

TRIBUTE TO THE SPANN FAMILY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Spann family on the occasion of their family reunion to be held July 25–27, 1997, in Columbia, SC.

The Spann family began on May 16, 1844, with the birth of Jack Spann. Mr. Spann was born a slave in Middleton Township, Sumter County, and resided in Sumter County his entire life, both as a slave and a free man. Despite the condition into which he was born, Mr. Spann learned to read and to write, a feat denied to most slaves. Because of his literacy, he was able to memorize and readily quote scriptures from all books of the Bible. Due to his literacy and his faith in God, Jack rose to become an assistant clergyman at St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church. When not in the pulpit, Mr. Spann could be found on the family's farm as he provided for his family of 20 children. Although the children were born of two different mothers, the togetherness demonstrated by the Spann family was unmatched. To this day, the descendants continue to show that same bond.

The Spann family has been a part of the African-American experience in South Carolina for many years. As the Spann family comes together this year in Columbia, all agree that they have been blessed as they are able to share this reunion with the last living child of Jack Spann, Mrs. Eliza Spann Missouri Pickett, the present matriarch of the Spann family. In addition, Mrs. Pickett's son, Clarence Missouri, was my college roommate and has been a close friend of mine for over 40 years. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring this fine family as they celebrate their family reunion.

JERI WARE: A BRIDGE BUILDER AND ROLE MODEL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jerline "Jeri" Ware, a bridge builder and a role model to all. She passed away July 6, 1997. Jeri Ware was born February 13, 1924, on a farm in Beggs OK, the third of eight children. After graduating from Beggs High School at the age of 15, Jeri, with the approval of her family, friends, and church, set out to expand her horizons. Over the next several years, she lived in Colorado, New Mexico, as well as Hanford and Seattle, WA. In the mid-1940's, she moved to San Francisco, where she enrolled at San Francisco City College. There she studied political science, and also met and married John, her husband of 48 years.

In 1951, the Wares moved back to Seattle where Jeri would become known throughout the city and the Pacific Northwest as a respected community leader. During the next 46 years, Jeri championed issues such as employment and education. She urged city offi-

cials to address concerns about the lack of opportunities for many black Americans in Seattle; she helped establish cooperative nursery schools and tutorial programs at the University of Washington. Jeri was a charter member and chair of the Central Area School Council, and a member of the Seattle Human Rights Commission. My predecessor, Mike Lowry, recognized Jeri's talents; for almost a decade, she served the people of the Seventh Congressional District as a member of his District Office staff.

Jeri's opinion commanded the respect and attention of elected officials in Seattle because she was a bridge builder and a role model. She helped many public officials to understand issues impacting the community by presenting the problems along with attainable solutions. Jeri Ware led by personal example: she showed the importance of family strength by standing by her son's side when he protested the Viet Nam war. She embodied tolerance by embracing and respecting others' opinions although they may have differed from hers. She taught determination by her life-long efforts to help our youth prepare for their future.

Mr. Speaker, the Seventh Congressional District of Washington mourns the loss of Jeri Ware. Thanks to her, many strong bridges of friendship and understanding stand in Seattle today.

THE WHEAT AND BARLEY PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Wheat and Barley Protection Act of 1997 which will facilitate a national partnership and provide urgently needed funds to accelerate the race for a cure for a disease that is ravaging our Nation's wheat and barley crops.

Wheat and barley scab has cost our national economy more than \$3 billion over the last 4 years. Michigan alone lost more than \$56 million to wheat and barley scab in 1996.

More than 80 percent of Michigan's farmers plant either wheat or barley. All varieties are vulnerable to the scab, which can severely reduce the production and quality of these crops.

The disease can produce vomitoxin, a toxin contaminant which has reduced prices to farmers and caused problems for the U.S. milling and malting industries.

My legislation unifies the efforts of 12 States' land grant universities into a cohesive research partnership. The Wheat and Barley Protection Act of 1997 will authorize \$5 million a year for 5 years to fund this national consortium that includes university breeders, plant pathologists, agricultural engineers, and food scientists. It will serve as a model for other such effective, integrated research projects in the future, bringing the public and private sectors together in an important effort to solve a national problem.

The Wheat and Barley Protection Act is a small investment compared to the billions of dollars that this disease, unchecked, will cost our economy. I am pleased that so many of my colleagues—Democrats and Repub-

licans—have cosponsored this legislation and will be working with me to swiftly pass this bill.

