

Westbury

	FG	F	PF	Pt
Kinch .....	1	0-0	1	2
Total .....	32	10-20	24	76

### ANNIVERSARY OF BRADY SHOOTING

#### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Republican assault on sane gun control laws begins. A hearing will be held on the repeal of the assault weapons ban. And that is only the beginning. Gov. George Allen of Virginia wants felony-free citizens to be able to carry concealed weapons in public.

Never mind that gun control measures have been a God send for our children's safety. The Brady law alone has stopped 70,000 felons and other prohibited individuals from buying handguns. But facts do not seem to matter to the Republican juggernaut bank-rolled by the NRA.

The gun industry with its fistful of dollars has churned out 210 million guns into circulation in this country. That's more than one gun per adult.

Moreover, the gun industry provides yet another example of corporate welfare. It is exempt from the product safety laws which cover every other industry. This special treatment must stop.

I have introduced the Firearms Safety and Violence Prevention Act, H.R. 915, which would halt this form of welfare for the gun industry by recognizing firearms for what they are—inherently dangerous consumer products. The bill would give the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms [ATF] the ability to set safety standards, issue recalls of defective firearms, and mandate warnings.

The firearms industry's assertion that guns don't kill you rings as hollow as the discredited promises of tobacco companies that cigarettes don't cause cancer. For more than a century, America's gun manufacturers have operated in the shadows, avoiding public scrutiny. It is time for Congress to look behind the gun store counter to the industry that manufactures these deadly weapons.

### IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN—CELEBRATION OF DADE COUNTY'S EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

#### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, It is my great pleasure to join with the citizens of Dade County in recognizing the achievements of 12 outstanding women who are among Dade County's exceptional leaders.

This year's celebration on Friday, March 31, is dedicated to County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, one of Dade County's truly outstanding woman leaders. Although she has been on the Commission for less than a year, Commissioner Sorenson has taken tough

stands against discrimination and sexual harassment. Her government and community work has had a big impact on Dade County.

This year's honorees include:

Josefina Carbonell—a pioneer of community social services, and one of the founders of the Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Center serving over 32,000 elderly citizens.

Cynthia W. Curry—a dedicated professional and a skilled administrator, she served as Dade County's first women assistant county manager.

Ruth Owens Kruse—a tireless advocate of children, particularly emotionally disturbed children, since 1945, her special contributions were recognized by the establishment of the Ruth Owens Kruse Education Center by the Dade County Public Schools.

Alina E. Becker—a volunteer who has tirelessly served the people of Dade County through her work for non-profit organizations such as the YWCA, the United Way, and the Family Health Center.

Angela R. Bellamy—a respected administrator who has dedicated her career to public service, she was the first African-American woman to become assistant city manager for the City of Miami.

Annie Betancourt—a Florida State Representative who brings a wealth of administrative and community experience to the job from her work at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Metro-Dade and Miami-Dade Community College.

Cheryl Little—a gifted attorney who is a truly dedicated and respected advocate and spokesperson for Haitian refugees, she devotes special attention to the needs of immigrant children and family reunification.

Consuelo Otero—dedicated to community service, she helped found the Cuban Women's Club and serves today as the community involvement specialist at Shenandoah Elementary School.

Suzette Pope—a now-retired Dade County Public School employee, she has worked hard to improve educational opportunities, particularly for women.

Frankie Shannon Rolle—a dedicated teacher and counselor for the Dade County Schools and a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. Now retire, she is active in many community organizations.

Marian Harris Shannon—a teacher, counselor and volunteer who has helped develop dozens of young writers and who, while in high school, helped establish a library for the African-American community.

Dorothy Thomson—as the first woman mayor of Coral Gables, and as vice mayor, she has worked hard for community improvements like the renovation of the Biltmore Hotel and was instrumental in founding Coral Gables Crime Watch.

Mr. Speaker, these remarkable women have opened doors and created new paths for women in our community. Their efforts have immeasurably improved Dade County and their example has had a huge impact on countless lives. I know that my colleagues join me in honoring them today.

