

holds a master's degree in learning disabilities from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she graduated summa cum laude. She has taken graduate courses at William Paterson College, Syracuse University, the University of Auckland and Adelphia University. She has attended lectures, workshops and other special programs at Harvard and Yale universities.

Recognizing the need to prepare others to carry on after her retirement, Cathy has been active in sharing her knowledge with fellow and future educators through a variety of forums. For more than a dozen years, she has served on panels at the annual Renaissance Weekend Program in Hilton Head, SC, including the landmark "A Nation at Risk" panel with president Clinton. She has spoken at Columbia University, the State University of New York, and before the New Jersey Kindergarten Teachers Association, to name a few. She has led countless staff development programs in the Ridgewood school system and in other school systems as well. She is the author of *The Wonderful World of Kindergarten: A Handbook for Parents and Connections, Problem Solving and Thinking Skills for Young Children*.

Cathy has been the recipient of a large number of awards and honors, including the Governor's Award for Outstanding Teachers. She was chosen as a member of the President's National Teachers Advisory Council during the Reagan administration.

Throughout her years of innovative teaching, Cathy was always looking ahead to keep education contemporary and relevant to the current needs of families and the community—she was a true pioneer.

Recognizing the changing responsibilities that challenged working families and putting her knowledge of the developmental needs of children to use, Cathy in 1982 founded New Jersey's first child care program for infants and toddlers. In partnership with Valley Hospital, this school-based program was open to workers in the local community. Cathy staffed the facility with highly qualified personnel trained to serve the needs of children from the earliest months of life. This was not merely "custodial" child care. This was an early childhood education center before most communities were aware of these innovational needs and long before the Federal Government adopted Early Start as an adjunct to the much-heralded and well-established Head Start.

Recently, extensive documentation has been advanced by the National Institute of Mental Health and other research centers that proves the importance of proper care and development during early childhood. Proper nurturing during the first few months can improve IQ and academic performance later, for example. Positive playtime activities lead to an improved ability to make friends and function socially as an adult.

So you can see why I call Cathy not only a role model for American educators but "an educator for all seasons."

Cathy and her husband, Ben, make their home in Ridgewood. They have a loving and close-knit family that includes their children, Michael, Christopher, and Stephen, and grandchildren, Mitchell and Katherine.

Members of the Ridgewood school system staff, members of the community and count-

less former students and their parents all have fond memories and are deeply indebted to the dedication of this outstanding educator. I wish her much-deserved health and happiness in her retirement. But, knowing Cathy's inquiring mind and sense of dedication to children, I doubt that this will be a true retirement. I am certain she will continue to find ways to serve children and make our world a better place for all.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. EARL POMEROY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84

HON. JOHN R. KASICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the views of Representative EARL POMEROY for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Representative POMEROY submitted his views in a timely manner and in accordance with the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(l)(5). Unfortunately, the Government Printing Office inadvertently omitted his name from the views that he submitted, which were printed on page 123 of House Report 105-100, the report to accompany House Concurrent Resolution 84. To remedy this oversight, the views of Representative POMEROY are submitted for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE HONORABLE EARL POMEROY FISCAL YEAR 1998 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION ADDITIONAL VIEWS—MAY 17, 1997

I want to commend the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee for their outstanding efforts in forging this bipartisan balanced budget agreement. I am pleased to support this agreement that balances the federal budget in five years while protecting important national priorities including the education of our children and quality health care for our senior citizens. Importantly, the agreement also provides tax relief for middle income working families.

While I support this budget resolution, I am seriously concerned about the lack of funding allocated to the discretionary account for agriculture, function 350. The resolution assumes a cut of \$1.4 billion below a freeze for agriculture over the next five years. Without adjusting for inflation, agriculture spending will be \$400 million lower in 2002 than in 1997. In real dollar terms, discretionary funds for agriculture will be cut by more than 22 percent under this budget agreement. Unfortunately, several additional factors will constrain agriculture investment even further.

In 1994, Congress enacted sweeping reforms of the federal crop insurance program by providing catastrophic crop failure coverage to all producers and deleting the authority for congressional provision of ad hoc disaster assistance. As part of this crop insurance agreement, the federal reimbursement to private companies for the sales and service of crop insurance was to be provided for three years from the crop insurance fund, a mandatory expenditure account in the federal budget. Previously, half of the reimbursement had been provided in the agriculture appropriations bill as a discretionary expenditure.

Under the 1994 agreement, provision of the traditionally discretionary half of the deliv-

ery cost reimbursement was to be resumed by the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee in the 1998 appropriations bill. The problem we now face is that the Congressional Budget Office baseline contains no projection for this delivery cost reimbursement because it was not provided in the 1997 appropriations act.

