

E1706 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—*Extensions of Remarks September 22, 2010*

IN HONOR OF SISTER CATHERINE PINKERTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Sister Catherine Pinkerton, whose unwavering advocacy on behalf of numerous social justice issues provides strength, hope and a powerful voice to the most vulnerable citizens of our society.

Sister Catherine's life and work continues to reflect a lifelong passion for raising the lives of others through teaching, lobbying and organizing. She began turning her faith into action early on, as a student at St. Joseph Academy high school in Cleveland, where she volunteered to assist the poor and disadvantaged at the Dorothy Day Catholic House of Hospitality.

After graduating from St. Joseph, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph convent in Cleveland, where she began her journey as a Sister in the Roman Catholic faith. She taught at St. Joseph's, and eventually became an administrator within the Order. Sister Catherine was soon elected President of the St. Joseph community. Her focus on issues of poverty, racism, sexism and other social justice issues, combined with her strong intellect and excellent leadership skills, guided her through numerous trips to Washington DC, fervently lobbying for legislation to elevate and empower women, minorities and the poor.

On Capitol Hill, Sister Catherine's work focused on fair housing, health care reform, civil rights initiatives, and family and medical leave legislation. In meeting rooms and on the House floor, Sister Catherine promoted NETWORK—a women-led Catholic social justice lobby that collects and analyzes critical data about how our Nation's laws affect the poor and disenfranchised. She also made numerous trips to Rome, as the official representative of sisters in the United States.

Sister Catherine's work has been recognized with numerous local and national honors. She was awarded the Centennial Education Medal by John Carroll University; named as Cleveland's 100 Most Influential Women; and, she was honored by the National Institute of Women with the Today's Woman of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of Sister Catherine Pinkerton, whose faith in action continues to give a voice to the silent, strength to the weak, and power to the powerless—thereby making our Cleveland community, our Nation, and our world, a better place.