

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD E. FORD

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my colleague the Honorable HAROLD E. FORD. He has achieved an unparalleled reputation of providing service to his constituents, and his fellow colleagues.

He has demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of all people. He effectively represents urban districts through his assignments on the Ways and Means Committee.

He has played a pivotal role in the legislation of health care reform, taxation, and welfare reform.

Knowing you, retirement is not the end of a career, but the beginning of some brand new one.

It has been my pleasure serving with you, and it gives me great joy to wish you an abundance of happiness during your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE GIBBONS

HON. RICHARD NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a colleague, friend, and mentor—SAM GIBBONS. SAM GIBBONS was first elected to Congress in 1962 and he has been honorably serving the 11th District of Florida ever since he was first elected.

I have been privileged to serve with SAM not only as Member of the House, but as member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the oldest Committee in the House. I had the opportunity to serve with SAM both in the majority and minority. I was amazed at the adjustment he made from the majority to the minority.

During the Contract With America, there were many bleak days for the Democrats, especially those of us on Ways and Means. We were meeting everyday to work on agenda that we felt was the wrong direction for America. The manner in which SAM championed the rights of the elderly reminded me of the tradition of another great Representative from Florida, CLAUDE PEPPER. SAM kept on fighting and he inspired us all. We pulled together and rallied behind his energy to prevent enactment of drastic Medicare cuts.

Not only did he champion the rights of the elderly, he watched out for our future by strongly advocating children's rights. I hope many of us do not forget the image of SAM GIBBONS during the welfare debate wearing his "Save the Children" tie with a brightly painted school bus. His emotion reminded us of the gravity of the debate before us. Those of us who continue to serve should uphold the principles SAM GIBBONS displayed.

I was disappointed when I first heard the news of SAM's retirement. I remember reading his statement about how he was going to start another phase of his life and it is time to move on. I know at 76 years of age SAM has lots of fight left in him and I hope he continues to

lead us and share his opinions. I wish you well in your new life after Congress. Bust most of all, I want to thank you SAM for showing us how to fight for our beliefs.

THE BRIDGE FUND

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, My colleagues, Representative SUE KELLY and ELIOT ENGEL, join me in paying tribute to the Bridge Fund, an innovative service organization in Westchester County that was founded 6 years ago to prevent homelessness.

The Bridge Fund receives referrals of individuals and families in danger of eviction or foreclosure from a wide range of social service and community organizations in the county. The Bridge Fund offers these individuals financial assistance, interest-free loans and grants, and intensive counseling.

The average cost to the Bridge Fund for preventing a family or individual from becoming homeless is approximately \$1,000. By comparison, the average expense for maintaining a family in the public shelter system of Westchester County is \$4,000 per month. Since the average stay in the shelter system is now 37 months, the total cost of keeping a family in the shelter system for the average stay could be \$148,000—more than the Bridge Fund's total net outlays last year. Prevention of homelessness is a great investment for our community. The work of the Bridge Fund makes fiscal sense, and it makes humanitarian sense.

Currently the Bridge Fund is offering a number of critical services to the residents of Westchester County. The Bridge Fund runs a food pantry with the support of the Jewish Community center of White Plains. The food pantry assists families with food staples in times of crisis so they can continue to pay their rent.

The Bridge Fund also runs several mentoring programs. A budget mentoring program teaches families budgeting skills, and ensures a stable environment by helping them keep their finances in order. And the Bridge Fund's client mentoring program allows them to follow up with the families they assist. These follow-up visits have shown that over 90 percent of families helped by the Bridge Fund remained in the housing the Bridge Fund preserved for them.

The Bridge Fund has provided a critical service to Westchester County's families through their innovative approach to preventing homelessness. We are proud to pay tribute to the Bridge Fund for its efforts to combat homelessness on our streets.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BEILENSEN

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, TONY BEILENSEN of California has been, throughout his 20 years as a Member of this body, my kind of Congressman. Quietly effective, never partisan or rude, always thoughtful, always a gentleman. TONY is respected universally by both sides of the aisle as a Member who places fairness and even-handed treatment above partisan advantage, and his service as a member of the Rules Committee has always reflected this approach. He has left a legacy of that kind of leadership that does credit to the Congress of the United States, and we will miss him greatly.

If the Congress is to continue to be the kind of body that lives up to the ideals of our Founders and the expectations of our people, we will need many more TONY BEILENSONS here in the future. It is sad commentary that the type of Member favored by the media in America and the type increasingly elected here in recent years have favored the partisanship, bad manners, and ill-will that increasingly reflect the worst in our culture. In the face of all too much of this environment in the House, TONY BEILENSEN's calm voice of reason and thoughtful leadership stands out.

All of the Members of the House wish TONY well in all that he undertakes in the future. He takes with him into retirement our respect, admiration and appreciation for representing always the best among us.

AUTHORIZING STATES TO DENY PUBLIC EDUCATION BENEFITS TO CERTAIN ALIENS NOT LAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 1996

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4134.

It is indeed a sad day in the long history of our country when Members of this esteemed body must come to this Chamber to plead that the right to an education given to all children in this country by our Constitution should not be violated.

There is no question that we all want to protect our borders. The fact is, however, that H.R. 4134 will do nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigration or lessen the burden on our schools. It will, instead, significantly reduce the quality of life for all Americans. The bill will substantially increase costs to school districts and State and local governments by requiring them to use scarce resources to act as INS agents to document the legal status of all students.

And, there is no doubt that foreign appearing and speaking children will be discriminated against. This bill will only serve to create a climate of fear and distrust in which the children of U.S. citizens may also be harassed, or prevented from enrolling in school if they are unable to provide the necessary documents.

H.R. 4134 is not a viable alternative to sensible immigration control policies. All this bill will accomplish is to put thousands of children on the streets and either tempt them to turn to crime or make them vulnerable to the influence of gangs.

That very real danger is precisely why numerous law enforcement officials, school teachers and administrators, and police associations are opposed to H.R. 4134.

Mr. Speaker, we must not crush the future of thousands of children whose only crime is their desire to go to school and to earn an education, as is their right under the U.S. Constitution.

I urge my colleagues to take a stand in preserving this important constitutional right by defeating H.R. 4134.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY JACOBS

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year my good friend, ANDY JACOBS, announced that this will be his last Congress, and that he is going home. While I know that Kim, his wife, and his sons, ANDY Jr. and Steven, will be extremely happy to have him around more, I also know he will be missed by all of us. His departure will be a great loss to the Ways and Means Committee, on which he has served for over two decades, to this institution, and to the people of the 10th District of Indiana.

As many of you know, ANDY and I have been friends for more than 20 years. It has been a privilege to have enjoyed his friendship and counsel for all of that time. As I have said before, there is not one in Congress that I respect more than ANDY JACOBS.

When I first worked with ANDY on the Social Security Subcommittee when it was created in 1975, I learned that everything ANDY does is marked by a sense of decency, fair play, and the highest integrity. Issues have always meant more to ANDY than partisan politics, and he and I have been on the same side of an issue many times.

All of us who have had the pleasure of working with ANDY know that while ANDY is strong in his convictions, he will make extraordinary efforts to understand your position. His quick wit is famous, and has made the legislative process more enjoyable many, many times.

Eventually, I, too, will leave this great institution. I know that when I reflect on my time here, I will consider myself blessed to have shared more than 20 years with a great man and a great friend, ANDY JACOBS.

ANDY, I wish you Godspeed, and much happiness in the days again. I will miss you greatly.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MYERS

HON. THOMAS J. BLILEY, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a heartfelt thanks to my friend and colleague, JOHN MYERS.

JOHN, the citizens of Richmond and I owe you a debt of thanks for all that you have done for Richmond, a city I dearly love. You have helped build a floodwall for Richmond that was sorely needed. My own experience has taught me the importance of this floodwall.