REGARDING THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of Senate Joint Resolution 29, the resolution directing the Department of the Interior to design and construct a statue depicting Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his wheelchair. I believe this inclusion in the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial Statue will further illustrate to the American public that a person with a disability is not limited in his or her ability to reach historic heights.

In addition to the Secretary working with the commission to incorporate a sculpture displaying President Roosevelt in a wheelchair, as instructed by the Senate Joint Resolution 29, I would also encourage the Secretary to look into a serious matter brought to my attention by the National Organization on Disability and the American Council of the Blind and as described in a May 20 article in the Washington Post. It appears that the Braille lettering on the monument is not readable by most blind or visually impaired visitors. In fact, on some areas of the monument the Braille dots are not accessible or not present at all. This is ironic in light of the fact that the description on the wall of President Roosevelt's programs to aid the blind, cannot be read by the blind. However unintentional, this makes a mockery of President Roosevelt's work and is frustrating to visually impaired visitors.

The main problem with the Braille is the size of the dots. The cells are too big to fit under a fingertip. Because of the enlargement, the spacing of the dots within a cell and between cells is incorrect. The sculptor admits that he took liberty by exaggerating the size of the Braille to achieve a certain concept. Unfortunately, his artistic interpretation has come at the expense of those who have low vision or who are blind. In essence, the majesty he sought to create for those who cannot see has proven to be a disheartening misadventure.

I would recommend that this artistic but unreadable Braille displayed on the memorial's Wall of Programs be supplemented by Braille which is readable. This Braille should conform to the specifications for raised character and Braille signage contained in recognized access codes such as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines [ADAAG] and the American National Standards Institute's [ANSI's] A117-1 standard for accessible design for the disabled. The reproduced Braille should be placed on a metal plaque or plaques which are affixed at a reasonable and readable height and location on the Wall of Programs. Or, the plaques could be mounted near the Wall of Programs on stands located at a reasonable height and location immediately adjacent to the artistic, but unreadable Braille. I would also encourage the Secretary to replicate in Braille the inspirational excerpts from President Roosevelt's speeches, which are displayed in print throughout the memorial, so they may be enjoyed by blind or visually impaired visitors.

I believe these additions to the monument honoring our 32d President would be a fitting tribute to a great man who tirelessly served this country, and I would encourage full consideration of this important request.

RECOGNITION OF ISTEA
SUPPORTERS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize the efforts of a group of dedicated activists from Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties who undertook a 5-day bicycle trip from New York to Washington in support of the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act [ISTEA].

On June 4th this determined group of people, led by Greenburgh Town Supervisor, Paul Feiner, and joined by my constituent Leonard Morgenstern, arrived in Washington to bring the message of ISTEA to their national representatives. The message is clear: We must ensure that transportation alternatives and environmental quality initiatives remain fully funded in ISTEA reauthorization.

The efforts of this group highlight the foundation of ISTEA which is the use of intermodal transportation. ISTEA funding has never been solely intended for highway construction. My own State of New York has been a leader in building a diverse infrastructure which enables our residents to use alternative transportation sources.

In recognition of the efforts of those I have mentioned, as well as Gus DeSilva, David Kraker, Michael Ferrato, Joseph Ippolito, Carl Kulo, Lynn Gorski, Richard Sibley, Jeff Ziffer, David Gordon, I urge my colleagues to resolve that the reauthorization of ISTEA will maintain its dedication to environmental quality and transportation alternatives.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
DR. BETTY SHABAZZ

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero; a lady of unconquerable spirit, a loving mother, educator, and activist for her people and our Nation. I rise to pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. Betty Shabazz. I would like to read to you the letter that was sent by me to Dr. Shabazz's family upon her passing:

DEAR ATTALLAH, QUBILAH, MALAAK, GAMILAH, MALIKAH, AND ILYASSAH SHABAZZ: Please accept my condolences upon the transition of your mother. I know this is a great loss to you. There can be no words to describe what you are feeling. I hope that it is of some comfort to you that I, and millions of other Americans, are also deeply saddened by her passing. I do not believe that I am exaggerating when I associate myself with millions of Americans in this regard. Your mother's self-evident love of her people, her heroic composure in assuming the mantle of

leadership, her purposefulness, her quiet strength, and her professional achievement have shown as beacons of triumph over adversity. Your mother's life has been a testament to the power of integrity and dignity.

