

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH OF HARLEM ON THEIR 90TH FOUNDERS DAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Chief Apostle Bishop William L. Bonner and the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith of Harlem for organizing its 90th Pre-Centennial Founders Day at the Greater Refuge Temple in honor of founder, Bishop Robert Clarence Lawson.

To speak of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ as an organization is to speak of its illustrious and dynamic founder, the late apostle, Bishop Robert C. Lawson, D.D., LL.D. We can safely say that God made His choice to use this dedicated man to work His divinely inspired plan for this great organization. For it was by his Herculean effort and prolific preaching and the mastery of the inspired scriptures that Bishop Lawson, with tenacity and determination hewed from the villages, cities, towns and hamlets, the dynamic organization known as the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith Inc.

It was in the year of 1914 when Mr. Lawson accepted the word of God and was baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Ghost. A supernatural event took place in his life, namely the miraculous healing of his body from consumption. This occurrence was stamped indelibly upon him and played a major part in the shaping of his inspired faith healing ministry.

By his own testimony we learned that Bishop Lawson was divinely called by the Lord through a whirlwind, hearing the voice of God saying "Go Preach My Word! I mean you! I mean you! I mean you! Go preach My Word."

The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ had its inception in the year 1919. Bishop Lawson, then Elder Lawson was invited to a prayer meeting, which was in progress in a basement in the 40th Street area of New York City. So energetic was his service to the Lord, that his fame spread abroad and reached the ears of Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Anderson. These two blessed couples opened their homes to Elder Lawson and their home today is affectionately thought of as the "Cradle of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ".

Within a short period of time, the congregation outgrew its place of worship, having approximately 200 members, and larger quarters had to be sought. Bishop Lawson purchased the site at 52-54-56 West 133 Street and relocated his thriving church. It was there that his vision was enlarged and the Lord laid upon his heart to conduct a tent revival and great numbers were added to the church.

The clarion call for our illustrious leader came on Sunday, July 2, 1961, and Bishop Lawson a prince of preachers, the Bible Answer man, God's shining star departed this life. The words of our famed pioneer and Apostle are still resounding in our ears: "Add Thou To It, Add Thou To It," and the answer comes from the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will, we shall, we have.

HONORING MEMBERS IN THE 547TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I also introduce a second bill in honor of members of the 547th Transportation Company, who deployed to Iraq last Saturday. The District of Columbia Executive Guard Act would give the Mayor of the District of Columbia some additional authority over the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG). In circumstances constituting local emergencies, including natural disasters and civil disturbances unrelated to national or homeland security, but not homeland security matters, the mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority as governors. The National Guards in the 50 states operate under similar dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet, the President of the United States alone has the authority to call up the DC National Guard for any purpose here, local or national. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia did historically. Today, the most likely need for the National Guard would be because of natural disasters or to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the DCNG to cover local natural disasters or civil disturbances without relying on the President, who should be preoccupied with national matters, including homeland security, which would remain the sole province of the President, along with the existing power to nationalize the D.C. National Guard at will. As it is, the President must rely on a delegated official with little familiarity of the city to call up the National Guard to duty here for any purpose. It does no harm to give the mayor the authority for civil and natural disasters. However, it could do significant harm to leave him or her powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that a governor would have control over the mobilization and deployment of the state National Guard, it makes the same sense for the mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of that of small states, to have the same authority.

The mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the D.C. National Guard in instances that do not rise to the level of federal importance necessary to implicate the authority of the President. Today, requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of D.C. residents, visitors and federal employees. Procedures that require the mayor to request the needed assistance from the commander in chief for a local National Guard matter are as old as the republic, and as dangerously obsolete today. Moreover, this bill merely delegates the President's authority in specific circumstances and would not deprive the President of his authority over the D.C. National Guard at will, as the Congress can do in making laws for the District despite delegated home rule. This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to

the District of Columbia that Congress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. Congress delegated most if its authority to the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Executive National Guard Act follows this model.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF IRAN'S NUCLEAR THREAT

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the threat Iran's potential nuclear weapon capabilities have on the Middle East, the world, and particularly Israel.

In March, President Obama offered to open a dialogue with Iran. His olive branch was immediately met with scorn by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Iran has not cooled its international animosity since then, as noted by Defense Secretary Robert Gates as recently as Tuesday.

Talk is fine if it is premised in achieving realistic goals, but the Iranian regime has used past efforts at negotiation to delay and divide the United States and our allies in our efforts to turn Tehran from a nuclear enrichment program that clearly could be used for nuclear bombs.

Time for an open hand policy is running out. I believe it is time to up the stakes on Iran.

One way to accomplish that would be to pass the Iran Threat Reduction Act, H.R. 1208, which was introduced by Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. H.R. 1208, of which I am an original cosponsor, would extend current U.S. sanctions until the president certifies Iran has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction program and ceased its support for international terrorism. It also would significantly increase U.S. pressure on Tehran to do both.

The bill would sharply increase U.S. efforts to stop the shipment of refined petroleum and natural gas products to Iran, as well as materials needed for building or maintaining oil and gas pipelines. Furthermore, the bill completely prohibits U.S. importation of most Iranian products. It also denies U.S. foreign tax credits to Americans engaged in business activity with Iran that is prohibited by U.S. law.

