

Currie; one son, Joseph Oliver Henley, and three grandchildren.

Congratulations and best wishes for health and happiness today and for many years to come.

Maradian, Sabrina M. Meier, Ryan D. Offutt, Neil A. Reyes, Hannah R. Riordan, Claudia V. Rocha, Michael J. Ryan, Estevan O. Sanchez, Tarik D. Scarlata, James D. Stone, Rosalind V. Thompson, Corey S. Tucker, Lakisha M. Vaughn, Emily J. Waldon, Brian R. Wellman, Hubert E. Wells, Vincent G. Wilhelm, John C. Williams, Aaron B. Williamson.

THE MEXICAN BAILOUT

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, why are the American people being asked to bail out the Mexican economy to the tune of \$40 billion?

Despite listening for 2 hours to administration officials this morning at the Banking Committee hearing, I still fail to understand why we should be expected to put the full faith and credit of the United States on the line for a country that has a long and painful past of undisciplined financial mismanagement.

I cannot support some hastily slapped-together financial deal, especially in the absence of the President providing a coherent policy. The President has an obligation to formulate a viable program that will guarantee Mexico's inflationary policies won't put Main Street America another \$40 billion in the hole. Last night all he said was—we need to bail out Mexico. On top of all his rhetoric last night, the President spoke to the importance of the Nation pulling together and making sacrifices for the greater good. I think it is unconscionable to ask 262 million Americans to bail out Mexico's ruling elite.

Many Latin American countries, and not just Mexico, have dismal track records when it comes to paying back loans, whether they are from private, international or governmental sources. It is no secret that Mexico has a statist economy, that has tenaciously clung to that legacy since independence. The bottom line is that statist economies do not work. They are financially unstable and unreliable.

This bailout idea looks more and more to me like the first of what may be many more payments on a bad NAFTA deal.

FIFTY YEARS OF MATRIMONY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, a romance out of the lore of Hollywood has now reached 50 years in my home district in Smithtown, Long Island. Eugene A. Cannataro and Vera Ditta were married on February 4, 1945 at Sts. Philip and James Church in St. James on a snowy Sunday.

During their 50 years of marriage, the hallmark of their lives has been a relationship based on mutual respect, family, and God. Gene and Vera have been blessed with a wonderful family and are the proud parents of a son, Dennis, married to Patricia, and a daughter, Lynn, married to Peter. They are the proud and devoted grandparents of three beautiful granddaughters, Cheryl Ann Cannataro, Dana Lynne Nowick, and Kerry Lynn Nowick.

Gene and Vera's enthusiasm, generosity, good humor, and fellowship have touched all who have come to know them. They are known to many for their love of life and family.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL PAGES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of the Pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 103d and 104th Congresses.

We all recognize the important role that congressional Pages play in helping the House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is good about our country. To become a Page, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience, they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends, and learned the details of how our Government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional Page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the Pages must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, they face a challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School.

The fall 1994 class of pages witnessed many important and historical events and debates, including the approval of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, President Clinton's address to Congress and the Nation on his health care reform proposal. The Pages also were present for the historic speech by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to the joint session of Congress, and had the opportunity to meet and speak with President Mandela. The Pages also witnessed the orderly transfer of power in the House from the Democrats to the Republicans—a tribute to the strength of American democracy.

I am sure the departing pages will consider their time spent in Washington, DC to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of their lives, and that with this experience they will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. They certainly will be missed.

DEPARTING PAGES: FALL 1994-95

Amy E. Accavitti, Seth A.G. Andrew, Matthew D. Atkinson, Bart M. Bartlett, Rebecca J. Berkun, Jacqueline A. Bethea, Joanna L. Bowen, Jessica Brater, Allison Burdick, Erin C. Carney, Michael A. Carter, Krista Clarkson, Keyundah Coleman, Janey C. Crawford, Amy J. Crocker, Robert Cuthbert, Anastasios C. Drankus, Kathleen K. Duffy, Michael D. Ellison, Cathryn Caroline Fayard, Michael P. Fierro, Kristin M. Francis, Janine D. Geraigery, Jennifer C. Gerard, Melissa A. Hayes, Joseph R. Hill, Derek J. Johns, La Toya Johnson, Julia C. Kelly, Lisa N. Konitzer, Marcos A. Lopez, Ross C.

