

His love for God and humanity impacted the lives of many from Washington, DC, to the West Coast and Alaska as he led his membership in feeding and clothing those in need, and assisting in the employment of thousands.

During the Vietnam War, church members even received testimony from soldiers stationed abroad whose loved ones has sent them tapes of Dr. Anderson's famous Gospel Call Hour radio broadcast. They expressed gratitude for the encouragement they gotten from those broadcasts, during which Dr. Anderson and the members of the Saint John Missionary Baptist Church would pray for anyone requesting prayer, regardless of race, ethnicity or creed.

On September 1, 2000, Dr. Anderson was called home after his many years of service and ministry. Today Saint John Missionary Baptist Church continues this proud tradition of under the spirited and inspired leadership of Reverend Gregory B. Payton.

Saint John Missionary Baptist Church continues to play a leading role in initiating and expanding a wide range of charitable and community-building activities. In addition to ministering and counseling countless members of the congregation, the church regularly hosts a variety of community gospel events and seeks to promote the development and education of our young people.

On July 7, 2007, Saint John Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the church for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide invaluable social and charitable services to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its 60 years of ministry, the Saint John Missionary Baptist Church has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our shared goal of world peace.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
PEACE COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA
AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
JEHAN PERERA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka and to a man who, were he not a brave and determined patriot, might be my constituent. Jehan Perera came to Massachusetts as a student and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1982. After winning a traveling fellowship, he returned and earned a J.D. from the Harvard Law School in 1987. He could have chosen to remain in the United States, practice law, and become an exemplary citizen here. Instead, he chose to work for peace in his native country. The son of a distinguished Sinhalese family, he learned Tamil and devoted himself to national reconciliation. He serves as the Executive Director of the National Peace Council and from that forum he has, for almost two decades, urged moderation and restraint, mutual respect and understanding. Jehan Perera is a

fearless but thoughtful and nuanced critic of intransigence from any quarter. He has never ceased to call for magnanimous policies that respect both democratic decision-making and minority rights, and, of course, individual human rights. He has been active worldwide in encouraging representatives of civil society to work to resolve communal tensions. He rejoiced in a ceasefire negotiated in 2002 between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). I share his profound sorrow that the hopes it inspired have not been fully realized.

In April of this year, Jehan Perera was honored in a ceremony at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in New Delhi addressed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Dr. Perera had been chosen by the Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India to receive its 2006 National Award for Peace, Tolerance & Harmony. A few days later, as friends gathered in Colombo to congratulate him, Jehan Perera received a death threat, the first addressed to him personally.

I honor and admire his fortitude. Active citizenship always demands some sacrifice, loss of privacy and leisure; hours and days spent in negotiations; the willingness, on occasion, to differ with our friends or to make common cause with old adversaries. In some places and at some times, politics, even the politics of peace and reconciliation, demands more than that. It calls for unflinching courage in the face of those who would threaten murder to kill even the hope of peace. I call upon all peace loving men and women to keep Jehan Perera in their thoughts and in their prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 245, on H. Res. 179, Expressing Support for a National Foster Parents Day, I was attending a memorial service for students and faculty of the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania affected by the Virginia Tech shootings. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE 400TH
ANNIVERSARY OF JAMESTOWN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, the 105 settlers who landed at Jamestown in the spring of 1607 had little idea of the hardships they would soon face in the New World—life in the wilderness was racked by disease and famine. Nor was this band particularly equipped for life under such unforgiving conditions. Captain John Smith dubbed half of them "gentlemen."

But with just the right blend of faith, ingenuity and luck, the settlers of Jamestown survived, planting the seeds for the American Democratic experiment. Indeed, the inspiration for the current U.S. Congress comes from July 1619, when the New World's first representa-

tive body convened in the Jamestown church. There, they established "one equal and uniform government" over all Virginia. It brings me great honor today to recognize the sacrifices of these first brave Virginian settlers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 299 on May 3, 2007, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 30, 2007, Vietnamese Americans across the nation observed the 32nd anniversary of the fall of Saigon to North Vietnam, marking the end of the Vietnam war. There are now more than 1.12 million Vietnamese Americans living in the United States. They overcame many hardships to rebuild their lives, created thriving communities, contributed to the diversity and well-being of our country and worked towards their American dreams.

They have not forgotten that their former compatriots, family members, and friends in Vietnam are still being denied the basic freedoms that America has fought so hard for. Vietnamese Americans of different generations are actively working with their counterparts in Vietnam to create a more open, democratic society that is free of oppression and religious persecution.

The United States, in good faith, granted Vietnam permanent normal trade relations with the assurances that Vietnam was and will continue to improve its human rights records. Vietnam expressed its desire to create stronger, bilateral relations with the United States. However, despite these assurances, Vietnam has significantly increased the level of its detention, harassment, and oppression of political activists in the past several months since its accession into the World Trade Organization. They have blatantly disregarded their own claims that they will be actively engaged in promoting and protecting human rights with the United Nations Human Rights Council.

