

those years, the congregation has joyfully celebrated Christmas and Easter, baptisms and weddings, while lending a warm shoulder to those suffering. The Church has been a faithful friend to all who have walked through the front doors.

When the parish was founded in 1948, the church was named for the Holy Mother, calling it the Mother of God Church. In 1982, Pastor Ibrahim Ibrahim was named the first Chaldean Bishop in the United States. The Mother of God Parish was then elevated to a Cathedral. The Chaldean community is family oriented and religious. The congregation grew from 100 families to approximately four thousand in 1998. The clergy and membership have given their time and talents to serve God and their community.

Our Lady of Chaldeans Cathedral, Mother of God Church has been the center of many people's lives for 50 years. Although history and time have changed the congregation, the spirit of the church has remained strong. I would like to personally congratulate the parishioners on this historic milestone. Best wishes in the next 50 years.

HONORING SALLY JAMESON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the appointment of my good friend, Mrs. Sally Jameson as executive director of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

For the past six years, Sally has been affiliated with the Charles County Chamber of Commerce; five of those years she served the legislative committee.

Prior to her appointment, Sally was the director of the Waldorf Jaycee Community Center since it opened in 1992. Today, it has evolved as a focal point for Charles County and is currently undergoing expansion.

Mr. Speaker, she is working with the Charles County Public Schools on a student exchange with students in Waldorf, Germany and with the Charles County Commissioners on a twin-city establishment between Waldorf, Maryland and Waldorf, Germany.

Sally is a life-long resident of Charles County and resides in Bryantown with her husband, Gene and two children, Donnie and Michelle.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that Sally will be a tremendous asset to the Chamber of Commerce and southern Maryland. I am proud to be her representative in Congress and I ask you and the remainder of my colleagues to join with me in acknowledging the appointment of this fine American.

TRIBUTE TO REV. CANON JOSE DANIEL CARLO

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Canon Jose Daniel

Carlo, beloved spiritual leader of St. Simon's Episcopal Church in San Fernando. Father Carlo recently announced that he is retiring from St. Simon's after 18 years. I know his parishioners reacted to his decision with mixed emotions. While they wish him the best, they know that he is virtually irreplaceable. His extraordinary contributions to the Church and the Northeast San Fernando Valley will be remembered with great appreciation.

Father Carlo constantly sought ways for the Church to build strong bonds with the community. For example, every Sunday, he conducted four services, two in English and two in Spanish. In this way, Father Carlo ensured that St. Simon's would be a place of worship open to every resident of San Fernando and its surrounding areas.

Father Carlo also turned the Church into a home for many programs providing much-needed services to residents of the Northeast Valley. He recognized the special responsibility of the Church to become involved during a time of government cutbacks. The Parish became the site for community and outreach programs relating to alcoholism, drugs, teen pregnancy, senior citizens, pre-school kids and clothing and food.

In addition to these ongoing programs, Father Carlo was adamant that St. Simon's provide assistance during times of urgency or crisis. In 1986, the Church assisted over 4500 persons applying for their cards during the Amnesty Program for Undocumented Aliens. For six months after the devastating Northridge Earthquake of 1994, St. Simon's made available tons of emergency food, clothing, diapers, sleeping bags and other necessities to more than 2500 families.

Within the diocese of Los Angeles, Father Carlo promoted the implementation of the first Five Year Plan for the Development of Hispanic Ministry at the national and provincial levels.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Father Daniel Carlo of St. Simon's Episcopal Church of San Fernando, whose dedication to his Parish and the community inspires us all. During his 18-year tenure at St. Simon's, Father Carlo had a positive affect on the lives of so many people. I join his congregation in wishing Father Carlo and his family all the best as he embarks on new challenges.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEMOCRACY 2000 ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the first bill in my D.C. Democracy Now Package. The bills to follow, as many as half a dozen, will be introduced at appropriate times throughout the 106th Congress.

The purpose of the first of these bills, the District of Columbia Democracy 2000 Act (D.C. Democracy 2000) is to ensure that the new city administration has sufficient control of the District government to be held accountable in preparation for the expiration of the control

period. Among the other bills that will be included in the Package are: D.C. Budget Autonomy Act; D.C. Legislative Autonomy Act; D.C. City Employee Tax Fairness Act (Commuter Tax for District Government Employees); and Delegate Vote Restoration.

I am introducing D.C. Democracy 2000 first because it is the most urgent. This bill is essential to assure the stable transition to full self-government already begun by the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. The heart of D.C. Democracy 2000 is the early return of Home Rule, allowing the Authority to expire a full year ahead of schedule. At the time that the Authority Act was passed, the District's insolvency led the Congress to estimate that it would take four years of balanced budgets to achieve the necessary stability. However, the District's reforms have far outstripped the estimate of Congress. It now seems clear that by Fiscal Year 2000 the District shall have had three consecutive years of balanced budgets. If the failure to achieve balanced budgets could delay the return of Home Rule, it should follow that the prudence reflected in continuous years of surpluses should be equally recognized. Further delay is especially unwarranted in light of the continued oversight of the City Council and Congress.

The District has just revolutionized its political culture by election of a new Mayor who earned his stripes as a tenacious Chief Financial Officer who cut budgets, prevented overspending, and helped create surpluses. To match the new Mayor, a new City Council has already shown a new, strict approach to oversight that holds the executive and the city agencies accountable. Moreover, the District has used most of its surplus revenues to pay down its accumulated deficit. As a result, the District is expected to eliminate its operating deficit without using the authority to borrow, that Congress granted the city in the Revitalization Package in 1997. This is performance that not only deserves recognition, it is performance that deserves encouragement by the return of authority that was stripped away only because of a fiscal crisis. Needless to say, it would lift the spirits of District residents to begin the Year 2000 with Home Rule restored.

The bill also includes a section that would give the Mayor authority to hire and fire department heads. This section carries out the purpose of the Authority Act "to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of services, by the District government during a period of fiscal emergency." P.L. 104-8, Title I §2(b)(2). On January 2, Alice Rivlin, for the Authority, signed a memorandum of agreement delegating authority to the Mayor to run the District government to the fullest extent allowed by existing law. Viewed from the front lines of the District government's present progress, the Authority's considered judgment was that a transition to Home Rule through the delegation of power to the new Mayor was necessary in advance of the transfer of ultimate power at the end of the control period; a clean line of reporting authority unmistakably identifying the responsible officials was necessary for efficient and effective government operational reform; and Mayor Williams, in his role as Chief Financial Officer, had already demonstrated his capacity to administer complicated operations.