

HONORING KALAMAZOO GOSPEL
MISSION OF KALAMAZOO

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission of Kalamazoo, Michigan, to commemorate its 75th anniversary.

What began in 1933 with Jacob and Anna Hildebrand serving soup and sandwiches at tent meetings has evolved into the largest mission for the homeless in southwest Michigan. In 2007, the mission served over 180,000 meals to those who were hungry, and provided a warm bed to over 90,000 more in need of shelter, all while imparting that true healing comes through the power of Christ.

I stand here today honored that such a caring and compassionate organization serves the needs of the less fortunate in southwest Michigan, and continues to selflessly struggle to make a difference in the lives of “the least, the last, and the lost.” Believing all people to be brothers and sisters in Christ, the love and respect that the mission provides both to the homeless and to the community is truly remarkable.

I would like to sincerely thank the staff and volunteers whose spiritual strength, commitment, and dedication have made the work of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission possible for the past 75 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF ALPHA
KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in recognition of the centennial celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated (AKA), founded on January 15, 1908 at Howard University by nine visionary young African American women. In an era when the African American voice was stifled by prejudice, these collegiate women formed an alliance that has transcended generations. Their mission of “service to all mankind” still resounds world-wide through a coalition of over 900 undergraduate and graduate chapters comprised of 225,000 college-trained women. This week, I am pleased to join my colleagues in welcoming them to the city of their founding, Washington, DC and commend them for their hard work and commitment to the community.

For the past 100 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. has and continues to demonstrate their dedication to service through a variety of programs including Economics, Sisterhood and Partnerships program in which members provide community awareness about economic issues and the importance of mental and physical health. Other programs include the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF), which strives to make a difference in the lives of young women and men. EAF awards scholarships, fellowships, grants and mini-grants to young people across America.

I would like to recognize all of the chapters in my great State of Ohio including: Alpha Lambda, Alpha Omega, Alpha Sigma Omega, Beta Eta Omega, Beta Theta Omega, Beta Xi, Delta Delta, Delta Phi, Delta Pi, Epsilon Chi, Epsilon Mu Omega, Iota Iota, Iota Phi Omega, Lambda Mu, Lambda Phi Omega, Omega, Omicron, Phi Psi Omega, Pi Gamma, Pi Omicron, Psi Eta Omega, Rho Omega, Sigma Mu Omega, Sigma Omega, Tau Lambda Omega, Theta, Zeta Alpha Omega, Zeta Theta Omega Chapters. Your service to our great State is immeasurable.

Additionally, I am privileged to have had the opportunity to call so many of the members of AKA my colleagues and friends. I would especially like to recognize my colleagues here in Congress who are members of AKA; Representatives SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, DIANE WATSON and the late Juanita Millender-McDonald who have and continue to serve their constituents and this country with distinction.

Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional district of Ohio, I wish to extend congratulations and best wishes to the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on this monumental occasion. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards the betterment of our communities and this country.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PA-
TIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF
2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the President’s shortsighted veto of H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, and urge my colleagues to vote to override this veto.

Medicare has been a true success story for seniors—but Medicare will continue to succeed only as long as doctors continue to participate. And no doctor can afford to take a 10 percent cut in payments.

Last week, H.R. 6331 passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate because our Nation’s health depends on it. The bill eliminates the Medicare-killing payment cut and provides a 1.1 percent increase for physicians for 2009. It provides mental health parity in the Medicare program—something I’ve been fighting for, because people suffering from mental illness are just as in need of treatment as people suffering physical illness. The bill also allows poor people to keep more of their assets and still qualify for help with Medicare costs.

My district includes more hospitals than probably any other district in the country—and all the doctors affiliated with those hospitals have offices in my district. They have been clear—unless they receive fair payment for their work, they cannot afford to continue to treat Medicare patients. Without good doctors, seniors’ health will suffer. Congress was right to pass this bill the first time, and I hope we stand strong to pass it again today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President’s veto.

DISCUSSION OF THE CARIBBEAN
DIASPORA AT THE 2008 CARICOM
CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article that recapitulates the successful discussions that took place during the 2008 Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) conference on the Caribbean Diaspora in the United States. The article was written by Tony Best and was published in the July 8, 2008 edition of CaribNews. This New York based publication serves as the voice of the Caribbean community in the New York metropolitan area.

