

I believe today's bill helps achieve that goal and I look forward to prompt approval of this measure in the Committee on Ways and Means.

150 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, February 18, 1995 marks the 150th Annual Greenport Fire Department Celebration. Eastern Long Island is proud of the many years of dedicated service by the 190 volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department, and it is an honor to tell my colleagues in the House about their big day on Saturday. These volunteers are the essence of good citizenship, ready with a helping hand no matter how large the task. Organized in 1845, the department was formed after incorporation of the Village of Greenport and it represents all that is good about Greenport. Today, it is always on call for fires and local disasters. Since the village of Greenport is a waterfront community, the men and women of the department are also well skilled at emergency evacuation. Their selfless work as volunteers has been the backbone of the entire community. The department has held an annual celebration for 150 years, and it includes the inspection of members and equipment, parade, tournament, and firemen's ball.

I take this opportunity to salute the wonderful volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department and extend the respect of the whole community.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT PRESLEY 36TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT—RIVERSIDE, CA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor of the House today to praise a great legislator, a lifelong public servant, a combat veteran, and a personal friend. It may come as a surprise to those listening here in Washington, DC, but I am talking about one man—Senator Robert Presley of Riverside, CA.

Senator Presley represented the 36th State senatorial district of the great State of California. He was first elected to the senate in 1974. To give an idea of the span of his career, I note that I have staff in my office who were just learning to walk then, a first-class stamp cost about 15 cents, and the State budget was at the incredible level of \$20 billion.

Having graduated from the FBI Academy, Senator Presley went on to a successful career in law enforcement. He maintained that interest in protecting and serving the public in the senate by concentrating on anticrime legislation, prison construction, and child-protective services. Though that is not all, Mr. Speaker. Bob authored major legislation on clean air, wildlife conservation, toxic-materials control, education reform, attorney discipline, parks and recreation, and domestic violence.

Known as one of the hardest-working legislators, Senator Presley's committee service was comprehensive. He was chairman of the senate appropriations committee and the senate select committee on children and youth. He served on and was chairman of the senate natural resources and wildlife committee. He sat on the judiciary local government and agriculture and water resources committees. He also headed the joint committee on prison construction and operations. Not only did Bob work hard, he worked openly and fairly with all, regardless of party affiliation. He was, and is, interested in the improvement of California as his first, second and third priorities.

Knowing that the wellspring of leadership is found in the local community, Bob is a member of the Riverside Lions, Elks and Moose lodges, American Legion, Air Force Association, and VFW.

Mr. Speaker, people here in Washington will often be introduced as the member from the "great State of California." Yet, who is it that makes California great? Who is it that makes our State that wonderful place in which we want to raise our families, grow our businesses, build our dreams.

It is citizen leaders like Bob Presley who consistently listen and learn, and then lead our communities to reach their full potential. It is the personal friend who without regard to mere party, will gladly and fruitfully guide younger politicians and community leaders. It is the decorated combat veteran who returns victorious, only to dedicate himself to keeping the peace at home. It is the enlightened legislator who serves his fellow citizens for two decades in the senate. It is Senator Robert Presley, a true original who is worthy of the sincerest form of flattery—imitation. Fortunately, we will still enjoy the expertise and concern of Senator Presley. He is now affiliated with our wonderful University of California, Riverside. We all look forward to working with Bob in this next chapter of his public service.

Thank you Bob for all you've done and the example you've set. All of your neighbors and fellow citizens owe you more than we can say.

VOICE OF AMERICA ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the Voice of America begins its 54th year on the world's airwaves. From its first broadcast in 1942—begun with the words "The news may be good; the news may be bad. We shall tell you the truth—through to today, VOA has been a beacon of hope and constant source of reliable information to people around the world.

The past year was no exception. From Rwanda to Haiti, Bosnia to Chechnya, Washington Beijing, and from Northridge to Kobe, the Voice of America was there providing a uniquely American perspective in 47 languages. The year also saw the important new connection of VOA and the Internet.