### MESSAGE OF BETTER BUSINESS BUREAUS

#### HON. THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet recently with two business leaders from by congressional district, Lee Dudley, an investment banker with A.G. Edwards, and Thomas J. Gallagher, president of the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia. Accompanying them was James L. Bast, president and CEO of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. Lee Dudley and Tom Gallagher both serve on the board of directors of the council.

These three business leaders came to brief me on the redesign of the Better Business Bureau system, their continued commitment to an ethical marketplace, and their vision for business in the 21st century.

Because the 163 Better Business Bureaus and branches are an invaluable resource to businesses and consumers across the country, I want to share their message with my colleagues.

The mission of the Council of Better Business Bureaus is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between business and the public through: voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

For more than 80 years, marketplace ethics have been the central thrust of the Better Business Bureaus.

The Council is the umbrella organization for the nation's 163 Better Business Bureaus (BBBs) and branches—together, known as the Bureau system. The Council and the Bureaus are business membership organizations. They have as members nearly 250,000 national corporations and local small businesses. These 250,000 businesses vote with their membership dues for an ethical marketplace. The Bureau system serves 95 percent of the U.S. population living in metropolitan areas of the country.

Two of the most important functions of the Bureaus are to issue reliability reports on business firms and to respond to consumer complaints. In 1994 the Bureau system handled some 15.8 million pre-purchase inquiries relating to approximately \$44.2 billion in buying power and 1.8 million complaints.

In addition to collecting and disseminating data on local and national companies, other BBB services include:

Consumer information/education programs that include reports, public service announcements and booklets covering a variety of consumer and business topics;

A Philanthropic Advisory Service (PAS) that sets standards for charities and assesses the programs and fundraising practices of hundreds of organizations that solicit nationally, a program paralleled by most of the Bureaus which review thousands of local charities;

Self-regulatory processes to foster truth and accuracy in advertising. On the national level, the Council's preeminent National Advertising Division (NAD) resolves disputes about national advertising claims and the Children's Advertising Review Unit reviews advertising directed at children. Paralleling the NAD work, many Bureaus have local advertising review programs;

Alternative dispute resolution services for conciliation/mediation/arbitration programs to help businesses improve customer service and resolve consumer-business disputes, the

most prominent service is the BBB AUTO LINE for care manufacturers operating in the United States; and

The Council's Foundation, supporting the Council's mission by providing as a member service information, training and technical assistance to small businesses to promote voluntary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which affects virtually all members.

President George Bush in his message to the delegates at the 1990 Annual Assembly of the Council stated: "One of the greatest strengths of our free enterprise system lies in the willingness of American businessmen and women to respect the rights of consumers while advancing their companies' interests. Over the years, Better Business Bureaus have effectively promoted truth and fairness in the marketplace and, in so doing, have earned the confidence and gratitude of the American public."

From a business perspective, W.R. Howell, Chairman and CEO of J.C. Penney Company, Inc., wrote recently, "The Council of Better Business Bureaus enhances public trust and confidence in responsible businesses. Through a commitment to self-regulation, the BBB system promotes an ethical marketplace, enabling those companies that conduct business fairly, in the best interests of their customers, to prosper."

The Bureau system is moving into the twenty-first century carrying its message of ethics, self-regulation and consumer confidence into the information age. Last year, the Council and Bureau system completed a structural reorganization and adopted a banner for growth and leadership for the next century. It is printed below.

#### THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU SYSTEM OUR VISION

Our vision is to be the preeminent source of information relating to ethical business and advertising practices and to be a major provider of marketplace dispute resolution services.

#### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

#### OUR GOALS

Our goals include the following strategic directions for the Better Business Bureau System as a team of professionals and volunteers, united by our commitment to our common vision, mission and values:

We will be the most widely recognized and highly visible promoter of ethical business practices.

We will be a widely recognized and highly visible provider of alternative dispute resolution services.

We will be customer-driven, with uniformly high standards of performance for core national, local and entrepreneurial programs in the marketplace.

We will have a significant percentage of large and small business firms as certified members of the BBB system, who proudly display their commitment to our mission and values.

We will offer a fully integrated, accessible national information and services delivery system, utilizing leading-edge technology and committed people to respond fully and quickly to all inquiries and resolve all complaints.

