

the publicly held debt by 2006 and eliminating back-loaded tax cuts and unnecessary spending increases. By reserving half of the on-budget surplus for the next five years, we could continue to pay down the debt and strengthen Social Security and preserve Medicare. Finally, like the Democratic alternative, the Blue Dog budget sets aside a pool of money to help states and localities improve their voting systems in time for the next federal elections. The Bush framework completely ignores this urgent need.

The Bush Administration's budget threatens the quality of life of millions of Americans. There are many tough choices ahead, but I firmly believe that with cooperation and an eye towards operating within a responsible framework, this Administration and Congress can and should develop a budget that will ensure that everyone's needs are met. I encourage my colleagues to join me in rejecting this ill-conceived Republican proposal and supporting instead a sensible, well-balanced budget resolution that speaks to the needs of every American family.

MAGGIE LENA WALKER

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise to honor the contributions of a distinguished woman. I would like to share with the House the remarkable life of Maggie Lena Walker, a Richmond, Virginia native and a business and community leader in the early part of the 20th Century. Maggie Walker is well known for her efforts on behalf of the African American community in Richmond and in the development and success of Richmond's historic Jackson Ward community, among the oldest African American communities in the country.

Maggie Walker was born on July 15, 1867. She spent her childhood at the Van Lew Mansion in Richmond, Virginia, where her mother, a former slave, worked as a cook's helper. As an abolitionist, Miss Van Lew made sure that all of her servants received a good education. It was here that Maggie Walker began to learn the value and importance of education.

Like many educated African American women during that time, Maggie Walker's first contribution was in the field of education where she taught in the public school system after her graduation from Armstrong Normal School in Richmond. She was required to leave the teaching profession after her marriage and soon recognized the limited availability of job opportunities for African American women. Further, it was Walker's belief that African American women had an instrumental part to play in the economic and political success of the African American community. This

belief was manifested in Walker's founding of the Woman's Union, an insurance company, and the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, where in 1903 she was the first woman bank president in the United States.

The Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, as its name suggests, was established as an institution whose interest was the small investors, literally the pennies of the African American washerwomen—ultimately proving that even with pennies, the African American community had economic power. Maggie Walker's Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank merged with two other banks to become Consolidated Bank and Trust, the oldest existing African American owned and operated bank in the U.S., with several branches today in Richmond and Hampton, Virginia.

This Saint Luke Emporium, a department store located in the Jackson Ward section of Richmond, was started by Walker and is yet another example of her promotion of African American economic empowerment. It employed scores of African American women and provided the African American community the opportunity to purchase goods from its own businesses. The Jackson Ward community in Richmond benefited greatly from Walker's influence and keen sense of business acumen; today, the Jackson Ward is known historically as the center of Richmond's African American business and social life.

Maggie Walker's leadership was not confined to the business community. She set the groundwork for the local women's suffrage movement and voter registration efforts after the passage of the 19th Amendment. The evidence of her success is in the fact that close to 80 percent of eligible black voters in Richmond in the 1920s were women. Maggie Walker boldly challenged the political establishment in 1921 when she ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the "Lily Black" Republican ticket. Although her campaign for public office was unsuccessful, it confirmed African American women's important role in the political arena and it also further invigorated the interest of the African American community in the political process.

On April 26, 2001, the Junior Achievement National Hall of Fame will recognize Maggie Walker's accomplishments as the country's first African American female bank president. The mission of Junior Achievement is to ensure that every child in America has a fundamental understanding of the free enterprise system. Ms. Walker is a prime example in making that goal a reality. During her days at the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, the bank provided small cardboard boxes to children to encourage them to save their pennies. When the children had one dollar saved, they could open a savings account with the bank. This tradition continues today at the Consolidated Bank & Trust Company. Maggie Walker's work as a political leader and business entrepreneur is a reminder to us all that the success of the African American community de-

pends on both economic and political development.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CESAR CHAVEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of a great leader, Cesar E. Chavez. His memory serves as a constant reminder of the hardships facing working families every day and an inspiration to those who strive to speak up for people whose voices go unheard.

The teachings of Cesar Chavez have inspired millions of people in our country. One might argue that the practices of our country's labor community can be attributed to the lessons that were taught by the late Cesar Chavez. In carrying out his mission, Chavez developed and lived with a unique blend of values, philosophies, and styles. Although he organized predominantly Hispanic workers, Chavez' commitment to non-violence, volunteerism, egalitarianism, and respect for all cultures, religions and lifestyles, has served as the guiding principle of the U.S. labor movement for the past fifty years.

In 1989, Chavez conducted a 36-day fast to protest the pesticide poisoning of migrant workers in California. For years, workers were coming into contact with harmful pesticides that had led to, in many cases, cancer. Farm owners had ignored the problem and Chavez was infuriated. During a speech on the 36th day of his fast, Chavez declared, "If we ignored pesticide poisoning, if we looked on as farm workers and their children are stricken, then all the other injustices our people face would be compounded by an even more deadly tyranny. But ignore that final injustice is what our opponents would have us do."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the injustices that Cesar Chavez fought against for fifty years, and the living conditions he spoke out against, still exist today. We have a responsibility in Congress to continue the fight where Cesar Chavez left off. We have a responsibility to speak for those who cannot speak, and to fight for those who cannot fight. Improving working conditions, increasing the minimum wage, and providing quality benefits for all workers remain at the forefront of our challenges on behalf of working families. We should use today's commemoration of Cesar Chavez' life to renew our commitment not to "ignore that final injustice," and protect the rights of working families. If we do ignore them, then we are forgetting the great lessons taught to us by this great hero. That would be an injustice in itself.