

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE PARISHIONERS OF WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Westwood United Methodist Church and to pay tribute to the legacy of community service that has marked that parish since its inception.

On February 10, 1908, twenty people first organized the parish as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Westwood. The first services were held almost two weeks later in Odd Fellows Hall in Westwood. As the church grew, a sanctuary and parish building were built. The original sanctuary, which is now a part of the education wing, was built in 1913. The sanctuary now in use was dedicated in 1960.

Community service has always been a cornerstone of Westwood United Methodist Church's mission. Longtime member Ada Hampton helped to organize the Westwood Area Clergy Council and Westwood United Methodist Church has been an active participant since its inception. The parish worked with other community congregations to establish the Westwood House for Senior Citizens. They established the Family Food Cupboard and actively support the Helping Hand Food Pantry in Hillsdale, including through their September Food Drive. The Church regularly opens its doors to area self-help groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Alanon. And the Church has offered its facilities to the community as a crisis center in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

The Church has recently opened up a not-for-profit thrift shop to support charitable work. Westwood United Methodist Church has also been a longstanding, strong supporter of scouting, having been home to Troop 47 for over 80 years. The Twin Valleys District of the Northern New Jersey Council often looks to the Church for a meeting and event location. During the holidays, Westwood United Methodist works with the Bergen County Division of Youth and Family Services to brighten Christmas for less fortunate children through Operation Santa Claus. They work with the Inter-Religious Fellowship to provide meals for the homeless as well.

This parish provides a tremendous public service beyond its own church community and I commend them for their good works as they rededicate themselves to another century of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROTHER ROBERT E. LAVELLE

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brother Robert E. Lavelle. Born in Cleveland, Brother Robert has a philosophy to preserve the past while being a catalyst for initiating change that is needed for the future. He has one of the longest tenures of any independent school headmaster in this country. In his more than 27 years of dedicated work as Headmaster of Gilmour Academy, student enrollment has increased, the school's endowment has climbed, and the school has completed cutting-edge technologies that have been incorporated into a 21st century curriculum.

Under his skillful guidance, Gilmour Academy has developed a challenging curriculum with classes that are designed to help students learn to think critically and solve problems in a project-oriented world. The school has grown as a result of the brilliant insight of Brother Robert.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Brother Robert E. Lavelle for his long tenure of servitude to Gilmour Academy. May his commitment to education serve as an example for us all and inspire future educators.

COMMENDING CIVIC WORKS FOR RECEIVING THE CORPS NETWORK'S EXCELLENCE IN CORPS OPERATIONS STATUS

### HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Civic Works' service to Baltimore and to congratulate the organization for earning the Corps Network's Excellence in Corps Operations (ECO) Status.

Civic Works' strong commitment to the local community is defined in its mission to assist Baltimore residents in creating a better future for their city. With the help of approximately 200 AmeriCorps volunteers each year, Civic Works serves Baltimore by performing a variety of tasks such as tutoring and mentoring children, building community parks and gardens, and rehabilitating abandoned houses for low-income families. The volunteers participate in team-based projects and weekly academic enrichment to effect positive change in their lives and their community. Each year, Civic Works also trains and helps 200 Baltimore residents find employment through its Health

Care Careers Alliance partnership with five of Baltimore's hospitals and the B'more Green environmental technician training and certification program. Since its creation in 1993, Civic Works has trained and assisted more than 2,500 Baltimore area participants.

The ECO Status is bestowed upon various Service and Conservation Corps that make a commitment to high-quality standards and continuous improvements. Each organization's performance is reviewed in several areas through self-assessment and peer reviews. This year's evaluation revealed that Civic Works "exhibits a strong commitment to its local community which can be seen throughout all its programs and projects. Community partners and residents clearly benefit from the work Civic Works completes."

ECO also recognized Civic Works for their "consistently clean financial record and for Board members and staff that are extremely engaged." One reason for such glowing reviews is the leadership of its president and executive director, Delegate Dana Stein. Mr. Stein is one of the original co-founders of Civic Works. He has served as a leader in the Baltimore community in several capacities, most recently being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates from the 11th District. Dana is committed to improving the lives of those who live and work in the Baltimore community and that commitment is replicated by those who have worked with him to help Civic Works achieve this status.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all those who have benefited directly and indirectly from this commitment, I want to once again congratulate Civic Works on achieving the Excellence in Corps Operations Status.

RUSSELL J. "RUSTY" HAMMER: HONORING A LIFETIME OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

### HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2008*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, my many years of public service have been enhanced by contact with talented community leaders representing numerous organizations and every part of the political spectrum. Among them, Russell J. "Rusty" Hammer—former President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce—stood out.

Rusty died in late January at the young age of 54, succumbing to a rare form of leukemia that he had been fighting with characteristic courage and grace since 2003. He is survived by his wife Pamela and children Gerald and Jennifer.

Rusty Hammer's career was marked by early political success with his election, at age 18, to the Campbell, California City Council—

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