

There are many ways that individuals can help our local animal shelters and humane societies. Many shelters, just like the Capital Humane Society, both need and welcome volunteers who perform a variety of tasks such as walking dogs, grooming animals, cleaning cages or assisting with adoptions. Shelters can also use donations of supplies such as blankets and towels to provide bedding, food or cages, or just cash donations to help pay for the costs of daily operations. National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week is an appropriate time for people to visit shelters, thank the people who work there, and volunteer their time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARVIN BROWN OF SAVANNAH, GA ON RECEIVING THE GRAND DECORATION OF HONOUR OF THE STATE OF SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marvin Brown, a resident of Savannah, GA and the First Congressional District of Georgia, joined the ranks of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill when he was recently awarded one of Austria's highest commendations. Mr. Brown's achievements were highlighted in the August 23, 1996 edition of the Georgia Guardian:

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

[From the Georgia Guardian, August 23-29, 1996]

MARVIN BROWN AWARDED AUSTRIAN COMMENDATION

(By Thom Nezbeda)

To read of Marvin Brown's accomplishments with the Georgia Salzburger Society is to be impressed. He may have joined the organization "late in life," as he put it, but what he's lost in time has certainly been more than made up for in performance.

He first joined the Georgia Salzburger Society, the national organization devoted to preserving Salzburger history and heritage, in 1979. "I had been hearing that I was a Salzburger," Brown said. "Jackie [his wife] and I went to a meeting out of curiosity, and that got us involved." He held the position of president for the society from 1990 to 1992. His first trip to "the Old Country" came in 1981, and he's led several tours of the state of Salzburg and other areas of Austria for fellow society members since then.

"We got started [traveling to Austria] back in 1981," said Brown, "just 'babes in the woods'. We were just tourists then."

Subsequent trips as tour guides and opportunities to meet Austrian officials visiting the United States for society activities have raised them above tourist status. "It all fell in place," Brown said in a tone that seems to suggest he and his wife are taking it all in stride. "This is how we became guests of the Austrian government on one occasion: guests of the Roman Catholic archbishop on another occasion. We've really had some wonderful things happen."

Brown's accomplishments don't stop there. Besides being a guest on Austrian television talk shows, and presenting keys to the City of Savannah to two Salzburg governors, Brown and his wife were appointed area coordinators for the Austrian Olympic Sailing Team. As such, they helped coordinate a

wreath-laying ceremony at the Salzburger Monument on Bay Street. Members of the Georgia Salzburger Society, Mayor Floyd Adams Jr., and a delegation of Austrian government and industry leaders took part in the ceremony. After the ceremony, the group retired to a downtown restaurant for a late lunch.

That's when Brown, to his total surprise, received what is probably the largest feather in his cap to date: he was awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour of the State of Salzburg, in appreciation of his efforts to promote good will between Salzburger descendants and the country from which they came.

The honor, one of Austria's highest commendations, was given by Engelbert Wenckheim, the vice president of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

"I really was definitely shocked; there's no other word for it," Brown said.

According to Ulf Pacher of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the commendation is the highest decoration awarded by the province of Salzburg. "The medal is pretty exclusive," he said. "It's not given out that often—it's rarely awarded."

By receiving the award, Brown becomes part of an exclusive group of individuals including Winston Churchill and Dwight D. Eisenhower, among others.

IN ORDER TO SAVE THE COUNTRY-SIDE, WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR CITIES

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as recently as the 1960's, Charles Adams wrote in "The City is the Frontier": "In our own era, the world's cities are witnessing their greatest surge in man's history * * * From 1800 to 1950, the proportion of people living in cities with more than 20,000 people leaped from 2.4 to 21 percent. Our civilization is becoming urban, and the advance into the cities is one of the most spectacular social phenomena of our time. The city has become the frontier."

Today, the promise of the urban frontier seems to be little more than reminder of opportunity lost. In the latter half of this century, the Nation's landscape has been transformed by sprawling development and urban decay. The movement of families and businesses from our Nation's cities has reshaped the cities themselves, the suburbs, and the countryside. Much of this change has been positive, as families have built homes and communities, fulfilling the American dream; but a great deal has been lost as well.

It is tragic that so many cities are dying at a time when the countryside is disappearing. The American Farmland Trust estimates that the United States converts to other uses 2 million acres of farmland annually, much of it on the edge of urban America. The USDA natural resources inventory found that developed land increased by 14 million acres between 1982 and 1992.