VOA is still needed as democratization unevenly proceeds in several countries. The world is smaller than ever for those on the information superhighway. While CNN reaches some parts of the world, it does not reach

VOA listeners—in places such as Chechnya, Rwanda, Iraq, Iran, Tibet, Nigeria, China, Burma, and North Korea—who don't understand English, have no access to cable or satellite TV, the Internet or fax machines, or for whom democracy remains only a dream.

VOA reaches these people every day, some 100 million each week, in their homes and in their languages. As they have since 1942, these listeners tune in for news of the United States, clear explanations of its policies and information about their own countries. VOA broadcasts are valuable proponents of our democratic values reaching people with the story of America and our own struggle for democracy. These broadcasts are a way to try to promote peaceful solutions through information and bridging of cultures.

Listeners have told VOA that they want practical "how to" advice on grass roots democracy, the free market economy, and the protection of human rights as they nurture their own fledgling democracies. VOA has responded. These are staples of its programming, along with science and health, agriculture, American society and culture, and the enormously popular English teaching programs. And VOA is a promoter of free enterprise, free trade and tourism, in the United States. It reports every day about American products and services.

In an era of turbulence, where the world is torn by ethnic and religious and nationalistic hatred, there is a need for an honest and credible voice of sanity and reason.

At our best that can be our voice. At our best that is the voice of America. I salute the Voice of America as it begins year 54.

CONGRATULATIONS NICHOLE HOLMES, MISS USA SECOND RUNNER-UP

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nichole Lynn Holmes of Marion, Illinois. Nichole was named second runner-up in the 1995 Miss USA Pageant which was held in South Padre Island, Texas. One of twelve finalists, Nichole was selected by a panel of celebrity judges from the fields of acting, athletics and psychology. The judges saw what people in Marion have known for years: Nichole is a talented young woman from whom we will hear great things in the future.

Nichole is a graduate of Marion High School, John A. Logan College, and presently attends Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The people of southern Illinois are proud to have one of the area's best and brightest represent the entire state in this prestigious event. Since being crowned Miss Illinois USA on November 27, 1994, she has been busy fulfilling the duties of her position and preparing for the 1995 Miss USA pageant. Obviously the long hours of preparation and dedication to achieving her goals have paid off for Nichole and her family. She has accomplished this with the continued love and support of her parents, Lynn and Mikie Holmes, who are understandably proud of with Nichole's achievements.

I am honored to represent the Holmes family in Congress and congratulate them for achieving this recognition.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN A.
HOROWITZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young woman and a prized constituent, Lauren Horowitz.

Lauren is a student at La Entrada School and recently played the lead role of Diana in the production of "Anne of Green Gables."

This outstanding performance was put on by the California Theatre Center in Sunnyvale—the only child-centered theater program in the region—and exemplifies the very best of what the arts have to offer our young people. Lauren was inspired to pursue her interest in acting by her teachers. Several little girls attending the play were inspired, in turn, by Lauren's ability to bring the role of Diana to life and asked for her autograph—the highest form of appreciation for any artist. By showing succeeding generations of young Americans a productive way to use their talents, energy, and self-discipline, the arts have proven to be a valuable asset for our children, our community, California, and our country.

Mr. Speaker, Lauren Horowitz is a young woman with a bright future ahead of her in whatever profession she may choose. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating her for her winning performance and showing all of us the true value of the arts.

DAVIS-BACON ACT REFORM

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to reform the Davis-Bacon Act. The bill I am introducing is identical to legislation reported by the Committee on Education and Labor in the 103d Congress.

When Government enters the construction industry through federally funded contracts, its monopoly risks skewing this unique market unfairly. Construction wages vary greatly across the country, reflecting differences in communities' cost of living and business environments. The uncertain nature of construction work, however, where employees move constantly from job to job and employer to employer and regularly face periods of unemployment, makes the industry more susceptible to cutthroat business practices than most. The Davis-Bacon Act was enacted in 1931 by a Republican Congress in order to correct a procurement system that otherwise disrupted local employment practices and encouraged the exploitation of workers.