#### OUR VALUES

To accomplish our mission, we commit to the values of Excellence, Integrity, Teamwork, Trust and Respect to guide all of our decisions and behavior with each other and with all those we serve.

## TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives this week is considering proposed amendments to the Constitution which would establish term limits for Members of Congress. I rise today in opposition to such a constitutional amendment.

The question of term limits for Members of Congress is not a new one. In fact, the issue has been debated since the time of the Continental Congress in 1777.

I do not support term limits for Members of Congress for a variety of reasons. First, the Constitution already provides for a limit on Members of Congress, by requiring that Members of the House be elected anew every 2 years and Senators every 6 years. Term limits laws only serve to disenfranchise voters, by removing their ability to choose an incumbent legislator. This represents an arbitrary restriction on a fundamental right of our political system—the right to vote.

Second, term limits laws can have anti-democratic effects. Term limits would arbitrarily force many competent and experienced Members out of office prematurely, regardless of the wishes of their constituents. This reduces the power of officials elected by the people, transferring power to appointed officials and other elected parties. Professional lobbyists, executive branch bureaucrats, and legislative staffs would all gain power if the tenure and experience of elected legislators was restricted by a term limits amendment. This would be a perversion of representative democracy.

Third, there is simply no need for artificial term limits. The amount of turnover in the House and Senate demonstrates that voters are fully capable of making this decision for themselves. More than half of the Members of the House of Representatives have served less than three terms. More than 40 percent have been in Washington for less than 3 years. Instead of debating term limits, Congress should be passing a meaningful legislation on the subject of campaign finance reform. I welcome and look forward to such a bill, which is conspicuously absent in the vaulted Contract With America.

The 1994 elections provided ample evidence once again that the ballot is the most useful form of term limitation in our American democracy. Voters, as they should, have the final say on whether their elected officials can provide their districts the most effective representation in Congress amongst the various candidates. Accordingly, I oppose the term limits amendments that are before us this week.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PETERS

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Peters, a remarkable man who has dedicated almost 30 years of his life to the teaching of young people in the city of Boston.

On June 26, 1994, Mr. Peters was involved in a boating accident on Long Pond in Plymouth, which sadly left him with a severe head injury and other trauma. His friends, students, and staff from the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston, MA, have kept a silent vigil throughout the summer and into the fall. Progress has been slow and halting at best. This has been a genuinely heart-breaking course of events for Mr. Peters, his family, and all those who are close to him.

According to his colleagues and his students, Mr. Peters is one of the truly outstanding people in the teaching profession. Mr. Peters teaches fifth grade. To an impressionable 11-year-old, he is the kind of teacher that a young person is likely to remember as one who made a significant impact on his or her life. An unusual combination of booming authority, gentle grace, and street savvy, Mr. Peters has left his indelible mark on many students.

To the staff at the Blackstone, particularly the inexperienced and anxious newcomers to teaching, Mr. Peters has been a wealth of experience and a benchmark of excellence. For his friends and colleagues and many others he has come to epitomize what a good teacher is, a person of intelligence, gentle spirit, and refreshing humor who has made a lasting and deep mark on their lives.

Mr. Peters, by his hard work and presence has made the educational process at the Blackstone Elementary richer in a most substantial way. Mr. Peters was responsible for the coordination of the Blackstone Choir, organized the fifth grade graduation, composed and performed music at school functions, ran after-school computer activities in conjunction with the juvenile court, and helped coordinate the DARE Program at the Blackstone. Mr. Peters has also taken the time to give back to his profession by hosting many student teachers in his years of service and I am certain that they benefited greatly from his leadership and example. Mr. Peters' classes have consistently tested among the highest in the school, year in and year out. In celebration of his dedication and skill, Mr. Peters was presented a Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence in 1992 from the City-Wide Education Coalition of Boston. Mr. Peters has also worked for many years at the South Boston Boys Club. He remains in contact with many of his former students.

Mr. Peters was a Golden Glove Boxer, who fought under the name of Henry Strickland, because his father would not permit him to box, was scouted by the Detroit Tigers and is an avid fisherman who has fished both fresh and salt water.

Mr. Peters and his wife, the former Alice Parker of Watertown, MA, have been blessed with six children, Susan, Kelly, Billy, Greg, Julie, and Clifford.