REINVENT THE WELFARE OFFICE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Family Service Center Act authorizing modern one-stop centers consolidating services and information for families needing aid to become self-sufficient.

The Family Service Center Act would fund demonstration projects in urban, rural, and linguistically and culturally diverse communities. Centers would be single neighborhood access points for a broad range of services for needy families with children. Centers would use consolidated computer systems and communications technology to improve services while reducing waste and duplication.

There is significant waste in the welfare system that could be eliminated through the use of automation and new technology. In my community of Hudson County, NJ, welfare officials compared data bases with New York City and found 400 families collecting benefits on both sides of the Hudson River. The result will be savings of up to \$2 million per year.

More savings will be achieved as automation links together more programs. For example, Hudson County plans to check out-of-State unemployment insurance records against the welfare rolls to detect unreported income.

The taxpayers are not the only beneficiaries of this bill. New data systems at Family Service Centers could cut the mountains of redundant forms that frustrate and confuse clients. Families dealing with one office, applying for aid through one form, and being tracked on a single data base, need fewer intrusive home visits by welfare workers checking for errors or fraud.

Projects effectiveness in streamlining services and cutting costs would be subject to rigorous State and Federal evaluations. After 3 years, projects could be renewed for an additional 3 years if they demonstrate effectiveness in achieving their objectives.

The act would also require participating States to report on Federal, State, and local policies and laws that impede the coordination of services to needy families with children.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to reinvent the welfare office.

TRIBUTE TO W.M. PETE RODES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding citizen, W.M. "Pete" Rodes, who

passed away recently at the age of 89. Pete was a banker and community leader in the Rains County town of Emory, TX. He was devoted to his family, his community, his church, and to politics.

Pete was born in Emory and spent a lifetime helping to make this small town of about 1,000 people a better place in which to live. After beginning his banking career in 1927 with North Texas National Bank in Dallas and the Republic National Bank, he assumed the management of the First National Bank in Emory in 1939 at his father's request. He served as President until his retirement in 1980.

Pete was instrumental in purchasing the city's first firetruck and establishing the city's cemetery and homeless shelter. His son, David Stuart Rodes of Los Angeles, said that his father considered his public works to be his biggest accomplishments. Pete was active in the Emory United Methodist Church, and David acknowledged what many of us knew—that Pete had a lot of moral influence in the community, and he used it—including being active in racial integration of the school system and the county.

Pete also was active in the Democratic Party. He served as a delegate to several national Democratic conventions and was member of the presidential Electoral College in 1964. Though he was never interested in running for office, he believed in the power of politics to improve the quality of life. Pete was Mr. Rains County—and his support of Congressman and Speaker Sam Rayburn, as well as his support of Mr. Rayburn's successor, Congressman Ray Roberts, and the wonderful support that he gave to me following Speaker Rayburn and Congressman Roberts—always was reflected at the polls. Those who knew Pete best always listened to him—and honored his choice and savored his friendship.

Pete's presence was felt in every facet of community life in Emory—in the city's economy, in public service, in politics, in education, and in the church. His presence will be greatly missed by those who knew him and by those who benefited from his devotion to his community and his country.

When I think of Pete, Mr. Speaker, I think of that tradition of Americans whose indefatigable and selfless spirit helped make this country great—people like Pete who have worked tirelessly for the common good in small towns and cities all across America. Their individual efforts not only have benefited those in their immediate community but also are part of the collective American spirit that unites and inspires all of us. The memory of Pete's spirit will inspire others to look beyond themselves and help their fellow man in whatever capacity they can. It is perhaps this legacy that ultimately will be greater than the individual contributions that Pete made.

Pete will be missed by his wife, Lillian Whittington Rodes, his son, David, and his daughter, Judith Rodes Johnson. He will be missed by all those who knew him and respected him. Though other Members of this body did not personally know him, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that they know those like him in their own communities. So as we adjourn today, let us join together in paying our last respects to this exemplary man—W.M. "Pete" Rodes of Emory, TX.

