

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH OF HARLEM ON THEIR 90TH FOUNDERS DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Chief Apostle Bishop William L. Bonner and the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith of Harlem for organizing its 90th Pre-Centennial Founders Day at the Greater Refuge Temple in honor of founder, Bishop Robert Clarence Lawson.

To speak of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ as an organization is to speak of its illustrious and dynamic founder, the late apostle, Bishop Robert C. Lawson, D.D., LL.D. We can safely say that God made His choice to use this dedicated man to work His divinely inspired plan for this great organization. For it was by his Herculean effort and prolific preaching and the mastery of the inspired scriptures that Bishop Lawson, with tenacity and determination hewed from the villages, cities, towns and hamlets, the dynamic organization known as the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith Inc.

It was in the year of 1914 when Mr. Lawson accepted the word of God and was baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Ghost. A supernatural event took place in his life, namely the miraculous healing of his body from consumption. This occurrence was stamped indelibly upon him and played a major part in the shaping of his inspired faith healing ministry.

By his own testimony we learned that Bishop Lawson was divinely called by the Lord through a whirlwind, hearing the voice of God saying "Go Preach My Word! I mean you! I mean you! I mean you! Go preach My Word."

The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ had its inception in the year 1919. Bishop Lawson, then Elder Lawson was invited to a prayer meeting, which was in progress in a basement in the 40th Street area of New York City. So energetic was his service to the Lord, that his fame spread abroad and reached the ears of Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Anderson. These two blessed couples opened their homes to Elder Lawson and their home today is affectionately thought of as the "Cradle of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ".

Within a short period of time, the congregation outgrew its place of worship, having approximately 200 members, and larger quarters had to be sought. Bishop Lawson purchased the site at 52-54-56 West 133 Street and relocated his thriving church. It was there that his vision was enlarged and the Lord laid upon his heart to conduct a tent revival and great numbers were added to the church.

The clarion call for our illustrious leader came on Sunday, July 2, 1961, and Bishop Lawson a prince of preachers, the Bible Answer man, God's shining star departed this life. The words of our famed pioneer and Apostle are still resounding in our ears: "Add Thou To It, Add Thou To It," and the answer comes from the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will, we shall, we have.

HONORING MEMBERS IN THE 547TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I also introduce a second bill in honor of members of the 547th Transportation Company, who deployed to Iraq last Saturday. The District of Columbia Executive Guard Act would give the Mayor of the District of Columbia some additional authority over the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG). In circumstances constituting local emergencies, including natural disasters and civil disturbances unrelated to national or homeland security, but not homeland security matters, the mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority as governors. The National Guards in the 50 states operate under similar dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet, the President of the United States alone has the authority to call up the DC National Guard for any purpose here, local or national. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia did historically. Today, the most likely need for the National Guard would be because of natural disasters or to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the DCNG to cover local natural disasters or civil disturbances without relying on the President, who should be preoccupied with national matters, including homeland security, which would remain the sole province of the President, along with the existing power to nationalize the D.C. National Guard at will. As it is, the President must rely on a delegated official with little familiarity of the city to call up the National Guard to duty here for any purpose. It does no harm to give the mayor the authority for civil and natural disasters. However, it could do significant harm to leave him or her powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that a governor would have control over the mobilization and deployment of the state National Guard, it makes the same sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of that of small states, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the D.C. National Guard in instances that do not rise to the level of federal importance necessary to implicate the authority of the President. Today, requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of D.C. residents, visitors and federal employees. Procedures that require the mayor to request the needed assistance from the commander in chief for a local National Guard matter are as old as the republic, and as dangerously obsolete today. Moreover, this bill merely delegates the President's authority in specific circumstances and would not deprive the President of his authority over the D.C. National Guard at will, as the Congress can do in making laws for the District despite delegated home rule. This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to

the District of Columbia that Congress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. Congress delegated most if its authority to the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act follows this model.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR THREAT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the threat Iran's potential nuclear weapon capabilities have on the Middle East, the world, and particularly Israel.

In March, President Obama offered to open a dialogue with Iran. His olive branch was immediately met with scorn by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Iran has not cooled its international animosity since then, as noted by Defense Secretary Robert Gates as recently as Tuesday.

Talk is fine if it is premised in achieving realistic goals, but the Iranian regime has used past efforts at negotiation to delay and divide the United States and our allies in our efforts to turn Tehran from a nuclear enrichment program that clearly could be used for nuclear bombs.

Time for an open hand policy is running out. I believe it is time to up the stakes on Iran.

One way to accomplish that would be to pass the Iran Threat Reduction Act, H.R. 1208, which was introduced by Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. H.R. 1208, of which I am an original cosponsor, would extend current U.S. sanctions until the president certifies Iran has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction program and ceased its support for international terrorism. It also would significantly increase U.S. pressure on Tehran to do both.

The bill would sharply increase U.S. efforts to stop the shipment of refined petroleum and natural gas products to Iran, as well as materials needed for building or maintaining oil and gas pipelines. Furthermore, the bill completely prohibits U.S. importation of most Iranian products. It also denies U.S. foreign tax credits to Americans engaged in business activity with Iran that is prohibited by U.S. law.

March 17 marked the 17th anniversary of the bombing by Iranian proxies of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 and wounded 242. It is but one of hundreds of attacks Iran has made against Israel and the United States in a war Iran seems committed to continue.

Without direct Iranian support, Tehran's proxies, llamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, would be far less formidable foes for Israel. Without Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Iranian weapons, the United States would have suffered hundreds of fewer casualties in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the time for talk has ended. The United States should increase the pressure on Iran immediately. I therefore urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Iran Threat Reduction Act and I urge leadership to bring it to the floor for quick passage.