

friend to the U.S. Congress—the late Wiley K. Carter.

Wiley Carter died Thursday, September 11, 1997, in Jackson, MS. Wiley was a 1954 graduate of Jackson Central High School and a 1958 graduate of Mississippi State University. He served in State government during the administration of Gov. John Bell Williams, 1968–72. At the time of his death at age 60, Wiley served as administrative assistant for my friend and colleague, Senator THAD COCHRAN. He had served with THAD COCHRAN since 1974 when he was in his second term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Wiley loved Mississippi politics and government service, and he worked diligently to help the citizens of Mississippi. He was conscientious, he had a great sense of humor, and he was truly dedicated to our State and its citizens. My staff, my family, and I are shocked and greatly saddened by the loss of this good friend.

Wiley is irreplaceable and is truly an unforgettable friend to those who knew him. Wiley will be sorely missed both here in Washington and, even more, back home in Mississippi. He is survived by his wife, Gwen; sons, Craig and Scott; and his daughter, Christy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask you again to join me in honoring Wiley Carter, his willing sacrifice of his time and energy for the public good, and his representation of all that is good, true and steadfast in our society.

#### UKRAINE CELEBRATES SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I am proud today to recognize the sixth anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine. The actual anniversary was celebrated on August 24, but today, we in Congress are commemorating the occasion with a reception hosted by the caucus, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and the Ukrainian-American Coordinating Council.

The past year has been an exciting, but challenging one for Ukraine. As the representative of a large and active Ukrainian community in Rochester, NY, I particularly want to note two milestones over the past year in United States-Ukrainian relations.

This year we cemented the Ukrainian-American strategic partnership through the first session of the Ukraine-United States Binational Kuchma-Gore Commission. I am hopeful and confident that this partnership will continue to strengthen over the coming years.

Even more significantly, on July 9, the unprecedented Charter on the Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine was signed at the Madrid NATO summit. This ground-breaking agreement will serve as the basis for Ukraine's security into the 21st century and demonstrates the close relationship that President Kuchma has built with Europe and the United States.

As exciting as these developments are, over the next year, we, the friends of Ukraine in the

United States, must redouble our efforts to help Ukraine continue to move forward, particularly in the economic sphere. We must do what we can to support President Kuchma's ongoing efforts to reform Ukraine's economy, as he moves to integrate it into the world market economy. In Ukraine itself, the March 1998 elections will be an opportunity to elect a reform-minded Parliament to aid in this effort. Here at home, I have been working in Congress to secure continued United States aid to help Ukraine make this transition.

In addition, the Ukrainian community and other caring persons in the United States are challenged to continue their magnificent, humanitarian efforts to help relieve the still troubling health conditions for many Ukrainians, particularly children. We must do what we can to work together to lower infant mortality and to reverse the troubling trends toward lower life expectancy.

Yes, there is much work ahead, but Ukrainians in America have much to celebrate as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting and congratulating Ukraine and Ukrainian-Americans, as we commemorate the sixth anniversary of Ukrainian independence.

#### IN HONOR OF KAY HALLE

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Miss Kay Halle for her lifetime achievements in cultural activism.

Kay was born in Cleveland under the name of Katherine Murphy Halle. She attended Laurel School in Cleveland and the Mary C. Wheeler School in Providence, RI. She also studied at Smith College and the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Kay Halle was known as a radio personality, a worldwide traveler, a writer, and an activist. While she lived much of her life in Washington, the city of Cleveland considered her its "Ambassador Extraordinaire."

Ms. Halle lived in England for a year and wrote a regular column for the Cleveland News. It was there in England that she frequently dined with cultural and political leaders, including Winston Churchill. Back in the United States, she campaigned for Franklin D. Roosevelt and later for John F. Kennedy.

For 2 years she hosted a Cleveland radio show, "Know Your City," in which she interviewed local and world figures. In 1940, she traveled around South America by plane recording her impressions on tape for broadcast at Cleveland's WGAR radio station. She later served as the Washington's feature correspondent for WGAR.

Kay Halle led an active, fulfilling life. She made a dynamic impression wherever she traveled and shared her inspiring experiences with the Cleveland community. She is survived by her sister, Ann. Kay Halle will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

#### DISPLACED OLDER WORKERS DESERVE TAX RELIEF

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when large companies merge or downsize, it is often the older workers and long-time employees that bear the brunt of the job insecurity and downsizing that follows. When the corporate cost-cutters start scouring each department for cost savings, the most experienced workers often feel as though they have a bulls eye on their chest.

While every lay-off is a painful and unpleasant experience, older workers often find themselves in a unique "catch-22" situation: they are too young to comfortably retire, and too old for most companies to retrain. Many firms are understandably hesitant to retrain displaced older workers because the company may fear it will not be able to recoup their investment before the worker retires.

Yet clearly, in this global economy, displaced older workers in labor-intensive and "smokestack" industries negatively affected by trade agreements need to be retrained for jobs in other economic sectors. For example, when layoffs are concentrated in a particular industry, such as the defense industry, displaced older workers with specialized skills and knowledge have a difficult time finding comparable employment without retraining because the demand for their existing skills is low.

Mr. Speaker, data I have obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS] confirms what most Americans already know—older, displaced workers face very difficult challenges when seeking new employment.

For instance, in comparison with younger workers, older workers, those age 50 and above, have a higher unemployment rate—17 percent versus 12 percent—drop out of the labor force at higher rates after a lay-off—39 percent vs. 10 percent—suffer a longer period of unemployment between jobs—27.3 median weeks vs. 11.6 median weeks—and on average, take a 29.6 percent pay-cut in their median weekly earnings after they do finally secure a new job.

The current Tax Code compounds the problem by including severance payments made in connection with a lay-off or work force reduction as taxable income, even though this income is nonrecurring. This makes a displaced worker look suddenly wealthy on paper, pushing their family into a higher tax bracket. As a result, the current Tax Code actually taxes the severance payments of the most senior workers in a firm at the highest marginal rate, since the value of a severance package is usually derived from one's length of service to the firm.

Here is where the Tax Code is at its most heartless to displaced older workers, since those having the most difficult time finding another job are simultaneously being hit with the highest taxes on the severance payments they receive.

Mr. Speaker, to remedy this unfairness, and to provide a measure of assistance for older workers facing a particularly difficult situation, I am introducing the Career Transition Assistance Act of 1997, which will provide much needed tax relief in two critical areas.

First, my bill will allow employees who are offered severance pay packages by their employers to exclude the first \$15,000 from their taxable income. No longer will the Tax Code punish displaced workers by taxing their misfortune. This income exclusion could be taken by the employee regardless of whether the reduction in force was voluntary or involuntary.

In addition, if an employer's severance benefit provides for payments for up to 3 years from the date of separation, my legislation would allow the employee the flexibility to elect to exclude all or some of the severance payment from their income for the 3 year period, up to the \$15,000 limit.

Second, the legislation will provide a \$2,000 refundable tax credit for retraining expenses incurred after a lay-off. This tax credit is in keeping with the common-sense principle that families and individuals know their retraining needs better than government-run retraining programs.

To ensure that this tax relief is available to middle class families, jointly filing couples with incomes of up to \$100,000, and single persons with incomes up to \$75,000, would qualify under my legislation for the full \$2,000 tax credit. The value of the credit is gradually phased out for persons earning higher amounts.

While I believe Congress should continue to reform and reduce red-tape in our Nation's patch-work of retraining programs, it is important to protect workers from slipping through the cracks of these programs' widely varying eligibility criteria.

This legislation will go a long way toward improving the efficiency of our Nation's labor markets, and I call on Members on both sides of the aisle to lend their support for this effort. Severance payments are designed to provide a financial cushion to help pad the blow of a work force reduction. When the Tax Code adds insult to injury by subjecting these families to a higher tax liability, it is clearly time to correct this insidious consequence.

#### TRIBUTE TO DELORES BACON-FINCH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delores Bacon-Finch. Delores has been a dutiful employee for the New York Police Department as a police administrative aide.

During her professional career Delores has performed a number of duties. In 1985 she was assigned to the community affairs community meetings with the community council, the youth council, block associations, churches, and local development corporations.

