

CELEBRATING NILOUS MCKINLEY
AVERY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend and celebrate the life and Golden Anniversary Celebration for Dr. Nilous McKinley Avery. Dr. Avery has pastored Hill Street Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina for fifty (50) years. It has been my privilege to be in his church many times as he has held the summer "Earning by Learning" reading program in his church which I have sponsored for the past seven years.

Dr. Avery graduated from Garner High School in Garner, North Carolina, and then went on to complete his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, and Master of Divinity at Shaw University in Raleigh. He pursued a Doctor of Theology Degree (THD) in Psychology and Pastoral Counseling from the Boston University of School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts and was recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Shaw University.

As a student Dr. Avery served as pastor of Pilot Baptist Church in Pilot, North Carolina; New Liberty Baptist Church in Louisburg, North Carolina; Macedonia Baptist Church in Wake Forest, North Carolina; and Malabys Crossroads Baptist Church in Knightdale, North Carolina. In 1951 he came to Asheville to pastor Hill Street Baptist Church, and fifty years later he is still the pastor.

Since his arrival in Asheville, Dr. Avery has become an outstanding leader in the religious community. In 1956 he became the first African American to be elected president of the Interracial Ministerial Association of Asheville and Buncombe County. In addition, he has served in a leadership capacity in many organizations in the area as well as state-wide organizations.

Dr. Avery is married to the former Christine Watson who is a retired teacher from the Asheville City Schools System. They have four children, all college graduates: Nilous M. Avery, II pastors Mount Zion Baptist Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. Kryste' N. Moore practices dentistry in Newark, New Jersey. CiCi Morton is the Supervisor for Community in Schools in Asheville, North Carolina. Nian Avery is a licensed embalmer and funeral director at Hart Funeral Service in Asheville, North Carolina. The Averys have eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in saluting Dr. Avery's first fifty years of service to his Lord, his church and our community.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of

China will be completing his first year of service as Taiwan's head of state this May 20, and I would like to congratulate him and comment on a few of Taiwan's achievements.

First, the Republic of China on Taiwan is a major trading partner of the United States and has maintained friendly ties and relations with us for the last ninety years. Second, over recent decades, Taiwan has become a successful model of political reform. Fifty years ago, Taiwan was a closed and authoritarian society with neither freedom of speech nor freedom of assembly. Taiwan did not have elections. Today, Taiwan has become a true democracy. It is the home to more than 90 political parties and virtually every political office in Taiwan is hotly contested through free and fair elections. Third, Taiwan subscribes to the private enterprise system. Taiwan's economy is vibrant and it offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia, including universal education and free medical care of people of all ages in Taiwan. Fourth, in terms of its trading relations with us, Taiwan represents our seventh largest export market, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. Fifth, in addition to trade relations, more than 30,000 Taiwan students are studying at U.S. colleges and universities. Sixth, the U.S. is the number one destination for most of Taiwan's travelers. Seventh, and last but not least, Taiwan and the U.S. share many values in common such as attachment to human rights, freedom and democracy.

Congratulations to Taiwan. I would also like to extend my sincerest welcome to President Chen during his visit to America. He will be stopping in New York on his way to Central America later this month. His stay in New York will be brief, but I hope he enjoys his stay and I wish him success during his official visit in Central America.

REVEREND FELIX B. DUCKWORTH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Reverend Felix B. Duckworth in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Reverend Duckworth was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1964, and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He has been married to his lovely wife for 14 years, and he has two beautiful daughters who are 13 and 14 years of age.

His is a life of devotion to the church, and he has spent 20 years in the ministry winning souls for Christ. For ten of those twenty years Reverend Duckworth has been pastor of a church. He served seven of the ten years as Pastor of the Star of Zion Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. While at the Star of Zion, he was as a member of the City Revitalization/Economic Development Committee. It was here that he committed himself to improving socially and economically distressed areas. Through his work on that board, Reverend Duckworth helped to build and develop the infrastructure for the city of Robstown, Texas, a suburb of Corpus Christi.

After leaving the Star of Zion, he moved to Forrest City, Arkansas, where he assumed the stewardship of Salem M.B. Church. At Salem, he continued his life's work by providing the vision to construct the Salem M.B. Church Family Life Center. Reverend Duckworth used his experience in Corpus Christi to give Forrest City a resource that will provide the community with much-needed intervention and prevention programs. The Salem M.B. Church Family Life Center will serve as a community center that will offer counseling, tutoring and wellness services. The facility will have a computer learning center that is the result of a collaborative effort of state and federal agencies. The Center's primary focus is promoting the importance of getting a good education and addressing the social problems that are ever-present in distressed communities. Reverend Duckworth has written several papers conveying his thoughts on leadership and stewardship. Recently he completed a Leadership Manual addressing church leadership philosophies that will probably be published in late 2001.

In addition to his main responsibilities with the church, Reverend Duckworth somehow has found time to be Moderator of the North Arkansas Baptist District Association, which oversees 12 churches; President of the St. Francis County (Arkansas) Ministerial Alliance; a member of the Community Relations Board at Forrest City Federal Prison; Chaplain of the Baptist Memorial Health Care Center in St. Francis County; a member of the St. Francis County TEA Coalition Board; and a member of the St. Francis County NAACP.

I am proud to recognize Reverend Duckworth for everything he has done to help the residents of the communities that have been lucky enough to count him as a member, and I want to express my appreciation on behalf of those people, and on behalf of the citizens of this nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWARK YMWCA ON 120 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring an institution which is close to my heart and which has inspired countless young men and women over its 120 years of service, the YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity.

As friends and supporters of the Newark Y gather for the 120th anniversary celebration, we reflect on the unique history of the organization as it has worked to serve fellow citizens, young and old, men and women, families and singles, of all races and religions. The Newark Y was the first major Y in the nation to have an African American Executive Director, Mr. Robert Wilson. In the early 1950s, when both the YMCA and the YWCA were conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for a new building, it was decided that the two would merge, creating the YMWCA. The Newark Y has been in the forefront of international