

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate several constituents from my district for their participation in National History Day.

National History Day inspires students to learn and think critically about people, places and events that have shaped history. Every year National History Day selects a theme. For the 1996–97 school year their theme was "Triumph & Tragedy in History."

Those who participated in this contest competed against fellow students at the district, State and national levels, presenting what they learned with creative and original performances, media presentations, papers, or three-dimensional projects. Encouraged to understand and comprehend the full historical importance of their topics, students then asked insightful questions about when and why the event they had researched occurred, what it's subsequent historical significance.

In a day and age when far too many of our Nation's youth seem to be ignorant of our rich heritage, it is encouraging to see how the students involved in the National History Day contest took an active interest in remembering the events of the past.

I would especially like to congratulate my constituents, Dean Walker, Dana Frishkorn, Jonathan Patrick, Jonathan Wise, Alexis Bohan, and their teachers, Dale Wagner, and Diane McAfee, for their outstanding achievements in this year's National History Day competition.

They are a credit to education in Pennsylvania and an inspiration to all of the students in the Fourth Congressional of Pennsylvania. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their exceptional work.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1997

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, just this past weekend the President gave a commencement address in San Diego, CA, in which he announced the beginning of his race initiative that over the next year will seek to engage the American people in an honest and open dialog on race relations. Through this initiative, the President has set a goal of focusing national attention on lessening the barriers that divide our nation along racial lines and developing concrete policy solutions that will unite us as one America. I commend the President and his advisory panel, chaired by the distinguished scholar Dr. John Hope Franklin, as they begin a journey, that if successful, will bring us closer to realizing our fullest potential as a nation. It is a journey on which I hope they will be joined by all of the American people.

But unlike the President who has chosen to lead us down a path toward racial reconciliation, today, once again Republicans in Congress have chosen to take the hackneyed and politically expedient path of exploiting racial di-

vision by reintroducing legislation that seeks to erase the gains that many women and minorities have made toward achieving equal opportunity. Today, Representative CANADY and Senator MCCONNELL introduce what they call the "Civil Rights Act of 1997," a bill that would abolish affirmative action in Federal Government employment and contracting.

Those who support the Canady-McConnell bill claim that affirmative action is unfair because it uses "quotas" and gives "preferences" to undeserving and unqualified women and minorities. But they could not be further from the truth. The majority of American people support affirmative action because they know that it is a moderate and effective remedy for providing equal opportunity to those who have historically been treated unfairly. Affirmative action, like other Federal civil rights laws, is a bipartisan solution that has enjoyed the support of Democratic and Republican Presidents, Democratic and Republican Members of Congress, and continues to have the support of Republican Governors like Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, Jim Edgar of Illinois, Bill Weld of Massachusetts, Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, and others including Retired Gen. Colin Powell.

We as a Congress must reject the path of racial divisiveness represented by the Canady-McConnell bill and chart our own path that will complement the efforts of the President's race initiative. As we begin the appropriations process, let us provide the funding necessary to the agencies of the Federal Government that enforce our antidiscrimination laws. This is an action that we must take to demonstrate our continued commitment to the full enforcement of these laws.

If we are to realize the potential of our democracy, then the choice is clear. We must continue to open the doors of opportunity in the classroom and the workplace to all our citizens and come to fully appreciate that the growing diversity of our great Nation is truly our greatest resource. Let us heal the wounds of race, not reopen them. Let us not abandon affirmative action.

IN HONOR OF WESTERN QUEENS
GAZETTE 15TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this legislative body is the opportunity we occasionally get to acknowledge publicly the outstanding pillars of our communities.

I rise today to pay tribute to the Western Queens Gazette on the occasion of its 15th anniversary by placing their name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The Western Queens Gazette has served as a vehicle to inform and educate the residents of the Queens community for 15 years. I would like to take this opportunity to commend its publisher and founder, Mr. Tony Barsamian, for his initiative and insight in starting and maintaining this paper for so many years. During these times when news seems more focus on highlighting the negative events taking place in our society, it is good to know that individuals, like Mr. Barsamian,

still believe there is something useful to delivering good news and relevant information to his friends and neighbors.

The healthy sense of community that exist in that neighborhood today, I believe, can easily be attributed to the Western Queens Gazette. Mr. Barsamian has done a tremendous job at delivering the good news to Queens. Highlighting the good works of the Queens community is good business and the best type of service to provide.

