

elected leaders. Let me tell you that such demands for personal responsibility, for having integrity in your personal lives, will feel as light as a single snowflake the first time you are responsible for protecting the lives of others. Responsibility is demanded in your profession because, at some time, so much will be at stake in the decisions you make.

I'm not telling you this because I am worried that you will not rise to the occasion. On the contrary, I believe that you are part of a military organization that will make you ready to do your duty well, when you are called upon. I am telling you this because I am concerned, instead, that your sense of responsibility, your sense of duty, your sense of honor will, at times, make you feel somehow cut off from the society you serve.

I want to tell you that you cannot and must not let that happen. You are a critical part of American society. You are the bulwark of this society. American society cannot carry on as a free, independent, diverse, rich society without you. But neither can you succeed without the support of the American people. You have to work at maintaining that support as vigorously as you work at any other part of your profession.

Sometimes that will not be so easy. Peace is your profession. The paradox is that the more successful you are at your profession—the more peace you bring to our country—the less you are likely to be appreciated for what you do.

The famous British poet, Rudyard Kipling, wrote a poem entitled "Tommy" about the treatment of soldiers in time of peace. It is written from the point of view of a British infantryman, dressed in his red coat, who was refused a pint of beer at a "Public House," and he complains "For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!" But its "Saviour of 'is country," when the Guns begin to shoot."

In time of war, we band together as a Nation. In time of peace—even in time of a very troubled and difficult peace—many of our fellow citizens focus on other things. It is your job to let them do that. It is your job not to let them forget you even as they focus on other things.

A great many thoughtful, well-informed people are concerned these days about what they perceive as a growing gap between military and civilian society in the United States. I, too, worry about that.

Let me be clear about this. I don't worry that the military will somehow become a renegade force, or that military leaders will defy civilian leadership. That is not a real concern to me. All of you have been imbued with the importance of civilian control of the military as part of your very souls. You have joined the military to protect our great, free society, not to try, futilely, to control it. I don't believe any group or institution can control it.

I worry, rather, that if you feel yourselves to be cut off from society, to be abandoned by it, to feel it's failings as somehow alienating—then your alienation will become a self-fulfilling reality. You will not do what is needed to ensure continued public understanding of your role and continued public support of your vital mission.

American society, for good or ill—mostly for the good—is absorbed in other things than ensuring the peace. Americans make you responsible for that great task. You have to tell them about it. You cannot afford to feel that your great responsibility makes

you somehow unique or somehow deserving of support. You are deserving of support. But you have to reach out to your fellow citizens to let them know that.

How should you do that? Partly it is a matter of attitude. Don't let yourself feel cut off. Don't let yourself feel different. Don't let your ingrained sense of duty make you feel unappreciated and unhonored. If you seek public support, you will get it.

I think you should be taught that it is part of your duty as an officer in the U.S. Air Force to keep in constant touch with the community in which you grew up. When you go home, you should call up the president of the local Lions club or the Rotary club and say "Congressman Skelton told me I ought to give you a call and let you know where I am and what I'm doing in my military service." You will get a great response. Your community wants to support you. Your community wants to know that you are there for them. Your community wants you to continue to be a part of it. Your community wants to understand what it is to say, "Peace is our Profession." It is part of your profession to contribute to their understanding.

As you progress through your military career, it is my sincere hope that you will not only fulfill your fondest dreams, but that you will, by your service, provide the peace for our country that will allow your fellow American citizens to pursue their dreams.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. God bless.

A SALUTING FATHER JAMES VERNON MATTHEWS, II IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 25 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to rise today and bring to the attention of the United States House of Representatives a man many residents in my Congressional District affectionately know as Father Jay.

Father James Vernon Matthews, II was ordained as the first Black Catholic Priest in northern California on May 3, 1974.

Born in 1948 in Berkeley, California, to Yvonne Marie Feast and James Vernon Matthews, the Reverend Matthews graduated from Oakland's Skyline High School in 1966. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Humanities and Philosophy from St. Patrick College, Mt. View, California in 1970, a Master of Divinity Degree from St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, California in 1973 and attended the Continuing Education Program for Doctor of Ministry (Candidate) at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California from 1977 to 1979.

Over, the past 25 years, Father Jay has provided our community with a tireless commitment to service. He has conducted throughout the United States retreats for youth and workshops and retreats for African American Catholic vicariates and pastoral centers,

participated as a team leader in Black Cultural Weekends of the Marriage Encounter Movement and most notably in 1993, conducted the St. Jude Novena at the National Shrine in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Father Jay's pastoral service has been as: Administrator and Associate Pastor of St. Cornelius Church, Richmond; St. Cyril Church, Oakland and All Saints Church, Hayward; Associate Pastor, Saint Louis Bertrand Church, Oakland; Deacon, Saint Columba Church, Oakland; Teacher, Bishop O'Dowd High School, Oakland; and Youth Minister of the Diocese of Oakland.

Father Jay's professional affiliations include actively serving on several boards & organizations, including Catholic Charities, Catechetical Ministries of the Diocese of Oakland, Alameda Cancer Society, Bay Area, Black United Fund, Knights of St. Peter Claver, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Bay Area Urban League, NAACP, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee, National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice, Coordinating Committee, City of Oakland Strategic Plan, Oakland Mayor's Advisory Council on Education, Chaplain—Oakland Fire Department, Board of Directors—Comprehensive Health Improvement Project, East Oakland Youth Development Center, and is the Chairman of the Church Committee for the United Negro College Fund of the East Bay.

Father Jay has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Marcus Foster Educational Institute's Distinguished Alumni Award, the Rose Casanave Service Award of the Black Catholic Vicariate, as well as service awards from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver and the Bay Area chapter of the Xavier University, New Orleans Alumni Association.

Currently, Father Jay serves as Chaplain of Black Catholics of the Diocese of Oakland and Pastor of St. Benedict Church, Oakland.

Throughout his life, Father Jay has epitomized the ideal of a true man of God. He is a powerful role model in his immediate community and communities throughout the country. The love and service he shows towards all people regardless of race, creed, or religious background has gained him the respect of his peers.

On June 1, 1999 Father Jay will have the distinct privilege and honor to further his religious studies at the Vatican with a one year sabbatical from his current duties in the Diocese of Oakland.

It is a great honor to salute Father Jay, not just for his 25 years of service as a Catholic priest but for the many years of warmth, compassion and love he has shared with our community. The City of Oakland and its surrounding environs are a better place to live because of his firm commitment to improving the human condition of all people.

I wish Father Jay continued success as he embarks upon the next 25 years of service to God, his country and the people of Oakland.