The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee is further burdened in 1998 with requirements to offset \$350 million of expenditures in the food stamp program that was displaced by prior enactment of last year's welfare reform bill. In addition, there is an expectation that \$375 million more will be required for the WIC program.

Adding together the \$350 million for foods stamps, \$375 million for WIC and \$200 million needed to provide the sales and service of crop insurance, the Agriculture Subcommittee is expected to be \$900 million over their 1997 allocation, which would be the basis for establishing the 1998 allocation. To reflect the 1994 crop insurance agreement, the discretionary expenditure in function 350 would have to be increased by \$200 million in FY98 and by \$1.1 billion through FY02.

Agriculture programs have already been reduced more than any other function of government. I would like to remind my colleagues that American agriculture provides this nation with the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. In addition, agriculture exports contribute more toward a positive trade balance than any other sector of the economy. It is vitally important that we not abandon federal investment in agriculture research, trade and other programs to the detriment of American farmers, consumers and our national economy.

A GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to the residents of a beautiful municipality, the Village of Pinecrest, for its first successful year of incorporation. Over a year ago, on March 12, 1996, the Village of Pinecrest became the 29th municipality of Dade County.

As a result of this anniversary, the Village of Pinecrest is celebrating many firsts this year, including the first anniversary of its first mayor, Mayor Evelyn Greer, and the first meeting of the Pinecrest Village Council. The council members include Cindie Blanck, Barry Blaxberg, Leslie Bowe, and Robert Hingston. In addition, the citizens of the Village of Pinecrest recently inaugurated the Village Hall of Pinecrest.

I was pleased to be a participant in the Founders Day Parade of the Village of Pinecrest on March 15 of this year where I witnessed the pride of the residents of the village, as well as the unity and cooperation that they possess as a community.

My sincerest and deepest congratulations to the Village of Pinecrest, its mayor, village council, and most of all, its residents, for making the village a great place for many to call home.

**H.R. 531—A BILL TO AMEND THE
GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANS-
FER TAX LAW**

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. MATSUI and I, introduced H.R. 531 on February 4, 1997. The legislation will add two amendments to the generation-skipping tax [GSTT] law which we believe were unintentionally omitted by Congress at the time the original provisions were enacted. The changes recommended by H.R. 531 were adopted by Congress as section 11074 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 which was eventually vetoed by the President. The legislation concentrates on the "predeceased parent exclusion" of the GSTT law, which provides that GST tax is not applied to direct gifts or bequests made by a grandparent to a grandchild where the grandchild's parent—the transferor's child—is deceased at the time of the transfer. When this situation occurs, there is no generation-skipping, since the child—grandchild's parent—is dead; therefore, it is not appropriate to add GST tax on top of ordinary estate or gift taxes, and the predeceased parent exclusion properly excludes such transfers from the GST tax.

Our bill would expand the predeceased parent exclusion to apply to gifts by persons without lineal descendants and to trust gifts.

First, gifts or bequests by a childless individual to collateral descendants would be treated as the same as transfers by persons with lineal descendants. Accordingly, the exclusion would be extended to apply to transfers made by a childless individual to his or her grandniece and grandnephew in the situation where the individuals siblings and nieces and nephews are all deceased at the time of transfer.

Second, the bill applies the predeceased parent exclusion to transfers made through a trust. Under current law, the predeceased parent exclusion is limited, unintentionally, we believe, to direct gifts and bequests, and does not apply to trusts gifts even if the parent of the receiving beneficiary was deceased at all relevant times. In addition to other trusts, this provision particularly affects certain charitable trusts where the charity would have an interest for a period of years before distributing property to the individual beneficiaries. In the situation where the beneficiary's parent is dead, and was dead when the trust was created, there is certainly no generation skipping involved which would justify the levy of an additional tax. It is important to note that these trusts are significant sources of financial support for many charities, and should not be discouraged, unintentionally, where not necessary for the policy of underlying tax provisions. The bill would remove this obstacle.

The terminations, distributions, and transfers to which this bill would apply are those occurring on or after the date of enactment, which would be generation-skipping transfers as defined in section 2611 of the Internal Revenue Code and subject to the GST tax, except for the application of the predeceased parent exclusion as amended by this legislation.

The proposed legislation has substantial support from charities, both large and small, and of all types, such as: social services pro-

viders, museums, libraries, hospitals, and universities, from around the country. We urge our colleagues to join us in support of this legislation.