Thank you Western Queens Gazette and Mr. Barsamian for your years of dedicated service to improving public opinion. I ask my colleagues today to join me in saluting this fine citizen and the institution he has built.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH BLOCK

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth Block, an exemplary individual who has selflessly devoted herself to the community and tirelessly sought to foster an ecumenical climate of understanding. Ruth in being honored by the American Jewish Committee with its 1997 Community Service Award and I would like to add my accolades for this outstanding citizen.

The Talmud states that "Charity knows neither race nor creed," and Ruth's devotion to working on behalf of the entire community illustrates that service to others also recognizes no such boundaries. Ruth Block's accomplishments are truly remarkable and these brief remarks can hardly hope to fully acknowledge all that she has done for the community.

Ruth Block has selflessly devoted her time and energy to numerous causes, including the Rockefeller Foundation, the League of Women Voters and has been an active leader of the American Jewish Committee. Additionally, Ruth's diligent work to foster understanding extends to the international sphere as well. She was awarded the Gold Medal of Honor by the Austrian Government and has also been presented with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit by the German Government for her efforts to build bridges of understanding between the German and Jewish people.

What makes Ruth truly amazing is that despite her countless hours of community service, she has also found the time to raise a family and spend time with her grandchild. I am proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding citizen as Ruth Block.

RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN WOMEN'S
HISTORICAL CENTER ON
ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. DEBBIE STABENOW**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the Michigan Women's Studies Association opened the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame.

During this landmark year, I commend the Michigan Women's Studies Association for their outstanding efforts.

Through the years, the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame's publications, programs, and traveling exhibits, have enabled the people of Michigan to learn more about outstanding women leaders in our State. These leaders have made an enduring contribution to our State and our society. Without the MWSA, their work might not ever have been acknowledged.

The Michigan Women's Studies Association and the Historical Center and Hall of Fame have been a catalyst in bringing the diverse roles of women to the forefront in Michigan. Through their work, the accomplishments of hundreds of women have now become an important part of the social fabric and collective memory of the State.

Michigan's history is rich in the achievements and contributions of our State's women. I am proud that we have a way of honoring the women who have been shining examples to us all.

ON THE NEED FOR IRS OVERSIGHT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, the Internal Revenue Service has too much power in Americans' lives. This recent example, from the Associated Press, shows why greater congressional oversight of IRS mismanagement and taxpayer abuse is so vitally necessary.

IRS IS FOUND TO HAVE RETALIATED OVER AN INSULT

(By Margaret Katz)

DENVER (AP).—In hindsight, insulting the IRS agent during an audit was probably not a good idea.

But Carole Ward, who this week moved to Albuquerque from Colorado Springs, let fly with this gem: "Honey, from what I can see of your accounting skills, the country would be better served if you were dishing up chicken-fried steak on some interstate in west Texas, with all the clunky jewelry and big hair."

A short time later, federal agents raided Ward's business and then released confidential information about her taxes to the media in what Ward called "character assassination."

This week, a federal judge reprimanded the IRS for its actions and awarded the woman about \$325,000 in damages and attorney's fees.

"By this award, this court gives notice to the IRS that reprehensible abuse of authority by one of its employees cannot and will not be tolerated," U.S. District Judge William Downes said after the non-jury trial. "Part of that responsibility requires that you accept criticism, however inaccurate and/or unjustified, in silence."

Ward, 49, said she is not proud of what she said to auditor Paula Dzierzanowski during the 1993 audit. The meeting was one of several regarding income taxes owed by the children's clothing stores owned by her son, Tristan, then 20.

Two weeks later, IRS agents seized and padlocked the stores with a so-called jeopardy assessment demanding \$325,000 in back taxes from Ward. Such an order is considered extreme and is normally used when the IRS fears it is in danger of never collecting the taxes, said Ward's attorney, William C. Waller.

Ward's family depended on the stores as their sole source of income, and the seizure put them in desperate straits. She said her family even lost their electricity because they were unable to pay bills.

Why the IRS targeted Ward rather than her son is unclear, said Dennis Mark, another of Ward's attorneys.

"They took the position that Carole Ward owned the stores," Mark said.

By July, Ward had hired a tax attorney and the parties had agreed that the actual amount owed by Ward was about \$3,500.

