

In the ensuing four decades, under the leadership of Dr. Meister, Dr. James A. Colston, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., and Dr. Leo A. Corbie, Bronx Community College has grown to be a modern community college offering 2-year associate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. The college's community service programs currently serve more than 25,000 residents of the city through academic upgrading, job training and placement, cultural enrichment, and recreation.

Throughout its existence, Bronx Community College has adhered to the highest standards. In its early days, the reputation it built through the success of its graduates helped BCC to achieve steady growth in difficult economic times. Most BCC graduates find employment in positions related to their fields of study thanks to a partnership with local businesses and industries.

Mr. Speaker, on that same day, BCC will welcome its new leader, Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to education and public service. She will be installed as the fourth president of the Bronx Community College. The first female to lead Bronx Community College, Dr. Williams was named president in June of 1996.

Dr. Williams earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's degree in urban planning and a Ph.D. in higher education, all from Wayne State University in Detroit. She has shown the importance of higher education, with a focus on community college throughout her long and distinguished career. She is an expert in designing programs to help community college students continue their education beyond the traditional 2 years.

Through her years of service, she has worked for several higher education institutions. Before coming to New York, she has served as vice provost of Wayne County College and acting vice president for Academic Affairs at Highland Park Community College, both in Detroit. She also has served as consultant for the Ford Foundation Urban Transfer Opportunity Program and the United Negro College Fund's Transfer Opportunity Program.

The business, professional and civic organizations to which she belongs, like the honors and awards she has been given demonstrate that. Dr. Williams joins BCC with many lessons learned in leadership in education, community service, and wisdom. It is our hope that the addition of Dr. Williams to the Bronx Community College will bring continued success to the institution.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the 16th district of New York where Bronx Community College is located and I am delighted by its success. In addition, I participate every year in the 10K race organized by BCC.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bronx Community College, to the administration and faculty, and to the students, whose ambition and hard work have made this great institution a tremendous source of pride and success for the last 40 years.

## WE MUST PROTECT OUR CHURCHES AND CHARITIES

### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, how much of the work done by your church or favorite charity depends on the generous donations of parishioners and contributors like yourself? Did you know that creditors can take already donated money from them because current bankruptcy law allows them to do so? It's unbelievable, but it's true.

In a recent case, a U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Trustee brought an action against the Crystal Evangelical Free Church of New Hope, MN. In doing so, the unprecedented case reinterpreted the Bankruptcy Code to mean that if an individual gives money to a nonprofit group within 1 year of declaring bankruptcy, creditors can come after the group to reclaim this money. Why? Because an individual must receive something of reasonable equivalent value in return for a monetary donation.

Mr. Speaker, current law essentially says that if an individual has filed for bankruptcy, he cannot simply donate money to a charitable organization or to the church. However, because the Bankruptcy Code allows for certain "entertainment exemptions," taking a luxury vacation, purchasing liquor, buying a new car, or making 1-900 calls to psychics, are all reasonable expenditures.

This case outraged me and I decided to do something about it. I introduced legislation in early October to protect certain charitable contributions. Known as the Religious Liberty and Charitable Donation Protection Act, this legislation will amend U.S. Code to protect our Nation's churches and charities from the hands of creditors.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2604, the Religious Liberty and Charitable Donation Protection Act will allow your church or favorite charity to continue to thrive and prosper. Donations received in good faith from individuals will not be taken from their pockets by creditors. I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation. As the holidays quickly approach, we must work to address the needs of our churches, charities, and the less fortunate who rely on their vital services. H.R. 2604 will do just that.

## CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2158, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARK W. NEUMANN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, as a former homebuilder, I have always thought that the steps people must take to purchase homes and get mortgages is confusing and difficult. I rise today to express my concern with a new HUD proposal which threatens to make buying a home even more difficult and more expen-

sive for millions of Americans: HUD's proposed change to Regulation X which implements the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act [RESPA].

RESPA was passed in 1974 to address two concerns. First, it requires lenders to inform borrowers of the costs they will face once they close on a home loan. Second, it prohibits lenders from making referral payments to individuals or businesses who recommend their services.

Congress did not anticipate recent innovations in the mortgage banking industry when it passed RESPA. Mortgage brokers now play key roles in serving home buyers, particularly those with lower incomes. RESPA's outdated approach has resulted in over 50 class action lawsuits claiming that lender-paid mortgage broker fees are prohibited because they are referral fees, despite the fact that these fees have helped cut the closing costs for home buyers.

Congress has before it a bill I have cosponsored, H.R. 1283, which would call a time out on these lawsuits until RESPA can be reformed to reflect current market operations. On March 3 of this year, over 30 bipartisan Members of Congress—including several from the HUD Appropriations Subcommittee—signed a letter written by Housing Subcommittee Chairman Lazio asking HUD to clarify RESPA's definition of lender-paid broker fees to make sure it protects consumers without restricting access to affordable mortgage credit. However, this new rule could reduce mortgage brokers' ability to help people by setting fixed fees in addition to requiring fee disclosure.

As a member of the Subcommittee on VA/ HUD and Independent Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee, I believe HUD should delay this new rule as long as Congress is working faithfully to update RESPA. Secretary Cuomo has already committed to delaying the implementation of similar RESPA rule regarding employee compensation while Congress works to reform RESPA. I am hopeful similar consideration will be given to proposed changes to Regulation X. I am confident that in the end, Congress will approve a new law that makes it easier for both consumers and lenders.

## TRIBUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the opportunity to commend a segment of our working population that seldom gets the recognition it deserves. The construction industry, one of the largest industries in the Nation, provides well paying jobs with valuable career opportunities for close to 5 million American workers every year. To remain at the present level of activity, the construction industry needs an additional quarter of a million workers per year to replace an aging and retiring workforce. As it continues to bring productive and talented craftsmen and women into its ranks, the construction trade deserves our thanks.

In order to keep pace with the growing construction needs of the American public, there

must be adequate and appropriate training for individuals seeking to enter this important industry. Today, there is a program in place to meet that need. The National Center for Construction Education and Research administers a nationally recognized construction training program that allows individuals to advance at their own speed and competency to develop solid lifetime career opportunities. The merit shop believes work opportunities should be based on merit and recognizes the National Center for Construction Education and Research training programs as critical for today's workers.

No two individuals work at the same pace. That's why the merit shop is the perfect place to teach and develop careers for the construction workers of America. The merit shop, through organizations such as Associated Builders and Contractors, is committed to perfecting training programs that are both efficient and effective, in order to meet the need for a highly skilled construction work force.

An additional bonus of the merit shop apprenticeship programs is that they are excellent places for welfare recipients to gain on the job training and work experience through entry level jobs, which are the first step to obtaining the skills necessary to secure a career in the lucrative and rewarding field of construction. And merit shop contractors provide on the job work experience along with classroom training at the local level through nationally standardized and portable curricula.

On October 16, 1997, the industry reached out to 175,000 students, teachers, counselors, and parents at some 3,500 high schools and universities through a nationwide video teleconference sponsored by the National Center for Construction Education and Research on opportunities for entering the construction industry.

As the demand for highly trained and experienced construction workers increases, merit shops have consistently stepped in to fill that need. They will continue to offer Americans the training they need to fulfill the needs of the construction industry, and supply the increasing demands of economic growth in America. I applaud their efforts, and commend them for the excellent services they provide to the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE THOUSAND OAKS SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary sister city effort between Thousand Oaks, CA and the City of Spitak in Armenia. In December 1988, Spitak was devastated by an earthquake which killed half its population. Thousand Oaks residents, led by Dr. Michael Hagopian, a prominent Armenian-American, coordinated a disaster relief effort by appealing to the community for donations and supplies.

The efforts were met with overwhelming community response which led to the formation of the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee, a permanent link between the cities of Spitak and Thousand Oaks. Mayor Robert Lewis of Thousand Oaks and Mayor Arsen

Ohanian of Spitak formally established sister city ties in 1992.

That same year, then-Mayor Alex Fiore of Thousand Oaks helped launch a fund raising drive to rehabilitate an apartment building in Spitak which housed 20 displaced families. Thousand Oaks residents and businesses provided \$30,000 in this effort.

Since 1994 the Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has sponsored Armenian-American cultural programs and educational and humanitarian efforts, including the Dr. Michael Hagopian Scholarship Fund. The committee has funded a community center and hostel while providing donations to orphans and families in Spitak.

The Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee has also sponsored exchange visits for students and representatives, including Mayor Suren Avetisyan and Sister City coordinator Edward Sarkisyan. Several committee members travel regularly between Thousand Oaks and Spitak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, in particular, several dedicated Thousand Oaks Sister City Committee founders and supporters, who have made great contributions to the sister city effort, including Mrs. Lauren Balekian, Mrs. Katie Bedrosian, Mrs. Annabelle Lee Darakjian, Mr. Raymond A. Garcia, Mr. Don Goodrow, Dr. Michael Hagopian, Mr. Sark Keochekian, Mrs. Judy Lazar, Mr. Michael Markey, Mr. Vasken Melkonian, Dr. Andrew Mikaelian, Ms. Caroline R. Milton, Mrs. Frances Prince, and Mrs. Nora Sahagian.

From the devastation of the 1988 earthquake was born a strong relationship between two geographically distant peoples. The efforts of residents of the Thousand Oaks community, on behalf of those in Spitak, has created an everlasting bond between Americans and the people of Armenia and Artsakh.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALBERT P. MAURO

##### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great man from Kansas City, Albert P. Mauro, as the first recipient of the American Citizen Award presented by the Southtown Council which for 15 years has brought together area businesses, associations, institutions, and neighborhoods to educate and strengthen our community. Mr. Mauro has served our community for over 40 years. In 1954 he was an assistant to City Manager L.P. Cookingham. He went on to lead the fight to end segregation at General Hospital. He was the public policy architect behind the vision for combining all the entities on hospital hill and more importantly the collaborative funding sources—that is, city, State, county, Federal, and so forth. No other complex has had such a diverse and complex fund mechanism. Through his work, the economic development of our area thrived. His leadership contributed tirelessly to the campaigns for the Boys and Girls Club, the Genesis School, and in securing the construction of the Deramus Education Pavilion at the Kansas City Zoo. Although he has retired as vice president and corporate secretary of Kansas City Southern Industries, he continues to chair

the downtown council and serves on numerous boards and civic associations.

Mr. Mauro's combination of compassion and ingenuity have produced a brighter future for Kansas City. I join with the Southtown Council in recognizing Mr. Mauro for his leadership, integrity, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mauro on his well-deserved receipt of the First Southtown Council American Citizen Award.

#### IN MEMORY OF KEVIN DUANE NEWSOME

##### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 21, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer words of gratitude and recognition for the wonderful life that Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome lead in his Houston community.

I was saddened at hearing of the passing of Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome: son, husband, father, colleague, and friend to those who knew him.

A child is a mother's and father's best hopes and dreams personified. A husband is a wife's best friend, companion, and advisor. A brother is a counselor, aide, and active participant in the lives of his siblings. A certified public accountant a counselor and aid to others. A businessman is a pillar for our community.

Mr. Kevin Duane Newsome was a father in the true sense of the word, man of the finest and most honored titles that anyone can hold in a life time.

His sons Kevin Jr. and Jarrad had there father for only a brief time, but they knew that he loved them through his commitment to them and their mother, Deborah.

There is a lot that I could say, but a day or a week, not even a month would allow me enough time to express all that Kevin Duane Newsome was to his mother, his wife, to his sons, to his sister, to his friends, to Wesley Chapel A.M.E. Church, or to Houston business community.

Kevin Duane Newsome was a native son of Houston, TX. For those who knew him best, Kevin was a role model. It is easy for all to see the importance of role models for children, but as adults we soon forget the importance of having our own role models who can provide visible signs of triumph over the complexities that life has to offer. Kevin taught us that truth matters, that honesty matters, and that fairness matters. Kevin Duane Newsome kept his focus on people and it showed in his relationship with his family and friends.

Kevin grew up in and attended Houston Independent School District schools. He obtained a bachelor in business administration in 1979 and a masters of business administration in 1984 from the University of Houston. Kevin's professional career included audit positions with Authur Anderson Co. and the city of Houston. In 1984, he joined Texaco, Inc., as an internal auditor. Most recently he was promoted to manager of quality human resources.

As the words of the Lord are recorded in St. John chapter 10, verse 27 to verse 30, He said:

My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And I give unto them