

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. FARMER

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in mourning the passing of one of America's greatest civil rights leaders, James L. Farmer, Jr. Mr. Farmer who served alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights giants of the 1950's and 1960s and led Freedom Rides throughout the South, died July 9 in a Fredericksburg, VA, hospital.

As one of the founders of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1942, Farmer was considered one of the "Big Four" Civil Rights leaders along with Dr. King, NAACP chief, Roy Wilkins, and Urban League head Whitney Young. Farmer was the last surviving member of that courageous and august group.

James Farmer was born on January 12, 1920, in Marshall, TX. He was the son of Dr. James Leonard Farmer, who was the first African American in Texas to hold a doctorate, and Pearl Farmer. James entered Wiley College in Marshall as a 14-year-old freshman. He graduated from Wiley in 1938 and entered the Howard University School of Religion here in Washington, DC. He received his bachelor of divinity degree in 1941, and planned to follow his father into the ministry. However, upon learning that he would be required to preach to a segregated congregation, he declined ordination and set course on a path that would lead him into the civil rights movement.

In 1942, James Farmer and a few others organized CORE. Later that year in Chicago, Farmer initiated what is believed to be the first organized sit-in in United States history. In 1961, Farmer became CORE's national director. He organized and led the famous Freedom Rides of 1961, which took black and white protesters on Greyhound and Trailways buses from Washington, DC, to Jackson, MS, to challenge Jim Crow laws requiring racial segregation on public transportation. Soon after the famed Freedom Rides, Mr. Farmer met with Vice President Johnson and recommended what he called "preferential treatment" for black people trying to get into all-white schools and workplaces. This suggestion would later become the cornerstone of President Johnson's "affirmative action" policies.

Mr. Farmer's involvement with the civil rights movement often brought him face to face with threats of violence. He endured beatings and jailings and barely escaped lynching one night in Louisiana.

Mr. Farmer was an early proponent and follower of the nonviolent ideology espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. In recognition of his esteemed contributions to equality and civil rights, President Clinton in 1998 bestowed on Mr. Farmer the highest government honor a civilian can receive, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

James Farmer's contribution to the cause of equality cannot be understated. After stepping down as CORE's national director, Mr. Farmer went on to teach at Lincoln University, the alma mater of another of America's finest sons, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Mar-

shall. He also served a brief stint as the Assistant Secretary at what was then known as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and authored two books. Mr. Farmer was a quiet but indefatigable warrior in helping to open doors and create opportunities for thousands of African-American citizens. He leaves a lasting legacy and will be sorely missed. I extend my condolences to his surviving daughters, Tami Farmer Gonzales and Abbey Farmer Levin.

## JAMES LEONARD FARMER, JR.

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor and remember an American hero, James Leonard Farmer, Jr. who passed away on July 9 at the age of 79.

James Farmer was one of the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement who helped to shape America. He was a pioneer in both his ideas and actions. His accomplishments and courage over the course of his life are unparalleled.

James Farmer is often overshadowed in the Movement by Martin Luther King Jr. However, he was the first in the Movement to implement the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and use non-violence and civil disobedience to fight segregation and hatred. He founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1942. He organized the first sit-in in the country in a restaurant with members of CORE. CORE was also responsible for the Freedom Rides in the summer of 1961. These accomplishments led to the desegregation of interstate buses in the South and, in part, led to the Civil Rights Bill of 1964.

His leadership led to great strides that were made early in the Civil Rights Movement. His intellect, bravery, and commanding oratory skills were a primary reason that the Movement was able to gain support from all people.

He continued his work in the Civil Rights Movement in other facets, such as running for Congress, working in the Nixon administration, and teaching, which is what he continued doing until the end of his career.

He continued to educate young people about the history of the Civil Rights Movement. He continued combating hate with ideas of love, brotherhood, and non-violence. He knew fear did not mean cowardice, and that hate was ignorance. He espoused that love and cooperation transcends race, gender, and differences and creates a better mankind. The better humankind for which he strived is a humankind that is truly one and truly unified, and when we as a people achieve this, it is then that we approach our Dream.

## TRIBUTE TO RETIRING INSURANCE AGENT WES LANGKRAEHR

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the insurance industry has come to an end. Wes Langkraehr recently retired after 34 years as an American Family insurance agent.