"It was over and done," Waller said. But then the IRS went public with information about Ward that was the crux of her lawsuit.

IRS District Director Gerald Swanson and his assistant Patricia Callahan appeared on a Colorado Springs talk show and disclosed tax return information. They also discussed the original \$325,000 dispute and allegations against Ward even though the case had been settled, Waller said.

The IRS also disclosed information to TV's "Inside Edition" in the form of a fact sheet about the dispute.

The IRS agents said that since Ward had already gone public with information about the dispute, they were within their rights. However, the judge found their behavior negligent.

Another IRS agent, James Scholan, further disclosed information about the dispute in a letter published in a local newspaper. Scholan said he had obtained that information from newspaper accounts, but the judge ruled that he had obtained it as an IRS employee, committing a "blatant violation."

Ward was also upset about notices posted in the windows of the stores during the seizure that she said implied she was a drug smuggler.

The judge found that the IRS had caused mental distress, emotional damage and humiliation to Ward.

"Public servants cannot be arbitrarily selective in their treatment of citizens, dispensing equity to those who please them and withholding it from those who do not," the judge said.

The IRS had no comment on the case. Nor did the Justice Department's tax division.

Ward said she is glad to be vindicated. But her son's stores are still struggling, she said, and the fight took a huge toll on her personally.

"When you take on these people . . . it would be wonderful if I felt like dancing on graves, but by the time you get the victory, it doesn't feel like a victory," Ward said. "They take out the joy."

LITTLE WONDERS OF THE WORLD: WINNERS OF THE ART OF CO-OPERATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to highlight the great achievement of Ms. Shadia Borum, president and CEO of the Little Wonders of the World, Inc., and the 10 young talented wonders of Public School 137, located at 121 Saratoga Avenue in Brooklyn. On May 30, 1997, each of these children received \$1,000 in U.S. savings bonds held in trust until their 18th birthday or entrance into college.

Little Wonders of the World, Inc., is the only organization of its kind; a Brooklyn based, not for profit 501(c)(3) education management company. The purpose of this organization is

to raise children's educational standards and to uplift their self-esteem by increasing their opportunities for intellectual growth. This organization's dedication to children is exemplified by its development of educational programs, the organization of special events and creation of motivational contests for inner-city school children between the ages of 4–12 years of age in grades K–6.

Little Wonders of the World, Inc., created "The Art of Cooperation Contest." This contest is a motivation contest, open to children in third, fourth, and fifth grades, that promotes cooperative behavior between the children, teachers, and family. The goal of this contest is to have all the participants develop their own successful method of cooperation through poetry, art or essay. This year's winners are: Chinae Albritton, Wesley Bankes, Christin Barratt, Crystal Brown, Crystal Foster, Crystal Hawley, Kenneth Jenkins, Chanelle Lugo, Luis Ortiz, and Roberto Ortiz.

I am delighted that the Little Wonders of the World, Inc., is available to the young children of Brooklyn. I commend Ms. Shadia Borum and Little Wonders of the World, Inc., for its vision and execution in developing this outstanding service center.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to authorize and direct a land exchange which will greatly benefit the town of Sitka, AK. This bill has several components to the exchange. First, it will ensure that an important water system now currently under an easement will be conveyed to the city of Sitka in order to provide its residents with an assured water supply into the future.

This exchange will also provide for a spectacular inholding on Admiralty Island National Monument to be added to the monument. Admiralty Island is considered to be an area holding outstanding conservation values within the American conservation system. The land exchange authorized in the bill I am sponsoring will ensure that this private inholding is included in the monument and in the wilderness.

The final component of the exchange will be the extinguishment of a reversionary interest on land owned at Sitka by the Alaska Pulp Corp. The corporation also owns the valuable inholding at Admiralty Island and the lands which the city of Sitka wishes to have conveyed to it. In return for the extinguishment of the reversionary interest, the corporation will convey the inholding to the monument and the water system lands to the city.

This exchange is supported by the city and borough of Sitka, and the city administrator has requested me to sponsor this legislation and expedite the exchange.

This exchange is truly in the best interests of all involved. The U.S. Government even comes out ahead on value. Recent appraisals for the various lands and interests exchanged show that the Admiralty Island land is valued at more than the reversionary interest which will be exchanged. As a condition of my legislation, the corporation is required to waive its