

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTS, IL

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following Resolution for printing in the RECORD:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF ROBERTS, ILLINOIS, ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

Whereas 125 years ago, in 1872, a small village was established in central Illinois by Francis Alonzo Roberts, along the lines of the Illinois Central Railroad; and

Whereas this village, known as Roberts, has maintained a tight yet diverse community throughout its 125-year history, including a variety of religious denominations and ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas the residents of this agricultural community have displayed great service not only to their village, but also to one another, first when they rebuilt their village after a fire in 1873, and recently, when the citizens renovated their school gymnasium to serve as a public activity center; and

Whereas this treasured example of small-town America has maintained over the past 125 years the values and ethics that the village founders cherished, caring for each other and building a sense of community that stands as a model for others to emulate:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That, the House of Representatives congratulates the Village of Roberts, Illinois, on the 125th anniversary of its birth, and on its growth into a village that has been, in the words of its citizens, "a good place to live," and will continue to be so in the future. Our country stands in grateful recognition of the contribution the residents of Roberts have made to the improvement of our great nation.

GOP WELFARE PLAN

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an important editorial that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Monday, June 16, 1997. It brings to light the harsh reality of a GOP plan that deprives welfare participants of minimum wage.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 16, 1997]

GOP WELFARE PLAN INSULTS THE POOR

Just when GOP leaders were promising to put a compassionate face on their social-reform initiatives, they show us their ugly side. Witness the party's unconscionable opposition to paying the minimum wage to some welfare recipients. The GOP's anti-family plan is an insult to human decency and fair-labor laws. This idea is the party's response to President Bill Clinton's recent order that the minimum wage apply to workfare participants employed by public agencies and nonprofit groups, just as it would apply to private-sector jobs.

Rep. William L. Clay of St. Louis says the GOP's proposal "reminds me of slavery's cruel exploitation of human labor." GOP Rep. James Talent of St. Louis County responds that job earnings of welfare participants would be boosted beyond the minimum wage through other benefits—Medicaid, child care, housing subsidies and food stamps.

That's like saying middle-income workers don't deserve pay raises because their incomes are indirectly inflated by subsidized health insurance, subsidized housing in the form of mortgage deductions and other benefits. Perhaps GOP leaders should go further and recommend pay cuts for federal lawmakers because of the innumerable subsidies—we call them perks—that come with their jobs.

Maybe Republicans don't realize that workfare participants need the income. A single mother on welfare with two children must earn at least \$12,590 just to stay above the poverty line. If she earned \$19,370, she would be earning just 55 percent of the U.S. median income for a three-person family.

It's misleading for Mr. Talent and others to suggest that subsidies, such as those for child care, compensate for a lower-than-minimum wage. In all likelihood, these working mothers will have to pay part of the cost of their child care. Also, there's no guarantee the mothers will continue qualifying for Medicaid once they take jobs. And let's not forget such incidentals as work-related transportation costs.

If the GOP is serious about workfare being a declaration of independence for poor women, then the party must make the work financially viable. Stigmatizing welfare mothers by paying them sub-minimum wages is hardly an incentive for them to take jobs.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BUD" SPILLANE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives TOM DAVIS and FRANK WOLF to pay tribute to Dr. Robert "Bud" Spillane, a distinguished educator and retiring superintendent of Fairfax County public schools. Dr. Spillane has managed, with great proficiency, the Nation's 12th largest school system, which encompasses 150,000 students, 25,000 employees, 225 facilities, and a \$41.2 million budget.

During his 12 years with Fairfax County, Dr. Spillane has fostered and improved the school system's national reputation for excellence while the county has experienced growing student diversity. Ninety percent of all seniors take college entrance exams. Scores are well above national averages and dropout rates are low. Dr. Spillane has instituted rigorous academic standards and established high expectations for all students, lengthened the school day for secondary students, and focused on improving programs for early primary children.

Dr. Spillane developed a teacher performance evaluation system, encouraged sitebased management initiatives and greater accountability measures. He cultivated strong support for education in the business community, which has led to expanded school partnerships. He launched an internationally recognized high school for science and technology.

During a period of budgetary austerity in 1991, Dr. Spillane substantially reduced the number of central office personnel while improving organizational efficiency. More recently, he increased public school choice by fostering increased focus on magnet schools

at the elementary level and other special programs in secondary schools.

