

HONORING KALAMAZOO GOSPEL
MISSION OF KALAMAZOO

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to commemorate its 75th anniversary.

What began in 1933 with Jacob and Anna Hildebrand serving soup and sandwiches at tent meetings has evolved into the largest mission for the homeless in southwest Michigan. In 2007, the mission served over 180,000 meals to those who were hungry, and provided a warm bed to over 90,000 more in need of shelter, all while imparting that true healing comes through the power of Christ.

I stand here today honored that such a caring and compassionate organization serves the needs of the less fortunate in southwest Michigan, and continues to selflessly struggle to make a difference in the lives of “the least, the last, and the lost.” Believing all people to be brothers and sisters in Christ, the love and respect that the mission provides both to the homeless and to the community is truly remarkable.

I would like to sincerely thank the staff and volunteers whose spiritual strength, commitment, and dedication have made the work of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission possible for the past 75 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF ALPHA
KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in recognition of the centennial celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated (AKA), founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University by nine visionary young African American women. In an era when the African American voice was stifled by prejudice, these collegiate women formed an alliance that has transcended generations. Their mission of “service to all mankind” still resounds world-wide through a coalition of over 900 undergraduate and graduate chapters comprised of 225,000 college-trained women. This week, I am pleased to join my colleagues in welcoming them to the city of their founding, Washington, DC and commend them for their hard work and commitment to the community.

For the past 100 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has and continues to demonstrate their dedication to service through a variety of programs including Economics, Sisterhood and Partnerships program in which members provide community awareness about economic issues and the importance of mental and physical health. Other programs include the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF), which strives to make a difference in the lives of young women and men. EAF awards scholarships, fellowships, grants and mini-grants to young people across America.

I would like to recognize all of the chapters in my great State of Ohio including: Alpha Lambda, Alpha Omega, Alpha Sigma Omega, Beta Eta Omega, Beta Theta Omega, Beta Xi, Delta Delta, Delta Phi, Delta Pi, Epsilon Chi, Epsilon Mu Omega, Iota Iota, Iota Phi Omega, Lambda Mu, Lambda Phi Omega, Omega, Omicron, Phi Psi Omega, Pi Gamma, Pi Omicron, Psi Eta Omega, Rho Omega, Sigma Mu Omega, Sigma Omega, Tau Lambda Omega, Theta, Zeta Alpha Omega, Zeta Theta Omega Chapters. Your service to our great State is immeasurable.

Additionally, I am privileged to have had the opportunity to call so many of the members of AKA my colleagues and friends. I would especially like to recognize my colleagues here in Congress who are members of AKA; Representatives SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, DIANE WATSON and the late Juanita Millender-McDonald who have and continue to serve their constituents and this country with distinction.

Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional district of Ohio, I wish to extend congratulations and best wishes to the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on this monumental occasion. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards the betterment of our communities and this country.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PATIENTS
AND PROVIDERS ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the President’s shortsighted veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, and urge my colleagues to vote to override this veto.

Medicare has been a true success story for seniors—but Medicare will continue to succeed only as long as doctors continue to participate. And no doctor can afford to take a 10 percent cut in payments.

Last week, H.R. 6331 passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate because our Nation’s health depends on it. The bill eliminates the Medicare-killing payment cut and provides a 1.1 percent increase for physicians for 2009. It provides mental health parity in the Medicare program—something I’ve been fighting for, because people suffering from mental illness are just as in need of treatment as people suffering physical illness. The bill also allows poor people to keep more of their assets and still qualify for help with Medicare costs.

My district includes more hospitals than probably any other district in the country—and all the doctors affiliated with those hospitals have offices in my district. They have been clear—unless they receive fair payment for their work, they cannot afford to continue to treat Medicare patients. Without good doctors, seniors’ health will suffer. Congress was right to pass this bill the first time, and I hope we stand strong to pass it again today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President’s veto.

DISCUSSION OF THE CARIBBEAN
DIASPORA AT THE 2008 CARICOM
CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article that recapitulates the successful discussions that took place during the 2008 Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) conference on the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States. The article was written by Tony Best and was published in the July 8, 2008 edition of CaribNews. This New York based publication serves as the voice of the Caribbean community in the New York metropolitan area.

The article entitled: “Work Together” summarizes the forum held at York College in Queens, New York. Several Caribbean Heads of State were in attendance along with fellow members of Congress, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE and Mr. GREGORY MEEKS.

Discussions about the Caribbean Diaspora took place as many members of the panel recognized the great importance of the Caribbean community living and working abroad. Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson was quoted as saying, “We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora”.

I am both proud and honored to have been able to help facilitate dialogue between CARICOM Head of State and the New York based Diaspora. Conferences such as this open up lines of communication which contribute greatly to economic growth and development in the Caribbean.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

WORK TOGETHER

(By Tony Best)

The picture at York College of the City University of New York was essentially Caribbean.

And for good reason.

An audience of about 300 people, truly representative of the West Indian Diaspora, gathered in the large Performing Arts Center of the school in Queens to be addressed by a number of Caribbean Heads of Government or their representatives on issues chosen by the people themselves.

Billed as a conversation with the Diaspora, a “Dialogue,” if you will, the function was the penultimate item on the program for a much anticipated two-day Caribbean Community Conference attended at different times by nine of the region’s Prime Ministers and a President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana.

On stage were Prime Ministers David Thompson, Barbados, Dean Barrow, Belize, Baldwin Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda, Stephenson King, St. Lucia, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana, senior cabinet ministers from Jamaica and Suriname who headed their countries’ delegations, and diplomatic officials from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts-Nevis, the Bahamas, and Dominica.

It stands to reason, then, why the reality of the occasion didn’t escape PM Thompson. “As I was sitting here I was reflecting on when last I, as a political leader in the Caribbean, had the opportunity to address what one might call a truly Caribbean audience like this,” meaning people from throughout the region assembled under one roof,” said Thompson.