

most up-to-date medical records. This state-of-the-art medical records system will strengthen the continuum of care for patients. For example, notes made in a patient's chart during a morning visit to the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center will be accessible to emergency room staff at the Petrie Division of Beth Israel Hospital the same day, should the patient need emergency care.

Located in Zeckendorf Towers, the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center will play an important role in revitalizing the Union Square area. Early this summer, Beth Israel Hospital will open a comprehensive cancer center and a six-unit ambulatory surgery center in the same building that houses the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center. The combined facilities are expected to bring additional visitors into the area and to add to its economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, Beth Israel Medical Center has a reputation for innovation and care. The Phillips Ambulatory Care Center should prove to be another fine example of the extraordinary work done by this institution. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center all the best as it begins its work in our community.

MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC., OLDEST
BLACK CHURCH IN DADE COUNTY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a cherished house of worship, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, located in Miami, FL. In October 1995, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 100th year as a spiritual beacon for the Miami community.

I urge the Members to read the church history which I'm inserting into the RECORD.

THE OLDEST BLACK CHURCH IN DADE COUNTY

The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Miami, Incorporated lineage began at Union Chapel (Plymouth Church) in 1891. Because the Black worshippers at Union Chapel were not accustomed to the style of worship services, they organized their own church in 1895. Rev. S.A. Sampson and fifty-six other black members of Union Chapel were successful in organizing a church in the home of Mrs. Edith Albury. This church was called the Fifty-Six Baptist Church. The Fifty-Six Baptist Church was later blessed with a gift of land on which to build a church. The land was donated to the Fifty-Six Baptist Church by the Count Jean D'Hedouville and it was located on Thomas Avenue. After the church was erected, the name was changed from Fifty-Six Baptist Church to St. Agnes.

In 1903, St. Agnes Church was moved from Thomas Avenue to Charles Avenue where another edifice was erected. Deacons Washington and Bumey played the primary role in changing the name from St. Agnes to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church on May 25, 1922. In June 1948 Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church was again moved to its present site. It was incorporated in 1976 and the name was changed to Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Miami, Incorporated. The

organization of this church was significant in South Florida's history because it was the first Black church on the South Florida mainland to be organized by Blacks. On April 15, 1993, Macedonia's name was placed on one of Coconut Grove's Historical Markers. This marker was placed next to the church on Charles Avenue.

1835-1939: Rev. S.A. Sampson was the organizer and founder of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Miami, Incorporated. Succeding Rev. Sampson were Reverends Watson, Yates, Guilford, Nicholson, Sneed, Driver, and Whitaker.

1939-1970: Rev. Finlayson pastored Macedonia Baptist Church for thirty-one years and left a strong church organization that was spiritually sound and financially secure. During his tenure, the present edifice was built; the parsonage on Charles Avenue was built, property on Williams Avenue was acquired for future expansion.

1971-1975: Rev. Philip Cooper, a gifted musician and educator, served as an interim pastor. During his tenure, the thirteen deacon concept as ward leaders was organized; the use of collection plates to ascertain offerings and tithes, was initiated; the prelude before worship was instituted; and the financial department organized.

1976-1981: Rev. Arthur Jordan was the youngest minister to ever pastor Macedonia. Under his administration—the church was redecorated and refurbished; the fellowship hall was air-conditioned. Rev. Jordan, with keen insight, began a financial drive to buy a church van.

1981-1983: From June 1981 to April 1983 Macedonia was void of a pastor. Deacon Charlie Sinkler, Chairperson of the Deacon Board and Sister Arlene Broxton, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, were instrumental in keeping the church in unity. Under their leadership, the church was spiritually filled and financially secure, the parsonage was refurbished; and a financial drive was begun to raise funds for a decorative security fence for the church.

1983-: Rev. Rudolph Daniels, a gifted gospel singer and educator, was called for his first pastorate at Macedonia on April 20, 1983. Since 1983, the fifteen passenger van and the decorative ornamental fence have been realized; an elevator has been installed. During hurricane Andrew, Macedonia sustained extensive damage but has since restored to her original beauty both inside and outside.

Macedonia's roots are like those of a redwood tree, intertwined throughout Dade County. However, the future of the church is assured because its rich heritage is being transferred to its youth through the revived Christ emphasis. Its heritage reflects the real struggles of Christianity throughout the world, but its philosophy remains: "With Christ all things are possible."

The roots of this great church are firmly planted in the whole armor of Jesus Christ and shall not be moved.

COLORADO JOINS STATES
LEGISLATING AGAINST FGM

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that Colorado has joined the growing ranks of States that are drawing up their own legislation to ban female genital mutilation

[FGM]. In fact today Senator Dorothy Rupert, who sponsored the bill along with Senator Bill Thiebaut and Representative Glenda Swanson Lyle, is among lawmakers who are conducting hearings on the bill back in Denver.

Their bill is similar to mine, H.R. 941, in that it has criminal and education components. It would make it a crime of child abuse to mutilate a child's genitalia, or allow it to be done, and would require the public health department to carry out education among communities that traditionally practice FGM, using private funds, grants, gifts, or donations.

The education is essential, but so is the criminalization of this brutal act, which is done in the name of custom. As the Congressional Research Service has pointed out:

While most states have laws which prohibit endangering the welfare of a child or creating a substantial risk to the health of a child, it is not clear whether these laws would necessarily be interpreted to prohibit female genital mutilation in all cases.

So, we need explicit legislation, both on a State and Federal level.

Senator Rupert tells me that she knows FGM is being practiced in Colorado because she gets anecdotal reports of it. And this has really been the problem with legislation such as this—because FGM takes place so covertly and the evidence of it is largely anecdotal, some people still don't want to believe it happens in this country. But if it doesn't, then why have Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and North Dakota introduced or passed their own legislation against it? And why do I get regular inquiries from other States that are interested? It's because it's happening here. It's high time we took our heads out of the sand and did something about it.

ENFIELD, CT, FIRE DEPARTMENT
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to pay tribute to the men and women, past and present, of the Enfield, CT, Fire Department as they celebrate 100 years of service and dedication to the citizens of Enfield, CT.

Volunteers comprise the majority of members of the Enfield Fire Department, a further testament to the department's commitment to Enfield and its surrounding communities. For the past century the members of the Enfield Fire Department have selflessly contributed countless hours to ensure the safety of their neighbors and protect them from danger.

These men and women are, indeed, a rare breed. Courageously, they put their lives on the line each day—often in situations where they are keenly aware of the realities of personal injury. The Enfield Fire Department and others across America deserve our thanks, as it is their meritorious deeds that have saved many lives each year. Accordingly, I would like to thank the Enfield Fire Department, on this their 100th anniversary, for their service, and let them know they are not forgotten.