

IN MEMORY OF REV. MAC
CHARLES JONES

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a nationally respected clergyman, Rev. Mac Charles Jones. Reverend Jones' untimely death is a loss for the Kansas City community and the Nation.

Reverend Jones served as a deputy general secretary for the National Council of Churches and was en route to a meeting of that group's racial justice committee when he died. He also served as a member of the World Council of Churches central committee.

As an ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., he served as pastor of St. Stephen's Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO. Because of Reverend Jones' initiative and drive St. Stephen's was the annual host of the local celebration honoring the birthday of the Reverend Martin Luther King. Reverend Jones was instrumental in convening the 1993 National Urban Peace and Justice Summit at St. Stephen which drew more than 100 current and former gang members together to discuss improving inner-city conditions.

Last June, Reverend Jones organized a group of clergymen, many from affected churches, to meet with President Clinton, Attorney General Reno, and Treasury Secretary Rubin to focus the Government's attention on the arson fires at African-American churches. His efforts played an important role in raising the national consciousness about this problem. A noted evangelist, Reverend Jones was an important leader in Kansas City. He made a difference in the lives of its residents. I ask the House to join me in expressing condolences to his wife, Jannela, and his children Ayinde Jones and Lacey Jones.

ASSISTED SUICIDE RESTRICTION
ACT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call my colleagues attention to the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997, which I am introducing in the House of Representatives today. This bipartisan bill, which already has 100 cosponsors, will prevent the use of Federal tax dollars to subsidize or promote the practice of assisted suicide.

A Wirthlin worldwide poll conducted last November indicated that 87 percent of taxpayers objected to their tax dollars subsidizing assisted suicide. The Supreme Court has heard arguments arising from Second and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals that ruled that assisted suicide is a constitutional right. Unless the Supreme Court overturns these opinions, physician-assisted suicide could become a legal, routine practice throughout our Nation, and taxpayers could discover that they are funding assisted suicide, regardless of their conscientious objections to the practice.

The Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 will preempt the use of taxpayer

dollars by preventing programs funded by the Public Health Service block grants and others, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Indian health care, the military health care system and the Federal Employee Benefit plans, from paying for assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing.

The bill does not affect a patient's right to reject or to discontinue medical treatment. It respects the wishes of the patient, and it respects the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship. It does not create any limitation regarding the withholding or withdrawing of medical treatment or of nutrition or hydration, nor does it affect funding for alleviating pain or discomfort for patients.

In sum, the bill has the modest goal of keeping the Federal Government out of the business of assisted suicide. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must be proactive in addressing this issue—rather than be forced to deal with it after the fact—and that is what we hope to accomplish with this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to give this bill their serious consideration and support.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAKE AREA
UNITED WAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, the United States has been built by great citizens who unselfishly dedicate their time to community service and volunteerism. The Lake Area United Way and its volunteers have worked diligently to assist those in need throughout Indiana's First Congressional District. The Lake Area United Way has organized a black tie fundraising gala in which all proceeds go to benefit its umbrella organizations. This affair will take place at the Raddison Star Plaza in Merrillville, IN on March 22, 1997.

This outstanding benefit would not take place without devoted individuals to make the event possible. These volunteers include: Mr. Vic DeMeyer, manager of Corporate Consumer & Community Development for the Northern Indiana Public Service Co.; Mr. Tom McDermott, president of the Northwest Indiana Forum; Mr. John Davies, senior team leader of the Northwest Indiana Forum; Mr. Norbert Dreyer, area manager of Ameritech-Indiana; Mr. Jeff Fox, branch manager for Bank One, Merrillville N.A.; Mr. John Gauder, director of marketing for U.S. Cable of Northern Indiana; Ms. Pat Giannini, community relations consultant for Amoco Oil Co.; Ms. Barbara Haas, group vice president of consumer service for the Northern Indiana Public Service Co.; Mr. Jim Hornak, president of the United Brotherhood Carpenters & Joiners; Ms. Kaydell Knarr, administrator for the school city of Hammond; Mr. George Kuebler, public relations manager for St. Anthony Medical Center; Mr. Peter Manous, attorney-at-law for John M. Kopack & Associates; Ms. Jan Moran, president of Moran Designs Corp.; Mr. Daniel Root, general manager for the Center for Visual & Performing Arts; and Ms. Delores Williams, assistant vice president of Nursing for Northlake Methodist Hospital.

In addition, this event could not be possible without the dedicated Lake Area United Way

staff, including: Mr. Louis Martinez, president; Ms. Mary Ellen Nichols, executive assistant; Ms. Diane Karp, vice president of fund raising; Mr. Bob Scott, director of the fund raising campaign; Ms. Colleen Gallagher, senior manager of the fund raising campaign; Ms. Janiece Cerjeski, campaign associate; Mr. Steve Hunter, campaign assistant; Mr. Alex Monanteras, vice president of finance and administration; Mr. Pat McNiece, director of information systems; Ms. Mariann Munro, manager of financial accounting and human resources; Ms. Tracy Williams, finance assistant; Mr. David Sikes, director of allocations; Mr. Jerry Powell, director of labor and information and referral; and Ms. Chelsea Stalling, director of marketing and communications.

The mission of the Lake Area United Way is to bring together the resources of our community to assist people in helping themselves and one another. The Lake Area United Way is an organization that strives for continuous improvement in the quality of relationships with one another, volunteers, and all individuals and businesses in the community. The Lake Area United Way strives to achieve this goal by treating all people in a courteous and professional manner in order to instill confidence and trust in their organization. Their hallmark is the delivery of timely, high-quality service by being accessible and responsive to ensure satisfaction. At the same time, the organization works hard to effectively communicate the appropriate information in order to achieve the individual and organizational goals. The Lake Area United Way also strives to identify and resolve problems in a timely and satisfactory manner, while disseminating information about the funded services that help people, as well as the places where help is available.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in commending these distinguished volunteers and staff members of the Lake Area United Way for their continuing effort to improve the quality of life for Indiana's First Congressional District. In closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Lake Area United Way, as well as best wishes for a successful gala on March 22.

TRIBUTE TO MS. THALIA DONDERO
OF LAS VEGAS, NV

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Thalia Dondero of Las Vegas, NV, who is being honored on March 12, 1997, at the Bishop Gorman High School Knight of the Gael. Throughout the years, this event has chosen to honor citizens who have made outstanding contributions to the Las Vegas community and to the State of Nevada.

During her tenure as a Clark County commissioner, Ms. Dondero served three terms as chairman of the board of county commissioners. In addition, she was elected by her fellow commissioners to chair the University Medical Center Board of Trustees, the Liquor and Gaming License Board, the Kyle Canyon Water District Board of Trustees, the Big Bend Water District Board of Trustees, and to serve as president of the Las Vegas Valley Water District Board of Directors. She was also appointed as a member of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Regional