

and we are truly grateful for her commitment to racial and gender equality. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, Anhanette Aldridge, and all Americans whose lives she has touched.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE REBUILDING TOGETHER SOUTH SOUND ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rebuilding Together organization in their efforts to improve the lives of American homeowners with the greatest need, and help to ensure they have a safe and healthy place to call home.

Established in 1988, Rebuilding Together currently maintains over 200 active affiliates nationwide and works with more than 200,000 volunteers to rehabilitate 10,000 homes and community centers each year. The homeowners that Rebuilding Together serves include the elderly, disabled, veterans, and families displaced by natural disasters.

Rebuilding Together is the Nation's largest domestic housing organization that works to preserve homeownership and revitalize communities in a cost-effective manner by providing critical home repairs, accessibility modifications, and energy saving upgrades all at no charge to America's low-income homeowners. With the support of large volunteer teams, major corporations, and other contributors, Rebuilding Together leverages each dollar donated into an average of four dollars in added market value invested into the low-income homes they serve.

In a time of widespread housing challenges and economic turmoil, Rebuilding Together's work allows the residents it serves to remain and live safely in their own homes. Rebuilding Together's efforts help prevent homeowners from losing their homes and help homeowners maintain their independence and retain what is in many cases their most significant asset of personal savings and intergenerational wealth. These efforts also help to support neighborhoods and keep communities from losing residents and experiencing declines in real estate value.

This weekend, I will have the pleasure of joining volunteers and Rebuilding Together South Sound in Washington State as they hold their annual Rebuilding Day. I look forward to supporting their work and helping to achieve their important goals.

With the help of community partners, corporate sponsors, and political leadership, Rebuilding Together makes it possible for thousands of Americans to thrive in their own homes and live in healthy communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rebuilding Together for their efforts to ensure proper housing for veterans, senior citizens, the disabled, and displaced families in Washington and throughout the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING OF A NEW HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, joined by my colleague, The Hon. JAMES MORAN, to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new Habitat for Humanity development in Northern Virginia. This new development, Perry Hall, will provide homes to 12 families in Arlington County, Virginia.

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, was founded in 1990 and is entering its 20th year serving Arlington and Fairfax Counties as well as the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax. Since 1990, Habitat for Humanity has built homes for 73 Northern Virginia families.

Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to the belief that all people deserve a safe and decent place to live. To qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home, the applicant must have lived in Northern Virginia for at least 1 year prior to application, currently live in either substandard or inadequate housing which may include overcrowded or unsafe living conditions, be willing to complete 300–500 hours of “sweat equity” to building of their home, earn only 25–50% of the area median income, and have adequate income to pay a 20–30 year zero interest mortgage with a 1% down payment.

The successes of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia would not be possible without the support of their partnerships with individuals, corporations, civic organizations, associations and faith based groups from throughout the community. Equally important are the committed employees and volunteers who dedicate countless hours to achieve the goal of providing homes for those in need.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the groundbreaking of Perry Hall and in recognizing the invaluable contributions that Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia has made to the entire region. I would also ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the supporters, employees and volunteers of this wonderful organization for their ongoing dedication.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE TOLEDO CATHOLIC DIOCESE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centenary celebration of the Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. The year long celebration began in October of 2009 with a Season of Preparation and now moves into its Season of Celebration. The Centenary concludes with a Season of Recommitment beginning October 8, 2010 through April 15, 2011.

The Toledo Roman Catholic Diocese was established by order of Pope Pius X on April

15, 1910. Its first bishop, the Most Reverend Joseph Schrembs was installed on October 4, 1911. The Diocese covers nineteen counties in Northwest Ohio including Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot. The region is urban, rural, suburban and every variety of ethnicity.

A century after its founding, the diocese serves 321,516 Catholics in 128 Parishes. Its services have grown to meet the needs of 21st Century Catholic life while adhering to traditional Catholic teaching. Today's faithful can look to a spirit of ecumenism, both lay and religious pastoral care, and ministries focused on youth, families, those who are aging and those who are alone.

Pope Paul VI said, “Liturgy is like a strong tree whose beauty is derived from the continuous renewal of its leaves, but whose strength comes from the old trunk, with solid roots in the ground.” As the Toledo Catholic Diocese has travelled through a century of steadfast faith, challenge and opportunity, it has always been the bedrock for the faithful of our region. Even as we celebrate the milestone marker of 100 years in Christ's service, we look forward to the coming 100 years with renewed hope and faith.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN JONES ON HER 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN PUBLIC SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to commend my dear friend and colleague, Vivian Jones, on an illustrious public service career spanning 40 years in the United States House of Representatives.

But, my dear Vivian is more than just a co-worker to me. We have maintained a personal and working relationship for the larger part of my political life that has proved abundantly edifying and rewarding. I consider her a true friend with not only great skills—one of the last people on earth who can take shorthand—but a great understanding of the nuances of dealing with politicians and the riggers of constituent casework. I am pleased to say that there are people that call up and want to speak to Vivian instead of me.

The many who have met and been touched by Vivian and her life's work can attest that she is equal parts strong mind and ample heart, a humble soul who cares deeply about the issues of the day and their impact on everyday people. And yet, she has been able to influence public decision making, develop activities of enormous impact and provide motivation, inspiration, and consolation to the younger members of my staff.

Vivian Jones goes back to my days at Weaver, Evans, Wingate & Wright. She was my Administrative Assistant when I first practiced law. She became a part of my campaign staff in March of 1970, when I, then a young New York State Assemblyman, challenged the legendary Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. for the Congressional Seat.