

TRIBUTE TO THE SPANN FAMILY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Spann family on the occasion of their family reunion to be held July 25–27, 1997, in Columbia, SC.

The Spann family began on May 16, 1844, with the birth of Jack Spann. Mr. Spann was born a slave in Middleton Township, Sumter County, and resided in Sumter County his entire life, both as a slave and a free man. Despite the condition into which he was born, Mr. Spann learned to read and to write, a feat denied to most slaves. Because of his literacy, he was able to memorize and readily quote scriptures from all books of the Bible. Due to his literacy and his faith in God, Jack rose to become an assistant clergyman at St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church. When not in the pulpit, Mr. Spann could be found on the family's farm as he provided for his family of 20 children. Although the children were born of two different mothers, the togetherness demonstrated by the Spann family was unmatched. To this day, the descendants continue to show that same bond.

The Spann family has been a part of the African-American experience in South Carolina for many years. As the Spann family comes together this year in Columbia, all agree that they have been blessed as they are able to share this reunion with the last living child of Jack Spann, Mrs. Eliza Spann Missouri Pickett, the present matriarch of the Spann family. In addition, Mrs. Pickett's son, Clarence Missouri, was my college roommate and has been a close friend of mine for over 40 years. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring this fine family as they celebrate their family reunion.

JERI WARE: A BRIDGE BUILDER AND ROLE MODEL**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerline "Jeri" Ware, a bridge builder and a role model to all. She passed away July 6, 1997. Jeri Ware was born February 13, 1924, on a farm in Beggs OK, the third of eight children. After graduating from Beggs High School at the age of 15, Jeri, with the approval of her family, friends, and church, set out to expand her horizons. Over the next several years, she lived in Colorado, New Mexico, as well as Hanford and Seattle, WA. In the mid-1940's, she moved to San Francisco, where she enrolled at San Francisco City College. There she studied political science, and also met and married John, her husband of 48 years.

In 1951, the Wares moved back to Seattle where Jeri would become known throughout the city and the Pacific Northwest as a respected community leader. During the next 46 years, Jeri championed issues such as employment and education. She urged city offi-

cial to address concerns about the lack of opportunities for many black Americans in Seattle; she helped establish cooperative nursery schools and tutorial programs at the University of Washington. Jeri was a charter member and chair of the Central Area School Council, and a member of the Seattle Human Rights Commission. My predecessor, Mike Lowry, recognized Jeri's talents; for almost a decade, she served the people of the Seventh Congressional District as a member of his District Office staff.

Jeri's opinion commanded the respect and attention of elected officials in Seattle because she was a bridge builder and a role model. She helped many public officials to understand issues impacting the community by presenting the problems along with attainable solutions. Jeri Ware led by personal example: she showed the importance of family strength by standing by her son's side when he protested the Viet Nam war. She embodied tolerance by embracing and respecting others' opinions although they may have differed from hers. She taught determination by her life-long efforts to help our youth prepare for their future.

Mr. Speaker, the Seventh Congressional District of Washington mourns the loss of Jeri Ware. Thanks to her, many strong bridges of friendship and understanding stand in Seattle today.

THE WHEAT AND BARLEY PROTECTION ACT OF 1997**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Wheat and Barley Protection Act of 1997 which will facilitate a national partnership and provide urgently needed funds to accelerate the race for a cure for a disease that is ravaging our Nation's wheat and barley crops.

Wheat and barley scab has cost our national economy more than \$3 billion over the last 4 years. Michigan alone lost more than \$56 million to wheat and barley scab in 1996.

More than 80 percent of Michigan's farmers plant either wheat or barley. All varieties are vulnerable to the scab, which can severely reduce the production and quality of these crops.

The disease can produce vomitoxin, a toxin contaminant which has reduced prices to farmers and caused problems for the U.S. milling and malting industries.

My legislation unifies the efforts of 12 States' land grant universities into a cohesive research partnership. The Wheat and Barley Protection Act of 1997 will authorize \$5 million a year for 5 years to fund this national consortium that includes university breeders, plant pathologists, agricultural engineers, and food scientists. It will serve as a model for other such effective, integrated research projects in the future, bringing the public and private sectors together in an important effort to solve a national problem.

The Wheat and Barley Protection Act is a small investment compared to the billions of dollars that this disease, unchecked, will cost our economy. I am pleased that so many of my colleagues—Democrats and Repub-

licans—have cosponsored this legislation and will be working with me to swiftly pass this bill.

REGARDING THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of Senate Joint Resolution 29, the resolution directing the Department of the Interior to design and construct a statue depicting Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his wheelchair. I believe this inclusion in the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial Statue will further illustrate to the American public that a person with a disability is not limited in his or her ability to reach historic heights.

In addition to the Secretary working with the commission to incorporate a sculpture displaying President Roosevelt in a wheelchair, as instructed by the Senate Joint Resolution 29, I would also encourage the Secretary to look into a serious matter brought to my attention by the National Organization on Disability and the American Council of the Blind and as described in a May 20 article in the Washington Post. It appears that the Braille lettering on the monument is not readable by most blind or visually impaired visitors. In fact, on some areas of the monument the Braille dots are not accessible or not present at all. This is ironic in light of the fact that the description on the wall of President Roosevelt's programs to aid the blind, cannot be read by the blind. However unintentional, this makes a mockery of President Roosevelt's work and is frustrating to visually impaired visitors.

The main problem with the Braille is the size of the dots. The cells are too big to fit under a fingertip. Because of the enlargement, the spacing of the dots within a cell and between cells is incorrect. The sculptor admits that he took liberty by exaggerating the size of the Braille to achieve a certain concept. Unfortunately, his artistic interpretation has come at the expense of those who have low vision or who are blind. In essence, the majesty he sought to create for those who cannot see has proven to be a disheartening misadventure.

I would recommend that this artistic but unreadable Braille displayed on the memorial's Wall of Programs be supplemented by Braille which is readable. This Braille should conform to the specifications for raised character and Braille signage contained in recognized access codes such as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines [ADAAG] and the American National Standards Institute's [ANSI's] A117–1 standard for accessible design for the disabled. The reproduced Braille should be placed on a metal plaque or plaques which are affixed at a reasonable and readable height and location on the Wall of Programs. Or, the plaques could be mounted near the Wall of Programs on stands located at a reasonable height and location immediately adjacent to the artistic, but unreadable Braille. I would also encourage the Secretary to replicate in Braille the inspirational excerpts from President Roosevelt's speeches, which are displayed in print throughout the memorial, so they may be enjoyed by blind or visually impaired visitors.