

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 292, Congratulating Taiwan on Its Recent Elections.

The government of Taiwan is a representative democracy. On March 18, 2000, the citizens of the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan exercised their right to vote and elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian as their new President and Ms. Annette Hsui-Lien Lu as the new Vice-President. The popular vote election was held in accordance with the ROC's Constitution and the people of Taiwan turned out in record numbers to vote. Over 82 percent of Taiwan's 15 million citizens voted, making it one of the highest turnouts ever.

Despite rhetoric and brinkmanship from the mainland, the people of Taiwan have clearly expressed their determination to build a free and democratic society. The U.S. should continue our strong support for Taiwan's security.

Taiwan is and continues to be a strong U.S. ally. The people of Taiwan have voted their conscience. Given the events that have happened over the past several years, it is in America's best interest to promote peace in the Taiwan Straits.

The people of Taiwan should be congratulated for the democratic outcome of its presidential election. In addition, I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating the people of Taiwan for their continuing efforts to develop and sustain a free, democratic society that not only respects human rights but embraces free markets as well.

This election again demonstrates that Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and I look forward to working with the new government of President-elect Chen Shui-bian on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO MACON-BIBB COUNTY  
FIRE CHIEF JIMMY HINSON

**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize a great American and someone who has continuously served as Chief of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department for the past 24 years, Jimmy Earl Hinson.

Chief Hinson began fighting fires in 1961, and, as Chief, he was instrumental in turning the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department into a Class One department. His leadership, integrity, and compassion are well known, and his retirement is a deep loss to our community.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Chief Hinson for his commitment and hard work, for putting his life on the line to protect and serve the people of Macon and Bibb

County, and for being an exemplary model of strength and honor.

It is people like Chief Hinson who keep our families and neighborhoods safe, who work hard each and every day for our protection, and who teach us about the importance of fire safety to whom we owe our sincerest appreciation. I thank Chief Hinson and wish him all the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, April 3, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 96 and 97. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 96 and "present" on rollcall vote 97.

CONGRATULATING LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S MENS BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lamar University's Mens Basketball team for their success this season and their return to the NCAA Tournament. Their return to March Madness took 17 years, but they made alumni like myself and fans of the basketball program proud.

This was Lamar's fifth trip to the tournament, and the first since the 1983 season. Lamar finished the season with a 15-16 record, and headed down the road to tournament competition with a victory at the CenturyTel Southland Basketball Classic. In their first game in the Classic, the No. 7 seeded Cardinals triumphed over the No. 2 seed Louisiana-Monroe with a 66-62 win. They then went on to win games against Southwest Texas and Northwestern State to capture the tournament.

Lamar had the unfortunate luck to draw the No. 1 team in the country, the Duke Blue Devils, as their first round opponent in the Big Dance. However, the underdogs from Texas put up a fight, and gave Duke a run for their money. Mike Dean, the first year Lamar coach, and the fans who made the trip could only be pleased with the grit and determination with which the team played.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the basketball team from my Alma Mater made me proud, and it is truly an honor to recognize them today. They have shown amazing effort and are an example of just how far dedication and hard work can get you. I offer my congratulations on an outstanding season, and I look forward to watching them succeed again next March.

HOMILY SUPPORTING CLEVELAND AREA HOSPITALS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in Cleveland, Ohio we are battling to keep two area hospitals open. I insert for printing in the RECORD the following homily given by Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Skrha at Our Lady of Lourdes in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday, March 12, 2000. This homily expresses the need for accessible healthcare for all citizens regardless of economic status, race, or religion.

Good morning:

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time in the Christian church during which it is suggested that we put aside activities that would distract us and to focus in on who Jesus was and is, for us, now.

Who was He?

What did He do?

What did He say?

How did He act?

To whom did He address himself?

How much suffering did this cause him?

Being rejected by the establishment, he suffered and suffered death. As we enter into his suffering, may we enter his victory and resurrection at Easter.

I wish to reflect the last sentence from today's Gospel: "the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel"—believe in the Gospel. What is the Gospel? It is the good news that Jesus shared with his disciples and followers 2000 years ago. Did it have meaning for two sisters 116 years ago? Does it have meaning for us now? I believe it did, and still does. These words give us strength and meaning in this present age.

On July 17, 1884 two Franciscan Sisters arrived in Cleveland from Lafayette, Indiana with the clothes on their backs and two dollars between them. After arriving at the train station, they were met by a Franciscan Priest and escorted to a small house at the corner of Broadway and McBride, formerly occupied by the Poor Clare Sisters. In this building they were to establish St. Alexis Hospital. The area was rather poor with the majority of the residents being recently arrived immigrants from Central Europe.

To save money on soap, the Sisters mixed sand with the soapy waters when washing the floors.

Once they walked 7 miles to receive a monetary donation of \$1.00 and they walked back in order to keep the one dollar bill intact.

At the celebration commemorating 25 years in 1909, the main speaker was Dr. George Crile who later on started up the Cleveland Clinic. He described the charity work done at St. Alexis Hospital. In its first year, 25 patients were cared for, all were charity cases. Up to 1909, 20,400 patients had been treated and of those, 15,021 were charity cases and only 1,003 had paid full rates. All creeds and nationalities were admitted on an equal basis. In 1902, of the 2,300 patients treated, Catholics accounted for less than one-fourth. The history of this hospital is rooted in charity care given to people of all races and all religious backgrounds.

In 1906, Dr. Crile performed the first human to human blood transfusion in the world. One of the Miller brothers who lived locally was dying because of a great loss of blood. With crude instruments, Dr. Crile did a direct transfusion from one brother to the other and a life was saved. It is ironic that the Cleveland Clinic which was founded by Dr. Crile wants to terminate the life blood of Saint Michael Hospital.

The Gospel is about what Jesus said and did. He spent his time with the poor, ministering to their needs. Saint Michael Hospital has a history of 116 years healing the sick, primarily the poor and rejected.

Jesus restored sight to the blind. How many patients have had their sight restored with the many cataract operations. Jesus raised persons from the dead. How many times have patients been resuscitated from the dead when their heart stopped beating and have been brought back to life. Being close to the hospital is an important factor in these situations.

Jesus healed leprosy, an infection. How many times have patients had their severe infections treated at Saint Michael. Jesus reconciled many in healing their broken relationship with their God. How many times have patients of different faiths been reconciled with their God through the presence of a full-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week Pastoral Care Department.

The Sisters have maintained the Catholic presence during these years. PHS committed itself in 1994 to maintain this same presence and in 1998 the Bishop of Cleveland proclaimed Saint Michael a Catholic hospital even though it was a for-profit hospital run by lay men.

Jesus ran into opposition from the Scribes and Pharisees because of his commitment to the poor, alienated and ill of varied cultures. This caused Him much suffering. The Pharisees wore fancy robes, wanted the best seats at banquets and always wanted to be above the rest of the people. We have a wealthy hospital who calls itself world class, who wishes to express its power to control healthcare in Cleveland, causing us much suffering because it wishes to eliminate us

and leave this community without a hospital.

Lent did not begin for this community on Ash Wednesday. It began last Monday, March 6, 2000 when it was announced that a wealthy hospital was buying and closing us down. Those who attended the rally at Our Lady of Lourdes last Monday, those continuing their efforts to resist closure, namely political leaders, the clergy who support the people with their presence—all of these are living out the Gospel, living out the words and deeds of Jesus, are suffering with Jesus as he suffered.

I wish to close by reading a passage from the 25th chapter from the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted and healed me, in prison and you came to visit me." Then they will ask him, "Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink?" "When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness?" "When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?" He will answer: "I assure you, as often as you did it for my least sisters or brothers, you did it for me."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 96 and rollcall No. 97, I was unavoidably

away on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 2000, I was unable to be in Washington and, consequently, missed two votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 96 and "aye" on rollcall No. 97.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 4, 2000*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Numbers 96 and 97, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both measures.