The article entitled: “Work Together” summarizes the forum held at York College in Queens, New York. Several Caribbean Heads of State were in attendance along with fellow members of Congress, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE and Mr. GREGORY MEEKS.

Discussions about the Caribbean Diaspora took place as many members of the panel recognized the great importance of the Caribbean community living and working abroad. Prime Minister of Barbados, David Thompson was quoted as saying, “We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora”.

I am both proud and honored to have been able to help facilitate dialogue between CARICOM Head of State and the New York based Diaspora. Conferences such as this open up lines of communication which contribute greatly to economic growth and development in the Caribbean.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

WORK TOGETHER

(By Tony Best)

The picture at York College of the City University of New York was essentially Caribbean.

And for good reason.

An audience of about 300 people, truly representative of the West Indian Diaspora, gathered in the large Performing Arts Center of the school in Queens to be addressed by a number of Caribbean Heads of Government or their representatives on issues chosen by the people themselves.

Billed as a conversation with the Diaspora, a “Dialogue,” if you will, the function was the penultimate item on the program for a much anticipated two-day Caribbean Community Conference attended at different times by nine of the region’s Prime Ministers and a President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana.

On stage were Prime Ministers David Thompson, Barbados, Dean Barrow, Belize, Baldwin Spencer, Antigua and Barbuda, Stephenson King, St. Lucia, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana, senior cabinet ministers from Jamaica and Suriname who headed their countries’ delegations, and diplomatic officials from Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts-Nevis, the Bahamas, and Dominica.

It stands to reason, then, why the reality of the occasion didn’t escape PM Thompson. “As I was sitting here I was reflecting on when last I, as a political leader in the Caribbean, had the opportunity to address what one might call a truly Caribbean audience like this,” meaning people from throughout the region assembled under one roof,” said Thompson.

Thompson, one of the three heads of Government invited to make an opening statement before the function got down to "brass tacks", an exchange of views between the leaders and the West Indians who now call New York home-away-home, seemingly felt compelled to remark on the essential qualities that separate Jamaicans, Guyanese, Trinidadians, Antiguans, Vincentians, Grenadians and the rest of the Diaspora from other immigrants in North America, Europe and elsewhere. The dividing line is the desire to return to the land of their birth and live in comfort.

Admittedly, only a fraction of the millions of West Indians now living and working abroad ever return home and those who do usually keep one foot firmly planted in the U.S. be it New York, Boston, Miami, Hartford or Los Angeles and the other in their country of birth.

"If you are living in Ireland and meet somebody from Australia or the Ukraine, very seldom do they tell you that they are returning to those places. But most of the people you meet from the Caribbean they want to return home, said the Barbados leader.

That was why, he, added, West Indians living abroad should continue to find ways to be involved in what their countries are doing.

As Thompson saw it, the immigrants should have another item on their list of priorities: using their presence abroad to help the Caribbean region achieve its social and economic development goals.

"I don't think in your daily rounds and wherever you hold positions of influence, authority or where you can use your diplomacy and other skills you should forget to put the Caribbean's case forward and advance the interest of the Caribbean region," he said.

President Jagdeo added another dimension to the task: the election of officials to federal, state and local legislative bodies.

"While Barbados is important and Guyana and Jamaica are important we are Caribbean people," he told the gathering. "We have to work together as Caribbean people and (when we do) it significantly magnifies the power that people have within this society."

One way of flexing that muscle while at the same time pushing their own and the Caribbean's agenda was to help get people "who look like us and who share our views elected to offices at the local level, the state level and hopefully at the national level so that they can be sympathetic to the cause of the Caribbean and to make a better life and space for the Caribbean people who live here in the United States of America," Jagdeo argued.

But he didn't stop there.

"We hope that in November you all turn out and elect the person who we feel would be sensitive to our interest," he said. "This is a person I have seen in an image squatting outside of a small hut in Kenya".

"This of a person who although he is a Christian, he is very proud of that, grew up with an understanding of the Muslim faith," the president added. "Anyone who shares these experiences will understand us better, and will understand our challenges. We need that kind of person to lead the United States."

Although President Jagdeo was careful not to call a name and didn't pinpoint the elected position he had in mind, few persons, if any at all, had failed to identify U.S. Senator Barack whose quest for the White House in Washington has captivated Americans and has warmed the hearts of people around the world.