Mr. Langkraehr was raised and educated in the Concordia, MO, area. After short stints at the Sweet Springs shoe factory and working construction at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mr. Langkraehr left Concordia in 1953 to work at the Kansas City Power and Light Company (KCP&L). In 1954, he joined the Army. Upon completion of his tour of duty as a soldier, he returned to KCP&L, where he worked for a total of 14 years.

While working at KCP&L, Mr. Langkraehr also started working part-time in the insurance business. By 1964, he was making more money with insurance than he was in his full-time job at KCP&L. He quit KCP&L in 1967 and began working full-time in the insurance business with American Family. In July 1969, he was selected as the Company Agent of the Month, boosting his confidence in his ability as an insurance agent. He never looked back.

With his insurance business booming, Mr. Langkraehr began to buy, sell, and develop real estate. He formed Metro East Corporation in the early 1980's. With his retirement from the insurance industry, Mr. Langkraehr now has time to devote more attention to Metro East.

Mr. Langkraehr is a full-time booster for the town of Concordia, MO. He remains active in the community, rarely missing meetings of either the Lions Club or the City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in extending our best wishes in the years ahead to Wes Langkraehr.

## JONI YOSWEIN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Joni Yoswein is President of Yoswein New York, Inc. (YNY), a government affairs and public relations firm based in New York City. Representing a range of clients that includes health care providers, educational institutions, community based organizations, trade groups, labor unions, Yoswein New York has become one of the fastest growing public policy and government relations firms in New York State.

Ms. Yoswein founded YNY in 1994. The firm quickly developed a reputation as a tireless governmental advocate for its clients, successfully representing many Brooklyn institutions.

Until 1992 Joni Yoswein served as a member of the New York State Assembly from Brooklyn's 44th Assembly District, joining the ranks of only several dozen women ever elected to legislative office in New York. During her

tenure as an Assembly member she was instrumental in securing additional funding for the Higher Education Applied Technology Program, and for New York City's recycling programs. She was also a leader on voter access issues, initiatives focused on displaced homemakers, and on funding for New York City's infrastructure. Immediately prior to forming YNY in 1994, she was a Deputy Commissioner for the City of New York Department of Aging.

Joni Yoswein's career in State government began when she became a legislative representative for Brooklyn Assembly Member Mel Miller. She worked in the legislature for 14 years, becoming Director of Operations for the Assembly, responsible for its 2,000 employees statewide. At the time, Ms. Yoswein was the highest ranking woman on the Speaker's staff. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984 and 1988, and Democratic District leader and State Committee member for 10 years.

Ms. Yoswein is a graduate of the State University at Albany. She is married to Glenn C. Van Bramer, and resides in Brooklyn. I want to commend her dedicated service to both her government and community, and for being a role model for all women to follow.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ANDREW  
CHARLES JACKSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Andrew Charles Jackson who for over 36 years, tirelessly served his community and congregation as a spiritual leader and model citizen.

Bishop Jackson was born in Columbia, South Carolina, to Malcolm and Charlotte Jackson. He was educated in the public schools of Richland County, and Columbia Bible College. He married Jennie Lumpkin. They had 5 children, and currently have 7 grandchildren.

Early in his life, Bishop Jackson was baptized and immediately began strengthening his ties to the church. He served as a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, Youth Leader, and Deacon at the Bible Way Church of Hampton Street. He was called to the ministry in 1963 and installed as a pastor in 1964.

In January, 1966 the Church building burned and he and the congregation held services in homes and a school on Atlas Road. In October, 1967 Bishop Jackson, "Mother" Elizabeth Simmons and 11 members established a new church on Bluff Road in Columbia, South Carolina.

In 1969, Bishop Jackson dedicated a new 350 seat sanctuary on Atlas Road and established a Nursery School. He was also ordained and Elder in 1969 and appointed a District Elder in 1970. He continued his building program on Atlas Road, adding a youth center and dining hall in 1971. He established a radio broadcast the following year.

In May of 1972, Bishop Jackson was appointed Diocesan Bishop of South Carolina,

Eastern North Carolina and Prince Frederick, Maryland, and served in this capacity for many years. It was during this time that he established the Bible Way Social Action Foundation (BSAF) to serve needy community members. In 1980, he was appointed as Liaison Bishop for West Africa, and a school was named in his honor in West Africa in 1988. While sharing his faith around the world, he continued serving his home church and in 1981 they built a 1,000 seat sanctuary. From 1983-1988, Bishop Jackson assisted Bishop Chester Byrd with the Florida Diocese and was appointed Bishop of the Florida Diocese in addition to South Carolina, and was later appointed as Director of Finance for Bible Way Church World Wide.

Still remaining in the Columbia area, Bishop Jackson helped to establish a state of the art Family Life Center in May of 1995, and he was consecrated as Co-Vice Presiding Bishop of Bible Way Church in July of 1995. He retired from full time pastorate in November of 1996, after over 33 years in the ministry, and is now Pastor Emeritus of the Atlas Road Bible Way. Throughout his ministry, Bishop Jackson has received numerous honors and recognitions. Of particular note was his 1997 induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, we seldom meet people who give so tirelessly of their time and resources as Bishop Andrew Charles Jackson. Please join me in paying tribute to this wonderful South Carolinian, devoted Christian, and personal friend.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BESSIE CANNON, PRESIDENT, SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU) LOCAL 880 OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Bessie Cannon who made her heavenly transition on Friday, July 9, 1999 at the age of 57.

Mrs. Cannon served diligently as the President of the 10,000 member Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 880 for seven years. She was a strong and effective voice for the "little people", fighting in Chicago for the passage of the city's first "Living Wage" ordinance. She championed many causes within the labor movement in Chicago and across this nation during her 13 years as a member of SEIU.

A deeply devoted Christian woman, Mrs. Cannon served faithfully as a member of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Clay Evans. She had an unwavering commitment to the cause of Christ, believing that in Him we have everlasting life. Mrs. Cannon was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She was an anchor in her home, in her church, in her community and indeed in this nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Mrs. Cannon for several years. She has been a supporter and

friend. I want to encourage her family and many friends to always remember to look to the hills from which comes all of their help. I am truly honored to pay tribute to her distinguished life and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHRIS  
CHIAVERINA AND MR. RICHARD  
BERNOTOS: TWO EXCELLENT  
EDUCATORS

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 1999*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to take this opportunity to officially recognize two outstanding gentlemen from the 16th District of Illinois for their important contributions to advancing educational excellence in Illinois.

Mr. Chris Chiaverina lives in Crystal Lake and is a physics teacher at New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL. He exemplifies the innovativeness and creativity that teachers can bring to education. Through his collaborations with fellow educators in math and science, Mr. Chiaverina has helped to develop the Connections Project, which has recently won a grant from the GTE GIFT (Growth Initiative For Teachers) program. GTE offers 60 grants to groups integrating math and science with technology in innovative ways. I would like to include a summary of this inspiring project that won this national award.

I also would like to praise the dedicated work of Mr. Richard Bernotos, Superintendent of School District 47 in Crystal Lake, IL, who was recently chosen as the Parade Grand Marshal for the Crystal Lake Fourth of July celebration. The Crystal Lake Gala Committee picked the Grand Marshal of the parade based on nominations from the community including that of Franklin McAnally, a sixth grade student from Lundahl Middle School. Franklin's letter is included as a testimony to Mr. Bernotos' legacy.

THE CONNECTIONS PROJECT

WHAT IS THE CONNECTIONS PROJECT?

The New Trier Connections Project is an ongoing endeavor which was initiated several years ago as a result of collaboration among art, mathematics and science teachers. The specific goals of the Connections Project include: (1) the production of interactive, interdisciplinary exhibits; (2) the creation of hands-on curricular resources that permit the integration of the exhibits into existing art, mathematics and science courses; (3) the promotion of sender school/high school articulation; (4) the fostering of intra- and inter-departmental collaboration; (5) the implementation of in-service opportunities to acquaint faculty at New Trier and its sender schools with interactive, interdisciplinary resources; and (6) the operation of a web-site to provide on-line access to information about our project.

The teachers and students involved in this initiative have created more than 80 hands-on, museum-type exhibits that demonstrate interrelationships between art, mathematics, science and human perception. The multi-disciplinary exhibits are grouped in