Dr. Spillane is the author of many papers and professional articles and a frequent speaker on educational issues. He has won many prestigious awards, including the 1995 Virginia Superintendent of the Year Award and the 1995 National Superintendent of the Year Award. He is currently in the process of writing a book tentatively titled, "The School Superintendent of the Future," for Aspen Publishers.

Mr. Speaker, parents, teachers, and former students wish Dr. Spillane the very best in all his future endeavors and share my appreciation for his dedication and service to the people of Fairfax County.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT MILITARY COUP D'ETAT OUSTING THAT COUNTRY'S FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my Africa subcommittee colleagues in introducing this resolution, expressing the United States concern for the plight of Sierra Leone's people in the face of the May 25, 1997, coup that ousted the country's democratically elected government. A year ago, I stood with my good friend Congressman HOUGHTON to congratulate the people of Sierra Leone on holding elections that we all prayed would consolidate the peace and usher in a new era of stability, economic progress, and human and social development for the war torn country.

Sadly, we now come together to deplore the coup of May 25, 1997 and express the United States' contempt for the actions of those who would subvert Sierra Leone's fragile recovery from years of bloody civil conflict, and plunge the country back into chaos, suffering, and ruin. In introducing this resolution, we add our voices to those of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Security Council, and the European Union in strongly urging Major Johnny Paul Koroma and his supporters to step down and peacefully restore power to the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

The ties between Sierra Leone and Ohio's third district go way back. Nearly 100 years ago, Daytonians were among the first missionaries to Sierra Leone, and today our district is enriched by a small but vibrant community of Sierra Leonean immigrants. A Dayton company, Nord Resources, has long operated the Sierra Rutile mine, which is the nation's largest private employer, taxpayer, and foreign exchange earner. Prior to the coup, the company was in the final stages of re-opening the mine site, with the assistance of a laboriously negotiated loan package. The coup effectively suspended the Sierra Rutile project, jeopardizing 2,000 badly needed jobs for Sierra Leoneans, along with the prospects for the country's overall economic recovery.

For the sake of Sierra Leone's people and the country's future, it is my fervent hope that

the political crisis will be swiftly and peacefully resolved, the popularly elected government reinstated, and humanitarian needs of vulnerable groups met. Sierra Leone's people have suffered immeasurable through years of civil strife, and the United States also has moral obligation to help prevent an escalation of the current situation into a humanitarian crisis of even graver proportions. To this end, it is essential that the United States remain engaged in Sierra Leone, and continue to bring a full range of diplomatic resources to bear on a peaceful resolution of the current crisis, in coordination with the OAU and the international community as a whole. The future stability of the sub-region as a whole is at stake, since political and humanitarian problems in Sierra Leone spill over into Liberia and other neighboring countries.

Finally, our special recognition and gratitude should go to the many brave Americans and Sierra Leoneans whose heroic efforts made possible the safe evacuation of 2,509 people, 500 of the Americans, who were caught in the crossfire in the harrowing days following the May 25 coup. Their courageousness and exemplary performance in preparing and executing the dramatic rescue operation was nothing short of miraculous. Special mention should go to Ms. Ann Wright, the Charge D'Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Freetown at the time of the coup. At serious risk to her own life, Ms. Wright helped negotiate a cease-fire between rebel forces and Nigerian ECOMOG troops, and secure assurances that civilians would not be fired upon during the evacuation. She worked with the U.S. Marines landing team to organize the safe and orderly transfer of civilians from Freetown to the U.S. carrier *Kearsarge* stationed 12 miles off the coast. Many others deserve credit, but special thanks goes to *Kearsarge* officers Captain Ertel and Captain Wittkamp, and the 22 U.S. Marines led by Lt. Col. Sam Helland for their exemplary courage, efficiency, and professionalism in carrying out the evacuation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 15th Congressional District of Illinois, I would like to extend my congratulations to Coach Dennis Bridges and Illinois Wesleyan University men's basketball team for advancing to the Final Four and winning their first ever NCAA Division III national title.

