

Franciscan Order. Father Dols' achievement will be recognized at a concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving on April 13 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Elizabeth to be followed by a reception and dinner in the Main Parish Hall.

Father Francis Dols seemed destined to serve his fellow man from an early age. He was born in the small Spanish town of Santa Maria Del Cami—"St. Mary of the Road". This beautiful island community set Francis Dols on the path that has led to his being with us today. At the age of 12, Francis Dols entered the Franciscan seminary of the Third Regular Order [T.O.R.] of St. Francis. When he was 16, Father Dols was accepted at a novice, and one year later he was professed as a fully committed member of the religious Order of St. Francis. Another year hence, Francis Dols left Spain for Rome to enroll in the Angelicum Catholic University to pursue the academic credentials required for admittance to the priesthood. However, the war in Europe resulted in the temporary closing of the university, thereby forcing Father Dols to return home.

Upon returning to Spain, Father Dols spent the next 4 years at the Franciscan Seminary. On April 13, 1947, Father Francis Dols was ordained a priest and began a new chapter in his spiritual journey. Father Dols' first assignment was to a large parish in the southwestern part of Spain, approximately 150 miles from the capital city of Madrid, where he spent the next 5 years in pastoral ministry. This extraordinary experience provided Father Dols with many gratifying moments caring for the spiritual needs of his parishioners. A highly positive experience aroused Father Dols' interest in spreading the word of God to those in the Americas. His arrival in the northwestern region of Brazil saw Father Dols working with the native Americans in the vast Amazon Forest. Father Dols' 4 years in South America afforded him many good times participating in the lives of this eager flock.

After leaving his adopted home, Father Dols' road of spiritual enlightenment led him to the United States. The people of Elizabeth were extremely fortunate to have Father Dols accept the position of pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary. His spiritual leadership has enriched the congregation; bringing them closer to God. And, he has been a source of guidance and solace to all who have sought his counsel.

It is an honor to recognize Fr. Francis Dols on the anniversary of his ordination. He has committed his life to God's service; and, over the past half century, has dedicated himself to his fellow man. I am certain that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this remarkable priest.

#### VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H.R. 240, the Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1997. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important leg-

islation and ask all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in voting overwhelmingly for quick passage.

In 1944, Congress enacted the Veterans Preference Act to address the readjustment needs of the men and women who served their country during a time of war. The law was designed to assist veterans in regaining the lost ground their civilian careers had suffered as a result of military service. In the beginning, the Federal Government gladly complied with the provisions of the new veterans preference law. Unfortunately, as time passed and the memory of war faded, so did America's concern for fulfilling its obligation to its citizen-soldiers. Today, the original legislation and its amendments are easily circumvented.

Currently, veterans' preference laws give certain veterans preference in appointment to civilian employment with the Federal Government based upon their military service. Congress has long recognized that this is an earned benefit, not a gift. H.R. 240 strengthens veterans' preference and increases employment opportunities for veterans. It provides veterans an effective, efficient, and user-friendly redress mechanism for veterans whose rights have been violated under veterans' preference laws. In short, H.R. 240 will end circumvention of veterans' preference laws.

Additionally, H.R. 240 provides veterans with increased protections during reductions in force and extends veterans' preference to certain positions at the White House and in the legislative and judicial branches. This legislation is long overdue. If Federal agencies and Federal managers were fulfilling their obligation to enforce current law, this legislation would not be necessary.

In closing, I again ask that all of my colleagues join me in support of our Nation's veterans by voting for H.R. 240.

#### HONORING EUGENE CLARK

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the distinguished record of service to Michigan's disabled veterans by Michigan State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Eugene Clark, of St. Ignace, MI. Mr. Clark is a friend and a constituent of mine from the First Congressional District. As he concludes his term as State Commander this June, I wish to call the Nation's attention to this dedicated veteran.

Entering the U.S. Army in 1966, Mr. Clark served in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division and its 2/14th Infantry. He was involved in several major conflicts, including the Tet Offensive, Manhattan, and Junction City. Mr. Clark's love of country and dedication to the military earned him 2 separate Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars, and 4 Presidential Unit Citations during the 24 months he served in Southeast Asia.

Upon his discharge, Mr. Clark joined Local 324 of the Operating Engineers where his outstanding work was always acknowledged and

appreciated. He was employed as a superintendent of the American Dredging and Construction before retiring.

In his role as DAV State Commander, Eugene Clark has led the 42,000 Michigan DAV members with dignity, compassion, and decisiveness. While motivating the DAV membership, Mr. Clark has confidently and respectfully promoted the goals and ideals of the DAV throughout his tenure.

Mr. Clark has dedicated his life to veterans and their families and his service as State Commander will serve as an example for his successors. I know I speak for all veterans in thanking Eugene Clark for his work on behalf of veterans, especially Michigan veterans, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### HELEN JACKSON CLAYTOR CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 1997*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you and my colleagues to join me in extending birthday greetings to a very special woman from my hometown of Grand Rapids, MI. Mrs. Helen Jackson Claytor will celebrate her 90th birthday on April 12. I am honored to know Helen and I greatly respect the time and energy she has put forth in making our community a better place to live through her work with race relations. Her tireless leadership and ability to get results should serve as an inspiration for all of us.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, MN, Helen graduated from John Marshall High School at the top of her class in 1925. After high school she attended the University of Minnesota, where she graduated cum laude in just 3 years while studying to become a teacher. While at the University of Minnesota she was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Following her graduation Helen found that opportunities for African-American teachers were extremely limited. The lack of available teaching jobs led her to the YWCA in Trenton, NJ where she worked as a Girl Reserves secretary. She also served a similar stint at the YWCA in Kansas City, MO in late 1930. These jobs marked the beginning of her long association with the YWCA.

Helen serves as a true ambassador for the YWCA, having traveled all over the country to speak on the topic of race relations at YWCA's that were segregated before the civil rights movement. As an elected member of the YWCA's World Council she traveled to such places as China, Switzerland, and Africa. Her drive and determination led her to the position of an active board member of the YWCA in Grand Rapids and later in her career she made history by becoming the first black woman ever to be elected president of a community YWCA. In the late 1940's she was elected to the National Board of Directors of the YWCA and served as the president from 1967 until her retirement in 1976. As president, Helen played a key role in helping the organization draft the YWCA Purpose in 1967, an honor she regards as a major accomplishment of her career. She still holds the title of Honorary Member of the Board.

In addition to her numerous roles with the YWCA, Helen has been actively involved in