

TRIBUTE TO DEACON ELMO
COOPER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to congratulate Deacon Elmo Cooper for 60 years of service to Canaan Baptist Church of Christ which is located in my Congressional District.

Born in Lake City, Florida, Deacon Cooper joined Canaan Baptist Church in 1936 and since that time, has served the church and the community in numerous ways.

Upon first joining the church, he was appointed as the Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School, a position he held for 16 consecutive years. He was ordained a Deacon in 1938 and appointed Chairman of the Official Board in 1957. Though he retired this year from his position on the Board after forty consecutive years of service, he continues to serve as a Deacon at Canaan, with the honor, dignity, and grace he is known to possess.

Other affiliations at Canaan include Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canaan Housing Development Corporation, member of the Canaan Baptist Development Corporation, and Second Vice President of Canaan's Federal Credit Union.

Deacon Cooper is an active member of the Louis H. Pink Senior Service Center in Brooklyn where he instructs a Spiritual Enlightenment class. He is a frequently sought after Keynote Speaker for various worship services and religious functions, and is a member of the New York State Deacons' Convention.

Deacon Cooper is married to the former Rose Newton and in October of this year, they will celebrate 65 years of marriage. His lovely wife also gives of her time and spiritual talents as she is a Deaconess at Canaan Baptist Church. The Coopers have five children: Joyce Goodridge, Alvin Cooper, Carl Cooper, Carol Cooper, and Myra Kiffin.

Deacon Elmo Cooper is one of our community's most beloved and respected leaders. His years of service and dedication have earned him the esteemed honor of Chair Emeritus.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in honoring Deacon Elmo Cooper for his many years of unselfish devotion to Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, and to the community.

STATEMENT CONCERNING EN-
FORCEMENT OF THE U.S.-JAPAN
INSURANCE AGREEMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this body and the American people a matter of serious concern regarding current violations of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement. Against a backdrop of a rapidly expanding trade deficit, continuing Asian financial crisis, and growing skepticism regarding international trade agreements and institutions such as the IMF, it is crucial for the Administration to ensure that major U.S. trad-

ing partners live up to their obligations under existing trade agreements with the United States. Nevertheless, clear violations of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement are now taking place virtually unchallenged.

The U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement is designed to promote liberalization of the Japanese insurance market by preserving the third sector, where U.S. companies have traditionally had success, until the primary first and second sectors have been liberalized by the Japanese Government. This basic bargain, struck by the governments of Japan and the United States in 1994 and strengthened in 1996, has been put at serious risk by the activities of Yasuda Fire and Marine Co., Ltd. who has used its relationship with its affiliate and de facto subsidiary INA Himawari Life Insurance CO., Ltd. to prematurely ramp up its presence in the third sector.

The seriousness of this breach cannot be overstated. If Yasuda is allowed to continue expanding its presence in the third sector prior to the substantial deregulation of the life and non-life sectors, the Agreement will be left without its primary incentive for compliance by Japanese firms (i.e., the promise of access to the third sector).

Yasuda's current activities also pose a serious challenge to U.S. trade policy. The Japanese insurance industry knows that obtaining this agreement required intense efforts by senior U.S. Government officials, including the President of the United States. If the United States is unable to take vigorous actions against Japan's clear violation of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement, it will send a lasting and damaging message to Japan and Japanese industry, as well as to those countries that would negotiate with us in the future.

Despite its failure to comply with the Agreement's critical third sector provisions, Japan appears ready to start the two and one-half year countdown to opening the third sector to large Japanese companies on July 1 of this year. Absent measures to correct the violations, this action would breach both the letter and the spirit of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement. This situation requires swift action by the Administration. The U.S. insurance industry's continued viability in the Japanese market depends on the full and effective enforcement of this agreement.

TRIBUTE TO GARY L. BARR

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Gary L. Barr, for his leadership and efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. Gary is a determined, hard working individual who has dedicated his time to the law and judicial communities, and other organizations in the San Fernando Valley.

After graduating from Southwestern University School of Law in May 1997, Gary worked as a Deputy City Attorney in the Office of the City Attorney in Los Angeles. After two years of work, including an intensive training program, trials, motions and daily court appearances, he moved on to act as the Supervisor, Central Trials Section, Criminal Branch, and then onto the General Counsel Section, Civil

Branch at the Office of the City Attorney. In 1982, Gary decided to move into the private law sector, joining Alpert, Barr & Gross, where he is still a practicing member of the firm.

With his vast law and judicial experience, Gary was appointed as a Family Law Mediator and judicial referee at the Los Angeles Superior Court. Currently, he spends time as a temporary judge in the Los Angeles Municipal Court's Small Claims Division and at the Los Angeles Superior Court.

In addition to his career as a respected law practitioner, he has been elected president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in 1991 and 1992, and currently acts as the Vice Chair of Executive Committee of the Fee Attribution Panel of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He was also a trustee and director of the San Fernando Valley Community Legal Foundation and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Settlement Services, Inc., respectively.

Along with Gary's dedication to his judicial responsibilities, he has found the time to play a community leadership role in the San Fernando Valley. Since 1992, Gary has been a member of the California Manufactured Housing Institute, and acted as a Vice-Chair from 1995-1997. Gary has also held important positions at the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Council for Woodland Hills/West Hills, TreePeople of Los Angeles, United Chambers of Commerce of San Fernando Valley and the Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of Temple Eliyah since 1983 and was recently acknowledged for his work as a judge with the Los Angeles Times Community Partnership Award.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Gary L. Barr. He has shown an unwavering commitment to the community and deserves our recognition and praise.

HONORING FATHER MARTIN
CARTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Martin Carter who has dedicated his life to the ministry.

Father Martin Carter is a native of High Point, North Carolina and a priest of the Society of the Atonement. He holds a doctorate of ministry from McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Illinois. His seminary studies were completed at Pope John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts, where he earned a master of divinity with a bachelor of arts degree from Chicago State University, with a concentration in psychology and counseling.

Father Martin has ministered in several countries in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. He presently serves as Director of the Office of Black Ministry in the Brooklyn Diocese. His work has been published in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, The Jurist, Journal of the Society of the Atonement Ecumenical Trends and various magazines and newspapers. He has also coauthored a book that describes the African custom of Kujenga, a growth and leadership rite. The book, entitled Kujenga: Black Catholic Youth Leadership