

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CARPENTER/ WALDEN FAMILY REUNION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Carpenter/Walden Family Reunion, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful occasion. This reunion affirms the importance of family gatherings, drawing together relatives from Atlanta and as far away as Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Washington, DC, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. They are continually reaching out for more relatives to come from all parts of the United States to reunite for a weekend of activities to reconnect and celebrate the meaning of "Family."

The Carpenter family celebrates the matrimonial union of Pason Carpenter (born 1828) to his wife, who predeceased him, and from this union, nine children were born and raised by his second wife, Henrietta. From this union, there have been at least 100 direct descendants and hundreds of other relatives who bear the Surnames of Carpenter and Walden. We are the descendants of Pason Carpenter, whose son, Charlie Carpenter, bore a son named John H. Carpenter (who married Arie) and among 7 children, their grandfather, Willie Carpenter (who married Estelle Moody) and their 8 children were: Leroy, Florence, Naomi, Hawthorne, Georgetta, Willie Jr., Earl, and Curley. This reunion committee is largely comprised of the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren of Leroy Carpenter.

The Carpenter/Walden's first reunion was started by Emma Shands, who hosted mass cook-outs in her backyard many years ago during the 1950s in Hopewell, Virginia. In July each year, all of the Carpenters and Waldens along with friends and relatives came. This "cook-out" tradition still goes on today and serves as a traditional homecoming that takes place on the first Sunday of August and everyone gathers in Virginia to celebrate. The Carpenters and Waldens connect with family and friends and worship at Diamond Grove Baptist Church in Skippers, Virginia. One of the family's most senior members, Emma's brother, Buddy Walden, has extended his efforts to link the family, and his research of the family roots entailed venturing from state to state. This tradition prompts an inquiry at each reunion closeout for a family volunteer to host the next reunion held bi-annually in that family's hometown. This has been the Carpenter/Walden tradition for the past 10–20 years where hundreds of relatives from all corners of the United States reunite for a weekend of activities, reconnecting, and celebrating. Youth filled with exuberance along with the elders seasoned by wisdom of years will unite because of this occasion. They honor Johnny Walden, the oldest of the family's seasoned elders at

the age of 90+, twins Jeff and Kaiser Carpenter who are our Carpenter/Walden history/storytellers, and the family now welcomes the youngest additions, Simone Carpenter and Jerome Goode, Jr.

The Governor of the State of Georgia, Nathan Deal, recognizes this momentous gathering with a welcome letter and the host city of Stockbridge, GA, issued a proclamation to honor the Carpenter/Walden reunion. I ask that this great legislative body stand with me and add to these acknowledgements by honoring the Carpenter and Walden families. I am proud to represent the Carpenter/Walden family members who call the 13th Congressional District of Georgia home.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey. Established in 1984, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is a faith-based, nonprofit social service agency providing aid to individuals and families in the four California Central Coast counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo. Formed with a mission to assist individuals and families of all backgrounds and beliefs by providing them with tools, training, and resources to help meet basic necessities for life, Catholic Charities also provides information and referrals to social service agencies in each community it serves.

The people of California's Central Coast are fortunate to be served by this distinguished organization. Serving over 20,000 individuals annually, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey provides help and creates hope through its three core areas of service: Mental Health Counseling, Immigration and Citizenship, and Family Supportive Services. By taking into account the whole person as well as the family and life situation, the organization takes a holistic approach to helping people change their lives, rise up out of poverty, and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is affiliated with Catholic Charities USA, the nation's largest social services network that serves more than seven million people each year. Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey is dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty and participates in the Campaign to Cut Poverty, part of a nationwide effort started by Catholic Charities USA, and collaboration with coalitions of community-based organizations, interfaith allies, government representatives, and business leaders in the four counties of the Diocese of Monterey to cut poverty in half by 2020.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is one of the few non-profit organizations

in the region that is certified by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which is the highest administrative body responsible for recognizing and accrediting organizations that practice before the immigration courts. They provide guidance for those who struggle in achieving lawful permanent residence status and those who wish to become citizens of our nation. Catholic Charities staff are a significant resource in our communities known for their experience in the processes of becoming legal residents and/or citizens. Staff ensures full and accurate assistance for the current and ever growing, caseload of 5,000 clients annually in addition to over 9,000 services for consultation, replacement of legal permanent cards, work authorization renewal, applications for U.S. citizenship and English translation of certificates of birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption. In the fall of 2013, Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey assisted 400 youth and young adults with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and work authorization applications. No doubt those numbers will continue to grow given the recent extension of the program. Catholic Charities is one of the few trusted organizations in our community and we are lucky to have them.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey on its 30th anniversary, and commend the organization for its many contributions and quality of service to the public.

PASTOR DUONG KIM KHAI DUONG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1990s, Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong has been detained or arrested thirteen times, usually for organizing prayer sessions.

Most recently, he was arrested in August 2010 for his efforts to advocate for religious freedom and social justice. The trumped up charge? Attempting to overthrow the government.

Following his arrest, it took over two months for authorities to tell his family where he was being detained.

Now, he faces five years in prison followed by five years of house arrest.

In 2011, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that the Vietnam government's detention and conviction of Pastor Duong Kim Khai and six other activists were in violation of international law.

But the State Department continues to ignore the situation, refusing to include Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for religious freedom.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong looks forward to the day he meets his Maker but that will be an awful day for the Communist government of Vietnam.

And that's just the way it is.

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