

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
RONALD DURHAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring a very special and dedicated person, Reverend Dr. L. Ronald Durham, who celebrated his 10th Pastoral Anniversary at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in my home city of Newark, New Jersey. Friends gathered on Friday, May 4th, in New Jersey to mark this milestone and to express appreciation for Reverend Dr. Durham's dynamic leadership.

Reverend Dr. Ronald Durham began his ministry at the age of 17. After studying at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina on full scholarship, he received his Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Evangel Christian University in Louisiana. He holds his Masters of Theology Degree from United Christian Seminary, as well as a Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Christian Ministry. Dr. Durham was also given an Honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology Degree from the American Bible Institute in Falls Church, Virginia. After 16 years of faithful service to First Baptist Church of Anderson, North Carolina, Dr. Durham joined First Mt. Zion in April of 1991. First Mt. Zion's historical background inspired him to write his Doctoral Thesis entitled "The History of the Black Baptist Church in New Jersey." During his ten years at First Mt. Zion, Pastor Durham has had many notable achievements. Inspired by the recovery story of a good friend, Pastor Durham established the "21 Club," a Drug and Alcohol Education Program in Newark, New Jersey. He has been recognized by the City of Newark on several occasions for his outstanding community service. He initiated the Federal "Weed and Seed" program for Newark, which continues to bring millions of Federal dollars into the city to combat illegal drugs and restore Newark's communities. Other outstanding achievements under his inspirational leadership include: restoration of the 123-year-old sanctuary; purchasing of a church van and bus; refurbishing of a three-family property; and establishment of a stock investment program with Merrill Lynch. He has established the Inspirational Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Community Outreach Ministry; a new Youth Ministry, the Women's Support Ministry, Mother Board, Prayer Band, and the First Mt. Zion Theological Institute. He has worked to promote economic growth among African Americans. Dr. Durham led a group of 75 churches to purchase a 42-acre campground in Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Durham recently authored his first book entitled *The Secret Power of Prayer*, and he writes quarterly lessons entitled *The Baptist Layman*, a publication of the National Baptist Convention. He is a seminar leader for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He serves as confidant and teacher to pastors and preachers all over the United States through his Internet ministry.

Mr. Speaker, let us offer our congratulations on this special occasion and send our best

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

wishes for continued success to Reverend Dr. Ronald Durham as he pursues his important spiritual mission.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MRS.
MARY LOU KUHLMAN ON NA-
TIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Teacher's Day and to pay tribute to a very special teacher who has touched many lives. Seldom do we acknowledge the importance of the job or the depth of a teacher's commitment to our children. While many people spend their lives building careers, teachers spend their careers building lives. For this they deserve our support, praise and gratitude.

One teacher in particular deserves special recognition on National Teacher's Day, Mrs. Mary Lou Kuhlman. After 35 years of touching the lives of countless children she will be retiring. This is a true loss for my district and the state of Ohio. The children she has taught will become our future leaders, scientists, and teachers.

Mrs. Kuhlman's long and distinguished career began in the same district where she continues to teach today. A graduate of the Glandorf High School in 1960, she currently teaches at Glandorf Elementary School. She holds a degree from Mary Manse College in Toledo and has completed graduate work at Bowling Green State University. The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation honored Mrs. Kuhlman by naming her a Scholar in 1982. The Foundation seeks to give students a greater opportunity to succeed and to empower teachers. Not only is Mrs. Kuhlman a remarkable teacher, but also greatly involved in countless religious and community service organizations.

Year after year professionals dedicate their lives to the future of America. There is no more important or challenging job than that of our nation's teachers. The job of a teacher is to open a child's mind to the magic of ideas, knowledge, and dreams. Also, teachers are true guardians of the American democracy by instilling a sense of citizenship in the children they teach. Teachers not only educate but also act as listeners, facilitators, role models, and mentors, encouraging our children to reach further than they would have thought possible. Teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Mrs. Kuhlman's own words ring true on this very special day, "Teaching has always been rewarding, satisfying, and enjoyable. Children are our most important asset. I feel so fulfilled when I can make a difference in a child's life and improve their situation."

May 8, 2001

CINCO DE MAYO

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Mexican-Americans joined our neighbor to the South in celebrating a day dedicated to the recognition of a successful fight for freedom. In Detroit, the Latino community gathered together to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and I want to recognize the Bagley Housing Association, the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Detroit, the El Central newspaper, and the Mexican Town Community Development Corporation for making that celebration possible. Cinco de Mayo is a story of unity, of strength, of faith, and of a country's ability to overcome insurmountable odds.

On May 5, 1862, in the town of Puebla, Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza led a hastily gathered group of forces to the defeat of the French army, which had not faced defeat in over 50 years. The French outnumbered the Mexican forces by at least two to one and had some of the most superior military training the world had ever seen. Despite all this, the might and spirit of the Mexican people prevailed. After this embarrassing defeat, the French army retreated and took another full year to prepare before they finally took Mexico City. However, Mexican resistance to the French occupation and increasing pressure from the United States forced the French to withdraw after only 3 years.

The battle that took place on Cinco de Mayo was primarily a battle for freedom. However, I believe that this important day has come to symbolize not only the fight for freedom, but the fight for justice as well.

The growing Latino population in Michigan and in the United States enriches our culture in many ways. One can see the Latino influence in our music, our food, our language, and our art. Their commitment both to their faith and their family is a proud heritage. Because Latinos have contributed so much to this country, we must fight to protect the rights of Latino citizens and all Latinos in this country. We must continue this struggle for justice in our workplaces, in our schools, and in our communities because, in the words of Benito Juarez, "sooner or later the cause of rights and justice will triumph."

Just as those brave Mexican soldiers overcame overwhelming odds to defeat the French army in 1862, I believe that our Latino population will use their strength, unity, and faith to overcome any obstacle. We must all work together to stop English-only, anti-immigrant, and anti-affirmative action laws. In recognition of this Cinco de Mayo, let us all remember and be inspired by Cesar Chavez who said, "Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore."