

and exchange for children, develop training programs on elder abuse for law enforcement personnel and prosecutors, provide civil legal assistance funds, strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and more.

Passage of the Violence Against Women Act has been identified as the top priority of the Congressional Women's Caucus. It is certainly one of my top priorities.

I urge the leadership to schedule a vote on this vital legislation within the next ten days. The Senate is ready to vote on its VAWA bill. We must be ready to go to conference and to send this bill to the president before the 106th Congress adjourns.

We cannot in good conscience go home to our districts without acting on this critical legislation, which so strongly impacts the safety and well being of women and children throughout our nation.

TRIBUTE TO ST. ANDREW'S AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2000*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church of Sacramento. On October 1, 2000, St. Andrew's will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is the oldest church of its kind on the Pacific Coast. As the Congregation members gather to celebrate, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this monumental achievement.

St. Andrew's was founded in 1850, three months before California was admitted as the 31st state to the Union. It is the first African Methodist Episcopal Church and the first African-American religious congregation established on the Pacific Coast of the United States.

In the beginning, a small group of worshippers gathered in Sacramento at the home of Daniel Blue. Under the leadership of Barney Fletcher, this group would form the church that would later be known as St. Andrew's A.M.E. Church. In the fall of 1850, Reverend Isaac Owen, pastor of the Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church, participated in the formal organizing of the church.

The first trustees, James R. Brown, John Barton, George Fletcher, John L. Wilson, and Chesterfield Jackson purchased part of the lot in the square between G and H Streets. At this site, the first church was erected and named the Methodist Church of Colored People of Sacramento. In 1851, the members of the church petitioned the Indiana Conference for admission to the African Methodist Episcopal Church and officially became the Bethel African Methodist Church. Later in the 19th century, the church acquired its current name, St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. Andrew's has been a pioneer in organizing an educational and religious haven for people of color. In 1854, the first A.M.E. Sunday School in the far west was organized.

This also became the site of the first public school organized for children of African, Asian, and Native American descent. In 1855, the church was the site of the first statewide convention of the colored citizens of California. This was the first organized political activity by people of African descent in California aimed at securing citizenship rights.

During the following years of westward expansion in the United States, St. Andrew's became a pivotal point in the far west for African Methodism, and it hosted numerous political, secular, educational, and cultural activities for African Americans. The church helped to develop educated and trained leaders of the African American community, even before the end of slavery.

Today, St. Andrew's continues to shine as a pillar for the community. In 1995, the church was recognized as a California Registered Landmark for being the oldest African-American Church on the Pacific Coast. For 150 years, the church has admirably served the ethnically diverse Sacramento community.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church gather to celebrate their 150th anniversary, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding institutions. Throughout their proud history, the people of St. Andrew's have maintained an impressive tradition of service to the African-American community and other minority communities in greater Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing the people of St. Andrew's continued success in all their future endeavors.

SALUTE TO BEVERLY ANN KING,  
2000 MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL MINORITY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**HON. JULIAN C. DIXON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 6, 2000*

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute my constituent and my friend, Beverly Ann King, who is being singled out for her enormous contributions to minority entrepreneurs with the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Award, which will be presented to her in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, September 27, 2000. Each year, the President of the United States designates one week as Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week to honor outstanding members of the business sector. I am proud to note that in addition to being a recipient of the national Award, Beverly also received the Region IX MEDWeek Award at a luncheon in her honor on Thursday, August 31, 2000, and on Wednesday, October 18, 2000, will be honored with the local Los Angeles MED Week Award, at a luncheon in her honor at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

President and Chief Executive Officer of BAK Management, Beverly King is recognized nationally for her expertise in the conceptualization and implementation of programs benefitting minority, women, and disadvantaged business (MBE/WBE/DBE) own-

ers. She has been a much sought after advocate for minority entrepreneurs for nearly two decades, as she has worked to ensure participation and parity for MBE/WBE/DBE enterprises in government and business contracting opportunities. As an expert in the field of MBE/WBE/DBE programs, she is a frequent lecturer and conducts seminars and training programs into the concepts and skills necessary for a successful minority business program.

Ms. King founded Beverly A. King (BAK) Management Consulting in July 1986. Her numerous clients have included the City of Los Angeles, Bunker Hill Tower, the Southern California Gas Company (now SEMPRA Energy), and Turner Construction. She continues to represent Turner Construction, serving as the company's Community Affairs Director and MBE/WBE/EEO Administrator.

Prior to establishing BAK Management Consulting, Beverly served six years as Equal Opportunity Manager for the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) in Los Angeles. Her duties included overseeing all civil rights/EEO activities associated with the construction of Los Angeles' Century Freeway project, and serving as the FHA's representative on the Century Freeway Affirmative Action Committee.

During the early years of her career, Beverly worked in our nation's capital for Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas and Congresswoman Yvonne Brathwaite Burke of Los Angeles. She attended Prairie View A&M College in Texas, Howard University in Washington, DC, and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the President's Award presented by the Black Business Association of Los Angeles, in August 1992 she was named by Speaker Thomas Foley to a four year term as a member of the United States Glass Ceiling Commission.

She is on the Corporate Advisory Board and a member of the Black Business Association; the Asian Business Association; the National Association of Minority Contractors of Southern California; and Women Construction Executives of Los Angeles. In addition, she has served on the Advisory Board of the UCLA Graduate School of Business. Furthermore, she is chair of the Legislative Task Force of Black Women's Forum and serves on the Board of Black Women of Achievement.

Mr. Speaker, Beverly A. King is indeed a woman of achievement. The fruits of her labors bear witness through the growth of the many successful MBE/WBE/DBE's engaged today in businesses throughout the Los Angeles community. It is a pleasure to publicly commend her, and to extend heartfelt congratulations to her on the high honors she is so deservedly receiving at this time. On behalf of the residents of the 32nd Congressional District of Los Angeles, I thank her and wish her continued success in the future.