

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR SAM E. MANN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SAINT MARK UNION CHURCH AND UNITED INNER CITY SERVICES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Rev. Doctor Samuel E. Mann, an individual who has dedicated his life to helping the underserved in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, the District that I am honored to represent. This weekend, Reverend Mann is retiring, after 40 years as Pastor Administrator of St. Mark Union Church and executive director of United Inner City Services. In that capacity, he oversaw a budget of \$1.5 million annually, a sixty-two member staff and programs that included: child and family development, social services, and community development and street organizations and violence prevention.

He is a native of Eufaula, Alabama and a graduate of Birmingham Southern College, BA; Duke Divinity School, M. Div., and St. Paul School of Theology, D. Min. He is married to Dr. Beverly J. Brown, and is the father of three children and grandfather of seven.

Remarkably, Rev. Mann was a local preacher at the age of 15 years old at the First Methodist Church of Eufaula, Alabama; he was later the Associate Pastor of St. John United Methodist Church of Kansas City, Missouri, and sometime later, the Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Peculiar, MO, and Director of the Young Adult Projects, Inc. Rev. Mann was dismissed from both churches because of his views on race and peace.

As a long-time civil rights activist, Rev. Mann marched in numerous demonstrations, including the march for the garbage workers in Memphis, Tennessee, the march against the war in Vietnam, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was part of the U.S. delegation that visited with South Africa ANC leader Dr. Nelson Mandela shortly after his release from prison. Dr. Mann has also been jailed on several occasions for his participation in these activities. He served as a key participant in the national effort to respond to the burning of black churches in America. He has traveled to Nicaragua and China for various humanitarian efforts.

Rev. Mann was instrumental in the formation of Operation Break and Build, a street outreach organization that evolved out of the Urban Peace and Justice Summit in 1994. Its purpose was to assist street organizations, gangs, with transforming their lives via crisis intervention, education, economic development, addressing women's issues, and criminal justice.

He has been the recipient of many awards, including the NAACP Harold Holiday Award; the John M. Swomley Human Rights Award, the Elder Statesmen of Kansas City award, the MO Jazz award, the Sam Eason Award presented by Niles Home; the Black Archives of Mid-America award; the Beta Omega PSI PHI Fraternity Inc.'s Citizen of the Year Award; and many, many more. He is co-founder of the project "Reframing the Dialogue on Race in America." Through this national project, he attempts to address the problem of

race by focusing on the issues of white supremacy and white privilege. Through training, he seeks to inspire ministries to address racism in their congregations.

His most recent project was the building of the \$4 million child care center, the St. Mark Child & Family Development Center, located at 2008 E. 12th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. St. Mark's is a state of the art child care facility that annually serves approximately 225 low-income families through its early childhood education program, before- and after-school program, and summer camp. Nearly 100 percent of the children are African American, with many living in single parent households in one of Kansas City, Missouri's poorest neighborhoods.

Rev. Mann is presently a leader working in concert with other agencies in making Kansas City a Zone Seven site to provide additional services in the urban core for the education of children. I am proud of the federal funding I helped secure for St. Mark.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege for me to recognize my friend, and colleague, the Reverend Doctor Sam Mann for his efforts to improve the education and quality of life in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. It is with great pride that we honor Reverend Doctor Mann today for his commitment to the residents of Missouri. On behalf of the people of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish this thunderous preacher and fearless prophet a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN INGLEWOOD, CA

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Highland Elementary School in Inglewood, California, located in my district. Highland was recently named a Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education, a coveted award recognizing high-performing and improving schools across our country. This year, Highland shares this distinction with 304 other schools among the thousands of schools in the United States.

Highland and its teachers, administrators, staff, students, parents and community members have really been on a roll. In addition to the Blue Ribbon award, the school was also named a California Distinguished School, and Highland is a two-time Title One Academic Achievement School and California Business School of Excellence.

I am very appreciative of the efforts by this Congress and this Administration to focus on education and the future of our young students. We must remain committed to improving schools and providing opportunity for all Americans to learn.

In my district, like many communities in urban America, test scores are below average, buildings are in disrepair, and graduation rates are too low.

I was so encouraged to hear about Highland's honor because one of the two ways to qualify for the Blue Ribbon award is by having schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds improve student performance to high levels.

Improving test scores early on is crucial to getting kids on the right path to a solid education and key to securing critical resources that will help our schools turn around.

I want to particularly honor Highland principal Susan Ippongi and Inglewood Unified School District superintendent Gary McHenry for their leadership and their dedication to schoolchildren in Inglewood.

I am looking forward to meeting them in November when representatives from the Blue Ribbon schools come to Washington to be formally recognized for their achievements.

I am very proud of Highland's ability to excel over adversity, and particularly proud of the young boys and girls who are studying hard for a bright future. They are giving Highland Elementary School, our community, our city and our country a good name.

HONORING ZOILA A. QUIÑONES

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor one of south Florida's finest community leaders, Zoila A. Quiñones.

Zoila was born in the city of Cabana, Peru and completed her studies at the prestigious Colegio Nacional Mercedes Cabello in Lima, Peru and graduated as a Commercial Accountant. She then went on to work at one of Peru's finest engineering and architecture firms, Graña y Montero, S.A., for 26 years.

In 1986, Zoila came to the United States from her native Peru to join her mother and brother in Miami, Florida. She started a career in the cargo industry and eventually founded her own company, Cabana International Corporation. She also began her activism within the Peruvian American community of south Florida and is today one of its most influential leaders. She is involved with various civic and business groups including the Peruvian American Coalition, the Chamber of Commerce of Florida, the Ancashina Association and the Peruvian Civic Unity.

For nearly 23 years, Zoila has also taken an active role in the democratic process by educating policymakers at all levels of government about issues important in the Peruvian American community, working to ensure that the United States and Peru strengthen diplomatic ties, and helping shape legislation and policy towards Latin America. She has also been instrumental in fighting for small businesses, advancing economic growth in the United States and working towards free trade with Peru.

Zoila has earned the respect and trust of many in our community, dedicating herself to advancing the needs of the Hispanic community in the United States. I ask that you join me in honoring and thanking my good friend Zoila A. Quiñones, a true leader who loves and values freedom and works so that others may enjoy it.