After 110 years in intercollegiate athletic competition, Illinois Wesleyan University has finally won a national title when it defeated Nebraska Wesleyan University 89 to 86. I recognize and congratulate Coach Dennis Bridges, the winningest active Division III coach, for being named "Division III Coach of the Year" and Bryan Crabtree, for being named Final Four MVP and "Division III Player of the Year."

During their historic season, Wesleyan amassed a school record of 29 wins and only 2 losses, a CCIW championship, and now an unprecedented national title. The accomplish-

ments of this team are truly remarkable in that Illinois Wesleyan University was picked to finish third in the CCIW conference in the coaches' preseason poll. Apparently, the coaches underestimated the emerging Wesleyan dynasty which had the year prior finished third in the Nation.

In recognition of their historic season, I will now list the names of the coaches and players for the 1997 Division III men's basketball national champions: Head coach Dennis Bridges; assistant coaches: Dennis Martel and David Steinbrueck; players: Tony Pacetti, Seth Zeller, Corey Coon, Jason Osborn, Nathan Hubbard, Brent Neibrugge, Kyle Tudeen, Mike Pope, Buck Condill, Bryan Crabtree, Jerry Happ, Andrew Boyden, Matt Hoder, Matt Mann, and John Baines.

In addition to Illinois Wesleyan University's athletic achievements, I would be remiss if I did not point out that Illinois Wesleyan University is fast becoming one of the Nation's most prestigious and selective liberal arts schools. Illinois Wesleyan University is an outstanding example of how higher education can successfully blend a quality academic program with a top-notch athletic program. This point is driven home by the fact that Illinois Wesleyan University ranks third nationally with 82 student-athletes being named to the GTE Academic All-American Team since the program first began in 1970.

Once again, I salute and congratulate Coach Dennis Bridges and the Illinois Wesleyan University men's basketball team, as well as the administration and faculty of this fine institution.

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF BEN SURPRISE

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Surprise, a man who has faithfully and dutifully served his fellow citizens of Westfield, MA for the past 37 years as a member of the Police Department.

Beginning as a reserve officer in October, 1960, Ben officially retired as chief on May 31, 1997. During that period he moved from reserve officer, to patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. His record is unblemished.

But Ben's service to others was not limited to the range of his cruiser. In 1950 he became a member of the U.S. Air Force and in 1957 joined the Air National Guard being stationed in France during the Berlin crisis. In 1983 he was named NCO of the year, and in 1989 he retired after 39 years.

Among his many citations as a police officer he includes a certificate of appreciation from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Chief Surprise has been married for 37 years and is the proud father of six children, and grandfather of three.

I am happy today to bring to my colleagues and the Nation recognition of Chief Surprise's life-long service to his community and his country.

He has earned an honorable and long retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SEBRINA PALMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sebrina Rene Palmer. Ms. Palmer is the recently crowned Miss Alcorn State University for the 1997-98 school year. She is a junior elementary education major from my hometown of Bolton, MS.

Sebrina is actively involved in her community. She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Alcorn State University Ambassadors, a student recruitment organization, and the Student National Educators Association. She has championed the St. Jude Annual Walkathon and Bike-A-Thon as well as the community clean up project and a homeless prevention project.

Sebrina's platform for Miss Alcorn State University was AIDS awareness. She campaigned on the necessity among young people to not forget this devastating and fatal disease. Her goal is to become an elementary school teacher because she believes in giving back to her community.

Sebrina is also a member of the County Line Baptist Church in Pochontas, MS. She serves as the Sunday school pianist, member of the choir, the usher board, and the Home Mission Institute. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Palmer also of Bolton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Ms. Sebrina Rene Palmer, Miss Alcorn State University, 1997-98 school year.

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN HEIGHTS VILLAGE SENIORS CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the dedication and achievement of the many diligent workers of the Brooklyn Heights Village Seniors Club in Brooklyn, OH, on their 25th anniversary.

More than 60 members have assisted the community with a multitude of volunteer work including visiting the sick at hospitals and organizing and running the annual Red Cross blood bank for the village of Brooklyn. In addition to these projects, they have contributed a portion of their earnings to children in little league sports.

The Brooklyn Heights Village Seniors Club volunteers give themselves, and in doing that, they make the Cleveland area a better place. I would like to congratulate this club on 25 years of hard work.