

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.

The Lithuanian American Council will celebrate Lithuanian independence, which occurred in 1918 as the Lithuanians were freed from the Soviet Union. They will mark this joyous occasion on Sunday, February 19, 1995, at St. Casimir's Church in Gary, IN. Following tradition, the anniversary ceremony will begin with a church service starting at 11:30 a.m. After the church service, the Lithuanian American Council will hold a flag raising ceremony outside of St. Casimir to honor those Lithuanians who pledged their allegiance to independence for their people. The event will then conclude with a dinner in the church hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Lithuanian American Council of Lake County's officers, including: Vincent J. Gumulaukas, who has been president for 3 years; Pete D. Auksel and Casimir Balt, both of whom are vice presidents; Birute Vilutis, secretary; and Walter Ruzga, treasurer. Allow me to also commend the board of directors, whose members include Rev. Ignatius Urbonas, Aleksas Degutis, Alex Navardauskas, Dan Pauls, Frank Petrites, Brone Tampuskas, and Izidorius Tavaras. Finally, I would like to commend every member of the Lithuanian American Council for the loyalty and enthusiasm they have displayed toward their ethnicity.

The Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN is a branch of the Lithuanian American Council. It was founded in 1940 and originated in large cities such as Boston, Chicago, and New York. The organization in Lake County initially was headquartered at St. Francis in East Chicago, IN, until recently when the building was demolished. The organization was then moved to St. Casimir where its home is today.

It is my sincere hope that 1995 will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Lithuanian community and their families. May this 77th anniversary celebration prove to be a most joyous occasion.

JESSIE WILLIAMS PRIDDLE

### HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, there are so many who serve on Capitol Hill who contribute to the fabric of what this place is, but who never receive a great deal of public attention or acclaim.

For 18 years Jessie Williams Priddle, remembered by most of us as "Miss Williams," taught English in the Page School at the Library of Congress. Several of us serving here now, who had the privilege of having been pages in the House in our youth, have fond memories of Miss Williams as one who left a positive, good, and enduring mark on our lives.

She was a terrific teacher and had a sparkly personality, and was one of those teachers you never forget because she made it all so interesting.

Miss Williams passed away several days ago. She had a long and fruitful life and touched so well and favorably so many people, especially her students.

Her nephew, Paul Hays, the House Reading Clerk, has shared with me a brief biography of Miss Williams, which I in turn wish to share for

the benefit of her former students and all who knew her.

JESSIE WILLIAMS PRIDDLE

Jessie Lutetia Williams Priddle, 90, a former teacher at the Capitol Page School, died February 4 of heart and lung ailments at an Alexandria nursing home. Born in Hutchinson, KS, she attended public schools there, graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, and earned a masters degree in education from Columbia University.

She taught in elementary and secondary schools in Kansas and New York, and worked for the United Nations Works and Relief Agency [UNWRA] following the Second World War.

She moved to Washington in 1948, and with the exception of 1 year, taught English at the Page School in the Library of Congress until her retirement in 1967. Among her many students over the years were BILL EMERSON, PAUL KANJORSKI, JIM KOLBE, and TOM DAVIS among sitting Members, as well as former Members Bob Bauman and Doug Bosco, and the former Clerk of the House, Donn Anderson. She was granted a Fulbright fellowship for the 1955-56 school year to teach English as a foreign language in the southern Netherlands towns of Goes and Middelburg.

During her teaching years in Washington she was an active member of the National Presbyterian Church, singing regularly in its choir, and played violin with the Washington Civic Orchestra.

After her retirement from the Page School, she donated one semester of service as a visiting professor of English at her alma mater, Southwestern College. At the end of the semester the college hired her for the balance of the school year.

Returning to Washington in 1968, she became active in the D.C. League of Republican Women. She recalled her election to the league's board as having been the result of the organization's desire for some "younger" officers. She also volunteered in the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter's program of teaching English to the predominantly Spanish-speaking foreign nurses in several local hospitals.

In 1973, she married Horley Priddle, a high school classmate with whom she had renewed her acquaintance at their class 50th reunion the previous summer. It was her first marriage. They traveled together widely, including an around-the-world tour shortly after their marriage.

Mr. Priddle died last July. She is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Paul Hays, the House Reading Clerk. Private services were held on February 11 in Clarks-ville, TN.

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN WITTMAN

### HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Bryan Wittman of Hamburg, NY.

It gives me great joy to share with everyone in the Congress the outstanding achievements of one of my constituents. Bryan is the son of Mrs. Norma Wittman of North Hampton Brook Drive.

Bryan, a native of my hometown of Hamburg, NY, attended St. Peter and Paul Grade School and St. Francis High School. He graduated from Ashland University with a bachelor of arts degree in radio and television.

Bryan began his career in 1976 for the Erie County Fair and as entertainment director of the Darien Lake Theme Park in New York. He then moved on to become promotions director for the Ice Capades.

In 1985 Bryan began his adventure with Disney. While serving as manager of advertising and promotions for Marriott's Great America Theme Park in Chicago, IL, Wittman was recruited to Disney World in Orlando, FL, as senior promotions representative. In 1988 he was relocated to Disneyland in Anaheim, CA, where he became manager of promotions.

Continuing in his career advancement in 1991, Bryan became director of marketing for Disney.

As of February 2, 1995, he has been promoted to vice president for promotions, publicity, and special events.

Bryan's energy and imagination have been praised by Disney executives as his hard work and abundant successes are a testament to his strong character.

Speaking as a President of western New York, and as a Member of Congress, I applaud the outstanding accomplishments of Bryan Wittman.

### THE MISSING SERVICE PERSONNEL ACT OF 1995, H.R. 945

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 15, 1995*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995, an important bill for those who care deeply about the POW/MIA issue.

This legislation will make important changes to sections 555 and 556 of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1942 by reforming the Department of Defense's process for determining whether any member of the Armed Forces should be listed as missing in action. In so doing this bill will unveil the curtain of secrecy which currently surrounds any DOD decision concerning a person's status as missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, legislation pertaining to those missing in action have not changed over the past 50 years. As all of us who care deeply about this important issue know, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Government have been continually criticized for their handling of the POW/MIA issue since the Vietnam war. Accordingly, the time has come to make appropriate corrections in how the Government determines who in the Armed Forces should be classified as missing in action.

The bill I am introducing today will, in turn, ensure fairness to all concerned by involving family members, requiring legal representation, and by permitting Federal court review of all determinations. These significant changes will ensure that no soldier or sailor, currently listed as missing in action, will be declared dead without a full and fair review of all available evidence and until all possible considerations have been examined.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues who share their concern with the POW/MIA issue to support this important and fair legislation. This legislation is supported by the American