

December 7, 2001

students at Elgin are a source of pride for the community, and serve as an example for the nation.

As Marion's representative in Congress, I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to recognize the work of the students, Ms. Addison, and the Elgin Local School District.

---

CELEBRATING THE 15 YEARS OF  
REVEREND DR. KENNY SMITH'S  
PASTORSHIP

---

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great citizen of Northern Virginia, Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith. He is currently serving as pastor at the First Baptist Church of Vienna, Virginia. Along with celebrating Rev. Smith's 15 years of service, the Church is celebrating its 134th anniversary of serving the community.

Rev. Kenny Smith is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, and attended the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Howard University, and Virginia Union University.

His resume includes a great deal of other accomplishments. Most recently, he received the Dean's Pastor's Award from the Dean of Howard University's School of Theology and the Outstanding Achievement in Religion Award from the Howard University Alumni Club of Northern Virginia. He is a well traveled man as well. He visited Israel, the seven churches mentioned in Revelation (Turkey), the Isle of Patmos (Greece), as well as 8 other countries.

Reverend Smith currently serves on the General Board of the Baptist General Convention in Richmond, Virginia. He is also on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity. Previously, he held a position with the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Through his leadership, the First Baptist Church has continued its excellence in serving the community. One organization that the church is constantly willing to support is Habitat for Humanity. The members of the church have assisted in building many homes for families in need. The church even helped with the cost of the supplies.

In 1996, members of the church traveled to South Carolina to help in the rebuilding of churches, after several were burned down by acts of arson. And under the guidance of Rev. Smith, members of the church went, along with another local church, to Haiti on a missionary project.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send my best wishes to Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith for his 15th anniversary with the First Baptist Church of Vienna and wish him the best in his future endeavors. It's been said that a good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit. This is the kind of selfless humility that has characterized Reverend Smith's tenure at his church. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this fine citizen.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

IN HONOR OF VERNON K. JONES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Vernon K. Jones in recognition of his remarkable career in business and as an entrepreneur.

Vernon K. Jones is married to Marcella Jones, a dance teacher at JHS 258, in Brooklyn; they have two sons, Vernon Jr. and Avery. They own a home in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. Vernon has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with extensive coursework in Business Management and Marketing, from St. Francis College, in Brooklyn. He used his education to become an Accountant for the Industrial Bank of Japan. After working there for two years he joined Showtime/The Movie Channel as an Accounting Coordinator. Following one year in that position he decided to go out on his own and start his own business.

Vernon started a commercial building maintenance company, Reliable Cleaning Corp. His company grew to employ over 25 full time and 15 part time employees. The company was reorganized in 1996, giving employees the opportunity to own and operate their own independent cleaning service business, as an alternative to franchising. Within a four-year period, Reliable, Inc. grew to over 150 accounts. Vernon helped to start over 50 entrepreneurs in their own commercial cleaning business in New York City. Last year, Mr. Jones sold his cleaning business to one of the companies that he helped to start so that he could fully concentrate on the development of his new business venture, "itsabout.com, inc". His new corporation is responsible for creating business concepts and developing these concepts into strong independent businesses. "Itsabout.com, inc." will own a majority stake in each developed business. This has been a dream of Vernon's since he was a young boy, to own a majority stake in various businesses that he conceptualized.

The first company developed by "itsabout.com, inc." is New York City Teachers, Inc. This company was developed to leverage the power of the teachers in the NYC Public School system. Through Vernon's marketing and business management experience, New York City Teachers, Inc. already have over 6,000 teachers on board with the company. This is remarkable because the company was just launched in May 2001, with the help of his wife, Marcella.

Just as in the commercial cleaning business, Vernon is using unorthodox marketing strategies. He is giving all 81,000 NYC public school teachers an equity stake in the Corporation. The goal is to have all of the teachers involved, through a monthly newspaper that will be sent to every teacher's home, which will begin within the next 6 months. He is also in the process of partnering with a Massachusetts company, which has agreed to provide Internet access to all NY Teachers and this will form a strong Online community, very similar to America Online. The online teacher community is "NYCteachers.com", and the offline teacher community will be the

24563

monthly newspaper, seminars events to honor good teachers, etc.

In between running his businesses and spending time with his family. Vernon coaches youth basketball teams during, the summer, fall and winter seasons. This is his way to educate kids about life.

Mr. Speaker, Vernon K. Jones is a remarkable businessman, entrepreneur and community leader. As such he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to joining me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

---

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN HEIMERS

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Heimers for her many accomplishments and contributions to the people of San Diego and, in particular, our community in East County. Mary Ann, and her husband Wolf Heimers, have lived in my district for over 35 years and have been strong pillars of the El Cajon business community for 48 years. Mary Ann has touched thousands of lives through her many years of service as a volunteer.

Mrs. Heimers is always at the forefront of assisting those in need. She has spent over twenty years in service to our neighborhood's elderly, sick, and those who just need a helping hand. Mary Ann's dedication to others is evident in the work she performs with non-profit groups in San Diego, such as Victory Chapel, SHARE, the Food Pantry, and the countless number of people she helps every day. Last year, she was named Volunteer of the Year for 2000 by a local service club for her outstanding work in San Diego County.

I have personally worked beside Mary Ann on many occasions and have witnessed her commitment to our community and the joy and comfort she brings to those who need it most. Again, I am honored to rise today in special recognition of my friend Mary Ann, and join her friends and family, including her husband Wolf, son Richard, daughter Susan, and grandchildren, to commend her work and thank her for her tireless efforts throughout the many years of service to our community and our Nation.

---

TRIBUTE TO THE EISENHOWER  
MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eisenhower Medical Center on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

Eisenhower Medical Center is the only not-for-profit hospital in the Coachella Valley.

The mission of Eisenhower Medical Center is "to provide excellent health care services and education to enhance the health of our community."