When the harsh winds of hatred swept across our country and prematurely ended the life of Malcolm X, they could not overcome the strength of his wife. Dr. Betty Shabazz continued the struggle after his death, keeping his quest for justice for all alive. As a doctor of education administration, she brought the movement into academia, where she immeasurably touched the lives of hundreds of students. Dr. Shabazz served Medgar Evers College as director of Institutional Advancement with ability, passion, and caring, qualities that were reflected in everything she did in life.

A single mother, Dr. Shabazz's challenges as a parent were not unique. However, they were heightened by the fact that she was the single mother of Malcolm X's children. She reared her six daughters alone, constantly preparing them for a life in the forefront of the African-American community, one that is a requirement of their lineage. One of her daughters is a successful public relations executive, another a vocal activist in her late father's movement of human rights. In this way, Betty Shabazz has served as a model of motherhood and a reflection of the family values that every American family aims to emulate.

Malcolm X left us with a commitment to work so that people around the world, regardless of their race, are afforded their basic human rights. A warrior in her own right, Dr. Shabazz has made countless contributions to the cause of oppressed people around the globe, and especially within the African-American community. Her message will be forever with us, an inspiration to all who choose a life of service to their fellow man.

In this time of need for the entire Shabazz family, let us reflect upon the lessons that have been taught us by Dr. Betty Shabazz. Her life has been a testament to the virtues of family, community, and activism, and it is fitting for this House of Representatives, in the name of the American people, to pay her tribute.

HONORING JEFFERY J. DYE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an extraordinary young man, Jeffery J. Dye, who unexpectedly passed away April 21, 1997, at the age of 27. This remarkable young man will truly be missed.

Jeff had only begun to fulfill his limitless potential when he was struck down by an epileptic seizure. His loss is a tragedy to his family, his friends, and to anyone who believes in the honor of public service.

Jeff's passing is a personal loss to me, Mr. Speaker, because he served as a research assistant on my first campaign for Congress. In addition, his parents, Dennis and Janell Dye, live in my district in West University Place.

Though only 27 years old, Jeff Dye had already made his mark in the rough and tumble world of politics. His boundless energy and

enthusiasm for political battle served him well on the campaign trail and in the halls of power. He was a trusted aide in the offices of Texas Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock, and Senator DANIEL AKAKA of Hawaii, but it was the thrill of political campaigning that truly stirred Jeff's passion.

In an age of cynicism and resentment toward government, Jeff held the firm belief that the government has a responsibility, indeed an obligation, to help those less fortunate in our society. He hoped to use the Internet as a tool to expand participation and open the doors of government to more people. He believed that making it easier to find information on candidates would give the electorate the tools they need to make better decisions.

Like many bitten by the campaign bug, Jeff bounced around from position to position across the country. Wherever he landed, Jeff's intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity left everyone who met him with the impression that he was a young man with a very bright future. He served exceptionally at each of his many stops, wearing many hats along the way. He was a crack researcher, a spectacular fundraiser, and a cunning political strategist, and at the time of his death he had just begun a new challenge as executive director of the Tennessee Democratic Party.

But Jeff Dye will not be remembered only for his political resumé. He will be remembered for his passion, his commitment, and his dedication to making the world a better place. His parents are establishing a foundation in his name, dedicated to helping other motivated young men and women make their mark through public service. The foundation's goal is to fund travel and living costs for students who serve their junior year as congressional interns in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff's years among us were far too few, but thanks to the efforts of his parents his idealism and dedication will live on. I look forward to the day when students from the Jeffery J. Dye Leadership Foundation serve as interns in my office and I urge my colleagues to also participate in this internship program. In this way we can all honor Jeff Dye and the ideals in which he so strongly believed.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WHLI AM GAR-
DEN CITY

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to WHLI AM, a radio station in Garden City, LI, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary of broadcasting on July 22. WHLI can be found at 1100 on the AM dial with a format of adult sophisticated music, including oldies by the original artists. Long Islanders enjoy music spanning the spectrum from Benny Goodman to Celine Dion; Frank Sinatra to Barbra Streisand, every day.

Program Director and legendary radio personality Dean Anthony heads up this radio station, which for 50 years has also been a strong voice for the Long Island community. Informative news programming adds to the appeal of WHLI, which broadcasts at 10,000