

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP EARL J. WRIGHT, SR., GUEST CHAPLAIN FOR THE DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker it is with great pleasure that I introduce Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., as the Guest Chaplain for the day. Bishop Wright is a member of the general board, the governing body of the Church of God in Christ, which he helped to create. He also serves as the jurisdictional bishop of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan—Church of God in Christ, a district comprised of 19 churches. In addition, he is the pastor of Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ located in Warren, MI, and also the pastor of Davis Memorial Church of God in Christ located in Grand Rapids. Bishop Wright also is a founding and supporting pastor of Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ #2 in Haiti.

Other accolades for Bishop Wright include being appointed the prayer leader for the Detroit National Day of Prayer in 1992. He was acknowledged for his ministries, church and community leadership roles in the international publication Upscale Magazine as 1 of 50 Most Influential Leaders in the United States in the same year. In 1996, the Christian Women Concerned Organization of Detroit selected Bishop Wright as the “COGIC Pastor of the Year.”

Bishop Wright is married to the lovely and gracious Dr. (Evangelist) Robin L. Wright, supervisor of Japan Jurisdiction—C.O.G.I.C. In addition to being an evangelist, she is also a writer, and a great administrative help to the local churches in Detroit and Southwest Michigan. Together they have five children: Earl, Jr., wife—Elaine; Michael, wife—Robin; Marvalyn; Ben; and Jonathan. He truly acknowledges his family as his first ministry.

The Church of God in Christ is a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in which the word of God is preached, ordinances are administered and the doctrine of sanctification or holiness is emphasized, as being essential to the salvation of mankind. Elder Charles Harrison Mason is the founder and organizer of the Church of God in Christ, and under Bishop Mason's spiritual and apostolic direction, the Church of God in Christ, the church has grown from 10 congregations in 1907, to the largest Pentecostal group in America.

This year the Church of God in Christ celebrated its 100th Annual Holy Convocation; its theme was Celebrating a Glorious Past: Embracing a Promising Future, and it was attended by over 70,000 delegates. In remarking about the convocation, COGIC's Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., said, “In the last century the Church of God in Christ rose from a motley group of sanctified proselytes to a highly respected denomination with more than 6 million members in 64 countries. The Lord

has used the Church of God in Christ to accomplish great things in worship, proclamation, urban renewal, and gospel music.” The Church is also very active in promoting a social justice agenda that reverses the circumstances of black men, families, and urban communities as well as providing comprehensive programs for youth and young adults.

Bishop Wright has shown himself as a true disciple of Christ, relying heavily on his favorite scripture, Romans 4:21, “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” He exemplifies service to his fellow man, allowing his words to always bring grace to the hearer. He constantly speaks words of hope, spreading the good news to all. He practices evangelism that reflects Christ-like compassion to reach the world with the Gospel. Bishop Earl E. Wright, Sr., is a wonderful man of God and I am happy to know him and to welcome him to the floor of the House of Representatives today as Guest Chaplain.

HONORING RETIRING BUFFALO COMMON COUNCIL MAJORITY LEADER DOMINIC BONIFACIO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor perhaps the proudest member of the Buffalo Common Council, a great civic leader and conscience of the Common Council—the retiring majority leader, Dominic Bonifacio.

As a former member of the Buffalo Common Council myself—and as the son of another former member—I have a warm place in my heart for its membership. Few people in my memory have demonstrated more on an appreciation for the office he holds—and the responsibility that office confers—than Nick Bonifacio.

Nick's service as a member of the Common Council and as its majority leader has seen more than its share of successes. Owing in great measure to his successful stewardship of the Council's Finance Committee, the city is in stronger financial shape than it was when Nick first took office. Also poised for greater things is the Niagara District that Nick served so ably—as a part of the city probably best prepared for a renaissance in the months and years to come.

Nick Bonifacio is among the most effective and committed Common Councilmembers I have known during my career in public service. I am proud, Madam Speaker, that you have afforded me this opportunity to honor Nick's service, and I know that you join me in wishing the best of luck and Godspeed to Nick in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MARTY GRIFFIN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Dr. Lloyd Martin Griffin for his outstanding contributions to Sixth Congressional District, the State of California and the Nation. Dr. “Marty” Griffin is a physician who realizes that a healthy individual depends on a healthy environment. Since the fifties Marty has been involved in successful preservation efforts in Marin and Sonoma Counties, founded several environmental groups, and fought numerous battles to protect the environment.

Born in a cabin on the banks of the Ogden River in Utah, Marty recalls “being intoxicated by the cool desert canyon smell of trout, willow and sage, while my father's mandolin and the murmuring river waters put me to sleep.” Then, not long after moving to Oakland and becoming a Boy Scout, he met Brighton “Bugs” Cain. Learning from Bugs and his father, Loyal, Marty became enamored with nature and medicine. After working his way through college to earn a M.D. at Stanford University in 1946, he set up practice in Marin County. Over the next decade became one of the county's top physicians and was instrumental in founding several clinics, hospitals, and retirement homes.

In 1958, Marty joined three legendary patriotic activists, Elizabeth Terwillinger, Caroline Livermore and Rose Barrell, and Dr. David Steinhart and members of the Marin Conservation League and Martin Audubon to save Richardson Bay from fill and development. The bay was saved through a strategic purchase of 900 watery acres, which was leased to the National Audubon Society and became the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

In 1958 Marty discovered plans for transforming rural Highway 1 into a coast hugging freeway from Golden Gate Bridge to Sonoma, destroying wildlife habitat and threatening the rich agricultural lands of West Marin. The freeway would lead to a marina in Bolinas Lagoon and several new coastal communities. In response, in 1961, he teamed up with another Audubon leader Stan Prichard and created the Audubon Canyon Ranch and several projects to raise money, buy land and block the proposed freeway and preserve the gateway to the then proposed Point Reyes National Seashore. From this came the Bolinas Lagoon, Bouveri, and Tomales Bay Preserves. In 1973 Marty lent his skills to a successful effort to overturn a development-oriented Marin General Plan and replace it with one that preserved the open spaces of west Marin.

In 1961, Marty purchased a 240-acre ranch on the banks of the Russian River in Sonoma County. With his usual energy he planted grapevines, turned an old hop drying barn into a winery and eventually hauled onto the property a 100-year-old farm house, which he had

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