As the cities are losing their manufacturing industries, 95 percent of the growth in office jobs occurs in low density suburbs. These office jobs accounted for 15 million of the 18 million new jobs in the 1980's.

There are many factors that have contributed to the mass migration away from the

cities: a desire for greater personal safety, better schools, less congestion, and a way of life. The development of the Interstate Highway System, relatively inexpensive community expenses, and tax incentives for homeownership have made it easier for many people to move to the suburbs.

Offsetting some of the costs associated with this trend—urban decay and the loss of open space—will require both private sector and public sector initiative. No single public policy proposal will address all of the problems. Today, I am introducing two bills addressing two of the many factors that contribute to sprawling development.

The first is related to the costs of cleaning up contaminated land and buildings in urban areas so that they can be put to productive use. The rules surrounding the tax treatment of environmental remediation expenses are so convoluted and confusing it is no wonder that a number of businesses decide to sidestep them altogether and invest in previously undeveloped land and newer buildings outside of environmentally distressed urban areas.

Repairs to business property can be deducted currently as a business expense, but capital expenditures that add to the value of property have to be capitalized. This means that some environmental remediation costs are treated as a business expense, but others are treated as capital expenditures, depending on the facts and circumstances of each case.

The administration in its brownfields initiative has proposed to allow an immediate deduction for cleaning up certain hazardous substances in high-poverty areas, existing EPA brownfields pilot areas, and Federal empowerment zones and enterprise communities. This is commendable, as far as it goes, but there is a disturbing trend in urban policy to pick and choose among cities. If expensing environmental remediation costs is good tax policy and good urban policy, and I believe that it is, then it should apply in all communities. The bill I am introducing today would apply this policy to all property wherever located, and would expand the list of hazardous substances to include potentially hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead paint, petroleum products, and radon. This bill would remove the disincentive in current law to reinvestment in our cities and buildings.

My second bill addresses a provision in current tax law that limits the deduction for a gift of appreciated property to 30 percent of adjusted gross income. Under current law, the limit for gifts of cash is 50 percent of adjusted gross income. My bill would raise the cap for qualified gifts of conservation land and easements from 30 percent to 50 percent. Under the bill, any amount that cannot be deducted in the year in which the gift is made can be carried over to subsequent tax years until the deduction has been exhausted. Current law gives the donor 5 years in which to use up the deduction.

Conservation easements are a partial interest in property transferred to an appropriate nonprofit or governmental entity. These easements restrict the development, management, or use of the land in order to keep the land in a natural state or to protect historic or scenic values. Easements are widely used by land trusts, conservation groups, and developers to protect valuable land.

The 30-percent limit in current law actually works to the disadvantage of taxpayers who may be land rich but cash poor.

Several of my colleagues have introduced important bills to encourage greater use of conservation easements. My bill addresses the disadvantage the 30-percent limit imposes on lower income taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Gifford Pinchot, the founder of the U.S. Forest Service, once wrote that a nation "deprived of its liberty may win it, a nation divided may unite, but a nation whose natural resources are destroyed must inevitably pay the penalty of poverty, degradation and decay."

In order to save the countryside, we must strengthen our cities. Thanks to the leadership of Chairman BILL ARCHER, fundamental tax reform will be near the top of the agenda of the next Congress. We need to take a look at the impact of tax policy on land use decisions in this country. The bills I am introducing today would go a long way toward correcting two serious problems in existing law.

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN CARINE: AN
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY AC-
TIVIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BA-
YONNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lillian Carine, a dedicated community activist who has made a significant difference in the lives of my constituents in Bayonne. Mrs. Carine will be honored at the seventh annual Italian American Heritage Award dinner dance on September 28, 1996, at the F.A. Mackenzie Post in Bayonne.

Family has played a major role in our esteemed honoree's life. Mrs. Carine was born to Sicilian immigrants, Josephine and Nicola Alessi, on July 21, 1911, in Bayonne where she still lives. Alessi married Nicholas Carine on April 11, 1932. Their joyful union, which lasted 57 years until Nicholas' passing in 1989, produced two children, Frank and Rosalie, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Competence and compassion are invaluable words to one who seeks to describe Mrs. Carine. This selfless individual's tradition of community involvement began under the influence of her mother who put her on a "trolley track" of service to others from which Mrs. Carine has yet to disembark. Along the way, there have been a number of stations which Mrs. Carine's trolley has passed through, including the Bayonne Board of Education to which she was elected twice, the Hudson County Juvenile Conference Committee and the Bayonne Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Additionally, Mrs. Carine is a founding member of the Sons of Italy, Father Del Monte Lodge 2560, a member of the selection panel of the Holocaust Memorial Committee of Bayonne, and a member of the Bayonne Visiting Nurse Association board of directors.