**TRIBUTE TO 1997 HONOREES OF
BLACK WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT**

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, we often hear the complaint that people just don't care anymore; that the "I've got mine, you get yours" mentality permeates all segments of our society. People who say that, obviously, haven't crossed the path of Black Women of Achievement. This volunteer, professional women's organization has spent 14 years quietly working to raise funds to support the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and honor black women for outstanding achievements and significant contributions to their communities. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund is an organization that uses the law to pry open the doors of opportunity for African-Americans, other people of color, women, and the poor.

BWA has been on a mission, and it has succeeded over and over and over. In just the last 3 years, the organization has raised over \$500,000 for LDF. In addition, some 200 African-American women have been honored at its annual fund raising luncheons.

On June 20, 1997, BWA will honor 16 extraordinary African-Americans. It is my pleasure to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, this tribute to Black Women of Achievement and its 1997 honorees. They represent the best of America. I commend them for their tenacity, determination, and spirit. They are blazing a trail that gives future generations hope for a world of equality, fairness, and justice.

The 1997 honorees are: actress/minister Della Reese; actress JoMarie Payton-Noble; renowned entrepreneur-artist Synthia Saint James; Rachel Marie Burgess, division chief, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Adrienne Y. Crowe, regional senior vice president, Bank of America; Shirley Douglas, vice president, business development, Bechtel Infrastructure Corp.; Sheila Frazier, producer, Black Entertainment Television; Angela Gibson, public affairs director, Pacific Telesis; Carolyn L. Green, director of government and public affairs, Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp.; Rae Franklin James, executive officer, customer relations and communications, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority; Jacqueline E. Massey, administrator, network design, GTE; Iris Stevenson, teacher/director, Crenshaw High School Elite Choir; Debra J. Williams, program manager, Southern California Edison; Rhonda Windham, general manager, LA Sparks; and Della Walton York, district sales manager, AVON.

BWA also pays special recognition to the outstanding achievements of others who support the goals of the organization and their communities. Special recognition has gone to such notables as actor-activist Ossie Davis and veteran news anchor Pat Harvey. The 1997 special recognition award will go to John W. Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League.

The 1997 luncheon will be opened with an invocation by Rev. Dr. O.C. Smith, City of Angeles Church of Religious Science.

BWA Committee members are: Beverly Whitaker, 1997 chair, Occidental Petroleum Corp.; Betty A. Johnson, 1997 cochair, Department of Water & Power; Pat Johnson, 1997 cochair, Health Point Services of America; Josephine Alexander, Chi Eta Phi; Berlinda Fontenot-Jamerson, Pacific Enterprises/The Gas Co; Carolyn J. Fowler, AT&T; Angela Gibson, Pacific Telesis; Jackie Hempstead, Bank of America; Karen (Kay) Hixson, Karen Hixson & Associates; Beverly A. King, King & Wright Consulting; Doris LaCour; Office, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Jackie Massey, GTE; Gloria Pualani, Northrop Grumman; Natalie L. Sanders, M.D., Association of Black Women Physicians; Rose Mary Spriggs, consultant; Sylvia Swilley, M.D., Kaiser Permanente; Pat Watts, Edison International/retired; and Linda Young, public relations consultant.

**REGARDING THE ASIAN
ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT**

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act which would set up a special elephant fund for the Interior Department to administer and would authorize \$5 million annually over the next 5 fiscal years to be spent on Asian elephant conservation.

At an educational event held yesterday on the Capitol Grounds, I was able to share with other Members all the majesty and wonder of the Asian elephant. It was evident that these creatures are formidable, and one would think they are invincible. Sadly they are not. Indeed, the Asian elephant is in grave danger of extinction. And that is why the United States, as a world leader in conservation, must step forward and assist in Asian elephant conservation.

Unlike the African elephant whose recent decline has been caused by the dramatic large-scale poaching for ivory, the Asian elephant is faced with more diffuse threats. The increasing pressures of human population growth, along with the necessary changes in land use, has caused habitat destruction that now has elephants and people in direct competition for resources.

Because of incremental habitat loss and degradation, Asian elephant populations are highly fragmented. Drastic fragmentation has increased chances of extinction to each fragmented population. Our hope is that this bill will reverse this trend.

For the record, I am including statements on the Asian elephant by Dr. Raman Sukumar, chairman of the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group; Mr. Douglas H. Chadwick, a wildlife biologist, and author of "The Fate of the Elephant"; Ms. Ginette Hemley, director of international wildlife policy for the World Wildlife Fund; Dr. Mary Pearl, executive director of the Wildlife Preservation Trust International, Inc.; Dr. Chris Wemmer, associate director for conservation and research at the Smithsonian Institution; and Ms. Shanthini Dawson, wildlife