

In addition, freedom of expression continues to be under fire. The current interim government has been arresting and jailing journalists critical of the military government, jamming the broadcast signals, deporting foreign reporters, and otherwise closing the offices of news outlets that are "broadcasting lies."

In his September 23rd speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the President stated that his ". . . approach to Egypt reflects a larger point: the United States will at times work with governments that do not meet the highest international expectations, but who work with us on our core interests." These core interests were earlier defined in the speech to include the "Camp David Accords and counter-terrorism" efforts but not, I believe mistakenly, to include human rights.

Human rights, and the intrinsic dignity of every human being from womb to the tomb, are important in and of themselves. But for those who fail to grasp this, there is another important point to be made: It is in the strategic interest of the United States to encourage governments to respect the rights of their people, because governments that fail to do so are in the final analysis unstable: This should be the abiding lesson of the Arab Spring.

The president also stated that future U.S. support to Egypt "will depend upon Egypt's progress in pursuing a democratic path." Again, it is unclear what criteria this entails. What if the democratic path does not include protection of human rights, such as what we saw under the Morsi government and now the interim government?

It is not democracy per se that is to be the goal, but rather a duly-elected constitutional government that respects minorities, the separation of power, and human rights. Tyranny of the majority is not an acceptable option.

What is clear is that the U.S. needs a new approach. This administration's short-sighted approach of not clearly linking aid to the protection of human rights in Egypt has been unequivocally ineffective. It is my hope that our hearing today will shed light on what went wrong and how the United States can be more effective in protecting human rights going forward.

HONORING BISHOP PRINCE E.W. BRYANT, SR., OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, "SOLDIER OF THE CROSS" WHO HAS MINISTERED THE GOSPEL FOR 50 YEARS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Prince E.W. Bryant, Sr., the legendary pastor of the legendary Island of Hope Church of God in Christ Church in Houston, Texas. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bishop Bryant's service in the ministry of the Gospel.

To mark this great occasion, Bishop Bryant is being honored as a "Soldier of the Cross" by the Texas South Central Jurisdiction of The Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Born in East Texas, Bishop Bryant was the fifteenth child of Deacon Bishop and Mamie Bryant. He was saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost on March 18, 1963, and began preaching on March 25, 1963 at the age of 15 under the late Elder Eddie Davis. He was licensed under the late Bishop C. H. Nelson and ordained by the late Bishop S. M. Crouch of Los Angeles, California.

Bishop Bryant was attended public school at Concord High School in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. He later attended LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles, California, from which he received his Bachelors of Theology; and the Family Bible Institute in Denver, Colorado, from which he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in 1993.

Bishop Bryant began his pastoral ministry on August 6, 1969. Over the next 50 years, pastored six churches: Bethlehem COGIC in Mt. Enterprise, Texas; Evangelist Temple COGIC in Bay City, Texas; Eastside COGIC in Lufkin, Texas; and The City of Refuge COGIC, Livingston Memorial COGIC, and The Island of Hope COGIC (formerly Anderson Memorial), all in Houston, Texas. He remodeled or built three of these churches.

Bishop Bryant has served the church from his youth to present in many capacities: as Sunday School Superintendent, Jurisdictional Chaplain, Jurisdictional Young People's Willing Worker President, District Superintendent, Jurisdictional Executive Secretary, President of Jurisdictional Minister's and Worker's Institute, Chairman of Jurisdictional Annual Leadership Conference, and as Administrative Assistant to the late Jurisdictional Bishop, Bishop N. H. Henderson.

Nationally, Bishop Bryant has served the Church of God in Christ as a member of the General Assembly Executive Committee, Commissions for Constitutional Convention Committee, General Council of Pastors and Elders Judiciary Review Committee, and Executive Board Member of the Church of God in Christ Urban Initiative.

Bishop Bryant has also actively involved himself in the civic life of the community. He served two terms as President of the Advisory Board to the Mayor of Houston under Mayors Kathryn J. Whitmire and Mayor Bob Lanier.

Bishop Bryant also served on the Civilian Review Committee for the Houston Police Department, as Chairman of Religious Committee, as founder of the Project David Ex-Felon Re-Acclimation Job Program, as Vice President of the Houston Northeast Quadrant Citizens Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman of Houston-Harris County Regional Substance Abuse Faith-Based Task Force Committee, and member of the Executive Board of the Minister's Conference at Prairie View A & M University.

In times of disaster, Bishop Bryant can be counted on to provide comfort and assistance. In 1983, he organized and chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council, which coordinated government entities and non-profit charity organizations such as FEMA, Red Cross and United Way.

When Tropical Storm Allison hit in 2001, Bishop Bryant facilitated a benefit service. In 2005, during Hurricane Katrina he organized the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund and was the Coordinator of the Church of God in Christ Distribution Center, a 20,000 square foot warehouse which distributed food, clothing, and non-perishable goods to thousands of displaced Katrina victims.

In 2008, in response to Hurricane Ike, Bishop Bryant again chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council.

During his fifty years of ministry, Bishop Bryant has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the following: Meritorious Services To The Community by Mayor Fred Hofheinz; Meritorious Service To the Community by Mayor Kathryn Whitmire; Houston Police Department Public Service Award; Service Recognition Citation by Councilman Shelia Jackson Lee; Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Leadership Award from COGIC Texas South Central Jurisdiction; Excellence In Service Award by United Minister's Institute of Texas Southern University; Special Achievement Award from The Religious Workers Guild; Outstanding Leadership AIM 2000 Church of God in Christ National Auxiliaries In Ministry Convention; by Bishop J. W. Macklin-AIM Chairman, Charles Harrison Mason Award The Religious Workers Guild, Visionary Pastors Award from the Houston Forward Times.

On October 17, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, the African Children's Hostel was named The Bishop Prince Bryant, Sr. African Children's Hostel in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Bryant is married to Mrs. Yolanda Howard Bryant and they are the proud parents of five children: Superintendent Prince E. Bryant, II (Candies); Dommonique Jeannie Bryant; Phillip Paul Bryant; Elder Desmon Ryan Bryant (Franchell); and Tymorra Mishon Bryant.

They also have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren: Prince E. Bryant, III, Paiton Anise Bryant, Pierce Edward O'neal Bryant, Madison Danielle Bryant, and John Patrick Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years Bishop Bryant has provided remarkable service to our nation as a community, state, and national leader.

I am proud to call this remarkable American hero my friend and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of his service in the ministry of the Gospel.

Bishop Bryant truly is a "Soldier of the Cross." I offer my best wishes for his continued success in ministering the Gospel for many years to come.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Lance Corporal John Wangler served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2011. His commitment to the military began at