Senior citizens and their concerns have interested Mrs. Carine for a long time. She is the producer and host of a local cable television show called "Sixty Plus" geared toward senior citizens, relating information useful to seniors in their everyday lives. The Vial of Life program was an especially gratifying milestone

in Mrs. Carine's chosen vocation. It provides seniors with information important to meet their health care needs.

It is an honor to have such an empathetic individual residing in my district. Mrs. Carine's performance of her civic duties is an example for everyone to emulate. I am certain that my colleagues will rise with me to honor this exceptional woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 90TH ANNIVER-
SARY CELEBRATION OF NATIV-
ITY OF THE BVM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join all my friends and colleagues in celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 90th anniversary. This wonderful church has been serving Ozone Park, Queens faithfully for the past 90 years, and is well-deserving of recognition and praise.

I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary for making this area a source of community pride. As a result of the tireless work and vigilant dedication of the church, Ozone Park has maintained its reputation as a safe and quiet community distinct from the city's frenetic atmosphere.

I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of its church. Such countless contributions have ensured the neighborhood's continued growth and stability which are fully appreciated by all.

For years, families have known Ozone Park as a solid community, making it a good place to live. I am honored to celebrate 90 years of civic leadership in Ozone Park—the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's members have done much to improve the quality of life for all area residents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POSTAL
WORKER WHO SAVED CHOKING 4
YEAR OLD

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would take a moment today to publicly thank Joanne Johnson, a postal worker from my district, who recently saved the life of a 4-year-old boy who had swallowed a quarter and was choking.

On a recent dreary Monday morning, Joanne was delivering mail on a rural route in her hometown of Hopwood, PA, when she heard the screams of Rosemary Bradshaw who was standing on her front porch.

Not really knowing what was wrong, Joanne jumped out of her mail truck and ran to the woman's aid. Mrs. Bradshaw's son, John Kenneth Thorpe, Jr. stood nearby in obvious distress, unable to breathe. Luckily, Joanne had built up a relationship with John since she began delivering the route in early spring. Daily the boy would raise the flag on his mailbox, even if there was nothing to pick up, just

so he could chat and laugh with her. While Joanne had no formal training in CPR or the Heimlich maneuver, she coaxed him to come to her. She quickly flipped him around and squeezed him tightly. Fortunately the quarter popped out and John began to breathe again.

Local postal officials intend to recognize Joanne for her heroism. As they correctly state, daily Postal Service workers across the country, like Joanne, help citizens in distress, but rarely are these events ever reported on the evening news.

Joanne, naturally, does not see herself as a hero. She says she was just at the right place at the right time and would not hesitate to help again, if she could.

But I know that is not the case. Joanne is a very special person and her family and neighbors and coworkers should be very proud of her. More importantly, each and everyone of us should try and emulate her efforts to reach out to others in need.

Not surprisingly, little John knows a friend when he sees one. Lately, he has been leaving cards and presents for Joanne in the mailbox. She has been leaving him candy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3666,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the conference report on H.R. 3666, the VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am deeply dissatisfied with the way the conference report treats the veterans' portion of the bill.

The conference report switches priorities approved by the House.

The result, veterans lose out to nonveteran programs.

I strongly object to the conference report boosting programs for EPA, NASA, and Americorps at the expense of veterans.

The conference report drops VA medical care \$55 million below the House, inadequately funds VA medical research \$15 million below the House, and skims \$13 million off the House on resources necessary for timely processing of veterans service connected benefit claims.

The conference report bumps up EPA by \$140 million above the House, NASA \$100 million above the House, FEMA \$197 million above the House, and gives \$400 million to "paid volunteers" and bureaucrats at Americorps, which the House had zero funded.

Mr. Chairman, the overall story is unfortunately a weakening of the House-passed priorities for veterans' programs.

Additionally, it is inappropriate for legislative amendments to find their way into appropriations measures.

While I would not necessarily disagree with all the attached legislative amendments had