

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN  
CLAPPER

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Karen Clapper for her service on the San Carlos City Council since June 2012. She has applied decades of experience with private and public organizations to keep San Carlos the "City of Good Living" for all residents.

When a seat on the council became vacant, the four remaining council members unanimously selected Karen to fill the remaining term. She has been a passionate advocate for our neighborhoods, schools, parks and public safety. During her time on the City Council, Karen Clapper has worked collaboratively with her colleagues and sought to create a community marked by fiscal prudence and regional relevance. She was always well prepared at council meetings and asked many important questions during budget and policy sessions. Karen has been a team player who worked hard to ensure that San Carlos had the finest fire, police, and parks services possible. She was frequently attended public events, wanting to be accessible to residents.

During her time in public service, Karen served on the boards of the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance and the Library Governing Board WA. She also served on ad hoc committees dealing with school property, the San Carlos Transit Village, and Wheeler Plaza. She was the liaison to San Carlos Green, a citizens group advocating for environmentally sensitive projects and policies, and the Planning Commission. In fact, Karen's longest service to the city was during her time on the commission where she served from 2009–20012. During this formative time in the city's history, she helped to maintain the city's small town character while recognizing that its planning decisions had to fit into the regional need for housing and other changes.

Karen earned her BA in Environmental Design from San Diego State University and her MBA in Finance and Accounting from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. She has been a consultant, coach and board member for a long list of companies and non-profit organizations, including Great American Bank FSB, Accenture, Friends of San Carlos Library, the Service League of San Mateo County, and Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden.

Karen will continue her work as an independent productivity and leadership coach and be guided by one of her favorite quotes by Albert Einstein: "Out of clutter find simplicity; from discord find harmony; in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." Her eternal optimism will no doubt direct her to continue to contribute to the community. In her spare time she enjoys reading, quilting and doing crossword puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Karen Clapper for her outstanding leadership during her tenure on the city council and for her service to the residents of San Carlos at many meetings and forums in the past. She will be missed on the council but certainly seen and heard throughout the community for many years to come.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 5, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, America is and must continue to be the cradle of invention and innovation. We reward those with big ideas.

I agree we must punish those who troll the waters in search of easy money at the expense of those who harness invention and innovation. But we must attack the abusers soundly and surgically so that we do not destroy in the dragnet the little guy with the big idea.

For this reason, Mr. Chairman, I will be opposing this bill.

RECOGNIZING MT. OLIVE BAPTIST  
CHURCH

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Buffalo, New York on celebrating the 90th anniversary of its devout faithfulness and dedication to the surrounding community. To commemorate this milestone, Mt. Olive will be hosting a celebration on December 8, 2013 in Buffalo's historic Lafayette Hotel.

Under the visionary leadership of Pastor William Gillison, Mt. Olive Baptist Church has become a central pillar of Buffalo's African-American community through its good and tireless community works and initiatives to nurture educate and support generations of families. Known as one of the most active and ambitious churches in the region, Mt. Olive continues to build on its extensive and rich history. Its outstanding reputation is a testament to the inspiration of its leaders and parishioners.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church was organized in 1923 under the leadership of the late Pastor James Hamilton, inside the gates of Semet Solvay Company Plant in Tonawanda, New York. In 1924, under the leadership of Pastor Clinton N. Polite, the Church moved outside the company gates. When Semet Solvay closed in 1941, Mt. Olive relocated Clinton Street in Buffalo where the first service was held on the first Sunday in May with five families.

Reverend William Gillison was called to pastor Mt. Olive in June 1981, which marked the beginning of an unprecedented era of growth and community engagement projects within the Church. In February 1988, Mt. Olive purchased three and a half acres of land at 701

East Delavan Avenue and in 1992, additional acreage was added giving the church five acres for its new three million dollar home. Construction began in 1994 and upon completion, the new home of Mt. Olive Baptist Church included an impressive complex which seats 1200, 16 classrooms and an all-purpose hall for recreation and social occasions. It is of special note that this Church's decades long mortgage was paid in full in only six years.

Under this extraordinary pastoral leader and faithful following, Mt. Olive continues to experience extensive growth spiritually, financially and munerically. Multiple ministries and a separate faith-based organization, the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, have been formed since 1991. Mt. Olive's First Leadership School, which is recognized by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, was held in October 2007. In recent years a Health Ministry was instituted as was a Media Ministry with the addition of a TV studio. This year has also seen the construction of the William Gillison Fellowship Hall and the dedication of the YOMO (Youth of Mt. Olive) Athletic Field.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor, acknowledge and add my deepest appreciation to Pastor Gillison and the family and friends of Mt. Olive Baptist Church for 90 years of faith-filled service to its congregation, community, city and country. Its outreach to the least the lost among us provides us with a powerful example of faith and love that will only intensify to help our children be better prepared and be able to enjoy and embrace an enhanced quality of life.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY FOR THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM AND THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 11, 2013*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 75th anniversary for the AbilityOne Program and the National Industries for the Blind. Since their inception, the AbilityOne Program and NIB have changed the lives of millions of people who are blind or have other significant disabilities by providing increased independence through job skills training and employment opportunities. They are our nation's largest source of employment for blind and disabled individuals and manufacture over 3,000 quality products, ranging from diesel engine glow plugs to printer toner.

In Las Vegas, the Blind Center of Nevada has helped blind and visually impaired Nevadans reach their highest potential. In addition to offering employment opportunities, computer training, braille classes, and other supportive services, the Blind Center of Nevada has built a community full of music and friendship.

I want to congratulate the AbilityOne Program and NIB on this momentous occasion and thank them for 75 years of service.