

Evergreen Baptist Church is also expanding its activities and outreach throughout the community through a variety of ways. The church will be participating in the Welfare to Work Program by providing a care center for young expectant mothers. In an effort to decrease the high infant mortality rate among African-Americans, the Church is also establishing a Well Baby Clinic to promote better health care to these expectant mothers.

To tie all of these programs together, the Evergreen Baptist Church has chosen "Lifting the Least" as its theme for the new center. I applaud the many efforts and activities of Evergreen Baptist Church by serving as a model to other organizations of innovative ways to assist our populations most in need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMS
EMPLOYEE EQUALITY ACT OF 2000

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the EMS Employee Equality Act of 2000 that protects the rights of emergency medical technicians employed by acute care hospitals. This legislation, strongly endorsed by the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics, will bring equality to the thousands of EMTs who risk their lives to save others.

The National Labor Relations Act guarantees employees the right and freedom to organize and collectively bargain with their employers—a right that is currently denied EMTs. Generally, the National Labor Relations Board designates groups of employees, usually based on their shared interests, as individual bargaining units for the purposes of bargaining with their employer.

In 1974, the Act was amended to cover employees in acute care hospitals. At that time, prehospital emergency medical service (EMS) was in its infancy. It was very rare to find fleets of ambulances staffed by highly trained emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. Today, however, there are hospitals that deploy fleets of ambulances staffed with EMS providers.

Pursuant to the rulemaking published in the Federal Register in 1989, the National Relations Board declared that there are only eight appropriate bargaining units in a hospital: doctors, nurses, other professionals, technical employees, skilled maintenance employees, clerical employees, other non-professional employees and guards. Paramedics have been relegated to join one of these 8 units.

The concern is that there is absolutely no community of interest between EMS personnel and other employees in a hospital. The very nature of ambulance work requires that these employees remain outside the hospital environment. In fact, many times the ambulances are stationed off the hospital premises, and have no association with the hospital other than ownership.

I am introducing this legislation to amend the National Labor Relations Act to include a ninth unit composed of EMS personnel. This

legislation is needed because emergency medical services were never considered during the rule making process and these heroes deserve to have their own voice heard at the collective bargaining table.

J.L. DAWKINS POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4658, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Green Street in Fayetteville, North Carolina, as the J.L. Dawkins Post Office Building. I appreciate the opportunity to remember Mr. Dawkins' life and legacy.

Today we pay tribute to a remarkable public servant and family man Mayor J.L. Dawkins. Fayetteville's "Mayor for Life" was born in 1935 and lived almost his entire life in and around the city he so proudly served. In 1975, Mr. Dawkins was elected to his first term on the Fayetteville City Council. After holding this position for 12 years, Mr. Dawkins ran for and was elected Mayor in 1987 and served honorably until his passing earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to J.L. Dawkins the public servant by remembering his record as Mayor and a member of the City Council, but I also remember him as a dear friend who cared about the people he served. When I visited Fayetteville schools during my tenure as State Superintendent, J.L. Dawkins was always present and engaged—because he cared. He cared about the children of Fayetteville. He cared about their well-being and their future. Mr. Dawkins also supported local law enforcement because he knew it would improve safety in Fayetteville's schools and in the community as a whole. He supported Fayetteville's law enforcement community because he cared.

Mr. Dawkins' passing has left a great void in the Fayetteville community. Despite our sorrow and loss, we have the opportunity today to celebrate the life and legacy of an exemplary public servant. It is fitting then that we honor him today by naming a post office for J.L. Dawkins in Fayetteville. Mr. Dawkins cared deeply for his city, the constituents he served, and most importantly his family. H.R. 4658 ensures that Mr. Dawkins will forever be remembered for these traits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING WINSTON P.
THOMPSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Winston P. Thompson, a Certified Public Accountant and successful Financial

Planner who has been actively involved in providing tax and financial planning services within the Brooklyn Community for the past fifteen years.

Mr. Thompson, a graduate of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, New York, obtained his graduate degree from Pace University in New York. As a young certified public accountant, Mr. Thompson spent two years as an auditing officer with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, a Wall Street Investment Banking firm. Mr. Thompson also spent five years with Arthur Andersen & Company, an international accounting and consulting firm.

Fifteen years ago, following his tenure with Morgan Guaranty and Arthur Andersen, Winston Thompson founded Thompson & Company, a Certified Public Accounting and Consulting firm. Mr. Thompson currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of this highly respected firm, based in downtown Brooklyn.

In addition to his serving the community through his membership in the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Bedford Stuyvesant Real Estate Board, Mr. Thompson is active in various community events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong efforts of Winston Thompson, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. COAST
GUARD STATION CHARLEVOIX
ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY AS
A SEARCH AND RESCUE STATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many members of the U.S. Coast Guard who served for the past 100 years in the essential duty of Search and Rescue at Coast Guard Station Charlevoix.

Search and Rescue has been one of the United States Coast Guard's oldest missions. Like many of man's endeavors, Search and Rescue has evolved. Once—and we can all conjure the picture in our heads, Mr. Speaker—search and rescue often involved sending rescuers into the maw of an angry sea. It was an enterprise that required an intuitive understanding of nature, great physical strength, and reserves of energy.

Today the intellect of inventors has sought to expand man's ability to undertake a rescue. As the bestseller "A Perfect Storm" makes clear, however, new generations of technology for locating those in distress or bringing rescuers to the a vessel in trouble must still face the elemental forces that can overwhelm our most advanced hardware.