PHIL ABALAN: AN EXEMPLARY CAREER IN EDUCATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a noble man and a distinguished teacher, Mr. Phil Abalan of Duluth, MN, who died of a heart attack shortly before his classes were to begin on Friday, December 9.

Mr. Abalan, 51, taught social studies for 27 years at Hopkins High School in Minnetonka, MN. His constant encouragement to his students to excel in their studies and their lives made Mr. Abalan a favorite among pupils and colleagues alike. He was instrumental in initiating the advanced-placement program in American and European history at the school, and pushed his students to their limits, often staying long after school was over to provide assistance and guidance. The results were tangible: his students consistently scored higher on their advanced-placement tests than did students in any other program in the country.

An avid baseball fan, Mr. Abalan was an active umpire for both high school and amateur baseball and softball; he also served as president of the Northwest Umpires Association. One of his happiest moments came when the Minnesota Twins won the World Series in 1987.

Family and friends, students and teachers, will miss Phil Abalan dearly. His commitment to educating the youth of his community was unending, his enjoyment of life complete. It is my sincere hope that some of his students will follow his sterling example, giving to the next generation what Phil Abalan gave so abundantly and enthusiastically to them.

PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD assorted comments from the Hoosier delegation to Congress on the subject of the President's State of the Union Address.

The president always gives a good speech, and he says things that we like to hear. The problem in the past is that what the president says and what the president does are two very different things.—Sen. Dan Coats, R.

In the wake of a disastrous election experience in 1994, which often centered around failures of his presidency, President Clinton's State of the Union address offered timely and welcome cooperation with the Republican Congress.—Sen. Richard Lugar, R.

From my perspective, it's a good speech to the extent that the president adopts items from the Contract with America because I think that's what the public wants us to do. And second, what's going to be important is that it not just be rhetoric, but that it be followed up by action with his administration.—Rep. David McIntosh, R.

I have served with seven presidents and I have never heard one of them give a State of the Union address that did not sound good. This one was slightly better than the average.—Rep. Andrew Jacobs, D.

Overall I believe it was positive. I look forward to being in a Congress that works with a president that is going to reduce the size of the federal government. Sounds like that's what he wants to do, and if he's sincere in that, he's going to get great cooperation from this Republican-controlled house.—Rep. John Hostettler, R.

The speech was rather striking in that for a State of the Union address it really proposed no major initiatives. Now there were a few initiatives but there was nothing I would call major. And he, in some ways, I think, did not explain his core beliefs and principles. The voter today is not just sure what is important to this president. And I think that the State of the Union was so long and so diffused that he missed that opportunity.—Rep. Lee Hamilton, D.

TRIBUTE TO SID WALKER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sidney B. Walker, an outstanding individual and fine citizen of Ohio, who has retired after a distinguished career with the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Since 1983, Sid Walker has served as a district director in charge of a group of 11 and sometimes 12 country offices in northern and western Ohio. Over the years, Sid has worked tirelessly assisting farmers with the U.S. Agricultural Department regulations regarding subsidy payments.

The ASCS is a vital component in the farming economy of Ohio. Leaders such as Sid are responsible for a stable system of prices for agricultural products. Their dedication and motivation have been a major reason Ohio's farming community has been so successful.

Sid is a Chicago native. He attended Milligan College in Tennessee, joined the U.S. Army in 1956 and was discharged with the rank of major. While in the military, he served his country honorably, receiving numerous awards and commendations.

Sid joined ASCS in 1976 as a county executive trainee. Following training, he was appointed to the county executive director position in the Paulding County office. He has been extremely helpful to scores of farmers served by his district, and has always provided positive leadership for the offices under his guidance.

Mr. Speaker, Sid Walker's distinguished career is a model of patriotism and citizenship. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sid, his wife Jacque, his daughter Traci, and his sons, Chris, Chad, and Cory well as the Walker family begins this new chapter in their lives.