

government functions. In addition, she led the charge for improved planning and instituting land use reform; for a comprehensive budget process; for addressing long term space needs of the county; and for ensuring that seniors and children received the best possible services. Gert was always an advocate for those not able to advocate for themselves—for making government work for the people it can best serve.

Perhaps more importantly, Gert gave of herself as a wife to Bud Taylor for 49 years, and as a mother of six children. She was an active community member as a Scout leader, 4-H leader, Key leader, sponsor of youth sporting activities and rodeo events, and as the candy lady to a whole generation of Mariposans.

Gert was an independent, active and caring voice in the community, and Mariposa will miss her.

Mr. Speaker, by honoring Gert Taber, we hold an example for all Americans as contributing members of their communities. For this reason, I am honored to pay tribute to Gert Taber, truly the first lady of Mariposa.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIORITY SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, last year the 104th Congress marked up and passed the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. I was pleased to support that legislation in committee and on the House floor. In fact, I was successful in including an amendment to this new law which makes it a top priority for the Office of Management and Budget [OMB], when collecting information and applying new information technology, to make certain that small businesses selling goods and services to the Federal Government get paid on time.

But this new statute still does not assign nearly enough priority to cutting the redtape and paperwork on the smallest of the small businesses that are most in need of relief. This is because the executive branch generally defines a small business to mean any employer of 500 or fewer employees.

Most businesses in Vermont have 10 or fewer employees. Furthermore, I venture to say that most Americans don't think of a company that employs 499 employees as having the same needs and problems as a company that employs 25 or fewer employees.

We need to focus the attention and limited resources of OMB and other Federal agencies on reducing burdensome paperwork on those it is hurting the most—the smallest businesses that can least afford the time, personnel, and additional costs associated with meeting all of the Federal Government's regulatory and reporting requirements.

This bill does just that. It defines microenterprises to be small businesses in America that employ 25 or fewer employees. In addition, it calls upon the Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within OMB to make it a priority to first consider the adverse effects on the smallest of small businesses, when directing and overseeing efforts to cut Federal paperwork and information reporting.

It also makes helping the smallest of small businesses a priority for voluntary pilot projects when OMB, other Federal agencies, and non-Federal entities test alternative policies, practices, regulations, and procedures to reduce the Federal paperwork burden.

We live in a time when the Federal Government must learn to do more with less. Therefore, in setting out to cut Federal regulatory costs and paperwork for American businesses, we should first strive to help the truly vulnerable small enterprises who operate much closer to the margin and whose survival is always in greater jeopardy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, due to inclement weather, I was unavoidably detained and missed two recorded votes. Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 402, H.R. 447, the Toll Free Consumer Hotline bill, I would have voted "aye." And on rollcall vote No. 403, the Ukraine Independence Act, I again would have voted "aye."

THANK YOU, JIM FINLEY, FOR
YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Jim Finley, my district administrative assistant—for all he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that he was worked in my office.

I met Jim in 1980, when I was first running for Congress and he was working as managing editor of the Baytown Sun. While Jim and the Baytown Sun remained scrupulously fair and impartial throughout the campaign, he and I developed a friendship as a result of frequent meetings. Jim had worked at various newspapers throughout southeast Texas in the preceding 19 years, and had served as the managing editor of the Baytown Sun for the previous 10 years.

I admired his hard work and professionalism at the Baytown Sun, and after the election, I was delighted when he agreed to head up my district office.

As a result of redistricting, Jim now oversees three district offices—in Humble, Conroe, and College Station. Jim's work in managing the operations of my district office was recognized in 1986 when he was asked to come to Washington, DC, to advise newly elected Re-

publican Members of Congress on the effective and efficient workings of district offices. The advice he provided helped many of my colleagues get their own district offices up and running in a manner that effectively serves their constituents.

Jim has represented me at countless meetings over the years I was unable to attend, and has attended virtually all of my 569 town meetings held throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

Jim has long been active in his community. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Baytown, and served as chairman of the committee responsible for the construction of the Kiwanis War Memorial in Baytown. He is a former member, and past president, of the board of directors of BayCoast Hospital. And he is a charter member of the Baytown Go-Texas Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

When he is not working, Jim enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren: his daughter, Robin, and her husband, Steve Richards, and their children, Katie and Reid; and his son, Scott, and his wife, Jackie Finley, and their children, Devin and Falynn. An avid race fan, Jim worked for many years as a member of the pit crew of Scott's championship racing operation. And come football or basketball season, Jim can usually be found in front of a television set, watching his beloved Arkansas Razorbacks triumphing over their opponents.

Jim Finley is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism he has exhibited as a member of my staff.

Jim has yet to decide what he wants to do when I retire from office. But I am confident that the skills and professionalism he has demonstrated as my district administrative assistant will lead to continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Jim Finley for his years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing him, and his lovely wife, Margie, the very best in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO ODETTE ORAH
LOUISE CHARBONNET

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to salute Mrs. Odette Orah Louise Charbonnet of Los Angeles, CA, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, which she observed on August 8, 1996.

Affectionately known as Mother, Odette was born in New Orleans, LA, on August 8, 1896. She was the third child born to Thomas and Julia Clayton. As a young girl, Odette teamed with her sister to form a dancing and singing duo known as the Clayton Sisters. The Clayton Sisters performed in New Orleans, as well as in surrounding areas.

It was at one of these performances that Mother met the debonair Joseph Louis Charbonnet, Daddy Joe. Daddy Joe and Mother married in July 1918. They were blessed by a union spanning 40 years—a union that produced five children: Helena, Joseph, Jr., known as Bubby, Leroy, Joyce, and Nolan.

By 1950, Mother and Daddy Joe had settled in Los Angeles. They were joined by many of their friends from New Orleans, and soon formed social clubs which would become the hub for many of their social and philanthropic activities.

Mother was a gifted seamstress, who could always be found at her sewing machine turning out enviable designs to rival the most talented couturiers. She would spend all day laboring over her elegant designs, but in the evening her attention would turn to her second love—playing cards. Her love of card games would evolve into a passion for Las Vegas.

Most of all, however, Mother has always adored her family and her church. She is a steadfast and devout member of Transfiguration Catholic Church. For the past quarter of a century, she has been the proud recipient of the church's Mother's Day corsage, presented to the oldest member in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 4, 1996, Mrs. Charbonnet's family and friends gathered at Los Angeles' renowned Wilfandel Club to pay tribute to this remarkable and indefatigable woman. I am sure that it was grand celebration, for she is a grand lady. I am proud to count her as my friend, and delighted to have this opportunity to share a glimpse of her wonderful life with my colleagues. Please join me in extending our heartfelt birthday wishes to this outstanding centenarian.

DeLAURO HONORS ST. PAUL UAME CHURCH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 15, 1996 the officers and members of Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church will gather to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. I am pleased to rise today to congratulate the St. Paul UAME congregation on this special occasion.

The church has an incredibly rich history. The church traces its roots as far back to 1805 and developed from a strong tradition of grass-roots initiatives and organizing. The Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, as it is now known, has a history which begins in 1847. Organized in 1952 by lay Elder John Williams, it was originally called the Ecclestial Society and was located at 47 Webster Street. The church was later moved to 69 Webster Street and renamed the African Union Church by lay Elder William Walker. Finally, in 1920 the church became the Saint Paul Union American Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1938 the city of New Haven began the Elm Haven housing project. St. Paul was located in the middle of the proposed project and a decision was made to move the church, intact, to the south side of Dixwell Avenue. The church was moved and completely renovated. The church was dedi-

cated on May 12, 1940 under the pastorate of the late Rev. James E. Henry.

The church continued to grow and in 1956 was assigned the Rt. Rev. David E. Hackett. It was the leadership of Reverend Hackett which facilitated great progress and growth of the church. During that time church property was improved, a financial reserve maintained and community services were expanded. The church also fondly remembers the tenure of the Rev. Dr. Clyde J. Bobo Bowman who was assigned to St. Paul in 1971. The Reverend Bowman initiated a community based ministry that sought to address the problems and concerns of senior citizens, the church's neighborhood, and the young people and children in the area. This community based philosophy is one that the church continues to espouse.

