The Reach Out and Read Program is a national literacy program that advocates the distribution of books to all children, ages 6 months to 5 years, at each well-child visit. She organizes many events including Easter basket celebrations, Halloween parties and Christmas parties.

As the PCAP Coordinator, Eva advocates for the prenatal patients of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. The program provides insurance coverage for women, who are uninsured or underinsured, during their pregnancy and post-partum visits. Eva also organizes the Ambulatory Care Services quarterly Prenatal Open House Tours, which allows patients to view the Maternal Child Unit and introduces the staff responsible for patient care.

Eva has been recognized for her leadership abilities and unselfish commitment to patient care on numerous occasions: Nurse of the Year—1988, IMC Women's Auxiliary Recognition Award—1998, and Manager of the Year—2002. She is a member of several community organizations including Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Caribbean Women's Association and the Fulton Street Merchant's Association.

Eva earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Medgar Evers College, and a Masters Degree in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan University. Eva currently attends Self-Realization Fellowship Church in New York.