On May 2, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 243, calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Nguyen Van Ly, Nguyen Van Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. The resolution further urges the Government of Vietnam to comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedom

and human rights and adhere to the rule of law.

In voting in favor of House Resolution 243, my thoughts were with Father Nguyen Van Ly, a well-known peaceful political dissident, who was shown in an alarming video being physically silenced by Vietnamese guards at his anti-propaganda trial. The literal image of free speech being smothered has been broadcasted to the world and the United States cannot stand quietly by. The list of those dissidents being harassed, threatened, and detained continues to grow as Vietnam attempts to quiet political dissidents prior to their general elections this May.

I urge the Department of State to adopt the re-designation of Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for its continued oppression of religious freedom, as recommended by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. It is my hope that the Vietnamese government will consider how their actions are viewed by the world, and that they immediately cease their detention and harassment of peaceful, democratic activists.

CONGRATULATING MORGAN
MCDONALD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Morgan McDonald, an outstanding young woman from Aurora, Colorado. Ms. McDonald, a student at Prairie Middle School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a state recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her middle school, Morgan helps lead a school group that works to build leadership skills and improve the scholastic achievement of African-American students. Morgan will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC from May 5th to 8th for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become one of ten National Honorees.

Ms. McDonald should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP
KEITH JENKINS ON HIS EPIS-
COPACY CONSECRATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Bishop Keith

Jenkins, on his recent ascent to the episcopacy of the Open Door Evangelistic World Ministries in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PROCLAMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP OF REFORMED EPISCOPAL
CHURCHES

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,
Hallelujah!

It is with great felicity that we proclaim the imminent consecration of the very Reverend Keith Jenkins to the episcopacy in the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on the twenty first day of October, Anno Domini, two thousand and six, at The Elim International Fellowship, The Protestant Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

The aforementioned consecration will commence at ten o'clock forenoon, at 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

May the blessings of the strength of Israel be upon you, our good brother Keith; and the love of the resurrected one sustain and preserve you. May your steps be guided by the everlasting spirit and your speech be seasoned with salt that you may know how to give an answer to every man concerning the hope that lieth within you.

Signed, His Eminence The Most Reverend Wilbert Sterling McKinley, Archbishop Primate His Eminence, The Most Reverend Trevor Dominic Bentley, Archbishop Exarch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHIL-
DREN ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce an important piece of legislation, the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act: the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every child, in every classroom, is taught by an excellent teacher.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on the overwhelming demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to encouraging talented people to enter the field and stay there.

Let me also thank the organizations, and their members, who go to work every day with the commitment to help our schools and our students succeed. They are a great constituency for this legislation, and I appreciate all of their input into this bill. Thank you to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the Associations of Community Organizations for Reform Now, the Business Roundtable, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the Education Trust, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the National Council of La Raza, National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Education Association, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, New Leaders for New Schools, the New

Teacher Center at DC-Santa Cruz, Operation Public Education, Teach for America, and The Teaching Commission.

We all remember the difference that outstanding teachers have made in our lives, but we also know that students who most need the best teachers are least likely to get them. There are many reasons why people decline to enter the teaching profession or decide not to remain there including reasons such as low pay, lack of meaningful professional development, lack of respect, inappropriate working conditions, or little opportunity for advancement.

By failing to address this problem, Congress is shortchanging our children and costing taxpayers an estimated \$2.2 billion annually to replace teachers who have left the profession. We need to act immediately to ensure that we have an adequate supply of exemplary teachers for the next generation of students.

My 43 colleagues who are original cosponsors and I are prepared to respond to this challenge facing American education with an innovative approach that matches the seriousness of the challenge with the "The TEACH Act of 2007"—the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher, in every classroom, teaching every child, has the supports they need to help their students succeed.

The single most important factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We all remember a teacher—or even several teachers—who made us proud of ourselves for what we accomplished and helped us face our future with hope and confidence. Imagine if every one of our teachers over the years had given us that same strength.

The TEACH Act will accomplish four critical goals:

Increase the supply of outstanding teachers.
Ensure all children have teachers with expertise in the subjects they teach.

Identify and reward our best teachers.

Keep the best teachers and principals in our schools.

This bill is a major legislative initiative that will attract our most talented teachers to our nation's classrooms where they are needed the most—and encourage them to stay there.

Over the next decade, we will need to hire more than two million new teachers to serve in our public schools. Yet today, we have no national plan for attracting outstanding students into the teaching profession, or keeping them there.

My bill addresses this need by helping school districts to pay more competitive salaries and by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates committed to a career in education, to established teachers working in fields like math and science, where the teacher shortage is most acute, and to retirees with math and science expertise who would like to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

The TEACH Act also offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers who are working in high priority communities.

We know that too many teachers do not receive adequate preparation or training for their jobs to improve during the first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.

The TEACH Act helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs