

of the work we have done to bring necessary funding to the Hamden Police Department. As the grants administrator for the Department, Bob has been responsible for ensuring that the Department has access to available state and federal funding—providing the Department with the ability to continue improving in its mission to serve and protect the residents of Hamden.

In addition to his professional contributions, Bob made time to volunteer for a variety of service and civic organizations. Honored by the Knights of Saint Patrick, the Civitan Club, the Marine Cadets of America and the Notre Dame Scholarship Fund, Bob has demonstrated an incredible and unique dedication to the community on a personal level as well. His volunteer efforts to raise funds on behalf of these organizations have been invaluable. With his outstanding record of good work, he has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service, leaving an indelible mark on the Hamden community.

Bob's dedication and generosity has truly enriched the Hamden community. His diligence and extraordinary hard work have gone a long way to improving the neighborhoods of Hamden and fostering a strong relationship between the community and the Department. I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given to myself and my staff. For his many contributions, professional and volunteer, I stand today to join his wife, Shirley, daughters, Dawn and Robyn, family friends and colleagues in congratulating Chief Robert Nolan for his innumerable efforts on behalf of our community and extend my best wishes for continued success.

#### ONE DAY IN PEACE

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in solidarity with the world, and call on all other Members of the House to stand as well, and join over 100 nations, 25 United States governors, hundreds of mayors and over 1,000 organizations in nearly 140 countries in supporting One Day in Peace. The bill, House Concurrent Resolution 363, which I cosponsored with Representative DENNIS KUCINICH and many other Representatives, calls for January 1, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly, to be a 24-hour period designated as One Day in Peace when the people of this Nation and the world act for the most part with unprecedented cooperation and good will. The Chairman and the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee have indicated that they will not oppose this resolution being brought to the floor now, and I urge all my fellow Congressmen to support this effort. Let us fulfill the dream by marking 01/01/01 as the first One Day in Peace worldwide. The bill urges people around the world to gather with family, friends, neighbors, and members of their community to pledge nonviolence in the new year and to share in a celebratory New Year meal. It also encourages Americans who

are able to match their new year meal with a timely gift to the hungry at home or abroad. This Resolution is important because it acknowledges, the need to work for those goals that appeal to the greatest positive attributes of our humanity. My friends no better time exists to lift up a new standard of peace and goodwill in this world. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, if at the beginning of every year, all of America, and indeed all of the world proclaim aloud and at once, in unison and strength, that these are our goals: brotherhood, charity, understanding, and peace. Such a declaration has never before been made, but it can. I urge support of H. Con. Res. 363 and support its overwhelming passage.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE SEAFOOD SAFETY AND MERCURY SCREENING ACT OF 2000

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the Mercury Policy Project and the California Communities Against Toxics found the Food and Drug Administration was not testing enough seafood for toxic mercury. Their findings were published in a report that was also cosponsored by the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action. In addition to contending the FDA's recommended level for methyl mercury exposure was inadequate, the report noted that the FDA does not check any domestic tuna, shark or swordfish for toxic mercury even though they tend to have the highest levels of the toxin.

The lack of a system to screen seafood for mercury is a serious gap in the nation's food safety system. Individuals who consume too much mercury can suffer serious health problems. That is why today I am introducing the Seafood Safety and Mercury Screening Act of 2000. This legislation will require the FDA to develop a system for testing seafood for methyl mercury. It will also require the FDA to develop a statutory threshold level for methyl mercury content in seafood and consider the findings of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which published a report on mercury exposure in July, when developing that threshold. The NAS report found that the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended level for methyl mercury exposure, which is stronger than the FDA's, is the more appropriate standard.

We know that if people ingest too much mercury they will get sick and we know exactly where to look for it. Domestic tuna, shark, and swordfish have very high levels of toxic mercury. If we have the means to detect this poison and know exactly where it comes from, common sense suggests that we take the time to look for it and take the necessary steps to inform the public. Typically we do not know about the source of an outbreak of food poisoning until the FDA or other government agencies works backwards to find its origin after people have already gotten sick. When it comes to mercury, we have the opportunity to be proactive and prevent illness instead of being reactive after its too late.

The establishment of a strong, enforceable standard that prohibits seafood that contains mercury above the recommended level from reaching the consumer will stop episodes of food poisoning before they have a chance to occur. Another important component of protecting the public from the contaminated seafood is by providing citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions about what they are eating. To that end, the Seafood Safety and Mercury Screening Act of 2000 will also establish a nation wide education program to educate consumers about the dangers of mercury contamination, with a particular emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable populations, pregnant women and children.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the effort to strengthen our nation's food safety system by lending their full support to the Seafood Safety and Mercury Screening Act of 2000.

A BUSY MAN: REVEREND DR.  
WILLIE A. SIMMONS

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 19, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, August 31, 2000 marked the retirement of Rev. Dr. Willie A. Simmons. Rev. Simmons is known for his leadership in the community and social services.

Rev. Dr. Simmons was ordained in 1960 in Birmingham, AL. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree in 1992 and his Doctor of Letter in 1997. He has served as Assistant Pastor of the First Corinthian Baptist Church of Newark, NJ, for over 20 years.

While he served the spiritual needs of his community, he also served the physical needs of his fellow man. He has served the Essex County Division of Welfare as a Family Service Social Worker for more than 28 years.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear the adage, "When you want something done, ask a busy person," people like Rev. Simmons come to mind. Throughout his years he is a former Executive Vice President of the Communication Workers of America Local 1081 which represents all case workers, clerks and investigators of the Essex County division of Welfare. Rev. Simmons is the District Director of Frontiers International, 1st District, which gives him responsibility over all New England states; and a member of the National Board of Directors. In addition, he is a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Frontiers International Foundation. He is a Chairman of the Political Action and Homeless Committees of the Newark-North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen and an Executive Board member. He is a member of the Baptist Ministries Conference of Newark and the Vicinity. He also serves as Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee of Essex-Newark Legal Services. He is a Co-Chairman of the Black and Latino Coalition, Inc. Rev. Simmons presently serves as President of the United Community Corporation Board of Directors, having been elected and serving as