

Reverend Dr. Figueroa is a graduate of Boys High School, Hunter College and Manhattan Bible Institute with honors. In his continued pursuit of academic and spiritual excellence, he received a Doctorate in Divinity from the National Theological Seminary of the Commonwealth University of St. Louis, Missouri and a Doctorate of Theology from the St. Paul Bible Institute.

As a child, Rev. Figueroa enjoyed the benefit of a spiritual nurturing environment—living in a household surrounded by Spirit filled believers. His spiritual renaissance occurred at the Institutional Church of God in Christ under the Pastorate of Bishop Carl E. Williams, Sr. While at Institutional, he worked in numerous positions serving the Savior and the church well.

Acknowledging his call to the ministry in August of 1976, the inevitable happened, he followed in the lineage of his grandfather, the late Reverend David A. Figueroa, Sr., Pastor of the Mount Zion Pentecostal Faith Church and his father, Reverend Ronald Figueroa, Assistant Pastor of the New Life Tabernacle, making him the third generation of preachers. In 1978 he was ordained as an Elder by Bishop Carl E. Williams, Pastor of the Institutional Church of God in Christ International.

The Reverend's unique and inclusionary character and ministry forged interdenominational relationships that transcended traditional religious barriers, walls and spiritual stereotypes in an effort to advance the Kingdom of God. His skillful presentation of the Gospel and his sense of civil and community duty has brought him to the attention and demand of many distinguished religious and political organizations who have benefited from his expertise.

In January 1998, the Presiding Prelate, his Eminence, Bishop Carl E. Williams Sr. and the Board of Bishops of the Church of God in Christ International, officially proclaimed Reverend Dr. Eric R. Figueroa Sr. as Bishop-Designate in the Lord's Church.

After several years of fruitful Evangelistic Ministry, Dr. Figueroa organized and founded the New Life Crusade Ministry in 1981. As this phase of ministry developed it was evident that God had higher heights destined for the ministry. In 1983 God gave Rev. Figueroa a vision for a church called New Life Tabernacle. On August 21, 1983 New Life Tabernacle was founded with seven members dedicated unto the Lord. Over the past 15 years New Life Tabernacle has grown in numbers, exceeding a membership of 400.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in saluting Reverend Doctor Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. Bishop-Designate.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF  
ELDERTON HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you and my colleagues a very uplifting story about an extraordinary group of young people in Elderton, Pennsylvania.

Two years ago, under the guidance of some very enthusiastic and involved high school

teachers and the sponsorship of the Armstrong-Indiana County Intermediate Unit, a group of six high school students started a program called Applebee Pond. The program, which was created by the Mercer County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc., involves a puppet show performed by a group of high school kids for grade school children. However, this program is not merely an extracurricular activity—it is much more. That's because the purpose of the program is to teach very young children of grade school age the dangers of smoking.

The group of high school students, which now numbers over twenty students ranging in age from 14 to 18, travels to grade schools throughout the area putting on a variety of programs for a very attentive audience of children. The message of avoiding smoking is delivered to the younger children through puppet characters they enjoy and is positively reinforced through the older kids, who they look up to and who serve as powerful role models.

As priceless as is the lesson being taught to the youngsters, though, perhaps the most extraordinary thing about this program is the impact it has had on the high school students—both those participating in the program as well as their peers. Participation in the program is selective and competitive. The students must maintain good grades and promise not to drink, smoke, or be involved with any drugs. Since the program started, the students associated with it have become so popular by setting an example of a healthy, athletic, positive lifestyle, that other students have actually quit smoking to be able to join. Parents praise the program and call to find out how their children can participate. Their brightly colored, easily recognized T-shirts are proudly-worn status symbols. They work well with their teachers and are well-known within their community. Some students who have graduated even come back to spend time helping out with the program.

At a time when young people are so often noticed only when they do something wrong, I am very proud to be able to share with you the story of these terrific teenagers and the wonderful gift they are giving to their classmates, their community, and to themselves. They are demonstrating what cool really is—being a leader, a good student, and living a healthy lifestyle.

TRIBUTE TO ADA HESS

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to say goodbye to a dear friend, Ada Hess of El Centro, California. Ada passed away this past summer and I would like to take a moment to recognize the friendship given to me by such a good and beautiful person.

Ada was born in Buffalo Gap, Texas and after marrying John Hess in 1968, she moved to El Centro where she worked as the secretary/treasurer for their various geological businesses. With a lot of hard work and dedication, their businesses grew abroad and Ada and John soon became world travelers. Following John's death in 1987, Ada continued running these businesses as the sole propri-

etor for nine more years before selling them in 1996.

When I was a young lawyer starting out during the 1970's, I remember how John would always be willing to offer his engineering expertise to assist with my cases. My family and I always knew we could stay with Ada and John at their home in El Centro where we would often go on camping trips to the Colorado River and pan for gold. While my boys and I were trying to strike it rich, Ada would be making sure that everyone had their shovels, pails and a good lunch. After my election to Congress, I always treasured the times when John and Ada would visit me in Washington, D.C., somehow we would always end up exploring Northern Virginia.

John and Ada Hess were great advocates of conservative principles and the Republican party. At one function, I remember how proud John was to show me a bull-moose handkerchief that had been given to his grandfather by Teddy Roosevelt. At other times, Ada would often thank me for helping her with the opportunity to attend a presidential inaugural ball. When I think back upon our fun times together, I realize that I am the thankful one, for having John and Ada as friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) on its 100th anniversary this month and to commend the organization for the work they do on behalf of independent pharmacies across the country. The NCPA represents the pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of nearly 30,000 independent community pharmacies. Independent pharmacists—more than 75,000 nationwide—dispense the majority of the nation's retail prescription drugs.

Independent pharmacists have a tremendous responsibility that is of increasing importance. Patients continue to rely more and more on their community pharmacist for good advice on which medication will help them. With many patients visiting the pharmacy more often than their doctor, community pharmacists continue to use their knowledge when telling consumers the pros and cons to these products. Ninety-eight percent of our community pharmacists make recommendations on over-the-counter drugs and general health care issues. Their expertise is imperative to the health of millions of people across this country and I commend them for a job well done.

Community pharmacists are truly working for the well-being of patients across the country and I am proud to work with them. The National Community Pharmacists continue to play a role in the lives of millions of Americans and I congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.