March 17 marked the 17th anniversary of the bombing by Iranian proxies of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 and wounded 242. It is but one of hundreds of attacks Iran has made against Israel and the United States in a war Iran seems committed to continue.

Without direct Iranian support, Tehran's proxies, llamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, would be far less formidable foes for Israel. Without Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Iranian weapons, the United States would have suffered hundreds of fewer casualties in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the time for talk has ended. The United States should increase the pressure on Iran immediately. I therefore urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Iran Threat Reduction Act and I urge leadership to bring it to the floor for quick passage.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2009*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as a former student who attended community college, I stand in strong support of H. Res. 338, a resolution which supports the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. Our nation's community colleges provide the dream of achieving a higher education to millions of students each year. Community colleges are the nation's key supplier of workforce development and retraining needs and in addition, they build lasting partnerships and contribute significantly to the communities they serve. My congressional district is home to one of the oldest and most diverse community colleges in California—the Riverside Community College District—so I am proud to express my support of National Community College Month.

RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNUAL  
LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL  
FOOD DRIVE

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise to recognize and show my support for the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

The Letter Carriers National Food Drive is being conducted in more than 10,000 cities and towns, in every congressional district in all 50 states and jurisdictions. On May 9th, letter carriers will collect food from their postal customers along their route. This is the largest one-day food drive in the country with nearly one billion pounds of food being donated to food banks and pantries since its inception.

The Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive is made possible by the letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), rural letter carriers, other postal employees and volunteers, as well as the countless citizens who donate. To participate, all someone has to do is place a box or can of non-perishable food next to the mailbox on May 9th and a letter carrier will collect it and bring it back to the postal station to be sorted before it is delivered to a local food bank.

To nearly 35.5 million people in our country, hunger is a daily struggle. During this troubling economic time, many families are finding it increasingly difficult to put food on the table. This year, more than ever, donations are needed.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize and support the 17th Annual Letter Carriers National Food Drive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, and Tuesday, May 5, 2009, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes as a result of an illness. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: Rollcall No. 229—"yes"; Rollcall No. 230—"yes"; Rollcall No. 231—"yes"; Rollcall No. 232—"yes"; Rollcall No. 233—"yes."

RECOGNIZING RIVERDALE HIGH  
SCHOOL

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the faculty and students of Riverdale High School for a truly remarkable achievement.

On May 12, Riverdale High will be awarded the National College Board's Inspiration Award—an award that recognizes America's three most improved secondary schools.

As many of my colleagues will recall, the National College Board's Inspiration Award seeks out schools with high academic standards, as well as schools that encourage students to prepare for college. Once selected, recipients are afforded national recognition and a check for \$25,000.

Madam Speaker, Riverdale High School has approximately 1,500 students. More than 80 percent are on free or reduced lunch. Almost half of the school's students are migrants and a quarter of the population is learning English for the first time. Despite these challenges, Riverdale High offers an academically rigorous environment, including 12 AP courses, a choral and music program, as well as ROP, and drama and agriculture curriculum.

With this academic rigor has come great academic achievement. Riverdale High School has achieved a graduation rate of 98 percent over the past three years. Of these young men and women, 90 percent are continuing their education.

Simply put, they are doing amazing work in this small community. You cannot argue with results and I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the people who have made this honor for Riverdale High possible.

IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT  
CAUSED THE ECONOMIC MELT-  
DOWN

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the current economic crisis continues to take a devastating toll on families and businesses across this nation, and the world.

Never before have we witnessed so much economic turmoil. Within a matter of months,

Americans saw much of their life savings and their home equity disappear. Nest eggs evaporated literally overnight. Plans for a college education dashed. The dream of homeownership turned into a nightmare of foreclosure.

Today, unemployment continues to rise, credit markets are in a shambles, and businesses large and small are closing. The problems in our banking and financial system have infected the global economy, undermining confidence in our own markets.

To boost sagging demand in our economy, the federal government is now spending hundreds of billions of dollars at a pace that is unprecedented in our history. As the Congress and the new administration put in place measures to resolve this crisis, it is time for the Congress to provide the American people with a clear assessment on how we got into this mess and what ought to be done to prevent it from happening again.

Frankly speaking, given all the money that's been spent, the American people deserve a full accounting. They deserve an honest and unvarnished assessment of the causes of this crisis. Because, without a thorough diagnosis, how can we make sure that a crisis like this never happens again?

That is why I am joining with Congressman STEVEN LATOURETTE in calling for the establishment of an independent, bipartisan commission, charged with examining the root causes of the current global financial crisis.

It would resemble the 9/11 Commission in its objectivity and independence and have one year to investigate the crisis. It would have the authority to refer to law enforcement any evidence that institutions or individuals may have violated existing laws. At the end of its investigation, the Commission will report to the President and to the Congress its recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes necessary to protect our country from a repeat of this financial collapse.

I voted against the Wall Street bailout proposals last fall, because, as I said back then, they did not deal with the root causes of the crisis; they failed to give the American people a full and fair accounting of what happened; and they failed to hold accountable those who caused the crisis.

Today, I still believe we must do this and unless we take these actions, we will be failing in our responsibility as an institution to fully serve the people who elected us. I urge my colleagues and all Americans to support this proposal.

**CODY TURNBULL**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Turnbull of Weston, Missouri. Cody is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous