

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE PELL GRANT AND EXISTING CAMPUS-BASED AID PROGRAMS PRIOR TO FUND- ING ANY NEW EDUCATION INI- TIATIVES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a House Concurrent Resolution that calls on the Congress and the President to work together to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program and existing campus-based student aid programs before funding new education initiatives.

This resolution establishes two priorities for higher education funding. The first priority is increasing the maximum Pell Grant awarded to students from low-income families to \$3,525. This amount represents an increase of \$400 to the maximum grant award and would be the largest increase since the inception of the program in 1972.

The second priority involves increased funding for the existing campus-based student aid programs. These programs provide financial aid administrators at colleges across the country with considerable flexibility in the packaging of financial aid awards that best meet the needs of their students.

The Pell Grant Program is one of the largest voucher programs in the country and it is considered the foundation program for all Federal student aid. Students eligible for a Pell Grant can use that money to attend one of more than 6,000 postsecondary institutions in the country.

The Pell Grant Program was created in 1972 and the goal of the program was simple. Congress wanted to assist students from low-income families who would not otherwise be financially able to attend a postsecondary institution. In the first year of the program, 176,000 students received Pell Grant awards. For the upcoming academic year, almost 4 million students are expected to receive Pell Grant awards. Of these students, 90% have family incomes under \$30,000 and 54% of those families have incomes under \$10,000. I believe we can all agree that the Pell Grant Program continues to serve the vital purpose for which it was originally created.

Why increase the Pell Grant maximum by \$400 dollars? In real dollars, the appropriated maximum individual grant, adjusted for inflation, has decreased 4.7% between 1980 and 1998. At a time when yearly increases in college costs have greatly exceeded the rate of inflation, as well as family earnings, the Pell Grant has covered less and less of a student's cost of attendance. Although all students and their families suffer as a result of exorbitant increases in the cost of attending college, students from low-income families suffer the most adverse consequences.

Today, will billions of dollars available in student aid from the Federal government, State governments and institutions of higher education, children from high-income families continue to enroll in college at almost twice the rate of children from low-income families. For many of these families, the cost of college is the overwhelming factor in their decision to forego a college education.

In 1997, we helped the President enact tax credits related to postsecondary education for middle and upper income families. At the same time, we voiced strong concerns about the need to continue making substantial commitments to the Pell Grant Program in order to assist those students from low-income families who would not receive any benefits from the new tax credits. Unfortunately, the President's request to increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$125 dollars is not the substantial commitment I had in mind.

In addition to the Pell Grant Program, this resolution supports increased funding for the campus-based student aid programs. While Pell Grants open the door to postsecondary education for many students from low-income families, it's the campus-based programs that provide these same students some degree of choice in selecting a postsecondary institution. After years of double-digit increases in the cost of a college education, the maximum Pell Grant no longer covers the cost of attendance at most public 4-year institutions in the country. However, a Pell Grant coupled with awards from the campus-based programs goes a long way in reducing the amount a student needs to borrow in student loans in order to pay the bills for tuition and room and board.

The campus-based student aid programs also require institutions to provide matching funds in order to receive funds from the Federal Government. The \$1.5 billion dollars devoted to the campus-based programs last year leveraged almost \$400 million dollars in additional aid to college students across the country. These are fundamentally sound programs that have served our nation's college students well for the past three decades and we should consider them a higher education funding priority.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the higher education funding priorities it establishes for the Congress and the President.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA JEAN
"JILL" WIELAND

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate a constituent of mine, Martha Jean "Jill" Wieland, for being named the "1999 Illinois Mother of the Year."

Often today our Nation measures success by the level of the Dow Jones Industrial Aver-

age or the value of the dollar. While these are certainly significant, nothing is more important to the success and future of our Nation than our children.

As a father of two young boys, I am aware of the many responsibilities and challenges that face parents today. Jill Wieland went above and beyond those expectations by acting as an excellent mother to her own children while also providing leadership for other children through Sunday School and Girl Scouts. Furthermore, since 1962, Jill has been a foster parent for the Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois where she has cared for over 100 children.

Again, I would like to congratulate Jill on being named "1999 Illinois Mother of the Year." She has not only had a positive impact in the lives of many children, but has also made a significant contribution to society.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ROBERT J.
PIZZUTI

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Robert J. Pizzuti of Montclair, New Jersey, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He will be honored this Friday, April 9, 1999, by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his 43 years of outstanding contribution to the community through his outstanding leadership of the Montclair Fire Department. Chief Robert Pizzuti personifies public service through his true commitment to firefighting and the people of Montclair, New Jersey.

Robert J. Pizzuti was born on Willow Street in Montclair, New Jersey on the first day of January, nineteen hundred thirty five. He attended Immaculate Conception School in Montclair from first grade until eighth, where he then attended Montclair High School, where he graduated in 1952. After graduating from high school Chief Pizzuti fought in the Golden Gloves as a Welter Weight, weighing in at 147 pounds, where he was very successful winning a numerous amount of awards. In 1953, he joined the armed forces and served for the next two years as a soldier in the Army. While there he attended a leadership school at Camp Chaffee in the state of Arkansas. Chief Pizzuti was released from the Army on September 13, 1955.

In June of 1956, Chief Pizzuti took his first Fire Exam and passed scoring the highest grade on the exam. He was officially sworn in as a firefighter on August 1, 1956. Chief Pizzuti has continued to serve on the Montclair Fire Department for 43 years and has performed in a variety of positions. He was sworn in as Lieutenant FireFighter on December 10, 1968, then as Captain on March 6, 1980. He was sworn in as Deputy Chief

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

FireFighter on August 14, 1984, then as Acting Chief on October 1, 1990. Finally on July 1, 1991, Mr. Robert Pizzuti was sworn in as Chief Robert Pizzuti of the Montclair Fire Department, and it is in that capacity in which he has served for the last eight years. He is a member of the F.M.B.A. and is also the Sergeant at arms of the Chief's Association.

Chief Pizzuti has been acknowledged by many groups over the years for his civic awareness; the March of Dimes, Christ Church, the Borough of Glen Ridge, the New Jersey General Assembly, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Summit, and the Montclair Optimist Club, to name just a few. Chief Pizzuti has also been involved with First Night in Montclair, as well as coaching softball, baseball, and football.

Chief Robert Pizzuti has been married to Eleanor Majewski since May 18, 1957. And they have five children; Diana, Tracy, Robert Jr., Robin, and Thomas. He and his wife are also grandparents to seven grandchildren and they are presently expecting their eighth.

Mr. Speaker, since I took office in January of 1997, Chief Robert Pizzuti has been a member of my Eighth Congressional District Public Safety Committee that has been so instrumental in counseling me on issues of importance to those who are charged with saving lives every day. In fact, Chief Pizzuti was one of the forces behind the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act which I recently introduced in this esteemed body. This law will provide federal grants directly to paid, part-paid, and volunteer fire departments to hire more firefighters, train firefighters in state-of-the-art techniques, and better equip firefighters so that they can more effectively save lives. It was in large part to Chief Pizzuti's imagination and initiative that this innovative piece of legislation was crafted.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Robert's family, friends, and co-workers, the Montclair Fire Department, and the Township of Montclair, New Jersey, in thanking Chief Robert Pizzuti for all his years of service to the community and congratulating him on his well deserved retirement, his presence will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOSEPH
ANTHONY CRUZ SAN AGUSTIN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin of the United States Navy on his distinguished career and his upcoming well-earned retirement.

Born on October 19, 1957, in the village of Tamuning, Commander San Agustin is the son of Joaquin and Ana San Agustin. Prior to being accepted at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport Rhode Island in 1975, he attended Father Duenas Memorial School. In 1980, he earned a degree in Physical Science from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Joseph was awarded his Navy Wings from the U.S. Navy Flight School at Pensacola Flor-

ida in 1982 and went on to serve as a pilot of military aircraft for 20 years. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1980 and was assigned to VMGR-352 "Raiders" El Toro, California, VMGR-152 Okinawa, and Battalion 7th Marines, Camp Pendleton, California. Having transferred over to the Navy side as a lieutenant in 1987, he went on to serve with VQ-3 "Ironman" Barbers Point, Hawaii, PMRF, Barking Sands Hawaii, and VQ-3 "Ironman" Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, prior to being assigned to COMNAVMARIANAS, Guam.

Commander San Agustin holds the distinction of being one of only a handful of Chamorros to graduate from the Naval Academy and retire from the United States Navy. In addition to the numerous commendations and awards he received for his military service, he had also been presented various certificates and aviation qualifications which have included the Airline Transport Certificate, the Airline Single/Multi-engine land, the Flight Engineer Certificate, the Turbojet Powered, and the FAA First Class Medical Certificate.

While on Guam, he played a large role in the required process of normalization in the aftermath of various military operations and natural disasters. Joseph was involved with Operation Pacific Haven in support of over 6,600 Kurdish evacuees fleeing Iraq to seek political asylum in the United States. Along with various military personnel, he provided humanitarian assistance during the stressful times after the crash of Korean Air Flight 801 and the devastation left by super-typhoon Paka. He was also instrumental in maintaining a positive mutual relationship between the Navy and the Government of Guam in his position as Guam Liaison for COMNAVMARIANAS.

Joseph has also been active in community activities on Guam. For the past two years, he was the PTA president for Mt. Carmel School in Agat. He also finds time to get involved in various community projects with the Agat Elementary School, the Agat Mayor's Office, the Agat Running Club, the Barrigada Mayor's Office, and the San Vicente Catholic Church.

After more than two decades of distinguished and dedicated service, Commander San Agustin has chosen to retire from the Navy. In addition to the great contributions his military career has made towards the strength and security of this nation, Joseph's achievements and community involvement have undoubtedly brought pride to the island of Guam and its people. He is a role model; he is a leader; he is a great representative of his island home.

I join his wife, Maria, their children Rachel, Rebecca, and Alan, in celebrating his accomplishments throughout his long and successful military career. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate Commander Joseph Anthony Cruz San Agustin on his well-earned retirement. I wish him well in his future endeavors and expect from him only the best as he once again becomes part of Guam's civilian community.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the new Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service (MCHDEMS). Therefore, on this occasion, I want to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of MCHDEMS in providing quality patient care and customer service for the citizens and visitors of Montgomery County.

During its first year, MCHDEMS implemented a system-wide improvement program focused on accountability to the patient and the community. They have also joined with area hospitals and school health programs to provide educational classes for pediatrics, trauma, and cardiac emergencies.

Furthermore, the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service has provide CPR certification for over 300 lay persons, who through this training, increased the survival rate for people in our community. Many of the CPR rescues and other critical interventions they have performed have saved patient lives and restored patients to their families.

In addition, its community outreach programs, including how to "dial 911" featuring Andy the Ambulance and Twinkle the Clown, have reached over 5,000 children. Their Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) awareness programs, provided across county high schools, have been beneficial in preventing many needless tragedies.

For all of these and other efforts, Allen Johnson, Operations Manager of the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service was recognized as the Administrator of the Year for the State of Texas for his leadership in the resumption of the Emergency Medical Service for Montgomery County Hospital District.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Montgomery County Hospital District Emergency Medical Service well as they begin their 2nd year of service.

HONORING ST. MARY'S CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce on their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Their initial meeting was held in April, 1974 by combining the Leonardtown and Lexington Park Chambers. A board of directors was installed and George Sparling was elected president. Eddie Bailey, Rubye Beaman, Eddie Burroughs, Robert Dudley, Bert Fenwick, Jack Fletcher, Joe M. Gough, Stewart Hobbs, Jim Kenney, Richard Lubbers, Charles Mason, Bill Raley, Buzzy Ridgell, Mary Salisbury, Les Shaw, Harry Lee Smith,

Leroy Thompson, Jr., Elliot Weisman, and Rocky Willis served as the board of directors.

The chamber had 150 charter members. Office space was two rooms on the second floor of the First National Bank of St. Mary's in Leonardtown, courtesy of Joe M. Gough. They occupied those offices until 1988 when the chamber moved to Mechanicsville. Not only has the chamber grown in membership with 400 members today, but also in service to the community, with members serving on a number of county and state boards and local committees.

Over the years, the chamber has supported county events such as the Oyster Festival and Maryland Day. The Trade Fair was started in 1983 to give local businesses the chance to show their wares and to promote county businesses. As a result of a good working relationship with county government, state government and the Southern Maryland Congressional delegation, major accomplishments of direct and indirect services to the business community have been achieved. The chamber lobbied for five years to have the commercial inventory tax reduced, which affected 80% of the county's wholesale and retail businesses.

In 1976, the chamber operated the tourist information center at Charlotte Hall. In 1980, the Tourist Information Center found its permanent home at the chamber office in Mechanicsville. Over the years the chamber has evolved into a vital entity of St. Mary's County. Despite its growth, one thing has not changed; the original core values to promote local business and empower local citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the remainder of my colleagues to join with me in applauding the service and sacrifice of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE REFORM ACT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, joined by my colleague, Mr. BONIOR, today I introduce the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 1999. This legislation will expand the safety net for American workers by reauthorizing and improving existing adjustment programs for workers who are adversely impacted by trade. It combines the best features of the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) programs into a consolidated TAA program and improves the effectiveness and timeliness of services provided to American workers hurt by international trade.

The bill would authorize the consolidated TAA program for 5 years through fiscal year 2004. Most importantly, the consolidated program would expand eligibility to workers who lose their jobs due to shifts in production by their firm to other countries. Currently, TAA eligibility is restricted to workers hurt by imports and NAFTA-TAA is limited to workers adversely affected by imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada only. Our bill will ensure that comprehensive assistance is available to workers who lose their jobs due to imports from, or shifts in production to, any foreign country.

The legislation also ensures that rapid response and basic readjustment services will be made available to workers upon the filing of a petition for TAA eligibility. These services are critical to facilitating rapid reemployment of workers and providing important information relating to the resources available at the Federal, State, and local level to assist them. The measure also requires a one-third reduction in the time period for the Department of Labor to process eligibility petitions under TAA in order to ensure that benefits are made available to trade-impacted workers as soon as possible after their displacement. To ensure that these workers get the assistance they need, the bill provides a much-needed increase in the annual cap on training expenditures to \$150 million; a portion of which supports the training costs associated with the expanded "shift in production" provision, and a portion of which is needed to fund the significant increase in program caseload currently being experienced.

The legislation also harmonizes the differing rules of the current programs relating to requiring enrollment in training as a condition for receiving income support. The new rules retain the program's emphasis on linking income support to training but permit specified exceptions where appropriate to assist certain workers. In addition, the bill would reduce the hardship currently experienced by workers who attend community colleges by expanding the period for scheduled breaks in a training program during which a worker may continue to receive income support.

In keeping with an increased emphasis on integrated service delivery, the legislation seeks to enhance coordination between the consolidated TAA program and the dislocated worker program under the recently-enacted Workforce Investment Act. In particular, the bill would significantly improve the accountability of the consolidated program by ensuring that TAA and the dislocated worker program have common performance outcome measures; i.e. information on the placement in employment, earnings, and retention of employment by participants.

The legislation also assures that information will be collected and maintained that identifies the countries to which production is shifted to and, to the extent practical, from which articles are imported. This will include information on the number of certifications relating to imports from, or shifts in production to, Mexico or Canada—which will assist in making eligibility determinations under related NAFTA programs and in assessing the adequacy of the consolidated program.

In addition, this legislation provides for the extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program administered by the Department of Commerce under chapter 3 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974. And finally, the bill establishes a Presidential Commission on Workers and Economic Change in the New Economy to make further recommendations on program improvements.

Mr. Speaker, while much of the country is enjoying a booming economy, there are geographic areas and industries which are experiencing significant worker dislocation. It is critical that the Congress support programs that give workers the tools they need to find and prepare for good-paying jobs in the new economy. One of the important ways we can begin to develop a broad consensus on trade policy

is to address the negative consequences of globalization by reaffirming and improving on our longstanding commitment to assist workers impacted by trade. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting these reforms.

MARINO SIMONETTI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Marino Simonetti, who will be honored by the Italian American Veterans of Luzerne County at their Past Commanders Ball on April 24. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

A 1948 graduate of Wilkes-Barre Township High School, Marino served in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952, a period that included the Korean Conflict. Marino returned to the Wyoming Valley following his discharge and worked as an electrical inspector. He also operated Simonetti's Pizzeria.

Marino is active in all local veterans organizations. He is a member of the Korean War Vets, the Catholic War Vets, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is the Bersagliere for the Italian American Vets, overseeing the color guard. He is best known for his dedicated volunteer activities at the Wilkes-Barre Veterans Affairs Medical Center, each year portraying Santa Claus and entertaining hospitalized vets on Saturday mornings at his own expense. His Halloween costumes are now a tradition in the halls of the Medical Center each October.

Marino is a member of the Korean War Vets Memorial Committee, the Committee to Preserve the Memorial at Letterkenny Army Depot, and the Committee to Restore the Italian-American Honor Roll Memorial in the Italian Cemetery. He was a guard at the "Moving Wall" Vietnam Vets memorial when it came to our area and he carried the American Flag on a march with the Canadian Legion on two occasions.

In 1992, Marino received the Humanitarian Service Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association and in 1993, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

Mr. Speaker, Marino Simonetti is a proud example of the strong tradition of patriotic volunteerism of our area veterans. Our veterans rise to any occasion to assist and support each other and are an integral part of our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I send my very best wishes to Marino on this special occasion and to all of my good friends in the Italian-American Veterans of Luzerne County.

HONORING MARTIN ETLER

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give birthday greetings to a constituent in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Martin Etlar of Elmary Place, who celebrates his birthday on April 24.

Marty was born in Holliswood (Queens), New York, on April 24, 1929, and eight years later in 1937, moved with his parents to Paterson where he graduated from East Side High School in 1947, and then went into the service for four years and three months, serving his country in the Air Force.

As a member of the 301st Bomb Group (352nd Squadron), Marty was stationed first in Guam, then at a Royal Air Force facility outside London, and still later at several bases inside the United States.

In 1952, he moved to Fair Lawn, a town in our district I am proud not only to represent, but also to reside in. He married the lovely Violet DeVries, and though his work in the maintenance department of United Airlines kept him busy for nearly 40 years, he still found time to give back to his community.

As a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for some 20 years, he has given of himself willingly on the first Monday of each month, and many third Mondays—rarely missing a meeting except in the summer when he has coordinated the reunions of his Air Force Squadron and Bomber group all over the United States.

Marty has taken the "job" of being a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment very seriously, almost always going out to the premises for which a variance is sought, looking at the neighborhood, the relief sought, and then trying to work the inevitable compromise between the zoning ordinance and those seeking a variance or relief from something that is otherwise prohibited.

On the occasion of this milestone birthday, Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire Borough of Fair Lawn, and this House of Representatives, wishes him well.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT H.
HOLSTER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Robert H. Holster of Clifton, New Jersey, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He will be honored this Friday, April 9, by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his many years of outstanding contribution to the community. It is only fitting that we are gathered here tonight in his honor, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Bob Holster has a truly storied past, starting with his education from my alma mater, Fordham University, where he graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a minor in Education Psychology. In 1974, Bob attended Colombia University, where he received his Masters of Art in Curriculum and Instruction Specialization. Recently in January of 1999, Bob received his latest achievement, by earning his Doctorate Degree in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University. This educational background serves as the foundation for the outstanding work he is doing each day on behalf of our students.

Educated in Passaic, New Jersey, Bob understands that a successful future for any individual is built upon a strong education. Toward that end, he has served the Passaic School

System with distinction for two decades. This exemplary career includes eight years as the Director of Curriculum and nearly six years as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Staff Development. In both roles, Dr. Holster helped to shape the path of learning for thousands of young people in his community.

His tenure has most recently included six years as the Superintendent of Passaic's Public Schools. His tenure has been marked by innovation, steadfast leadership, and an unwavering commitment to each and every student in Passaic, New Jersey.

Superintendent Holster has been recognized many times for his community service, including being named Passaic City Man of the Year in 1987, Lions Club Man of the Year in 1994, and the prestigious "Dissertation Choice Award" from his alma mater Fordham University in 1995.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, over the years I have not only come to know Bob Holster as an outstanding educator, but I am proud to call him a genuine friend. He can always be counted on in tough times and in good ones as well. It is thus with distinct pleasure and privilege that I say these words.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Bob's wife Sharon, his family, friends, and co-workers, the Passaic School System, and the City of Passaic in thanking Superintendent Robert Holster for all his years of service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO "RSVP"

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the importance of volunteerism to our Nation. It seems that too often today we turn to the government when we need assistance. While this may be appropriate as a last resort, the government is not the answer to all our distinctly individual problems. Instead, a greater importance must be placed on volunteerism as a means of helping people.

One group of my constituents that is performing this very important societal function is the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In May, RSVP is celebrating their 25th anniversary of service to society. For the past 25 years, this group of 417 active volunteers have served the counties of Brown, Calhoun, Pike, and Schuyler.

RSVP provides hundreds of different community services including tutoring, mentoring, companionship, disaster relief, and child care. The list of community services that RSVP provides goes on and on to fit the needs of individuals in the community. A few examples of the personal care and service that RSVP has given include making sure that Dorothy, who is homebound, receives her afternoon meals and that Jesse, a young student, gets the help he needs with his spelling.

Too often people use "lack of time" as an excuse when declining to volunteer their time. However, some RSVP members volunteer only a few hours a week to helping their community. While a few hours might not sound

like a lot, it sure means a lot to Dorothy and young Jesse.

I would like to personally congratulate the Retired Senior Volunteers Program on their upcoming 25th anniversary. They have not only helped their community by volunteering their time and services, but have also helped our Nation by setting an example for all to follow.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW O'LEARY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Matthew Paul O'Leary, who was born on April 20, 1977, in the state of Victoria, Australia. Matt O'Leary was an outstanding athlete who earned the title, "Best and Fairest," on many occasions in the rugged sport of Australian Rules Football. He was an exemplary sportsman in golf, tennis, and cricket, as well. Physical training was a daily part of his happy life. Loving the outdoors, he accompanied his aunt, Helen Soulsby, in an extended bicycle tour across his home state.

Highly intelligent, kind, and immensely popular, Matthew O'Leary lived life intensely and brought great joy to those who knew him. He loved to accompany his energetic uncle, Kevin Soulsby, in swimming in the irrigation channels and in agricultural work on the family farm. When Matt died at the age of seventeen in a tragic car accident on October 30, 1994, he left a glowing example of how to truly appreciate the gift of life.

Matthew's funeral was attended by so many hundreds of people that even the church grounds were overflowing. In the moving funeral Mass, Matt's grandparents, aunts, uncles, and great-uncles all assisted in the celebration of his life by performing some of the readings, by singing, by distributing the Holy Eucharist, and by serving on the altar as acolytes.

Matthew O'Leary was a credit to his upbringing. He was the second, beloved son of Margaret and Terri O'Leary, and was the devoted brother of Sean, Haydn, and Emily, all of whom he cherished dearly. He is survived by his loving grandmothers, Pat O'Leary and Alice Soulsby; his affectionate grandfather, Jack Soulsby; his sister-in-law, Renee O'Leary; and nephew, Ryan Matthew; as well as his many loving aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Owen O'Leary.

Matthew O'Leary seized life and reveled in it. It is privilege to honor the memory of a young man who truly lived by the "Golden Rule" of treating others fairly.

TRIBUTE TO ART AND SANDY
GINSBURG

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friends, Art and Sandy

Ginsburg. Art and Sandy are the owners of Art's, one of the best delicatessens in Los Angeles. In addition to their skills as restaurateurs, Art and Sandy are known for their dedication to assisting others. They never seem too busy to help another worthy cause, or to provide much-needed support to another outstanding organization.

This year, Art and Sandy Ginsburg are being honored by Women's American ORT, in recognition of their service and generosity over many years. Sandy, in fact, has been a member of Women's American ORT for 34 years! The Ginsburgs are committed to ORT's goal of providing technical training to students around the world and preparing them for good jobs in the emerging global economy. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and teenagers have benefited from the education provided by ORT schools.

Closer to home, the Ginsburgs are tireless in their support of the activities of the Jewish community. They have helped to establish a program at Temple Beth Hillel that has integrated disabled and handicapped people into the mainstream of Jewish life and Art's Delicatessen has consistently provided food for the Shabbat dinners that are sponsored by this program.

Art and Sandy's generosity extends to other programs and organizations as well. Art's Deli donates food to Chandler House, which provides alcohol rehab services, and also participates in a program that feeds the poor and homeless throughout the Southern California area. Art has also served his community as Vice President/Board of Directors of the Studio City Improvement Association and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce.

As the parents of three grown children, Art and Sandy have also spent a good portion of their lives helping such organizations as the Girl Scouts, as well as a variety of schools in the San Fernando Valley. They contributed to the athletic program at Grant High School, and to this day they invite kids from a local junior high school to tour the Delicatessen as part of a careers program.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Art and Sandy Ginsburg, devoted parents and grandparents, successful business people, and great friends of our community. Their altruism and compassion inspire us all.

THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACT OF 1999

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the National Cemeteries Act of 1999. This legislation requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish three new national cemeteries. Each of these new cemeteries will be established in an area of the country determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be most in need of Cemetery space to serve veterans and their families.

VA statistics show that demand for burial benefits will increase sharply in the near future, with interments increasing 42% from 1995 to 2010. Unless new national cemeteries are established soon, VA will not be able to

meet the need for burial services for veterans in several metropolitan areas of the country.

I am concerned that too many veterans lack access to the final—and for many, the only—veterans benefit they will receive from our grateful nation. The number of veterans who lack adequate access to burial in a national cemetery will increase during the next decade, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has not demonstrated a commitment to establishing obviously-needed new national cemeteries. I was deeply disappointed that the Administration FY 2000 budget for VA failed to include a request for the funding required to initiate new national cemeteries. When we on the Veterans Affairs Committee finally agreed last year to enact legislation requested by the VA to enhance the State Cemetery Grants program, it was only after we were assured by the Department that this program would continue to simply supplement the national cemetery system—not replace it. In view of this, I expected the Department to demonstrate its commitment to the expansion of the national cemetery system by including funding for at least one new cemetery in the FY 2000 budget request. It is because that funding was not in the VA's budget request that I am introducing this legislation today.

Accordingly, my bill would require the Secretary to establish a new national cemetery in the three areas of the country that are determined by the Secretary to be most in need of burial space. Additionally, this legislation would require the Secretary to provide Congress with a report 4 months after enactment of the National Cemetery Act of 1999. This report will identify the three areas where new national cemeteries are to be established, a schedule for cemetery construction, and an estimate of the costs associated with establishment of these cemeteries.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation authorizing the purchase of "cemetery grounds" to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country." The fourteen cemeteries that were established that year were the beginning of what has become the National Cemetery System. Today, more than 130 years after the first national cemeteries were established, the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for more than 2.2 million gravesites at 115 national cemeteries in 39 states. Of these 115 cemeteries, 57 are open to all interments, 36 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred, and 22 are closed to new interments.

On May 31st of this year, many of us will attend Memorial Day observances at our national cemeteries during which we will, with humility and thanks, pay sincere respect to those whose sacrifices and dedication have protected the ideals on which America was founded. We will remember the more than 42 million patriots who, through two centuries and too many wars, have taken up arms to defend America and to guarantee that the blessings of liberty are secure. Remembering, however, is not enough. We as a nation must also meet our historic commitment to provide health care, compensation, and readjustment assistance to the living—and provide a hallowed resting place for our American heroes when they die.

I urge Members to support the National Cemeteries Act of 1999.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE MADDOX

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, to pay tribute to Clyde Maddox, a Vietnam veteran, who was elected Commander of the 110,000 member Disabled American Veterans, Department of California, last year.

Clyde Maddox was born in Americus, Georgia to a family which included eight other brothers and sisters. He spent the first 18 years of his life in Americus. He graduated from Sumter County High School in 1968 prior to beginning a career in the United States Marine Corps where he spent 21 years serving his country.

Clyde Maddox served a tour of 13 months in Vietnam. He has also served in two tours overseas and has been stationed in several other cities including Earl Colt Neck, New Jersey, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and El Toro and Camp Pendleton, California.

Mr. Maddox has been the recipient of numerous awards and certificates for exemplifying professionalism and initiative to reflect the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. On January 28, 1988, Mr. Maddox was recognized with a Certificate of Good Conduct Medal. He was awarded a Navy Achievement Award Medal for serving as Ground Supply Chief, 3rd Marine Air Craft Wing Fleet Marine from May, 1979 to July, 1982. He received a Meritorious Service Medal during the period of November, 1986 to May, 1989. In October, 1996 Maddox was awarded with another Navy Achievement Award.

On January 1, 1991, Mr. Maddox officially retired from the U.S. Marine Corps after a distinguished career. He then accepted a position with the Disabled American Veterans Organization, at the Jerry L. Pettis Hospital in Loma Linda, California.

While working with the Disabled American Veterans, Mr. Maddox was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation on February 4, 1993, for distinguished and exemplary service. On March 20, 1996, he received a certificate for Outstanding Service as a Service Officer.

Mr. Maddox continues to serve as a volunteer with the Disabled American Veterans. He is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Material Management Department at the Loma Linda Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Clyde Maddox is a life member of Riverside Chapter #28, he and his wife Ruby, the parents of two children, reside in Moreno Valley.

A testimonial dinner will be held on Saturday, April 17, 1999 in Riverside, California at the Riverside Convention Center to pay tribute to Clyde Maddox.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and veterans in my congressional district in paying tribute to Clyde Maddox for his exemplary service and patriotism to our country. We also recognize his hard work to safeguard and promote the benefits and programs that disabled veterans have earned through their military service to our Nation.

IN MEMORY OF ALLISON MICHELE
MILLS OF BELLAIRE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Allison Michele Mills, who passed away on April 12, 1999. Allison was born December 6, 1980, the daughter of Dave and Lynne Temple Mills.

Allison was a senior at Bellaire High School, where she was announced as the Valedictorian of the graduating class of 1999. At Bellaire High School, Allison was the president of the National Honor Society, a Hugh O'Brian Youth Ambassador as well as a cheerleader and a member of the marching band. Additionally, Allison was a member of the French Club, the Quill and Scroll, and a four-year class officer.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to pay my last respects to a young woman who gave so much of herself to her community, her school and her family. Allison will be missed by all whose lives she touched. I am honored to have represented her and proud to call her a constituent.

GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES
EMPLOYEES HELP THE YOUTH
OF AMERICA

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees of General Electric (GE) Appliances for their contribution to over 1 million hours of volunteer work to the youth of America. In April 1997, GE pledged that by the year 2000, its employees, retirees, and family members would volunteer over 1 million hours in community service. Not only did GE reach this goal, but surpassed it, with 1.3 million hours contributed thus far.

In Louisville, Kentucky, GE Appliances contributes an average of 210,000 volunteer hours each year and donates approximately \$2 million to community service organizations. Its efforts are far reaching and have a tremendous impact on this community. They include refurbishing the campus of Brooklawn Youth Haven, an organization which serves boys who suffer from severe emotional and behavioral problems; working with students from Western High School to create Kentucky's first student team to participate in the F.I.R.S.T. Program, a national robotics competition; providing mentoring and leadership to thousands of African-American youth; refurbishing the Wayside Christian Mission Family Crisis Center; and refurbishing two classrooms at Family Place, a child abuse treatment agency.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the volunteers of GE Appliances, especially those in Louisville, Kentucky. They have shown that taking pride in your community and working to improve the lives of its residents is an important part of being a United States citizen. Their outstanding efforts truly make a difference in the lives of Kentucky's youth, and I hope that they will serve as a source of inspiration to communities throughout this country.

CONGRATULATING THE SCHOOL
SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the School Sisters of Notre Dame on Guam who are celebrating their 50th anniversary on May 9, 1999. I also extend my congratulations to Sister Joseph Ann Quinene, the local regional director, and all the Notre Dame Sisters on this very special occasion. Given the success of numerous students who have grown in wisdom and knowledge under their tutelage, their 50-year presence represents more than simply a measure of time. Their commitment to the children of Guam, their dedication to teaching, and their strong faith have enriched our island community in ways that cannot be measured.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame arrived on Guam in 1949 as a Mission of the Milwaukee Province at St. Francis in Yona. Invited by Rev. Bishop Apollinaris Baumgartner and Rev. Father Alvin Lafeir over the years, the mission grew to include the establishment of St. Francis School in Yona, San Vicente School in Barrigada, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Agat, and the Notre Dame High School in Talofofo. They have also provided the opportunity for many young Guamanian women to join their mission.

By the end of their first year on Guam, Guamanian girls became candidates for membership in the Notre Dame Sisters family. In August of 1955, the first two professed Guamanian Sisters returned to Guam to help in the teaching force of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1969, Sister Mary Bernard Unpingco, a native Guamanian, was elected to represent the island in Rome, and in 1974, Sister Cecile Marie Crisostomo was elected as the first Guamanian Regional Leader. This opened other administrative positions for the Guamanian School Sisters of Notre Dame. Since 1974, the principals and community leaders have been held by local Sisters.

To assist in their mission on Guam, an Aspiranture was built for young girls who were interested in pursuing the life of the School Sisters of Notre Dame while finishing their high school. In addition, a boarding house was opened at Notre Dame High School for girls from the other islands who were interested in finishing high school.

Following several visitations, the Provincial leaders of the Milwaukee Province decided that Guam was ready to carry on the work of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and the Guam District was established as a Region of the Milwaukee Province. The Region of Guam, under the leadership of the local Sisters, carried the work of Mother Therese Cerhardinger to the islands of Rota and Saipan, and today they have extended their leadership in education to the islands of Chuuk, Ebeye and Yap. In 1977, the Guam Region became a vital unit of the International Community when Sister Francine Perez was elected a General Councillor of the central governing body of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Rome. It is also with great personal pride that I note that my godmother, Sister Carmen Francis Siguenza, is a member of this order.

As a fellow educator, I applaud the record of the School Sisters of Notre Dame on their 50th anniversary and thank each and every one of them for their diligence and dedication to our children and to Guam. Si yo'os ma'ase paro todo i che'cho' miyu para i famagu'on-ta yan it taotao-ta guini gi isla-ta.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE PELL GRANT AND EXISTING CAMPUS-BASED AID PROGRAMS PRIOR TO FUNDING ANY NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution calling on the Congress and the President to significantly increase funding for the Pell Grant and Campus-Based Aid programs.

Every year since we gained the majority, Republicans have worked to increase the maximum Pell Grant, and we've worked hard to strengthen higher education programs with a proven track record of success. We have also enacted tax incentives which help working families save for the education of their children, and ease student loan repayment for those who must borrow.

Most importantly, just over 6 months ago, we enacted the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. This vitally important legislation saved the student loan program and cut borrower interest rates; dramatically increased the maximum authorized Pell Grant; and strengthened the Campus-Based Aid programs which provide needy students with grants, work study opportunities, and low-interest loans. This legislation went a long way to achieving our goals of:

Making college more affordable;
Simplifying the student aid system; and
Ensuring academic quality.

In short, we have truly made higher education a priority, and we will continue to do so.

However, I was shocked when the administration sent us a budget proposal along with the proclamation that the doors to college were now open to all Americans. I was surprised to learn that the administration actually believes that it has opened the doors to college for all. I was disappointed with the details of that budget, which cut overall funding for Pell Grants by 3 percent, allowed for only modest growth in the Campus-Based programs, and proposed student loan cuts which Congress had rejected on a bipartisan basis only months before. Instead of supporting these core programs which are proven to work, the administration pursued funding for four new "designer" programs, which have not, and probably will never, help one student graduate. In talking to students and educators alike, I know they share my disappointment.

Let's look at the priorities we are setting forth today in this resolution. First, it calls for a \$400 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award. The Pell Grant program is the largest and most important Federal need-based higher education grant program. It is a voucher for

higher education, which students can take to an institution of their choosing and use to pursue the type of education that will most benefit them. Every dollar that a student receives from the Pell program is a dollar that won't have to be borrowed. With average student indebtedness now at \$9,700, this is more important than ever before.

The Pell Grant program was created in 1972, and currently serves 3.8 million students. In the late 1970's, Pell Grants covered 75 percent of the cost of attending a 4-year public college or university. Today, it covers only 36 percent of that cost. Restoring some of this lost buying power is probably the single most important thing we can do to reassure students from low-income families that college is possible. Funding Pell Grants at the level set forth in the resolution would have the added benefit of making an additional 215,000 students eligible, including 21,000 in my home State of California.

Second, this resolution makes funding for the Campus-Based Aid programs a priority. These programs provide institutions with Federal support for grant, loan, and work study programs. They are need based. However, they do provide financial aid professionals with more flexibility to tailor the aid package to the student's needs. Most importantly, these programs require schools that participate to provide matching funds, which allows us to leverage our investment with private dollars.

Finally, this resolution sets priorities. It says to the President and to the American people that we are serious about funding the financial aid programs we know work, and that we shouldn't create new programs until we meet these commitments.

Mr. Speaker, we are faced with a choice. We can blindly buy the "program du jour" on the President's education menu, cooked up by the bureaucrats at the Department of Education, or we can wisely fund the "meat and potato" scholarship programs that have put America's students through college for more than a generation.

I urge my colleagues to show their support for America's students, and cosponsor this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ALONZO MOODY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Alonzo Moody of Paterson New Jersey, an exceptional individual who has dedicated his life to public service. He will be honored this Thursday evening, April 8, 1999, by family, friends, and professionals for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Mr. Speaker, Alonzo Moody was born the sixth child to the late Allard Moody, Sr. and Mary Jane Moody. He has been married to his wife Sarah for 28 years and is the proud father of three sons; Malik Ali Angaza, Zati Kufaa, and Kwesi Tacuma.

Alonzo earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in the field of Urban Planning from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 1976. He also attended Honolulu Business College from 1968–1969 in Hawaii, majoring in Systems Analysis. He has worked for the Department of Human Re-

sources and the Paterson Youth Services Bureau for the past twenty five years as Executive Director. His responsibilities include supervision and administration of programs, with direct accountability for their use in the community. He also coordinates all youth agency activities within the City of Paterson. Mr. Moody directs and supervises two youth agencies and fifteen staff members.

On October 21, 1998, Mr. Moody was appointed and sworn in as Deputy Mayor of the City of Paterson by the Honorable Mayor Martin G. Barnes. As Deputy Mayor, he oversees issues involving youth, families, and recreation. In March of 1992, Mr. Moody became Director of the Alexander Hamilton Development Resident Management Youth Program. He implemented homework study hour, a variety of recreational activities, counseling services, and other activities for the youth of the Alexander Hamilton Housing Development during the evening hours. Since 1991 Alonzo has been serving as a member of the Paterson Board of Education.

From 1977 until 1989 Alonzo and his wife Sarah have served as Children's Haven House Parents, providing a nurturing and supportive family environment for eight boys ages eight to fourteen placed by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Alonzo served as an Assistant Basketball Coach at Passaic County Community College in 1979. From 1973 to 1980 he was an administrator for the Children's Shelter, Community Youth Worker Probation Counselor for Passaic County Probation Department and Director of the Youth Summer Twilight Program for the Catholic Youth Organization. From 1966 until 1969 Mr. Moody also served in the United States Air Force, as an Airman First Class.

Many community organizations have benefited from Mr. Moody's participation. He was a former member of the Paterson Task Force for Community Action, Inc.; the Community Action Day Care Center, Inc. Board of Directors; and the Paterson YMCA Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Eastside High School's Home School Council, RISK, NJ Black United Fund; Passaic County Youth Commission; Municipal Drug Alliance; Village Initiative Executive Board, Children's Haven Board of Directors; and the Minority Concerns Committee.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, Mr. Moody has touched the lives of many people in his community. His warmth of spirit and caring nature has inspired an enormous amount of people. We are all gathered here tonight as a testament to Alonzo and to thank him for all that he has done for the well being of his fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Alonzo's family, friends, and colleagues, and the City of Paterson, New Jersey, in commending a truly great man.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BLACK PARENTS FACE SPECIAL CHALLENGES RAISING A SON TO BE A MAN

(By Le Datta Grimes)

LEXINGTON, KY.—Donita Harris is biracial. Her momma is Chinese. Her daddy is black. She grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood near Turfand Mall. Whenever she reflects on her childhood area, one memory is clear: the neighborhood carpool.

Each week, the neighborhood moms took turns driving the local children to school.

One woman, however, refused to pick up Donita and her brother. The woman didn't like black people, Harris said, so she sped past their house.

Harris, now 27, recalls this episode as she looks into the chubby-checked, bright-eyed face of her 4-month-old son, Robert Jr.

"... I just wonder what prejudice will look like 10 to 15 years from now."

Donita, a social worker, and her husband, Robert Sr., who works at a lamp factory, know that their son will face certain hardships simply because he is a black male.

Their job as Robert Jr.'s parents, they said, is to raise a man capable of withstanding today's stereotypes and achieving success in spite of them.

Raising black males in a society that depicts them as angry, aggressive, lazy and ignorant presents a unique task for black parents, said William Turner, an associate professor of family studies at the University of Kentucky.

While all parents seek to raise healthy, well-adjusted children, black parents raising sons have some additional tasks.

They must teach their sons, Turner said, to navigate and function in a society that sometimes views them through a distorted looking glass.

"There are some extra things that black parents have to teach their kids," he said. "Facts about race and racism are among them."

Tracey Bartleson is raising two sons, Xavier Spence, 7, and Damone Thompson, 3.

Damone's father and Bartleson are no longer together. Xavier's father lives in Canada.

When life puzzles her sons, it is Bartleson they run to. She works the overnight shift, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., so she can be home for their questions during the day.

A few months ago, as they were watching Selma, Lord, Selma, a Disney movie depicting the sometimes violent anti-segregation marches that took place three decades ago in Selma, Ala., Bartleson turned her head to see tears streaking Xavier's face.

"Momma?" he asked. "Why would people do things like that?" Bartleson pulled her son into her arms and explained. "People don't know us from the inside," she said rocking him. "They pass judgment before they know us."

That's not right, she told him, but it happens. Bartleson handled Xavier's questions on race in a positive, reassuring manner. That's the best way, Turner said, to build self-confidence and self-love.

Defensive statements like, "You're black and people won't like you for it," put children on a path to anger and aggression.

"Finding a way (to discuss race) that isn't traumatic to the child is very important," Turner said.

Along with positive conversations about race, parents can build their children's self-esteem by reading with them about and acknowledging black role models.

It is critical that parents do these things early, Turner said, because around age 6, parents lose the ability to control their children's environment.

When children are 6, parents send them to school and into a salad bowl of opinions and ideas tossed by a variety of chefs. Not all of the seasonings are good.

Turner said most boys enter kindergarten excited and overjoyed with their new environment.

He said research shows, however, that this excitement in black males is often interpreted by teachers as problem behavior or hyperactivity.

In their white male counterparts, this same enthusiasm is labeled rambunctious and outgoing.

Like most boys, Xavier hurtled into kindergarten excited, but his enthusiasm dwindled quickly, his mother said.

Shortly after the school year began, Xavier's teachers began sending notes home about his behavior. The notes said he had problems keeping still and that he was disturbing other children, Bartleson said.

She said she knew her son was not a problem child. "I know my child," she said. She then enrolled Xavier in a new school.

The problem, she later discovered, was that Xavier finished his work earlier than the other children, so he had time to cut up. Xavier's new school, Ashland Elementary, challenges him more, Bartleson said, leaving him less time to talk or horse play. Any additional energy Xavier has, Bartleson channels into extracurricular activities such as piano lessons, basketball and church.

Tobey and Debra Gray of Wilmore, formerly of New York, were married three years ago.

Tobey brought five children to the union from a previous marriage, Debra brought three. They have one child together.

The family lived in a two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan. Though the apartment was crowded, the Grays said the chaos inside the home didn't bother them.

It was the violence outside that kept them awake at night. "We were in an atmosphere where cursing was the order of the day," Tobey Gray said. "In New York City, there's the opportunity to fall into a whole bunch of mess."

In addition to the violence, two of their sons, sixth-grader Colin and fourth-grader Trevor, were failing in school.

Many black boys lose interest in school about the fourth grade. This pattern is addressed in the book "Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys," by Jawanza Kunjufu.

The phenomenon is called fourth-grade failure syndrome. "In fourth grade they begin to fail and fail horribly," said Nate Sullivan, a social work professor at UK. "This culminates in dropping out either emotionally or physically from the academic arena."

Sullivan said black males often detach themselves from academics because they are ignored in the classroom and receive little recognition for their academic achievement.

"The subtle cues you pick up on lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Margo Monteith, an assistant professor in UK's department of psychology whose area of expertise is prejudice and stereotypes.

When black males fail to win approval in the classroom, they seek it elsewhere, from their peers, on the streets or on the athletic field, Sullivan said.

Trevor and Colin chose the streets. Colin got into fights and ran away often. Trevor fought and back-talked his teachers. Seeing this, Tobey Gray resolved to get more involved in his sons' lives. Gray had worked two jobs to support his family, so he rarely saw the boys.

"If you don't give them attention, they will stray," he said. "I used to work all kinds of weekends and hours. But I don't do that anymore. It's important to me that they grow up well."

Gray arranged special getaways with each of his sons. Some days it was a walk in the

park with Colin. Other days he'd surprise Trevor and drop by his school for lunch.

"My father was always busy, so I said I'm going to break this cycle," Gray said.

Six months ago, the Grays decided New York was no place to raise their kids. Yet, they had nowhere to go.

Debra said she prayed on it and came up with Kentucky. Tobey wasn't sold on the idea.

"You sure God said Kentucky?" he asked. Debra was sure and the family—Tobey and Debra and five of their children—took an 18-hour bus ride to Kentucky. Tobey is a custodian at Asbury College, and Debra is a substitute teacher. Both want to attend Asbury Theological Seminary someday.

Colin, now 14; Loren, 12; Trevor, 11; Tyler, 4; and Timothy, 17 months, came with them. Tobey and Debra Gray's grown children stayed behind in New York.

Since the family's arrival, Loren said, she has seen a difference in her brothers.

"I think they've matured a lot," she said. "I think now they can be a lot more of themselves because in New York they were trying to be like other people, and down here they can just express themselves."

The Grays wake up at 5 each morning. After greeting one another with a kiss, they gather in Debra and Tobey's bedroom. There, the family prays for guidance. Their prayer time also doubles as a family circle during which each family member discusses plans for the day.

In the home of Barbara Commodore-Connor, a similar family circle takes place around the dinner table. Whenever a family decision is to be made, Barbara gathers her three sons—Caleb, 10; Joshua, 14, and Maureece, 21—for a family meeting.

At a recent meeting, the issue was Barbara's possible engagement. "What do you think about Momma marrying Mr. Steve," she asked.

The boys then took turns answering. This type of structure and family cohesiveness is essential during the teen years when black males are struggling to carve out their identities, Turner said.

"I understand parents have stresses that take away quality time, (but) there needs to be family time," he said.

As black males mature into their teens, stereotypes about them become more pronounced. Media depictions of black teens dead or on their way to prison send bleak messages to black males about their futures, Turner said.

During the teen years, black males become painfully aware of how others view them: If their pants sag, they are thugs. If they walk in groups, they are a gang. And, if they drive a nice car, they are drug dealers.

Accepting the reality of being stereotyped is not easy, Turner said. But it is never an excuse to give in to the stereotypes and fail. "They just have to be aware that there will be times when they will be excluded because of race and they will be misjudged," he said.

The teen years brought strife to Commodore-Connor's home. When Maureece reached 15 or so, he and his mother began to butt heads: She wanted him in at a certain time; Maureece wanted to stay out late.

She wanted him to go to church; he didn't want to go every Sunday. The central problem, Commodore-Connor later realized, was one of freedom. Maureece wanted it, but she wasn't willing to give it.

"Momma," Maureece would tell her, "I got my own mind." His mother said she wasn't ready to hear that, so she became stricter.

And Maureece rebelled more. Finally, Commodore-Connor, a resource specialist in the office of civil rights for Fayette County Schools, said she turned to her big sister Peggy and brother-in-law Ike.

"I felt like I was losing him," she said. "We were having confrontations, and I began to question myself."

Maureece's Uncle Ike played a big role in helping him navigate the teen years. He gave Maureece advice, spent time with him and helped him communicate with his mother better.

Male role modeling is essential to young black males, Turner said. It can come from church, school, extended family or big brother programs, but the ideal source is a committed father.

"In situations where there is a father engaged, talks come about naturally and the child internalizes it," Turner said.

Tobey Gray is teaching his children to love. Whenever the Gray children walk into a room, they are to greet one another with, "I love you." They also must kiss one another good morning and good night.

Gray teaches by example. Whenever the mood strikes, he smooches his boys on the jaw or the forehead. Colin brought a friend home from school once, and Gray kissed him, too.

"There aren't many men being men today," Gray said. "Women are taking the lead in everything. But, if you want to lead, you got to lead by example."

In the seven decades since Langston Hughes wrote the poem "Mother to Son," the stairwell to black manhood has remained a steep climb.

Still, that is not a reason to quit scaling the stairs, Turner said.

It is OK to get angry, he said, but it is never OK to quit climbing.

Whether a child leaps the stairs two at time or gives up midway depends on how the child was equipped by his parents.

"Black males are successful when they see a barrier but say 'I'm not going to let this stop me.'"

South Florida's racial, ethnic and cultural landscape transformed—Juliet Masters can see it in their eyes.

That inquisitive look that asks "What are you?" The spoken question comes a moment later.

"Wow, I hate being asked that because I don't know what to say," said Masters, a 24-year-old special events coordinator who lives in South Miami. "My first answer is human. Then I say I'm mixed and I tell them that my mother is from England, my father is from Jamaica and I was born in New York. And I ask them what they think."

In a country that for much of its history has been preoccupied with race, and for generations largely has considered racial and ethnic identity in black and white terms, how to deal with people of mixed heritage is becoming an ever-intriguing question. Because of the nation's changing demographics, it is also one that will help shape the nation's debate on race well into the next century.

The debate is important, philosophically and economically, because how the country views race will shape aspects of life and determine how resources are allocated. Data collected on race will decide such issues as how federal and state governments spend money, where political boundaries begin and end as well as what will be the content of entertainment and marketing campaigns.

The issue is particularly relevant in South Florida, where huge waves of immigrants have transformed the racial, ethnic and cultural landscape in the last three decades.

Today's children are growing up in a country where many of recent immigrants and their offspring do not share the United States' historical notions on race.

Along with the children of mixed marriages, they will be less disposed to accept the premise that people are either black or white.

There are now millions of Americans who claim more than one heritage or whose cultural and ancestral roots lead them to reject the American racial dichotomy, said Roderick Harrison, a demographer for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think-tank.

Harrison said his research has revealed an unprecedented change in attitudes about race, especially in metropolitan areas of California, New York, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida—states that have substantial black, white and Hispanic populations.

Attitudes are changing, he said, because a nation that numerically and conceptually has been divided is becoming more multiracial and multiethnic.

"When people look at a white, black, Hispanic or Asian person 40 years from now I doubt racial or ethnic identity is going to mean the same thing as it means to us," Harrison said. "We won't want complete assimilation but the ability to retain some of our cultures."

For many people in South Florida, a pluralistic world exists now. Hispanics, for example, generally do not define themselves in terms of race—although they're aware that American culture heavily relies upon it.

"I know it sounds corny, but hopefully, we will reach a day when we talk about each other's culture rather than the color of our skin," said Washington Collado, a native of the Dominican Republic who like many people from the Caribbean has a mixed ancestry.

"I never am put in a position where I have to define myself by color," said Collado, 36, of Coconut Creek. "That's a question I don't even know how to answer."

Collado and his wife, Carmen, want their three sons, Mario, 9, Alejandro, 5, and Miguel, 1, to think of themselves as they do—as Dominicans and Hispanics.

"Without being blinded by the fact that they undoubtedly have to mark a little box that says Hispanic, I don't think my kids see themselves as dark skinned," Collado said. "Skin color is not the most important thing. I would rather my kids know who they are."

Such an outlook on race is prevalent among many Latin Americans, who prefer to view themselves as a diverse group united by culture and language.

"In their own countries, national identity is so important that racial identity isn't as important," said Helen Safa, a retired professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida.

"That doesn't mean there is no prejudice and discrimination," Safa said. "There is. But racial identity tends to be subordinated to the national identity."

Harrison and other demographers say it's possible that future generations of Hispanics and other immigrants of mixed heritage could classify themselves more along racial lines. But it is just as possible that they will not.

For much of the nation's history, however, the racial divide was such that the children of interracial marriages—as well as black immigrants—found a home only in black America.

Moreover, until about three decades ago, 16 states had laws designed to prevent marriages between people of different races. Then, in 1967, the Supreme Court ruled anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional.

Since then, the climate of intolerance and separation that led to such laws has faded. The number of mixed marriages has steadily risen, as has the number of people of African descent and mixed ancestry who have immigrated to the United States.

But even today, mixed couples often must overcome barriers. Though more common, such unions are not universally accepted.

Often, the sternest opposition still comes from family members.

That's what Tracey Denise Santoro, who is black, discovered four years ago when she married her husband Filippo, the son of Italian immigrants.

"His mother and father were completely against it," said Santoro, 36, of West Palm Beach. "They didn't come to the wedding or anything. They didn't want to meet me."

Since then, however, Santoro's in-laws have warmed to her and she does not hold their feelings against them. Santoro even wants her children, 2-year-old Filippo II and Lena Marina, 3 months, to learn how to speak Italian so they can better enjoy their dual heritage.

When Tracey Santoro looks at her two children, she sees both black and white—the way she hopes they will also view themselves. That's why she supports the efforts to establish a new multiracial category on the Census and other forms.

"I would prefer them to choose multiracial if biracial isn't on the list or they couldn't choose (both) black and white," she said. "I wouldn't want them to pick one or the other."

Sociologists say it's no surprise that multiracial and multiethnic people are beginning to reject the nation's outdated racial codes.

Sarah Willie, a professor of sociology and black studies at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa., outside Philadelphia, said civil rights leaders and black nationalists laid the groundwork for the nation's broader racial and ethnic framework a generation ago.

That African-Americans could celebrate their roots made it possible for today's immigrants to take such pride in their countries of origin.

No longer so intent upon embracing American culture at the expense of their own, many Hispanics and others now proudly display the flag of their homeland on their cars.

"We forget that nobody was putting a flag on their car 30 years ago," Willie said. "That was the tail end of a very explicit assimilationist policy in the U.S."

"Most immigrants subscribed to that at an incredible cost to language and culture. Ties to the past were lost."

She believes integration and the evolving sense of pride multiracial people have developed in their diverse backgrounds has allowed many to redefine themselves.

"People will still tend to identify with a group," said Willie, who has a black and a white mother. "But they will say I'm black or Latino or Asian—and I have another parent on the other side."

Allowing people to label themselves as they choose may cause waves, however.

Some Americans—white and black—are offended when they see others stress nationalistic roots.

And black Americans may lift an eyebrow when a person they perceive as black acts as if he or she is something else—a sign that being black in the American sense isn't good enough for them.

But those attitudes, too, will change, said Tanya Simons-Oparah, assistant director for outreach for the Broward County Library.

"If you choose not to want to identify with black people I feel badly for you because I know the riches and the value of being of African descent," said Simons-Oparah, 52, an African-American whose parents are from the Bahamas and Panama. "We can't claim everybody."

Harrison said the degree to which children of mixed marriages claim "multiracial" as an identity will help determine how far the changes in attitude go.

"When we look at some of the earlier success for the multiracial categories (on test

Census surveys and school district forms, for example) about 50 percent of the people who exercised that option were under 18," Harrison said. It's reflective of the recent acceptance of mixed marriage, he said.

If Masters is any indication, the change in identification will come because biracial offspring don't want to pretend as if one of their two parents doesn't exist. Even if they consider themselves black, as she does.

"I can't possibly choose between them," Masters said. "They're both from very rich cultures and I have to respect them both."

TRIBUTE TO THE MEDIA

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Branen and the local newspapers in my district who are helping the refugees of Kosovo. I strongly believe the most effective way to help those in need is through an individual's time and efforts to volunteer at local charities and churches. This works when helping the homeless and hungry in your own community, or when helping the homeless and hungry thousands of miles away in war-torn Kosovo.

Southern Lakes Media, Inc. of Burlington and Walworth Newspapers, Inc. of Walworth have launched a nine-city effort to generate support of those fleeing Kosovo. Bob Branen, president of the newspaper chains, is asking, through editorials and advertisements, for Wisconsin citizens to donate to World Relief, an international assistance organization.

World Relief is working with Albania's churches to assist the men, women and children who were forced to flee their homes without food, water or clothing. This organization is fighting to give these refugees not only material comforts, but spiritual hope as well. The Kosovars, expelled from their homeland by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, are finding safety in the open homes and open arms of the people of Tirana. The outpouring of generosity by my neighbors in Wisconsin translates into meaningful action, half a world away, for the victims of the Kosovo conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor their extraordinary example and encourage them to continue their efforts and I commend Mr. Branen for the initiative he took to inform his newspaper readers.

TRIBUTE TO ADREA G. COHEN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of Adrea Cohen of Belleville, New Jersey on this the occasion of her Retirement and Testimonial Dinner. Adrea is being honored tonight because of her 25 years of service to the township of Belleville and the Belleville Public Library and Information Center. It is only fitting that we gather here tonight in her honor, for she epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Adrea Cohen has served as Director of the Belleville Public Library and Information Center since 1993. She began as its Assistant Library Director in 1974 after completing her

second Masters Degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. Cohen also holds a Master's Degree in History from Montclair State University. She has taken graduate courses in history at Harvard University, where she was schooled under the President of the Library of Congress.

Adrea was formerly a tenured teacher of English, history, and literature in the City of Passaic, from 1958 to 1964, a school librarian in the City of Passaic from 1964 to 1966, she was a supervisor of student teachers for Montclair State University, and a teacher of ESL (English as a Second Language) and she also taught English in the Wayne and Passaic Adult Schools for 15 years.

Many people in the community of Belleville, New Jersey have benefited from Adrea's vast commitment to civil programs. She has been made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club, as well as served as their public relations chair. She was the literature chair of the Woman's Club, and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce. She is a past president of Zonta International of the Greater Wayne area. She has served as president of the administration section of NJLA and is still an active member of the first regional library cooperative.

She has served as president of libraries in focus, a Cablevision consortium for Essex County libraries and has actively videotaped over one hundred programs at the library for the past ten years, which have appeared on local cablevision. She has also held a yearly Martin Luther King, Jr. event at School No. 9 in Paterson, New Jersey, and has worked closely with local artists and photographers whose work she has displayed in the library.

In the spring, Adrea will be honored by Kappa Delta Phi, New York University, as Educator of the Year for her library directorship and contributions to the community. The award will be presented to her by the United States Ambassador and deputy governor, Dr. Inez Bull.

Adrea has been married to Roy Cohen for 37 years, and has two children, Pamela and Bonnie Cohen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join me, our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, Adrea's family, friends, and coworkers, the Belleville Library and Information Center, and Township of Belleville, New Jersey, in thanking Mrs. Adrea Cohen for all her years of service to the community and congratulating her on her well deserved retirement, her presence will be greatly missed.

REGARDING THE SBC-AMERITECH MERGER

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of recent, very positive developments involving the proposed merger of Ameritech and SBC Communications. I was delighted when the Justice Department gave its green light to the merger on March 23rd. This approval followed a thorough review by the Justice Department and confirms that the merger is not anti-competitive.

The merger approval by DOJ was followed by a favorable recommendation from a hear-

ing examiner for the Illinois Commerce Commission. Then, just last week, the Public Utility Commission of Ohio formally voted to approve the merger. I would also note that the Rainbow-PUSH Coalition endorsed the merger on March 29th. In announcing its support, the Coalition said, "Rainbow PUSH found that these companies are truly concerned about implementing corporate practices that favor workers and consumers, creating employment opportunities and fostering small business growth." Additionally, the Coalition pointed out that the merger enjoys strong, broad-based support from organized labor.

Ameritech announced on April 6th that, consistent with the conditions imposed on the merger by the Justice Department, it was selling half of its cellular properties to GTE Corp. for about \$3.3 billion. One of GTE's principal allies in this transaction is Georgetown Partners, a minority owned and operated company. Assuming the merger is approved, Georgetown Partners will become one of the most significant minority-owned communications firms in the United States.

While all of these developments are extremely positive, Mr. Speaker, I must express my strong concern over FCC Chairman Bill Kennard's recent action adding a new, and unprecedented, hearing process to the Commission's deliberations on the Ameritech-SBC merger. I appreciate the Chairman's desire for thoroughness, but I must question the fairness of injecting such a process in a deliberation that has now been before the FCC for almost eleven months.

In conclusion, I would note that as long as this merger remains in limbo before the FCC, it substantially harms the competitive positions of both companies in the national and international markets. I hope we keep in mind that, between them, Ameritech and SBC employ more than 200,000 people. Many of these people are my constituents in the 2nd District of Illinois. I strongly encourage the FCC to consider the Ameritech-SBC merger with the same efficiency and fairness that it has considered other recent mergers in the highly competitive telecommunications industry.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today at a news conference, Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I reintroduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, a bill to benefit school children and teachers all across this country.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act will direct federal funding for elementary and secondary education directly to the states, requiring that 95% of K-12 funding reach classrooms and teachers. This Act passed the House in the 105th Congress 212-198. Joining us today in support of the bill were seventh and eighth-grade students from Charles Patton Middle School in Unionville, PA, along with their teachers, Math and History teacher Shannon Tate and Spanish teacher Christine Bailey. Maryland public school administrator Stephen Wallis also spoke on behalf of the legislation.

Senator HUTCHINSON and I have been working on this legislation because we believe in

the importance of doing all that we can to improve the academic achievement of our public school children. How do we accomplish that? We believe that empowering the teachers and bolstering the classroom resources of our kids directly improves their learning process. One of the young middle school students presented the need for the Dollars to the Classroom Act better than anyone else could. Seventh-grader Cole Allen said, "The geography books that we use were printed when our teacher was in eighth grade. Well a lot has changed since then. They should be called 'The Geography of the world as it was 13 years ago.'" As Cole pointed out, many teachers use their own funds to buy tools for their classrooms, because so much of education funding gets eaten up before it makes it to the classroom.

When we think of our children's efforts to learn, we often think of the tools that go into forming and shaping their young minds: tools like books, classrooms, computers . . . and things like flash cards, spelling tests, and calculators. Yet, many of our federal dollars that go to elementary and secondary education do not reach our kids. That's why we've come up with the Dollars to the Classroom Act. This is a simple concept. Instead of keeping education dollars here in Washington, let's ensure that 95 cents on every federal dollar is sent directly to parents, teachers, and principals who are truly helping our children in the learning process.

Passage of the Dollars to the Classroom Act would mean \$870 million in new dollars for school children across the country. That means an additional \$10,000 for each public school in America. That also translates into \$450 for every class in America.

This is a common sense step in our efforts to improve public education for the students of the next millennium.

THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 1999

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

Over the past few decades the contribution of women-owned businesses to our economy has grown exponentially. Today, the 8 million women-owned firms in this country contribute more than \$2.3 trillion annually to the U.S. economy and offer jobs to one out of every five U.S. workers. Moreover, women-owned businesses are now starting at twice the rate of all other businesses in the United States, and, by the year 2000, it is expected that nearly one out of every two businesses will be owned by a woman. In my home state of New Mexico, in particular, women-owned firms account for 41 percent of all businesses, provide employment for over 35 percent of the state's workforce, and generate 21 percent of all sales. This success is even more remarkable in that it ranks New Mexico third of all the states in women-owned business incorporations—a statistic that identifies women-owned firms as an important part of New Mexico's efforts to improve the lives of all its residents.

One of the efforts responsible for the success of women-owned businesses is the Small Business Administration's Women's Business Center program. Currently, there are 59 centers in 36 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These centers provide technical assistance, business information and counseling, and other specialized assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged women entrepreneurs. The services provided by women's business centers include assistance in gaining access to capital, procuring government contracts, and helping women to work their way off public assistance. In New Mexico alone, the six women's business centers run by the Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST Corp.), facilitated the start-up and growth of over 600 small businesses, provided technical assistance to over 3,500 client firms, and conducted business-training activities for over 6,000 individuals. Most importantly, 81 percent of the clientele of these women's business centers have been low-income individuals and 47 percent have been women of color.

The impact of women's business centers in New Mexico is illustrated through a number of success stories that were told by Agnes Noonan, Executive Director of the WESST Corp., during a recent hearing on women's business centers:

Heidi Monotya's desire to run her own firm grew out of the frustrations of working for years as a draftsman for a company which offered few benefits and no retirement opportunities. In 1989, Heidi took the leap, opening Builders Hardware of New Mexico, which sells commercial grade doors and frames and finish hardware. Heidi and WESST Corp. joined forces when Heidi attended an orientation meeting, and WESST Corp. granted Heidi a loan for a computer that enabled her to create a presence on the Internet and market more effectively to government agencies. Since 1993, Builders Hardware's gross sales have increased by 129 percent. A single mother, Heidi maintains a second office at home for after-school hours.

Two years ago, Diane Barrett was receiving food stamps, sleeping on a friend's floor and struggling to provide for her son. But she also had a background as a chef. In 1996, Diane approached WESST Corp.'s regional office in Las Cruces, which helped her create a business plan and receive a \$5,000 loan to open a bakery and café. Since then, Diane has expanded the seating area, added a dinner menu, and is currently employing 19 people. In 1998, Diane's Bakery and Café was selected as the Mainstreet Business of the Year in Silver City, New Mexico. Recently interviewed by the Travel Section of the New York Times, Diane is a great example of how hard work and commitment to a business pays off.

Norma Gomez, a native of Mexico, came to the United States in the 1980s. On welfare, with three children and limited proficiency with English, Norma had difficulty being taken seriously when the opportunity arose to open her own business. With her small savings, she opened her shop in a strip mall in Farmington, only to find the overhead exceeded her income. She came to WESST Corp. for help with planning, marketing and financing assistance. With technical assistance from WESST Corp., Norma relocated, adopted an inventory tracking system, and developed a long-term business plan. WESST Corp. also convinced suppliers to provide Norma with accounts and better terms. The result of these efforts was a 300 percent increase in profits in the first year.

Agnes Cordova, of Taos, New Mexico, has combined her cultural heritage with business acumen to create "Subel"—a multimedia, bilingual educational program designed to teach Spanish to preschool and early elementary children. The set of flashcards, board game, videotapes with original music, and computer software have all been well received in the local area and plans are being hatched for broader marketing efforts. Each component is offered separately so that parents can afford the educational supplies that can supplement formal language education. Agnes is now planning to develop materials for older kids as well. By matching her heritage with business opportunity, Agnes is creating economic opportunity for herself and helping to preserve the unique culture of northern New Mexico.

Nevertheless, in spite of their demonstrated contributions to the national economy and to individual women—recent surveys and testimonials have highlighted that many women's business centers have been forced to cut back on services or prematurely close their doors when they lose the support of the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership. Today, 25 percent of the women's business centers initially funded by the SBA are closed—and of this 25 percent, many are only partly operational. In fact, while several of the WESST Corp. sites in New Mexico have already lost SBA funding and have been able to continue providing programs, others have suffered considerably in their work due to the loss of support.

To address this problem, I am introducing the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999. This legislation will allow recompetition for Federal funding by Women's Business Centers which have completed a funding term, and will raise the authorization of appropriations for FY 2000 and FY 2001 Women Business Center funding from \$11 million to \$12 million per year. Additionally, the legislation will reserve 60 percent of these appropriations for grants to new centers—to continue to promote women's business centers in more communities throughout the nation as well as to ensure adequate, continuing support for established, effective centers.

The Women's Business Center program has helped countless women start and expand their own businesses. It is vital that we continue to support this valuable program. I invite and encourage all of my fellow Members of Congress to join me in supporting this program.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON PELL GRANT FUNDING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce to introduce a resolution urging Congress and the President to increase funding for the Pell Grant Program and existing Campus-Based Aid Programs.

The Pell Grant Program was first authorized in 1972 in the Higher Education Act Amendments. It has become the largest need-based federal higher education scholarship program and is considered the foundation for all federal student aid. The purpose of the Pell Grant Program is to assist students from low income families who would not otherwise be financially

able to attend a postsecondary institution by providing grants to students to pay the costs of attending the college of their choice. In the late 1970s, the Pell Grant Program covered 75 percent of the average cost of attending a public 4-year college. By the late 1990s, however, it has only covered 36 percent of the cost of attending a public 4-year college.

Families across the country are concerned about the rising cost of a college education, and for children from low income families, the cost of college continues to be an overwhelming factor in their decision not to attend. Children from high income families are almost twice as likely to enroll in college as compared with children from low income families. This is particularly noteworthy given the fact that higher education promotes economic opportunity for individuals and economic competitiveness for our nation. The Pell Grant Programs and Campus-Based Aid Programs help to begin to fill the cost gaps that will, in turn, encourage students from low income families to attend college.

Over the past few years, I have been pleased to support an increase in the Pell Grant maximum. Last year, under the Higher Education Amendments, the Committee on Education and the Workforce increased the authorization to a maximum grant level of \$4,500 for 1999–2000, with annual increases of at least \$300 thereafter. However, the maximum Pell Grant appropriated has historically not kept pace with inflation and when college tuition increases are factored in, the buying power of the Pell Grant has been significantly reduced.

Providing access to higher education for students across the nation is vitally important, and while I believe that colleges have the primary responsibility of ensuring that rate increases are fair and reasonable, I also believe that the Federal Government should assist students when postsecondary education is out of their reach.

I am pleased to join with my colleagues today who believe that need based grant aid for low-income students must be our number one priority in higher education funding.

**H.C. BERGER BREWING COMPANY
OF COLORADO**

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I visited several small businesses in Fort Collins, Colorado involved in beer making. Northern Colorado is fast becoming known for its growing number of high-quality, small brewers, in addition to being home of America's largest breweries.

Beer is a significant industry in Colorado's Fourth Congressional district supporting agriculture suppliers, farmers, shippers, and others. Among the manufacturers I visited was the H.C. Berger Brewing Company of Fort Collins.

Mr. Speaker, the H.C. Berger Brewing Company, rapidly establishing a name throughout much of the U.S. as a maker of superior quality beers, finds its strength in family tradition. Owners Peter and Bob Davidoff trace their family's culinary roots back to the Café Schiller in turn-of-the-century Berlin; at one time,

their grandfather owned Central Park's famous Tavern on the Green Restaurant. The name of the brewery is traced to an old German Brewmaster from the early 1900's. This sense of history and a resolute commitment to excellence have fueled H.C. Berger's expansion in the booming microbrewery market.

H.C. Berger opened in Fort Collins, Colorado, in the spring of 1992. In its first year, the company sales were 930 bbls, all to the Fort Collins area. The brewery now (1996) sells in excess of 5500 bbls a year to buyers throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Ohio, Texas, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan, and London, England. Plant expansion, completed during the summer of 1996, provided a new capacity of 25,000 barrels a year, while still maintaining the high H.C. Berger standards of quality. Bob Davidoff handles all Distributor relations and sales both in Colorado and the rest of the United States. Peter Davidoff handles brewery operations and marketing.

H.C. Berger beverages are brewed in both American and German styles using blended malts to produce truly outstanding microbrewed beers and ales. H.C. Berger creates beers with the care and dedication of a vintner, and like a great wine, the company has flourished with age.

Mr. Speaker, here are a few key facts about the brewery.

H.C. Berger Brewing Company was founded in 1992 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Web site: www.hcberger.com

Since its opening in 1992, the company has expanded sales from the Fort Collins area to all of Colorado, as well as Wyoming, Ohio, Illinois, Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Indiana, Virginia, North Dakota, South Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.

Recent plant expansion increases the brewery's capability to 25,000 barrels a year. H.C. Berger offers a stellar selection of beers and ales under its label, including Whistlepin Wheat, Mountain Kölsch, Indégo Pale Ale, Red Banshee Ale, Chocolate Stout, Red Raspberry Wheat as well as several specialty and seasonal ales.

During 1996, H.C. Berger launched their high-end Grand Crû Brewmaster's Choice Dunkel, Kölsch, and Stout. The Brewmaster's Choice label also includes seasonal specialties such as Maibock (in May) Doppelbock (fall), and smoke beer (Rauchbier)—ideal beverages for fine dining establishments.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Davidoff brothers for their community leadership and business success. The fine employees at H.C. Berger are committed to the Fort Collins community and dedicated to the craft of beer making. I deeply appreciate the time they spent to help me better understand the small brewery business and the many contributions H.C. Berger Brewing Company makes to Colorado's superior quality of life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL
AP SCHOLARS FROM THE 41ST
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 15 outstanding

students from my district who have been recognized as "National AP Scholars." This is no small accomplishment. Out of 635,000 students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams last year, only 1,451 of them have earned the distinction of being named a "National AP Scholar." That puts them in the top .2 percent of all high school students taking Advanced Placement exams.

I am proud that such a large group of the students who have earned this national distinction live in the 41st Congressional District.

David M. Kallemeyn from the City of Upland, Von P. Fernandes from the City of Chino Hills, Fred J. Freeman from the City of Yorba Linda, Matthew G. Lee from the City of Yorba Linda, Don Wang from the City of Upland, Jacqueline T. Kung from the City of Yorba Linda, Adam S. Feffer from the City of Upland, William A. Therien from the City of Upland, Vijaya K. Reddy from the City of Chino Hills, Nicholas G. Genesta from the City of Pomona, Omri M. Ceren from the City of Ontario, Gilpeter M. Layugan from the City of Pomona, Jeremy N. Wong from the City of Rowland Heights, Christopher Lau from the City of Diamond Bar and Brinda Balakrishnan from the City of Upland are "National AP Scholars."

I know that their families and their teachers are proud of their academic accomplishments and their hard work.

RECOGNIZING THE ROCK AQUA
JAYS PARTICIPATION IN THE
"1999 ZEHENG CHANG CUP,"
AMERICAN WATER SKI STAR
SHOW & SINO-AMERICAN WATER
SKI COMPETITION IN JIANGSU
PROVINCE, CHINA

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of the Rock Aqua Jays, a water ski show team from my hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin. The Rock Aqua Jays have been source of entertainment and pride for the people of Southern Wisconsin for several decades.

Their membership includes over 210 people ranging in ages from 1 to 70 years old. The Aqua Jays have won a record 11 U.S. National Show Championships titles, placed first or second in every National Show Tournament from 1979 through 1997, and hold a record of 5 Triple Crown Championships.

In view of their accomplishments, the Rock Aqua Jays have been invited to represent the United States at the "1999 Zheng Chang Cup," American Water Ski Star Show & Sino-American Water Ski Competition in Jiangsu Province, China.

The members of the team are scheduled to participate in the 6-day program which is scheduled from April 27 through May 2. Show Director Tim Cullen and Event Coordinator Gerry Luiting will also be joining them for this first ever competition.

The team will perform a number demanding water ski maneuvers through individual and group competitions. It is a credit to their hard work, training, and the community support the Rock Aqua Jays have received, that they

have been asked to perform at this competition.

With attendance estimated between 50,000 to 80,000, this will be the first American ski show team ever to visit and perform in China. The event is sponsored in conjunction with the Chinese Water Ski Association and serves as part of a celebration recognizing the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.

Considering the Aqua Jays past successes, I believe their Chinese counterparts will have some stiff competition. In the broader scope of things, however, I hope this trip to China will be the first of many for this talented team.

It is an honor for anyone to represent their nation abroad and I am confident the Aqua Jays will serve our country well. I wish them the best luck and hope that they develop many lasting friendships from their visit to China. They are a credit to their community and to the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE STEWART

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of my very dear friend, Maggie Stewart. Maggie will be recognized by a grateful community for her many years of volunteer service to the San Bernardino County Republican Federation of Republican Women with a tree planting ceremony in her honor on Friday, April 30.

Maggie Stewart has been actively involved in local Republican Party politics for over 40 years. During this time, she has successfully promoted candidates for every conceivable elective office including the school board, city council, well as many state and federal legislative offices. Over the years, she has shown enormous dedication and gained the enduring respect of many people within the Republican Party.

Maggie began her service as a member of the Republican State Central Committee in 1954. Since that time—for over 45 years—she has served in every conceivable capacity with the California Republican Party including chairman of the San Bernardino County Republican Party. In my mind, no one has done more to advance the goals of the Party at the local level. Maggie's work and commitment has also been particularly instrumental to the long-term success of the San Bernardino County Federation of Republican Women.

Over the years, Maggie has been widely recognized for her contributions to our local community. She has received numerous awards for her leadership roles by such varied groups as the Old Baldy Boy Scout Council, Ontario Lioness Club, Kiwanis Club of Upland, Soroptimist Club of Ontario, the West End Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Inland Empire Chapter of Public Relations Society of America, and the California State Assembly, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of this remarkable woman. Maggie Stewart has made a difference in the lives of so many people in our local community and I

am grateful beyond words for her long and dedicated service. I want to wish Maggie and her husband of 52 years, Walter, much good health and happiness in the coming years. I remain confident that the tree planted in her honor will, like the Party she has guided for years, grow and prosper for many years to come.

THE PASSING OF ISADORE
KARTEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform my colleagues of the passing of a remarkable American, one I was honored to have as a close friend.

As a youth, Izzy Karten was a freedom fighter in the forests near Lvov, in his beloved homeland of Poland. The brave stance the Jews and other oppressed minorities in Poland had taken against their Nazi oppressors, while the Red Army watched nearby, refusing to help, is one of the most heroic yet tragic episodes of the 20th Century. I am proud to have known and been a friend of one of these courageous heroes, Izzy Karten.

Izzy spent two years in the forests of Poland, fighting the Nazi oppressors. It was there that he met another freedom fighter, a young girl named Julie, who soon became his beloved wife of over 54 years.

Upon emigrating to America, Izzy Karten started what became a highly successful export-import business and subsequently became a banker. Despite his phenomenal success in business, Izzy never forgot his roots or his desire to help others. He was involved in a host of philanthropic activities, including Yad Vashen, the national organization of Holocaust Survivors. He was a trustee at the Park East Synagogue, and was especially generous in endowing its day school.

Julie and Izzy were the proud parents of three children: Marsha Toledano, Bernice Bookhammer, and Harry Karten. Izzy and Julie's three children presented them with seven grandchildren who were the light of their lives.

Georgia and I always cherished being with the Kartens, and their family. Our lives were deeply enriched by our friendship with Izzy and Julie. Sadly, I was with Izzy at a Holocaust Memorial Service in Rockland County just a few hours prior to his sudden death.

I will always remember Izzy Karten as a warm hearted, philanthropic humanitarian, with a bright view for the future, and a champion in the battle against bigotry and for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the funeral for Isadore Karten will be held at his beloved Park East Synagogue on Wednesday of this week. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying homage to a truly remarkable human being, who will be sorely missed.

WILLIAM F. (BILL) CODY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1999, William F. (Bill) Cody completed a distinguished career with the General Dynamics Corporation. His outstanding work played a major role in insuring the national security of the United States of America. He was a driving force in the development, fielding, and support for the Abrams M1A1 and M1A2 main battle tanks for the U.S. Army. These main battle tanks have been proven to be the world's finest in the recent Desert Storm war, and will be the cornerstone of our Nation's ground combat forces for many years to come. Mr. Cody's contributions to the Abrams tank program were marked with great wisdom, total dedication, and tenacious hard work to get the job done right despite the obstacles encountered.

Prior to his outstanding career with General Dynamics, Mr. Cody further served his country for 30 years in the U.S. Army. He began his military service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy in 1952 and was commissioned as a 2d Lt., Field Artillery upon his graduation in 1956. While a cadet, Mr. Cody excelled in various leadership capacities, and was an outstanding baseball and football player. During his Army career, Bill Cody progressed rapidly through the ranks while holding many important command and staff positions to include combat in Vietnam. He was decorated for bravery several times and received numerous meritorious service awards for his outstanding service. He completed his outstanding military career with particular distinction and honor in the grade of Colonel, U.S. Army.

Bill Cody has served his country with distinction in both a civilian and military capacity for nearly 47 years. He is a man of rare ability and devotion to his country. We salute him on his retirement, and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service to his country.

HONORING DOMINIC DRAGISICH OF
WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Dominic Dragisich of Weirton, West Virginia, for his award-winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Contest. His script is entitled "My Service to America." I submit for the RECORD the text of his entry, and commend the VFW for making the Voice of Democracy scholarship program available to students across our Nation.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

"Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." With these words during his Inaugural address in 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged every citizen to serve America.

Today, the world is a very different place. The changes that have occurred since those

words were spoken are phenomenal. Yet, the changes that lie ahead will be greater. Therefore, his challenge to serve America is even more timely today.

I can best serve America by preparing myself to meet the challenges that face us. We must retain those values and institutions that have made America great, but we must be willing to change and accept new ideas that meet the challenges of the information age. The ability to adapt to change will determine our success. To survive we must adapt, to adapt we must change.

Today, being a teenager and a high school student is no easy task. We live in a high tech information based society where we are bombarded by negative influences on a daily basis. "What's wrong with this young generation" seems to be the question of the day—everyday. It's the same question that has been asked throughout history, and I believe the answer remains the same—NOTHING is wrong. I believe my generation is ready, willing, and able to serve America, just as well as those who preceded us. I know I am.

For me, it may be a little easier because of the foundation laid by my family. My ancestors immigrated to America in search of freedom and a better life. They brought with them a tradition of hard work, discipline, strong family values, and spirituality. I am fortunate that my parents passed them on to me. They challenged me to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. They gave me a value system founded upon high moral and ethical standards. By example, they showed me that we have a responsibility to give something back to our communities, especially to those less fortunate. I can serve America by following their example and by passing it on to others.

Today, America still represents hope throughout the world. Where there is repression, persecution, poverty, or a lack of human rights, America continues to be a symbol of freedom and liberty. I can serve America by helping to preserve those ideals and share them with others. I can also serve America by setting a positive example for my peers to follow and by helping them when needed.

America faces enormous challenges in our global economy. I can help her meet those challenges by pursuing academic excellence and by refining my leadership skills. My parents stressed the importance of academics and the powerful role that knowledge will play in the future. They planted the seeds of leadership within me and nurtured their growth. It is now my responsibility to further develop them.

We must always remember that many people are quick to follow; therefore, leadership is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. It requires creativity, imagination, courage, decisiveness, and confidence. Leaders must have the courage to make decisions based on what is right. Leaders must be assertive but patient. They must be skilled listeners and effective mediators. They must be confident but not arrogant. Finally, they must be able to accept responsibility, acknowledge their faults, admit their mistakes, and learn from them.

I can serve America by developing these skills and by accepting a leadership role in her future. However, to preserve the future, we must never forget those who gave us the America we have today.

President Kennedy's Inaugural Address also contained the following words: "Since America was founded, each generation has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans, who answered the call to serve, surround the globe."

One day the torch will be passed to my generation. We too will proclaim our loyalty.

We will be ready to serve. However, we will retain our readiness only if we continue to honor and respect those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we could live to serve America and perpetuate the ideals she represents.

THE UNDERWATER ADVENTURE
SEEKERS CELEBRATE THEIR
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite the Members of this body to join me in saluting the Underwater Adventure Seekers (UAS) as they celebrate forty years in the District of Columbia.

UAS was established in the District of Columbia on February 25, 1959 for the purpose of offering water safety and skin and SCUBA diving training to African-Americans in the metropolitan area during a period in this country's development when such training was not available to African-Americans or other minorities through the usual industry venues.

UAS is and always has been, an organization that welcomes people of all backgrounds. It has trained more than 1,700 people in the sports of skin and SCUBA diving. Additionally, UAS contributes thousands of hours of volunteer service to the community by sponsoring field trips for marine science students at the University of the District of Columbia; providing 2-year scholarships in marine science or oceanography to District residents; providing instruction in swimming and other water activities for persons of all ages; and providing safety divers for the President's Cup Regatta. The UAS also provides rescue divers to assist federal and local agencies during emergencies when there is a critical need for trained, experienced divers.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the achievements and commitment of the UAS to promoting water safety, conserving aquatic life, and providing services to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

IN HONOR OF WORCESTER COUNTY
SHERIFF JOHN "MIKE" FLYNN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true legend in Massachusetts politics, Worcester County Sheriff John "Mike" Flynn. On Sunday, April 11, Sheriff Flynn was honored at the Grafton Democratic Town Committee's Froment-Moroney Memorial Breakfast, where he was presented the Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action award.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways the name of that award sums up Mike Flynn—Leadership by Action. Sheriff Flynn has been an integral part of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department for 36 years, and in that time he has helped the Department become a model for effective corrections and law enforcement policy. In

1973, Sheriff Flynn was involved in the planning, construction and successful occupancy of the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston. In 1990, he oversaw the planning and construction of a 300-bed modular facility. He currently supervises a staff of over 650, many of whom are veterans.

Indeed, Sheriff Flynn himself served his country in the military, earning distinction in World War II in the Asian-Pacific Theater. By risking his life for our freedom, Mike Flynn displayed true leadership by action.

Beyond his duties as Sheriff, Mike Flynn has been extraordinarily active in volunteer and community service. In addition to his involvement with the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sheriff Flynn has dedicated his time, his energy and his very big heart to the Mercy Center, a facility for developmentally handicapped children in our community. Through his work, the difficult lives of these young people have been made less difficult. I cannot think of a better definition of leadership, not just by action, but by compassion and decency.

Mike Flynn has a favorite expression—"Only in America." Only in America could the son of a steamfitter get such a tremendous opportunity to serve his family, his community, and his country. Sheriff Flynn has seized that opportunity and made the most of it.

Through all of this, Mike's wife Joan has been an invaluable partner and companion. Their six children and four grandchildren provide them with immense joy, and Sheriff Flynn would be the first to tell you that family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House joins me in congratulating Worcester County Sheriff Mike Flynn on receiving the Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action award and for his decades of public service.

HONORING THE CAMPANIA CLUB
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the Campania Club of New Haven on its 85th Anniversary. An Italian-American organization, the Campania Club has been a tremendous asset to the New Haven community since its inception in 1914.

Founded by a small group of Italian immigrants, members have worked to promote strong family values. These values—love for family and friends, the importance of giving to others, a commitment to hard work are the foundation upon which our community stands. These are the values passed on from generation to generation. Though it began as a small neighborhood gathering, the Campania Club has grown and developed into an integral part of the foundation on which the New Haven Italian-American community stands. The Italian neighborhood where I grew up was a place where people knew each other, and looked out for each other. It's great to see that things haven't changed.

The strength and integrity of the club lies in the character and commitment of its members,

and the historical list of club members' names, past and present, are a true reflection of the quality of the Campania Club. Over the years, membership lists have included many local officials and personalities including former Mayor William C. Celantano, as well as his brother 1967 Man of the Year, Dr. Luca Celentano. Local personalities included Packy DeFonzo and Joseph DeGale for whom the DeGale Trophy was named. Considering a major award in the athletic field, for years the DeGale Trophy was presented to an outstanding city athlete. As the organization has grown, Club members continue to serve the community by supporting a variety of service organizations, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as local businesses and sports teams. It is this type of dedication that has kept alive the close-knit New Haven Italian community, passing on the legacy and traditions to the next generation.

The Campania Club has strived to promote family values while continuing to foster a proud Italian heritage. It is with great pride that I stand before you today to honor the Campania Club and its members for 85 years of outstanding service to the New Haven community.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize and honor Eleanor Forbes. She is the recipient of the 1998–1999 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Eleanor wrote a very moving and patriotic account of American democracy. I ask that the text of her script be inserted into the RECORD in its entirety at the completion of my remarks. Once again, I am proud to recognize Ms. Eleanor Forbes.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"—1998–1999 VFW
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COM-
PETITION

(Pennsylvania Winner—Eleanor Forbes)

The voice you hear now is the voice of an American, a proud American. This same voice pledges allegiance to our flag every morning, and sings proudly along with our national anthem when it is played. I am fifteen years old. I do not have the resources to go out and change the world. I do not have the money to give to all my fellow Americans who need it, nor am I old enough to run for president or serve my country in a war. But these are not the only ways I can serve my country. My service to America is expressed in many other ways.

America has provided me with numerous opportunities for which I am grateful. I have the opportunities of education, participation in athletics, work, art and music, among other things. It is my duty as an American to grasp these opportunities firmly now, in my teenage years, so that I can give back to my country later in life. I owe it to America to be the best student I can be, to learn how to write and speak properly, to spell correctly, and to read the intricate works of the great American writers. I must learn to appreciate the artistic and musical works of the great American artists, and learn mathematics, science and history. It is my duty to visit the numerous places that make up American history books; to climb the steep

steps of the Statue of Liberty and feel the warmth of heart that the immigrants felt when they first arrived in America. I need to look at the Liberty Bell with glistening eyes and understand its full meaning. To be a good American in the future, I must learn, understand, and accept all of America's past.

Right now, the opportunities to serve my country are limited, but are, by no means, small. For the land itself, I recycle, I put trash in the trashcans to keep our streets clean. I plant trees to keep our environment healthy. For my fellow citizens I keep myself clean and presentable, I work hard for my money, and buy American products. I do not judge others in an unjust manner, if at all. I abide by the great laws of the country, and I keep myself up to date with the current affairs of America. After all the opportunities and services that America will have provided me by the time I am twenty years old, I will be obliged, not by law but by choice, to give back. I feel that the best way to help America is to help others in the name of my country. I am provided with such an opportunity by organizations like the Peace Corps. Then, in my adult years, I shall be fully prepared to choose a job that will help fellow Americans. I shall work honestly, hard, and be a good citizen. I shall vote and pay my taxes on time. All these things may seem small and trivial to some, but to me, they are ways I can give back to a country that has given so much to me.

America is truly the land of opportunity. My service to America is to grab all the opportunity that is thrown my way and make the most out of it, so that later in my life as an American I am able and ready to provide such an opportunity for others.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE L. STRAIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William L. Strain, Assistant Director of the Communications Department at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. On March 31, Mr. Strain retired from the extension service after 45 years and two months of service.

Mr. Strain is a native of Morgan County, Alabama and a graduate of Morgan City Training School in Hartselle, Alabama. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee Institute where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to Mr. Strain's academic accomplishments, he served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In 1958, Mr. Strain served the people of Alabama as an Assistant Negro County Agent in Butler County. He went on to serve similar positions in Coosa and Tuscaloosa Counties respectively. In 1971, he served as the plaintiff in the civil action landmark court case *Strain vs. Philpot*, which establish the tone to bring about equal opportunity for Extension minority employees and clients, throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation.

Ever since that landmark case, Mr. Strain continued to dedicate his life to improvements in the Extension Service. He served as a member of numerous professional associa-

tions and has received many awards for his outstanding leadership in higher education, development of community relations and professional involvement in local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to add that I am honored to stand here today and congratulate Mr. Willie Strain. He was a trailblazer in his field and paved the way for many African-Americans.

GALBRAITH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED
FIFTY-SIX YEARS, 1843-1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers, members, and friends of the Galbraith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for "156 Years of Charting Our Legacy Through Spirituality With an Unchangeable God."

Mr. Speaker, Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church was organized before slavery was abolished and while the city of Washington was still in its infancy. The church grew out of the efforts of the late Bishop Singleton T. Jones, then pastor of the Zion Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Southwest Washington. He extended the borders of Zion by establishing a mission in the northwest section of the city. In 1843, with a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne on New Avenue, Northwest, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, the mission was established. Rev. Singleton T. Jones preached the sermon. Professor R.H. Dyson, Chorister of the then noted Clintonian Songsters, furnished the music. Six members joined the mission—Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, and two other individuals whose names have been lost in history. Rev. Richard Tompkins, a local preacher from Zion Wesley Church, was appointed to take charge and served for approximately ten months.

The Mission struggled and fluctuated for a period of eight years until its reorganization in 1852, under the leadership of Rev. R.H.G. Dyson. The success of the Mission at this time was due primarily to the efforts and determination of Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, and Mr. Julius Warren, the Assistant Class Leader to Rev. Dyson. The first building, a room 8 feet by 20 feet, was erected by Mr. Payne and was used for Sunday School and preaching services on Sunday, and for day school taught by Miss Martha Ross. As there were few facilities for the education of Black children in those days, the church served a double purpose.

After only two months, the church became too small for the congregation. Mr. Payne stretched a number of tents in the rear of the building, providing accommodations for three hundred people. In 1853, because of the danger and lack of protection from a band of lawless white men, who amused themselves by stoning the tents during services, Mr. Payne erected another home for the mission with two stories.

Upon the recommendation of Presiding Elder J.H. Hammer, Rev. Dyson joined the Annual Conference May, 1853, and was again sent to the Mission. In the fall of 1852, a lot

was purchased on L Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, Northwest for \$225.00. The owner, Dr. Hall, donated \$25.00 for the purchase price, and Brothers Julius Warren and Payne each paid \$25.00 for a deed of trust. Mr. Naylor, a builder and contractor, agreed to build a church for a reasonable sum to be paid in small amounts. The cornerstone was laid in 1853, the first to be laid by the Colored Masons of Washington. Rev. Dyson selected the name "Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Chapel" in memory of Bishop George Galbraith. The dedication was March 1854.

Mr. Speaker, this city is grateful for the spiritual guidance and the progressive leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Frederick B. Massey, Sr., and those who preceded him, coupled with the cooperation of the officers and members of Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JANE ZEIS, IN CELEBRATION OF
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jane Zeis. On Friday, April 30, 1999, Jane Zeis will retire from her position as Clerk at the Ottawa County Board of Elections.

Jane Zeis is truly a committed employee and a valuable asset to the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Having started as a part-time employee in early January of 1978, Jane worked diligently as Ottawa County began to register its voters, and very soon thereafter was hired to a permanent, full-time position. Her dedicated efforts and outstanding contributions over the past twenty-one years have enabled Ottawa County to have one of the best Boards of Elections in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Zeis embodies the very spirit of American workmanship through her conscientious attention to detail. In doing her job of processing changes of address, absentee balloting, and ensuring the country's precinct maps are up-to-date, among many others, Jane has performed utterly wonderfully. Her meticulous organizational skills and motivation have produced a thorough and complete county planning commission guide including precinct, school, and congressional district information.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is very evident that Jane Zeis has given freely of her time and energy to assist in the preservation of American ideals. Our electoral process is the backbone of our nation, and those individuals, like Jane Zeis, who worked hard to make that system free and democratic are true American patriots.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jane Zeis. On the occasion of her retirement from the Ottawa County Board of Elections, we thank her for her service and we wish her all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL
LAWRENCE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to reiterate my admiration for our men and women in uniform. These courageous soldiers risk their lives daily, both on and off the battlefield.

Our soldiers give the ultimate level of commitment by defending freedom, not just for the citizens of this great country, but also for others around the world. Today the soldiers in the Baltic region are specifically in our thoughts. We all look forward to their quick and safe return home to their families.

Our military forces are a magnificent team. All the branches of service work together to ensure the security for our nation. Whether these soldiers are training at home or defending freedom abroad, this well-oiled machine has become one of the best fighting forces the world has ever known.

Recently there was a tragic loss in my District at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A Marine soldier heroically gave his life during a daily training exercise and in turn saved the life of a fellow Marine. The quick thinking of Corporal Bobby J. Lawrence saved his partner, but sadly took the life of this bright young man. Thank you Corporal Lawrence for your honor. You are truly the optime of what makes our military great, and this country will forever be proud to claim you as a United States Marine. Our thoughts and gratitude are with your family.

Mr. Speaker, we should never forget the dedication of the men and women for our Armed Services. The courage shown by Corporal Lawrence is an example of the price some often pay so that others can enjoy freedom. The sacrifices of our brave military personnel should not be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WELFARE
TO WORK AMENDMENTS OF 1999

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform, we must confront two hard truths. First, as welfare rolls decline, those remaining on assistance are increasingly likely to be those who have multiple barriers to employment, such as low levels of education, language barriers, disabilities, and substance abuse problems. These barriers will require major investments to overcome—certainly far greater resources than provided to many of those who have left welfare over the last few years. This issue becomes even more important when you consider that by the end of 1999, recipients and their children will have reached welfare time limits in 19 states. And second, the primary responsibility for raising low-income children is too often left solely to mothers. It is true the welfare reform law

strengthened our Nation's child support enforcement system, but that does not address situations in which non-custodial fathers want to support their children but do not have a job. In short, our current programs and policies do not make a clear enough distinction between deadbeat dads and dead broke dads.

To address these two critical issues, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Welfare to Work program. The bill would provide \$1 billion in FY 2000 to help long-term and hard-to-employ welfare recipients join the work force and to help non-custodial parents support their children. The legislation would extend the Welfare to Work (WtW) program established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which provided \$1.5 billion a year in FY 1998 and FY 1999 for states and local communities to help move a long-term welfare recipients in high poverty areas into jobs and help them succeed in the work force.

By providing greater flexibility to States and localities, the legislation would make substantial improvements to the original WtW program. The focus would continue to be on long-term recipients or the fathers of their children, but the program would be considerably simpler to operate. For example, under this proposal, eligible participants would be those which meet at least one, rather than two, barriers to employment. Furthermore, the list of barriers would be expanded to include with disabilities, those who are homeless, or those who have been victims of domestic violence. In addition, the first barrier listed in current law, which requires that the recipient not have a high school diploma and have low skills in reading or math would be split into two categories in order to serve those who gained a degree but whose low skills still form a major barrier to employment. And finally, the bill would allow States to offer vocational education to WtW participants and allow services to be provided to children aging out of the foster care system.

Noncustodial fathers will also face simpler eligibility requirements, so long as they agree to establish paternity and to pay child support once they are employed. The importance of non-custodial fathers in children's lives is often forgotten, except when it is time to collect child support. The majority of children on welfare live with a single parent, and only about 20% of them receive child support from their noncustodial parent. The vast majority of these noncustodial parents are either unemployed or only able to obtain intermittent, low-wage employment. Assisting these fathers in finding and keeping employment and increasing their earnings is therefore critical to enhancing child support payments and to increasing their involvement in their children's lives. For these reasons, at least 20% of new formula funds would be targeted to noncustodial parents.

Under this proposal, as under current law, about 75 percent of Welfare-to-Work funds will be allocated to States on a formula basis, with 85 percent of these funds passed through to local Private Industry Councils of Workforce Boards. The remaining 25 percent of the funds will continue to be awarded on a competitive basis by the Department of Labor to support innovative projects by a variety of private and public organizations.

In 1998, the first year of the WtW program, 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam,

Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands received Welfare-to-Work formula grants. Approximately \$368 million in competitive grants have also been awarded by the Department of Labor to 126 grantees in communities throughout the country. A third round of competitive grants will be awarded in 1999, with high priority for applications which focus on recipients or non-custodial parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, substance abuse problems, or a history of domestic violence. It is worth noting that there was only sufficient resources to fund one out of every ten applications for the first two rounds of the competitive grant program.

In Baltimore, Maryland, part of which I represent in Congress, the City Office of Employment Development received a 1998 competitive grant of \$3.3 million to provide comprehensive services to recipients and non-custodial fathers in public housing. Participants will work for 6 months in supported jobs (while also getting life skills training), and then be placed in unsubsidized employment. Baltimore is also the headquarters for three major national efforts supported by \$16.5 million in Welfare-to-Work competitive funds. The efforts are managed by Marriot International, by Johns Hopkins University, and by the Enterprise Foundation. In each case, these nationally recognized organizations will be testing innovative, work-oriented strategies focused on job retention, skills development and career advancement.

Mr. Speaker, the Welfare to Work program helps the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients make the transition to employment. I urge all of my colleagues to support this extension of the program to ensure the long-term success of welfare reform not only in reducing dependency but also in reducing poverty.

IN HONOR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL
DONOR AWARENESS BIKE-A-THON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon which will occur on Sunday, April 25. This event, which consists of an eleven mile course around Lake Quinsigamond, will raise awareness and money for the University of Massachusetts Memorial Blood Donor Center, the HLA Registry Foundation, Inc., and The New England Organ Bank. Individuals and their families who have donated or received blood products, bone marrow and organ and tissue transplants will be there to bike for and/or lend their support to the issue of supply and demand for these "Gifts of Life."

As we draw attention to this event, the 1st Annual Donor Awareness Bike-A-Thon, it is important to remember that every day in the United States fifteen individuals die for lack of an organ, ten die for lack of a compatible bone marrow match, and countless others are dependent upon blood transfusions.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to commend the organizers and participants of this event for their great efforts.

HONORING JOSEPH A. ZACCAGNINO
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Ms. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor one of New Haven's most respected community leaders. Today, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League will honor Joseph Zaccagnino with the 1999 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Through his leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Yale New Haven Health System, Joe Zaccagnino has significantly improved and enhanced the health care services available to our community. Yale-New Haven Hospital is an internationally renowned medical center, no doubt due in part to his talented leadership.

The face of health care in New Haven has changed for the better under Joe's direction. We have witnessed the opening of the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, the creation of six school-based health clinics, a substantial investment in AIDS care services, and the provision of over \$27 million in free health care annually. The number of people who have benefitted from Joe's commitment to health care is incalculable. It is rewarding for all of us to know that because of his work, thousands of children and people in need are receiving the care they deserve.

Among his most significant accomplishments, Joe led the development of the Yale New Haven Health System, Connecticut's largest and most comprehensive integrated health care provider and financing system. The entire region is now able to benefit from a broad range of quality, comprehensive health care services, ranging from primary care to long-term and home health services. Joe is widely recognized as an expert in our community in developing and implementing successful health care policy. He has a vision that is balanced with the skill and expertise to carry it through.

Joe has also demonstrated his deep commitment to the Greater New Haven community through his service to a variety of local organizations. He is a former board member of the United Way, the YMCA of Greater New Haven, and the International Special Olympics Summer Games and currently serves on the Boards of the University of Hospital Consortium, National Committee for Quality Health Care, New Haven Regional Leadership Council, and New Haven Savings Bank. Joe spearheaded an innovative initiative pairing the City of New Haven and Yale University with the Anti-Defamation League to extend cultural diversity training programs into the community.

It is with great pride that I rise today to honor my good friend Joseph Zaccagnino for his outstanding service as he receives the 1999 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award. His dedication to quality health care and service to the community is an example to us all. I join family, friends and the city of New Haven to congratulate Joe for this honor. I wish him continued success and prosperity, and thank him for the difference he has made in our community.

QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER NO. 1,
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR,
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION
CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and celebrate the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, of the District of Columbia, on the occasion of its 125th birthday.

The Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, is a female organization that is part of Free Masonry, and was the first Eastern Star Chapter for women of color. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to community involvement and improvement, the provision of scholarships for our youth, support of our public schools, and service to the indigent. The chapter was organized in the home of its founder, Sister Georgiana Thomas, on December 1, 1874 by Brother Thornton A. Jackson, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and A.M., who received the Degree of Adoptive Rite of the Eastern Star from Brother C.B. Case, a deputy and agent of Robert McCoy, 33°, the Supreme Patron of the Rite of Adoption of the World. The chapter's first Worthy Matron was Sister Martha Welch and the first Worthy Patron was Brother Thornton A. Jackson.

In 1875, Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, F. and M. presented the chapter with its first badges, known as Rosettes, emblems of power, honor, and ability. W.P. Thornton A. Jackson wished the chapter success and prosperity, and admonished the members to wear the badges with dignity, keeping ever before them the memory of the five heroines, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa. Queen Esther Chapter was under the complete directives of Pythagoras Lodge No. 9 from 1874 until 1892, when the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was organized.

The history of Queen Esther Chapter is rich in tradition and honors. The first among them being Sister Georgiana Thomas, P.M., after whom the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter was named, Sister Marie I. Smith for whom the Marie I. Smith Court of Cyrenes was named, and Phyllis S. Byrd, P.M. who became P.G.W.M., P.I.G.M., and after whom the Phyllis S. Bird Youth Fraternity was named.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of this body to join me in wishing the Queen Esther Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, a future that is as glorious as its past.

IN MEMORY OF FR. ALCUIN
MIKULANIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Alcuin Mikulanis, Associate Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Slavic Village.

Father Alcuin, as he was known to the many parishioners he served, had ministered

in the Cleveland area since 1984. During these years, he was well known in the Polish community not only as a compassionate and dedicated Pastor, but also as an accomplished singer. In fact, he was frequently called to sing introductory prayers and benedictions at meetings and gatherings.

Fr. Alcuin was a man of many talents, and he shared them graciously with his parishioners in the several states where he served. For example, from 1958 to 1962, in addition to being Vocations Director of his Franciscan Province, he was Director of a Polish radio program entitled "Christ the King Hour." Recordings of Polish folk songs and Christmas carols from this program is still in high demand after 40 years. While serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Meridian, MS from 1963-1966, he was involved in the civil rights activities of the time.

In Ohio, he served as Chaplain of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis at Marymount Convent. Later, as Associate Pastor of the historic St. Stanislaus Church, he was able to focus directly on the Polish ministry of his new parish. Fr. Alcuin witnessed the completion of one of his dreams last year with the restoration of St. Stanislaus Church on its 125th anniversary as a parish.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Fr. Alcuin.

HONORING THE OAKLAND HIGH
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the Oakland High School football team of Murfreesboro, TN. The goal the team achieved is winning the State 5-A football championship this past season.

These men of Oakland High trained vigorously and played tirelessly. They deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each team member, head coach Marty Euverard, assistant coaches Donnie Webb, Lebron Ferguson, Mike Cantrell, Mark Burke, Joey Freeman, Chuck Swafford, Todd Williamson, managers Alicia Garcia, Laura Austin, Katie Wright, Amanda McDougal, Matt Bingham, trainer Mike Gross, video technician Brian Josey, the team doctors and school Principal Ken Nolan. I know they won't soon forget this milestone.

The players are true champions. They are Alvin McDermott, Jeremy Harrison, Dejuan Hathaway, Kendrick Roper, Decarlos Carneal, Roland Ogletree, Trey Mosby, James Smith, Robbie Knight, Wardell Alsup, Desmond Rhodes, Matt King, Victor Stevenson, Mark Drew, Colby Wright, B.J. Malone, Mario Lyles, Derrick Savannah, Tee Thompson, Aaron Wells, Freddie King, Cory Hixson, Chad Pfalmer, Mason Jones, Jamie Malletta, Jeff Weaver, Chris Counts, Gabriel Batten, Essex Johnson, Jeff Atkins, Greg Spray, Justin Hutchins, Chris Parrot, Newt Ealy, Jeremy Spivey, Josh Peay, Mitch Welborne, Tommy Lawwell, Jeff Harvey, Dustin Griswold, Troy

Broughton, Brett Trott, Zach Hollins, Jay Adkins, Dustin Jones, and Luke Ferguson.

HONORING ROBSTOWN HIGH
SCHOOL BAND

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine the light on a performance later this week on the west side of the Capitol. I would like to invite all of you and your staff to hear the Robstown High School Band from my hometown of Robstown, TX.

Many of you have heard me talk about my hometown. Robstown is the biggest little town in Texas. Robstown has given the community, the state and the nation much of which they can be proud. Some prominent politicians at the local, the state and the national level hail from this big little town.

Robstown has thrilled us with their state baseball titles. The Cottonpickers baseball team is consistently underrated by the opposition from the bigger, more affluent school districts.

This week, however, Robstown High School sends its band to entertain us on the lower west terrace of the U.S. Capitol on April 23 from 1:30 to 2:15. The 120 young people in the band will be in the area on an educational trip during which they will see the museums and monuments Washington has to offer.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in welcoming the Robstown High School band to the U.S. Capitol.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
BEDARD

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Richard Bedard, who is retiring this year after nearly 38 years of service to the Worcester Public Schools.

Dick Bedard began his career where it counts the most—in the classroom, as a math and physics teacher. From there he moved into administrative positions, including Audio-visual Director, Director of Instructional Media, and, most recently School Plant Manager.

As the man in charge of the physical plant of the Worcester Public Schools, Dick Bedard has done an extraordinary job of keeping our schools safe, clean and conducive to learning. He was in the lead as Worcester opened 5 new schools; 3 more are on the way.

Through all of this, Dick Bedard has approached his responsibilities with good humor, hard work and dedication. He is widely respected in the city of Worcester as a man who gets the job done. And although we will miss him and his expertise, it is only fair to finally share him with his wife Joan, their four children and their five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know this entire House joins me in congratulating Dick Bedard for a job very well done, and expressing our best wishes for a healthy, productive and very well-earned retirement.

A FRIENDLY WAGER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two great college basketball teams that met in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament. In a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee last month, Rep. BOB ETHERIDGE of North Carolina and I entered into a friendly wager on whether Michigan State University or Duke University would win their semifinal match up.

The wager called for the loser to furnish each member of the Agriculture Committee with a wholesome food product from his state. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that Michigan State University's great basketball team, the Big 10 champion, riding a record win streak, lost an exciting and close game to Duke University.

Mr. Speaker, to pay off this wager, I want to officially announce that I am furnishing each member of the Agriculture Committee with a bag of Michigan navy beans and I would like to note that Michigan is one of the top navy bean producers in the world. In addition, I'm furnishing each member with a box of Kellogg's new Smart Start cereal. Kellogg, which is based in Battle Creek, MI, is one of the world's top breakfast cereal producers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fine example of effort and determination of all the players in the NCAA tournament.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S CHAMPION
MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL DE-
CATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon as the U.S. National Decathlon Champions.

This is the first time a team from Ventura County, California, has won this premiere scholastic contest. In fact, it's the first time a team from Ventura County has competed in the nationals. Team members Arturo Barragan, Alexandria Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their county and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For months, these teen-agers studied at school until 10 p.m., then hit a coffee shop or a student's home to study some more. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs and time with their families.

Their coaches, head coach Larry Jones and assistance coach Michelle Bergman, did the same. Larry Jones has said he will retire. Not everyone believes him. But, at a minimum, he and Michelle have earned some relaxation in the glow of a job well done. We wish both of them the best in whatever their futures bring.

Moorpark High School fielded two teams to complete in the Ventura County Academic De-

cathlon on February 6. Moorpark High's two teams bested all the rest, coming in first and second. The A Team then competed against the best in California on March 12, coming away with the state title, and opening the way for their national title this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, one of the team members, Ari Shaw, served as an intern in my office last year. He brought the knowledge gained inside the halls of Congress to the contest by giving a speech on his experiences here, a speech that won him several accolades. It should please my colleagues to know that our young people leave Capitol Hill with positive memories.

As we get ready to approve the Education Flexibility bill this week and consider other education measures this year, let us keep in mind the members of the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon team and all the worthy competitors they faced from schools across our great nation. These are the real people behind our efforts to improve our schools. They are representative of those striving to get the best education they can, to be the best they can. It is incumbent upon us to keep them to reach their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding eight such real people who achieved a very prestigious goal—Arturo Barragan, Alexandra Dove, John Ellis, Valerie Lake, Nick Lange, Mitul Patel, Ari Shaw and Rebecca Wershba—the U.S. champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

“EXTRAORDINARILY EWING” OF-
FERS VALUABLE LESSON IN
CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a remarkable example of community service and civic responsibility that is occurring in my Congressional District in central New Jersey.

Two years ago, alarmed at low voter turnout, local parent Candace Mueller, of Ewing, New Jersey, formed “Extraordinarily Ewing” a group of PTA members, parents, business people and taxpayers committed to getting the word out about the importance of participating in school board elections and being involved in local education issues.

This community-based effort to educate citizens about the importance and responsibility of voting, and in taking part in other matters relating to local elections, has been a remarkable success. Since the program was started, voting turnout has increased and residents have taken more interest in issues like the local school budget. The effect of this involvement has been contagious, leading to a more informed, more involved citizenry, regardless of their position on the issues.

At the urging of the citizens of “Extraordinarily Ewing,” today in Ewing has been designated “Take Your Child to Vote Day.” The campaign, which urges parents and guardians to take twenty minutes out of their busy

schedules to go to the polls with their children to vote is an important lesson in civic responsibility. By seeing their parents voting, young people understand very clearly the importance of being involved in their community and its decisions.

The efforts of "Extraordinarily Ewing" have been recognized by Ewing Mayor Al Bridges, the Town Council and by County Executive, Robert Prunetti. "Extraordinarily Ewing's" efforts have also been spotlighted by the *Ewing Weekly Times* and *The Trenton Times*.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when voter participation and involvement is on the wane, the efforts of "Extraordinarily Ewing" are a refreshing reminder of the importance of being involved. The efforts of these parents and business people offer a valuable lesson in civic responsibility for all of us.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing this group and these efforts.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT FOR ALL SENIORS IS URGENTLY NEEDED; GOOD HEALTH CARE REQUIRES ACCESS TO PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, JOHN DINGELL, myself and others are introducing the Access to Rx Medications in Medicare Act of 1999. Senators EDWARD KENNEDY (D-Mass.) and JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-W. Va.) are introducing the bill in the Senate. It provides a basic, affordable Part B benefit of \$1,700 per year that will cover 80% of pharmaceutical costs for all seniors and eligible disabled individuals with more than \$200 in annual drug costs. The bill also helps all Medicare beneficiaries by covering 100% of their costs above \$3,000 in annual out-of-pocket prescription drug expenditures.

The benefit is to be administered by private-sector entities such as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), insurers, or networks or wholesale and retail pharmacies, which would competitively bid for Medicare's business. Entities contracting with HHS to provide the drug benefit would be required to meet certain standards, including establishing an adequate formulary and an exceptions process to the formulary, as well as a 24-hour counseling program for enrollees, an education program for medical providers on appropriate prescribing and dispensation of covered drugs, and drug utilization review.

To stabilize employer-sponsored retiree health coverage, we're proposing to subsidize employer's coverage by paying companies a capitated amount that would otherwise be paid to a private entity—but only if that coverage is at least as good as what Medicare is offering. In return, employers would have to agree to pay the cost of their retirees' Medicare Part B prescription drug premium for at least a year.

Clearly, adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare is not an inexpensive proposition. But the price of leaving pharmaceutical medications out of the programs' benefits package and instead paying for unnecessary hospitalizations for those who just 'try to do without' is also high. The Food and Drug Adminis-

tration estimated that the cost of hospitalizations caused by inappropriate use of prescription medicines was \$20 billion annually higher in 1995.

There are several financing options that I hope will be considered as the Medicare prescription drug debate advances. One is to assess tobacco companies for what they cost the program to treat smoke-related illnesses. A second is to support a strategy of recouping Medicare expenditures on tobacco-related diseases through suits against Big Tobacco. A third is to consider dedicating a portion of projected budgetary surpluses to paying for Medicare drug coverage.

Debate about the financing options for a Medicare drug benefit will inevitably be contentious. But there is no better time to join this debate than today—when the program's solvency has been extended until 2015 even without an infusion of money from budgetary surpluses. With an infusion, the solvency timeline stretches far into the future—until 2027.

It is time to turn our attention to meeting the needs of the growing number of senior citizens who are being rapidly priced out of drug coverage. Adding a prescription drug benefit is an investment—one of the most important we can make—in the health of tens of millions of our citizens.

I recently sent out a survey to seniors in my district to assess the prices they pay for a range of specific prescription medications. Their responses were both revealing and sad. Asked what percentage of her monthly \$547 income is dedicated to prescription drugs, one elderly woman suffering from osteoporosis replied very simply: "I cannot afford them." Queried about how this makes her feel, she said: "I just try to cope."

Another of my constituents, who has asthma, wrote: "During the winter and spring my asthma is particularly bad and I have to use my inhaler quite often; and I sometimes am not able to purchase another, and I limit my use." Asked whether she has ever had to choose between paying for items like food or electricity because of the high cost of prescription drugs, she said: "Yes, and I felt frightened."

People who are sick need pharmaceutical treatment. Many who aren't take pharmaceuticals to stave off illness. In my case, taking Zocor lowers my blood cholesterol and helps reduce my risk of winding up in the hospital for costly bypass surgery.

There are millions more elderly Americans with similar stories in congressional districts across the country. There are people who suffer from lack of medically appropriate access to pharmaceutical treatment.

I submit that for a health plan in the year 2000 not to offer pharmaceutical care is preposterous.

In today's era of unprecedented prosperity, who would say "No" to legislation providing prescription drug coverage to the one group that would benefit most—our nation's seniors?

In the 105th Congress, we invested in children's health when we enacted the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Now we must fix the huge hole in Medicare's benefit package. If we don't a bolder future Congress will.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISON COBB

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, few people I know have committed as much intellectual attention to the topic of natural resources as my long-time friend and constituent, Mr. Harrison Cobb, of Fort Collins, Colorado. My first acquaintance with Mr. Cobb was made in 1987. He invited me into his home and spent generous time allowing me the benefit of his vast education, experience, and passion for mining.

Supremely dedicated to preserving the environmental integrity of America's western heritage, Mr. Cobb's civic devotion is to influence public debate about natural resources issues with balanced opinion employing practical, logical, and scientific reason, and historical perspective. His persuasive treatment of natural resource questions is unmatched. Mr. Cobb is, in my opinion, a giant among his colleagues in the field of mineral extraction.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cobb's contributions are bigger still in scope. His professional talents have been directed toward many of the broader topics confronting all Americans: Economics, national character, education, and cultural decay are issues about which Mr. Cobb has engaged his countrymen and to which he has held many public officials accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the example of Mr. Cobb to my colleagues in the House, and hereby submit to the RECORD for their consideration some thoughts of Mr. Cobb's conveyed in a letter he recently posted to me.

HARRISON S. COBB,

Ft. Collins, CO.

The world's most important commodity, after air and water, is ROCK. Everything that we use, need and want comes out of rock. Even food, clothing and housing are taken from soil, which is disintegrated rock.

To get the autos, aeroplanes, trains, toothpaste fluoride, catalytic convertors, printing presses, electric power, running tap water and almost everything else out of the solid rock, it HAS to be mined. Thus far there's no other way to produce it.

The primary purposes of mountains are not skiing, hiking or viewing. Mountains are the only places where you can walk directly into the inside of the earth and look for those things so necessary to our lives. There may be equally rich sources of gold, copper, iron, platinum, fluorite, tungsten, molybdenum under the Kansas-Nebraska prairie, but who can sink through 2000 feet of sedimentary rock in order to start prospecting for them?

Here and there natural forces have squeezed the somewhat plastic inside of the earth up through cracks in the sedimentaries, forming protuberances that we call mountains, giving us our only opportunities to see and search for those minerals that occur only inside the earth. This is the primary purpose of and use for mountains.

The enviros and the bureaucratic Lilliputians who aim to end mining through over-regulation, land withdrawals, Kyoto treaties and UN heritage sites demonstrate lack of education and complete ignorance of fact. In the end, the people will suffer—but who cares about that?

CONGRESSMAN BOB: This is just to add to your ammunition. Thanks for good work.

HARRISON.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Mr. Cobb for his love of our mighty nation, for his consistent

exhibition of patriotic spirit. He is truly an inspiration to me to continue on our important work advancing the freedom and liberty of our beloved Republic.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA
COMPLIANCE ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced 'The National Monument NEPA Compliance Act.' This Act would enhance public participation in the creation of national monuments.

Two and a half years ago President Clinton created the 1.8 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the State of Utah. This national monument was created in the dark of night. No one from Utah knew about it until just before it happened. The public was completely excluded from the process.

This is not the way that public land decisions should be made. The public should be allowed to participate in public land decisions.

This bill would do just that, it would allow the public to participate in the national monument designation process. It would require the President, through the Secretary of the Interior, to follow the National Environmental Policy Act when formulating a national monument proposal. Since the preparation of an environmental impact statement takes some time, it

would call for a 2-year emergency withdrawal of the lands in question during deliberations on the monument proposal to ensure protection of the resources.

This bill would not affect the power of the President to create national monuments. It would just require him to involve the public in the decision process. It would eliminate the clandestine creation of national monuments in smoke-filled back rooms. I believe this is a very good bill and I hope it will garner bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support 'The National Monument NEPA Compliance Act.' We need to return public participation to public lands management.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. "BOB"
MCLAUGHLIN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert M. McLaughlin, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to education. He will be celebrating his retirement from Saint David's School, where he has taught English and Latin, as well as 4th and 8th grade, since 1963. He will be honored on May 5 by parents, family, friends, and professionals for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Born in the Bronx in 1936, Mr. McLaughlin, known as Bob to his friends, attended Cardinal Hayes High School and Fordham University where he earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Latin and Roman History.

As Rose Marie Gionta Alfieri eloquently reported in Saint David's Magazine: "A bibliophile is one of the terms most often used by McLaughlin's colleagues and friends at Saint David's to describe him. Others include 'loyal,' 'funny,' 'supportive,' 'argumentative,' and 'good sport.' But perhaps the most on-the-nose quality that captures the essence of this master teacher can be summed up in one word: passion."

Mr. Speaker, I think that quote speaks volumes about Mr. McLaughlin's character.

Mr. McLaughlin will retire in May of this year after a fruitful career in public service. He will leave us with many lessons learned about leadership in education and about wisdom. A talented leader and educator, Mr. McLaughlin will continue sharing his knowledge and views with his family and friends.

Mr. McLaughlin is married to Mary McAndrews and they are the proud parents of five children, Robert, Matthew, Andrew—all three attended Saint David's School—Mary Joyce, and Kristin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert M. "Bob" McLaughlin for his outstanding achievements in education and his enduring commitment to the community.