

George Story's vision became reality when the doors were opened and a ceremony held to dedicate the new library on September 1, 1898. An extremely ornate Victorian building, the Goodrich Memorial Library houses a wealth of information for those interested in Vermont history. In one of its rooms, the library maintains an archive of local newspapers dating back to the 1800s and early 1900s.

The Goodrich Memorial Library not only serves as a resource for information, but also as a critical bond in the community. It brings people together for cultural events and as a shared experience it provides a link between generations. It is a reminder of the town's long and proud history, one that I hope will continue for years to come.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Goodrich Memorial Library on its centennial anniversary and wish them the best of luck in the next century of service.●

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JAMES

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, President Clinton's visit to Africa is a historic visit, the first time a sitting American President has visited that continent. For a distinguished South Carolinian who is accompanying the President, the trip also marks the return to a land with which he is very familiar.

Bishop Fred James, a retired Bishop of the AME Church, is one of South Carolina's most respected men of the cloth. For four years in the 1970s, he served in Capetown, South Africa, as the presiding bishop of the AME Church for five countries: South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, and Mozambique. During Bishop James's tenure, the Church conducted not only traditional religious activities, but also unorthodox outreach programs to improve the lives of its congregants. Among other things, it built schools, operated a publishing house, and ran a cattle ranch. None of these was strictly religious in nature, but all helped to relieve the oppressive atmosphere of these countries and restore a sense of community among the AME Church's congregants.

After returning from Africa, Bishop James continued to lead outreach programs and fight for civil rights at home. Before settling in South Carolina, he was active in the NAACP and lived in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He also lived in Baltimore, where his responsibilities as Bishop overseeing thousands of congregants and many churches were even greater than those he shouldered in Africa. As the people of South Carolina know so well, Bishop James has been a force for good in every community in which he has lived.

Mr. President, I can think of no better ambassador of our nation's good will toward Africa than Bishop Fred James. He has spent the better part of his life serving God and his fellow men,

without expecting recognition or reward. With his selection by President Clinton to be an informal, good will ambassador to Africa, he has at last received some of both. Let us all hope the United States can achieve the same, strong relationship with Africa as that of Bishop James.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOMB GUARDS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

● Mr. HAGER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize a very special group of Americans, the Arlington National Cemetery Tomb Guards of the Third United States Infantry. The Tomb Guards this year mark their 50th anniversary—half a century of dedicated service to the American heroes who rest at Arlington.

The dedicated and devoted men and women of the Tomb Guards stand watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 24 hours a day, seven days a week, regardless of weather. Arlington's sacred ground holds many of America's heroes, but the unknown soldiers deserve special honor. They made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve America's freedom, and they died in anonymity—soldiers, as inscribed on their headstones, "Known but to God."

Since 1948, soldiers from the "Old Guard," the Third United States Infantry, have kept watch at this most special place in Arlington National Cemetery. Only soldiers of the highest character and standards, with the greatest integrity and professional skill, are selected to serve with the Tomb Guards. These men and women are the best of the best. The competition is keen.

As young people across America search for role models, they need look no further than this group of dedicated professionals who honor the sacrifice of all who have fallen for freedom. I salute the Tomb Guards on their fifty years of dedicated service to America's heroes and wish them well as they continue their devotion to duty. America is grateful for their service.●

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the historic visit that is just ending today.

I speak of the visit of President Clinton to Africa which began on March 22. As the Ranking Member of the Africa Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I know Africa's vital importance to the United States, and I applaud the President's effort to highlight Africa with this timely trip.

President Clinton is the first sitting U.S. president since President Jimmy Carter to take such an extensive voyage in Africa, and he will be the first sitting U.S. president ever to visit each of the individual countries on his itinerary.

We can not underestimate the significance of this.

Mr. President, millions of Americans trace their roots to Africa. Thousands of Americans have served in Africa in non-governmental organizations, church groups, or the Peace Corps, including many graduates of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Our African heritage is prominent and pervasive in the art, music, and literature of American culture. More and more American tourists are journeying to see the natural wonders of the Serengeti, the Ghanaian Cape Coast or Victoria Falls.

Although these ties bind every American to Africa, many of them in a very passionate and personal way, I am concerned that there is so little knowledge about Africa in this country, and so little interest. That is why the President's trip is so important.

Many of the 48 distinct nations of Africa are now experiencing what some have called an "African Renaissance." By whatever name, there can be no doubt that Africa is a continent much changed since the years immediately following the independence period.

In some nations on that great continent, we see conflicts, coups and corruption. In others, we see the triumph of democracy and of the creative human spirit. In the past few years, too many of Africa's peoples have faced atrocities that rank among the worst of this century. At the same time, healthy changes have swept across much of the continent, and there is more reason for optimism about Africa's future than at any time in recent memory.

First, there has been substantial political progress. In 1989, only five African nations could be described as "democratic." Today, there are at least twenty. Where there used to be one-party states or military regimes, we now have governments that have developed new constitutions, held multiparty elections, and taken great strides toward reforming key institutions. Parliaments in countries like Ghana and Namibia are beginning to exercise a meaningful check on executive power. Local and national elections are being conducted freely and fairly in many countries. Journalists are more boldly exercising new press freedoms.

The institutions that nourish true democracy are beginning to take root in the African soil.

Second, many of the long-standing, violent conflicts that have ravaged the land and the peoples of Africa are coming to a close. Uganda, which suffered terribly throughout the 1980s, is now one of the most stable countries on the continent. The protracted war in the Horn of Africa ended with the peaceful secession of Eritrea, an important new actor on the African stage. The seeds of lasting peace have been planted in Liberia and Angola. And the promise of peace dangles before the peoples of Northern Mali and the Western Sahara.