The St. Paul UAME Church is a clear example of the important role of the church in people's lives today. The church gives everyone a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values. In addition to ministering to the needs of its own congregation, the St. Paul UAME Church reaches out to the whole community. The church tackles difficult social problems like drug use, poverty and violence. At a time when public support for government intervention and programs is low, it is critical that churches and community organizations reach out to those most in need. I commend the St. Paul UAME Church for leading the way and rising to the challenges of combating these social problems. I am pleased to offer my sincerest congratulations to the church on its 150th anniversary. I know the church will continue to be an important force in the lives of both the members of the congregation and the larger community for many more years to come.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF KHALRA KIDNAPPING: FREE KHALRA NOW

HON. EDOLPHOS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that Friday, September 6, marks the anniversary of the kidnapping of human rights Jaswant Singh Khalra by the Punjab police. Mr. Khalra observes this anniversary still in custody, his whereabouts unknown. His wife states that he is in the custody of India's brutal Intelligence Bureau, one of the agencies involved in beating an elderly Sikh leader in need of emergency medical treatment. According to an eyewitness who shared a jail cell at Nangal Police Station with Mr. Khalra last October, Mr. Khalra had been beaten into unconsciousness at that time. One can only imagine the brutal torture he has suffered in the past year. I am inserting into the RECORD a press release on this gruesome anniversary from the Council of Khalistan.

Mr. Khalra was general secretary of the Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal) at the time that he was kidnapped. In that capacity, he published a report showing that the Indian regime had kidnapped more than 25,000 young Sikh men. These innocent Sikhs were then tortured and murdered by the police. Their bodies were declared "unidentified" and cremated to cover up police responsibility. After publishing this report, Mr. Khalra was told by the Tarn Taran po-

lice chief, Ajit S. Sandhu, "We made 25,000 disappear. It would not be hard to make one more disappear."

Just last month, however, the government confirmed the policy of mass cremations. Its own Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told the Indian Supreme Court that it had "prima facie evidence" of at least 984 such cremations based on its preliminary investigation. The Supreme Court justices who heard the case called the mass cremation policy "worse than a genocide."

The investigation is ongoing, but no one has yet been punished for these brutal acts. The Indian regime refuses to punish Mr. Sandhu. Despite an indictment against Mr. Sandhu and eight other police officers involved in kidnapping Mr. Khalra, he has not yet been arrested. Instead, he gave an interview to an Indian newspaper in which he said that he is proud of his actions. Why is Mr. Sandhu still at large?

If India is serious about the democratic values it so loudly proclaims, it would be appropriate to observe the anniversary of Mr. Khalra's kidnapping by releasing him, ending the mass cremation policy, and arresting and trying those responsible for these atrocities. Otherwise, the United States, the nation that is truly the world's largest democracy, should stop all aid to the Indian government and institute an embargo against India so that American companies cannot prop up this repressive tyranny with their dollars. It is the only decent thing to do.

HONORING THE CARLOW COLLEGE WOMEN OF SPIRIT

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor some very special women—the Carlow College Women of Spirit for the year 1995–96. Carlow College is a private Catholic college for women in Pittsburgh. The college, founded in 1929, created its Woman of Spirit Award to call attention to women in the Pittsburgh area who exemplify the college's ideals of competent and compassionate service in both their personal and professional lives. The college presents a Woman of Spirit Award every month, and it holds a gala event each year to pay tribute to the award recipients for the preceding year.

This year's Woman of Spirit Award recipients are prominent members of the area's business community, the art world, the education community, and the medical profession. Many of them are active in local charities and community organizations. In fact, many Woman of Spirit have impressive accomplishments in more than one fields, and all of them also have noteworthy personal and spiritual lives. I would like to mention each award recipient personally.

The Carlow College Woman of Spirit for October 1995 was Joyce Bender. Ms. Bender is the president and owner of Bender & Associates and Bender Consulting Services, Inc. She has been active in the executive search industry in Pittsburgh for over 16 years. Ms. Bender is a board director for the Data Processing Management Association, and she is a past president of the Association for Business Management and the Pittsburgh Case Users Group. Ms. Bender has also demonstrated a long-term commitment to creating employment