The success of this book—and the new movie based on the book—is certain to make clear that any who ventures on the water, even the most experienced mariner, can be caught unaware by the sudden fury of an unexpected storm.

What was true for the North Atlantic in the story is true in many ways for the Great

July 14, 2000

Lakes—the storms may not be as massive, but they can arise suddenly with strong winds. Shoals and islands present hazards for commercial shipping and private sailors, and tales like the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald are almost as well known as the story loss of the Titanic.

What was true in the early days of search and rescue remains true today. The men and the women who venture forth on rescue missions must possess one key trait—courage.

It's no wonder, then, Mr. Speaker, that the crew of U.S. Coast Guard Station Charlevoix have an important part in the great tradition of endeavoring to save the lives of men and women in peril on the water.

Their own log records such remarkable moments as bringing 500 people safely to shore in 1906 from a vessel aground off the Lake Michigan shore, searching for the crew of a downed B-52 bomber in the 1970s, and even rushing ashore to treat individuals wounded in a celebration fireworks accident in 1997.

The presence of the Coast Guard throughout my district is extremely important, Mr. Speaker. These brave men and women have my deepest respect and admiration, and strongest support in whatever is needed to permit them to fulfill this essential mission, to keep Search and Rescue units *semper paratus*—always ready.

Technology may continue to change, but I trust another 100 years will find Coast Guard Station Charlevoix always ready to serve and assist on the Great Lakes.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment of my colleague, the Gentlelady from California, Ms. LEE, to restore the funding for Global Aids assistance that was cut from the President's request.

This body Mr. Chairman, invariably never ceases to amaze me. Here we are in the middle of a monumental life and family destroying, economy breaking, HIV/AIDS pandemic. Instead of increasing funding to address it, as the situation calls out desperately for us to do, we are codifying restrictions on family planning funding, slashing funding for debt relief to some of the same affected countries and others, and reducing the flow of drastically needed funds for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment to a mere drip. This is a travesty.

A recent UN report revealed that AIDS will cause early death in as many as one-half of the young adults in the hardest hit countries of

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

southern Africa, causing unprecedented populations imbalances. In one country alone, Botswana, it is predicted that two thirds of that country's 15-year-olds will die of AIDS before age 50. But as bad as the impact is now, the full blow is still some years off. This loss at a time when men and women would be at their most productive, in countries that are only now beginning to come out from under the deep effects of colonialism and tyrannical rules, will be devastating.

Our communities here in the U.S. are bleeding, these are hemorrhaging. Both crises need to be appropriately addressed, and addressed now.

We are no longer in a world where any one country, nor even one neighborhood can labor under the impression that they are isolated. The devastation, and the disruptive effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic may be at its very worst in far away, exotic lands, but the dire effects will ripple until they reach our shores. Combined with our domestic HIV/AIDS crisis, which also is not being adequately addressed, the bell will increasingly toll for us.

We have the opportunity today to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in Africa and other countries today, by supporting the Lee amendment. We must also resolve to apply the remedies in the magnitude that is needed here at home as well.

\$100 million is not a large sum. It is merely a drop in the bucket, against the backdrop of the enormity of the pandemic. But it is a start. It is seed money—an incentive for other countries, private corporations and foundations to join this vital effort.

The Congressional Black Caucus and its Health Brain Trust, which I chair, has made HIV/AIDS our chief priority. We began here in this country with the call for a state of emergency and funding which has come to be known as the CBC Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative. But as we got funding and began to apply those dollars to the needs of our communities, we recognized that the problem was far deeper than HIV and AIDS. It was a problem of poor and deficient health infrastructure, it was and is a problem of communities beset with a myriad of social and economic problems.

As we began the work of addressing all of the ills that lay beneath the tip of the AIDS iceberg, we also came face to face with the grim reality that is AIDS in Africa, and AIDS in the Caribbean, as well.

And so, Mr. Chairman, what we want this body and our colleagues to recognize is that HIV and AIDS is a pandemic for people of color, around the world, including here in the United States. Achieving adequate prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in Africa and other parts of the world, is not that much different from combating it here. The social, economic, and health care infrastructure deficiencies are pretty much the same. And that is a real shame.

So, I am asking this body, to support Congresswoman LEE's efforts, to support the CBC initiative and to fully fund it this year and for several years to come as needed.

14621

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on rollcall vote No. 324, the H. Amdt. 905 to HR 4690, offered by Representative John Hostetler, but was recorded as voting "nay." The amendment was designed to add a new section, which provides that no funds in the bill may be used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the settlement document dated March 17, 2000, between Smith and Wesson and the Department of the Treasury.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly defines the right of Americans to possess firearms. The Second Amendment reads: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." I firmly believe this provision prohibits the federal government from denying citizens this right.

The agreement reached by the Administration and Smith & Wesson should not be used to coerce other manufacturers into abiding by an agreement of which they are not a party. On June 21, 2000, I voted to limit the repercussions of this Smith & Wesson agreement by supporting two of Representative Hostetler's amendments to the VA-HLD Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. It is my intention to vote in favor of similar amendments to future FY 2001 Appropriations bills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL
RETIREMENT REFORM

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am very pleased to introduce today H.R. 4844, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000, on behalf of myself, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. OBERSTAR; the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ARCHER; the Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. RANGEL; the Chairman of the Ground Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. PETRI; the Ranking Member of the Ground Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. RAHALL; the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. SHAW; and the Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. MATSUI.

This is a good bill which deserves the support of the House. The following is a joint statement on behalf of the eight original sponsors.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EIGHT ORIGINAL
SPONSORS OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT
AND SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

We are pleased to join together to introduce the Railroad Retirement and Survivors'