In 1972, when I was mayor of Richmond, a 35-foot flood from Hurricane Agnes took the water filtration plant out of service for 2 days. People throughout the Richmond area lost their water service. In addition, the historic city of Richmond was put at great risk of fire. Luckily, there were no major fires in Richmond during the days that the water system was out of service. Still, the crisis demonstrated to me the need for a floodwall to safeguard the water filtration plant.

The city of Richmond and the Corps of Engineers have come a long way toward completion of the floodwall and you have been very helpful and thoughtful as you considered my requests over the years.

JOHN, I am pleased to report the floodwall passed its first test when Hurricane Fran recently stormed up the east coast and several businesses in Richmond stayed dry. In years past, this was not the case. The city of Richmond thanks you and I thank you.

JOHN, you have upheld the honor and dignity of Congress during your 30 years as a Member. You will be truly missed for the professional manner you conducted yourself as chairman and ranking minority member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

You will always be remembered as the distinguished gentleman from the Seventh District of Indiana. I know you leave Congress with 30 years of good memories but I know you will enjoy spending more time with the grandkids and I know they will always be proud of their grand daddy.

I wish you the best of luck in the future and may God bless you and Carol and your family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3539, FEDERAL AVIATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the conference report for H.R. 3539, the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 includes an airport privatization pilot program. Five airports will be allowed to either be sold or enter into long-term leases.

The intent is to allow the private sector to bring more capital, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to our congested airport system.

The bill requires these privatization agreements to be approved by the Department of Transportation and the majority of airlines.

The bill contains many safeguards to ensure that not only does the airport remain open to the public, but that proper capital investments and safety improvements are made.

This is a pilot program, but I am confident that the success of the program will convince the skeptics that privatization of some airports can be extremely beneficial.

Under this program, DOT will select five airports to privatize, one of which must be a gen-

eral aviation airport. Allegheny Airport in Pennsylvania is a general aviation airport which is interested in privatization and would be an excellent candidate to be sold as part of the program. Allegheny Airport was the only general aviation airport discussed during the conference and it is the one the conferees expect to be chosen for the program, if they choose to apply.

HEALTH CENTERS CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 1996

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1044, the Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1996. This bill will provide a 5-year authorization for America's Community, Migrant, Homeless, and Public Housing Health Center programs through fiscal year 2001.

America's health center programs are doing a tremendous job in rural communities across the country bringing doctors and health facilities to communities in need. In its 30-year history, America's health centers have shown the value and strength of a health system rooted in community partnership and built on the delivery of accessible, quality primary care to Americans in need.

Today, this growing network of community-based providers spans rural communities in all 50 States. Its innovative programs in primary care, prevention, and outreach serve nearly 8 million of America's poor and medically underserved population in 2,400 communities.

Health centers serve in medically underserved communities. They are defined areas—suffering high levels of poverty, infant mortality, and poor health. They are rural and isolated areas, with few or no providers.

Health centers hold the challenging task of providing for some of the poorest, sickest, and most vulnerable. These are people who confront enormous barriers to health care because of where they live—their economic status, and often, their costly and far greater complex health needs. They are people, frequently, locked out of traditional health care—whom others will not or cannot serve. And, they are people whose unmet health and social needs represent a huge and growing cost to the Nation.

Today, in approving this reauthorization, we are helping the communities of the Nation project public health. Health centers have proven to be wise public investments. Compelling evidence shows that health center programs work. Their innovative programs in primary care and prevention keep people healthy—save tax dollars—and build stronger communities.

In my district, there are 20 migrant and community health center delivery sites serving approximately 76,650 patients. These health centers are providing quality, cost-effective care to individuals who otherwise would not have access to health care. I personally have visited these centers, and have seen the enormous good they achieve. In many cases, they are the only provider of care for the people living in this region.

For example, the Uvalde County Clinic, under the direction of Rachel Gonzales, is a