In his statement, PM King, who narrowly survived a recent political attempt and power struggle by leading members of his own ruling United Workers Party in St. Lucia to remove him from office, said that "it was important, vital was a better way of putting it, for Caribbean nations to dip into the vast human reservoir of talented human resources from the Caribbean that can be found in the United States". "We Caribbean leaders have recognized that the time has come for us to tap the resources available to us from the Diaspora," he said.

What a pity then that such an atmosphere of cordiality and interest wasn't reciprocated by a handful of immigrants, no more than five or six, mainly Guyanese, who turned up at the function to harass and condemn Dr. Jagdeo, and to do it in a disrespectful and shameless manner by shouting at him from their seats and before the microphones in an attempt to disrupt his presentation. Fortunately, the President was able to give even better than he got, responding to them in a clear and unemotional tone. But perhaps the most rousing welcome was reserved for the Belizean Prime Minister, the first person of truly African-heritage to lead CARICOM's lone country in Central America. Some of his enthusiastic political supporters who were seeing him for the first time since his election victory jumped for joy and waved their arms in delight and in turn were warmly acknowledged by a Prime Minister who seemingly enjoyed every second of the acclaim. PM Spencer, the Antiguan head of government, was upbeat as he soaked in the cheerful response from Antiguans in the audience and regularly took the opportunity to explain his government's and CARICOM's stance on domestic and regional issues.

The opportunity for an exchange of ideas wasn't lost on two members of Congress, Yvette Clarke of Brooklyn and Gregory Meeks of Queens, two lawmakers with large Caribbean constituents. When the time came for them to speak, they grasped the chance with both hands and used it to pledge continuing support for the region.

Interestingly, a public figure who wasn't there but was on most people's minds was U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was Rangel who engineered the conference and opened the doors of Wall Street to the Prime Ministers and President Jagdeo. It was people's way of saying thanks to him. Of the leaders who came to New York, Jagdeo was the only one who had to face a few placard carrying hostile demonstrators. From all indications, he handled himself with aplomb, even breaking away from the protective shield of the Secret Service to have an exchange with some of his critics. "I was not afraid to talk to them," he said afterwards. In the event though, as William Shakespeare's immortal line reminds us "All's well that Ends Well."

And the conference certainly ended on a high note when some of the leaders joined U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the influential Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, for breakfast at Sylvia's, a New York City landmark in Harlem.

The event at York College was chaired by Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. He's an expert on Caribbean security and has written several books and scholarly papers on the subject. The College's President Dr. Marcia Keizs, a Jamaican, set the tone with a welcome that reminded many in the theater-

style auditorium of their own experiences as immigrants: leaving home to go to better education abroad but with plans to return to the birthplace. Instead, they decide to stay on and in the process rise to the pinnacle of academic or professional success, or both.

Helen Marshall, the first Black person elected to serve as Borough President of Queens, also spoke and emphasized the value of maintaining links between the U.S. and the Caribbean. In her own Guyana, the homeland of her parents, it is a good example of bridging the geographic divide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, due to a delayed flight, I was unable to cast one recorded vote on Roll-call vote 486, concerning H. Res. 1067, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the U.S.S. *Nautilus*. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye". I was present and able to vote on the next two measures.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"UNITED STATES PAROLE COM-
MISSION EXTENSION ACT OF
2008"

HON. JOHN CONYERS JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2008" with Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and Representatives BOBBY SCOTT, LOUIE GOHMERT and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. This legislation will extend the Parole Commission's authority for another three years. This will be the fifth time since the elimination of Federal parole in 1987 that the Parole Commission has been reauthorized.

In the more than 20 years since the elimination of Federal parole, Congress has debated whether or not to phase-out the Parole Commission. Currently, the Commission has jurisdiction over all decisions regarding parole release for D.C. prisoners and decisions on mandatory release supervision and revocation for all persons serving D.C. felony sentences. The Commission also has jurisdiction over Federal and foreign transfer treaty offenders convicted before November 1987, some military code offenders and state defendants in the U.S. Marshals Service Witness Protection Program. According to the Parole Commission, at least 7500 people will fall into one of these categories by 2010. This is why in the 1996 extension of the Parole Commission, Congress finally recognized that there would be a need for the Commission through 2002 and beyond.

It is for these reasons that I am introducing this important legislation with my fellow Judiciary Committee Members and Representative HOLMES NORTON.