A dedicated community activists, Ms. Bacon-Finch feeds the homeless, assists senior citizens, works with the Kiwanis Club, struggles to curb gun violence and drug trafficking. Delores even finds the time to visit hospital patients. The efforts of Delores Bacon-Finch are noteworthy and deserving of recognition. I am pleased to introduce her to my House colleagues.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF EX-IM BANK

#### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for reauthorizing the U.S. Export-Import Bank. By providing loans and guarantees that may otherwise be unavailable, the Ex-Im Bank is an invaluable tool to American workers and businesses, 80 percent of which are small companies.

In my home State of Illinois, 288 companies and 125 communities have benefited from the Ex-Im Bank in the last 5 years. During this time, Ex-Im financing helped to support the \$2.2 billion in exports my State produces, and the estimated 30,000 jobs that manufacture those exports.

The Bank is essential to the communities, constituents, and businesses in my district. Whether it's in Elgin or Aurora, Batavia, or West Chicago, companies and their employees are benefiting.

I wish to thank my friend from New Jersey, Representative ROBERT MENENDEZ, for joining me in making this a priority. I'm delighted that the chief deputy whips from each side of the aisle can come together in making this a bipartisan effort.

#### TRIBUTE TO NICOLE S. SUARD

#### HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 1997*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the activities of Nicole S. Suard, who has made a tremendous contribution to Napa County, CA, which I represent. Today, "Nicky" is being presented with 1 of 20 Regional Role Model Awards in the 1997 Life Saves "Take a Bigger Role" awards program.

Nicky Suard sees a need and comes up with a solution. Seeing a need for a home for unwed teenage mothers, she recruited a group of people and established Choix de Vie—Choice for Life—which recently celebrated the birth of its 100th baby.

For years, there has been a shortage of activities for teenagers in Napa. In 1996, Nicky arranged for a building to be donated, recruited volunteers, and founded the Lytehouse, Napa Valley's teen center.

Knowing that many nonprofits in Napa County did not have the expertise or ability to prepare grant requests, Nicky Suard brought together a group of leaders from the community to establish the Community Foundation of Napa Valley. The Community Foundation's goal is to be an aggregate of permanent fund raising for the benefit of the Napa Valley through wills, trusts, and estate planning. All moneys distributed to go local nonprofit organizations. Ms. Suard also donates her legal services as the incorporating attorney for many local nonprofits.

As if all of this is not enough, Nicky Suard is as dedicated mother of two children, Tyler and Corey. She also volunteers as a parent-teacher at their schools, teaching crafts. In all of this whirlwind of activity, she is supported

and helped by her husband, Dr. Thomas Suard.

I have personally seen the results of Nicky Suard's efforts and have been impressed time and again with her hard work and commitment to the well-being of all people in the Napa community. Her vision, innovation, and accomplishments should be held up as a model for others.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Goodling amendment. While I believe that we should have national standards and expectations for all of our students, I do not believe these national tests will help us achieve that goal.

We cannot establish nationwide standards for our students if we fail to include all students in these national tests.

The fact is that too many students will be unable to participate in the President's proposed reading and math tests.

While I commend the administration's efforts to improve public education, I remained concerned that the proposed reading test will exclude too many children from the educational opportunity they deserve.

Limited English proficient students make up a significant percentage of kids in our Nation's classrooms. Unfortunately, the administration will not adequately accommodate the participation of these students.

We have tried to attain a compromise for LEP students, but the administration has failed to offer a comparable solution.

The administration says that it wants accountability from our schools. But who will account for the progress of children who cannot take these tests?

I believe that many more school districts will be affected than people realize.

Orange County, CA, for example, has long been considered an affluent, homogeneous area. My hometown, however, has rapidly changed over the years. The truth is, Orange County is now more diverse than ever, with many new Americans calling it home.

And Orange County schools have changed along with our demographics.

Currently, 30 percent of all Orange County students are limited English proficient. My congressional district is one of the better examples of how these tests cannot adequately assess all public schools and their kids.

Two out of four school districts in my congressional district will have over half of their students excluded from the reading test because of their large number of limited English proficient students.