By law, the Federal Government awards contracts on the basis of the lowest qualified bid. Absent the protection of prevailing wage statutes, such as the Davis-Bacon Act and the Service Contract Act, the requirement that contracts be awarded on a low-bid basis, particularly in labor intensive economic sectors

such as the construction industry, would inevitably result in contracts being awarded to the contractor bidding the lowest wages. In effect, Government procurement policy would act to undermine locally prevailing labor standards and reward those employers who pay the least to their employees. The Davis-Bacon Act serves the vital function of ensuring that Federal procurement policy does not act to drive down the wages of working Americans.

Opponents of the Davis-Bacon Act have created a number of inaccurate and misleading myths about the law. The most outrageous myth is that minority workers will somehow benefit from repeal. Our colleague from Texas, Mr. DELAY, has contended that repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act will "reduce discrimination against women and minorities that so often occurs within the construction industry." George Will has purported similar nonsense in his column. Mr. Will begins this fabrication by misrepresenting the circumstances that led to enactment of the Davis-Bacon Act, contending the law was enacted "to impede blacks competing for federally funded construction jobs." In fact, the law was supported by and enacted to protect contractors from the exploitative and predatory practices that were driving legitimate contractors out of the Federal construction market. Mr. Will goes on to claim that the law has a "disparate impact disadvantageous to minorities." The plain and simple truth is that the disadvantage under which minorities typically suffer is not that they are paid the prevailing wage, the same money for the same work that most workers receive, but that historically and continually they have been paid less. Implicit in both Mr. Will's and Mr. DELAY's assumptions are that minority workers are not as productive and therefore not worth the same wages as white, male workers.

The second myth that opponents of the law have perpetuated is that the law requires union wages or somehow protects unions. In fact, the law requires employers to pay the same wages that are found to be prevailing in the local area. A union wage prevails only if most workers in the area are union employees. Seventy-one percent of all wage-based determinations issued by the Department of Labor in 1994 were based on nonunion scales.

The final falsehood being perpetuated by opponents of the Davis-Bacon Act is that repeal is sound Government fiscal policy. As leading construction industry economists have recognized, however, there is a direct correlation between wage levels and productivity. Well-trained workers produce more value per hour than poorly trained workers, low wage workers. Economic studies have demonstrated that construction projects built by under-trained and under-paid workers cost more to build than those using trained workers. Recent studies clearly illustrate the impact that repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act will produce. When Utah's prevailing wage law was repealed, there was a decrease in apprenticeship training, the availability of skilled workers, and a decline in average construction wages. More importantly, lowering the standard of living of American workers by cutting their wages and fringe benefits will not translate to lower costs for any government, be it Federal, State or local.

The legislation I am introducing strikes a balance between two important goals. While retaining the protection the law affords to en-

sure that the Government policy does not undermine the living standards of our citizens, it also updates and modernizes several provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, including limiting some of its reporting requirements and raising the coverage threshold. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters and to express my pride and appreciation for the organization's work. The league was founded in 1919 by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the American Women's Suffrage Association, at the organization's final convention.

The league's history actually began in 1948 at Seneca Falls, NY, the site of the first women's rights convention and the beginning of the struggle for women to obtain the right to vote.

As president of the Women's Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt led the final fight for the 19th amendment. Her brilliant strategy enabled women to receive the right for which they had fought so hard and so long. After 75 years, women won the right to vote.

Ms. Catt is a fitting symbol of the league, which is known for its outstanding research and commitment to keeping voters informed. Voters in my home town of Milwaukee and throughout the country depend on the league's information to make informed voting choices. It is said, "If you have a question, ask a member of the league."

The league continues to keep alive the legacy of Ms. Catt and the thousands of men and women who worked for women's suffrage. In Ms. Catt's words: "Winning the vote is only an opening edge * * * but to learn to use it is a bigger task."

FRIENDS OF BOSNIA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the efforts of the people of western Massachusetts to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people, who are the victims of a vicious war waged by the last Communist regime in Europe, while the United Nations, European Community, an even the United States Government has stood idly by and engaged in a disgraceful policy of appeasement.

I am very proud to be a part of this community which is reaching out to the people of Bosnia in every way which it can. Friends of Bosnia is a local group which has been active