

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

in trying to make people aware of what has happened, to call for greater international action to prevent genocide in Bosnia, and to provide concrete help to the people in Bosnia who have been forced from their homes, or as in Sarajevo, have lived in constant fear of death at the hands of Serbian artillery and sniper fire.

Friends of Bosnia has collected 9 tons of food, clothes, and medical supplies which, working with the Scottish humanitarian group Edinburgh Direct aid, they are attempting to deliver to Sarajevo and Bihac. These cities, as my colleagues may recall, are two of the so-called safe havens which the UN and the international community have promised—and failed miserably—to protect.

This trip is anything but a vacation or a junket. Edinburgh Direct Aid supplies its volunteers with flack jackets and helmets and has suffered sniper fire during a past trip out of Sarajevo. During the time this group has been crossing the countryside of this bitterly divided area, there has remained the possibility that Serbian troops would not allow them entry into the "safe havens." In spite of the danger and the uncertainties, Sharon Webb and Glenn Ruga, cofounders of Friends of Bosnia, are traveling with the caravan in an effort to get the supplies to the people who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, Edinburgh Direct Aid is today preparing to enter Sarajevo to distribute food and supplies. The 9 tons of food, clothes, and medical supplies from western Massachusetts will be used to meet a small part of the deep need for relief supplies in the safe havens. I am proud of the support from Friends of Bosnia. These efforts remind us of the best America has to offer, as well as the continuing suffering of the people of Bosnia. In contrast to the disgraceful dithering and appeasement of the international community, the efforts of the people of western Massachusetts give me a small measure of hope that we can learn from the past, and better our future.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BISHOP
PHILLIP A. BROOKS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Phillip A. Brooks. Bishop Brooks, Pastor of the New Saint Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, has touched many lives nationally, locally and personally. Through his commitment to community service his contributions to the State of Michigan have pronounced him one of Detroit's most influential church leaders. He ministers to the poor, the rich, the elderly, the young, the homeless, and the jobless, improving the quality of their lives.

Bishop Brooks will be a guest speaker at Delta College on February 20, 1995 in celebration of African American History Month. He will speak on, "The Impact of the Black Church on Social, Political, and Economic Change—1895–1995," an issue on which Bishop Brooks has had great impact. He will be honored for his contributions to the community of Saginaw, and will be recognized for his contributions to the whole State of Michigan.

Since founding the New Saint Paul Tabernacle Church of God in 1956, Bishop Brooks has reached out to people throughout Michigan. The Bishop helped the St. Paul Tabernacle apply for a Head Start Grant and under his leadership and guidance the New Saint Paul Head Start Agency was bought to life in 1993. As a result of this effort, four satellite centers in West Detroit assist needy families by providing over 340 children with educational instruction and hot meals. The program provides children with almost one third of their nutritional needs.

In order to promote African-American business ownership, Bishop Brooks joined with prominent African-American business and religious leaders to seek half ownership in channel 62, a historically black owned station established in 1975. The African-American community wanted channel 62, which was being sold to CBS, to remain in their hands.

Bishop Brooks is concerned about the spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing of his church, his neighbors, his friends and strangers. The Bishop transformed a 32-year-old building, threatened with destruction, into a first class senior citizen home. Attempts to revive the building by prominent business leaders failed, but under the leadership of Bishop Brooks, a \$3.6 million grant was awarded to the group from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Today, the home provides seniors with a safe and secure living environment.

Bishop Brooks opened his arms to the young by establishing the Grandmont-Rosedale Park Christian Day School in 1990. The school provides a Christian education to students from preschool through 12th grade. Bishop Brooks also operates a private school to train African-American entrepreneurs. Both of these are nonprofit organizations which demonstrate his commitment to education.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Bishop Phillip A. Brooks is not just a leader in his church—providing family counseling, tutoring, singles ministry and senior outreach programs for congregation—but in his community and throughout the State. His generous contributions in a society fraught with growing social and economic difficulty should be applauded. I commend Bishop Brooks for his many accomplishments. He has truly made our world a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF BUSINESS
MEALS DEDUCTION FAIRNESS
LEGISLATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today Mrs. JOHNSON, Mr. JEFFERSON, and I are introducing legislation which will repeal an unintended tax on hard-working, middle income Americans—truckers, long-haul bus drivers, train conductors, and other people regulated by the Department of Transportation.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 [OBRA] contained a provision which reduced the deductible portion of business meals and entertainment expenses from 80 percent to 50 percent. This legislation would allow employees who are required by Federal law and regulations for safety reasons to

make mandatory rest periods away from home. Simply, this legislation restores the deduction to 80 percent for truckers, long-haul bus drivers, train conductors, and others regulated by the Department of Transportation.

When the meals deduction was reduced from 100 percent to 80 percent, the crews of commercial vessels and people working on oil rigs were exempted. The reason for this exemption was that these individuals are required by law to be away from home and "eat out." This reasoning should continue to apply because those required by Federal law and regulations for safety reasons to take mandatory rest benefits away from home should be allowed to deduct these expenses. These meals are for safety reasons, not social reasons.

We need to pass this legislation to correct this tax injustice. This legislation allows the deduction of legitimate expenses required by Federal regulations. These are ordinary and necessary businesses, not lavish or extravagant expenses. I urge you to support this legislation.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 1995

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today legislation to give small businesses greater incentive through the Internal Revenue Code to purchase equipment and machinery.

Under current law, section 179 of the Tax Code allows a deduction of up to \$17,500 for certain depreciable assets used in a trade of business. In view of the enormous costs encountered by businesses in these competitive times, this deduction is far too low.

I have pressed for increases in section 179 expensing for the last several years and believe that, as the cost of productivity-improving devices like machine tools and sophisticated testing equipment grows, the ability to deduct those costs should be enhanced.

My bill is very straightforward in increasing section 179 deductibility to \$50,000. Though it probably should be much higher to reflect its job-creating possibilities, its impact on tax revenues is not insignificant and must be dealt with in the Ways and Means Committee. I look forward to prompt action in the committee and trust that my colleagues will consider this measure during the upcoming debate.

77TH ANNIVERSARY OF
LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN, and the Lithuanian community on the 77th anniversary of Lithuanian independence.