

of his retirement and 39th anniversary as a pastor. His wife, Hardina Anderson, can be proud of her husband's ministry, as his dedication to his church and to his community serves as an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROLAND ROEBUCK

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Mr. Roland Roebuck, who was recently recognized by the District of Columbia's Superior Court and Court of Appeals, for his work in the D.C. Hispanic community. The Community, Outreach, Recognition and Opportunity Award or CORO, which was presented during Hispanic Heritage Month, goes to an individual who has made an impact on the lives of members of the Latino population.

Roland, who hails from the Island of St. Croix, served in the military during the Vietnam era. After his honorable discharge, he moved to the Washington Metropolitan Area, and has been the Hispanic program coordinator for the Government of the District of Columbia for more than 20 years.

Roland is privileged to be of dual heritage, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and has used this position to continue to foster the two cultures in his homeland, on the Continental United States and internationally. His intelligence, charm, wit and sense of humor have opened doors all over the world, allowing others to get a taste of who we are.

I am proud to call Roland Roebuck my friend, and I join the members of the Hispanic Heritage Committee, my Virgin Islands and Puerto Rican communities and the Hispanic population at large, in paying tribute to this true American.

TRIBUTE TO SEAN F. DALTON

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding public servant and one of New Jersey's finest individuals, Sean F. Dalton. Sean Dalton comes from a long line of distinguished public servants, from his father, Bill Dalton, the former mayor of Glassboro and chairman of the South Jersey Transportation Authority; to his brother, Daniel Dalton, who served with distinction as a State assemblyman and senator and as New Jersey's secretary of state.

Sean is an outstanding member of the New Jersey General Assembly. But my reason for praising him today has more to do with his heart than his work as a public servant. Specifically, Sean has dedicated much of his time to helping New Jersey's veterans population. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, New Jersey has among the largest veterans populations in the Nation. The willingness of these veterans to jeopardize their lives for our future goes well beyond bravery, and the least that we as

a society can do to repay them is to ensure that their accomplishments are recognized and their civilian years are as enjoyable as possible. Sean Dalton has tirelessly led this effort.

He has sponsored legislation to have the State of New Jersey issue a special medal to those citizens who were on active duty during the Vietnam conflict. He has worked with other veterans to ensure that all deserving individuals received their long-overdue medals and other military awards from America's other wars.

Of course, Sean Dalton's accomplishments don't begin and end with our veterans community. He has been a tireless advocate for our seniors, for workers, for local homeowners and taxpayers, and for our youngest citizens. In recognition of his remarkable efforts, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains will be awarding Sean Dalton with its Legion of Honor Award on Monday, October 27 at St. John Episcopal Church in Chew's Landing, NJ.

This remarkable honor has been given to some of our Nation's most distinguished citizens, from Presidents Truman and Eisenhower to John Cardinal Wright of Pittsburgh and John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia to Gen. Colin Powell and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. The Legion of Honor membership is given in recognition of loving service rendered by the recipient to persons regardless of their race or religious faith. No one is more deserving of this outstanding award than Sean Dalton. His family and friends, along with his many admirers, should be extremely proud of his many achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating Sean Dalton on his receipt of the Legion of Honor Award.

HONORING THE NEW CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION CENTER ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Capital Area Transportation Authority, which has provided more than 70 million rides to the citizens of Ingham County in its 25-year history.

CATA has grown from 55 employees in 1972, serving 700,000 annual customers, to 175 employees today, providing more than four million customers each year with the most reliable form of transportation in the area.

The communities of Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian Township, Delhi Township, Lansing Township, and rural Ingham County have come to rely on the service, efficiency, and accessibility of our local transit system. This high quality can be credited to the dedication and strong work ethic the men and women of CATA bring to their jobs each day.

On October 24, CATA will celebrate their silver anniversary by dedicating a new state-of-the-art transit center in downtown Lansing. The new transit center demonstrates that our State and Federal Governments can work together to provide the strongest possible transportation system available. With the new facility, CATA will continue to provide safe, reli-

able, and high quality transit service well into the 21st century.

I am very proud of our public transportation system in Ingham County and am pleased that we can celebrate 25 years of service with a new facility.

ANTE PERKOV: RECIPIENT OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SAN PEDRO 1997 KEYSTONE AWARD

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ante Perkov, who will be honored tonight at the 70th annual Keystone Awards dinner held by the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro.

In San Pedro, when you hear the phrase "it's better to give than to receive," one immediately thinks of Ante Perkov. Known to the community as the kind, warm-hearted man with a carnation behind his ear, Ante has contributed significantly to all types of community activities since his arrival to San Pedro.

He has spent his life building his restaurant, Ante's, into one of the finest ethnic restaurants in the South Bay, while never saying "no" to any charity or person in need. Ante has given his time and his talents whenever called upon because of his concern and love for people.

Ante has cooked for and helped raise funds for the Mary Star of the Sea Parish, the Holy Trinity Parish, the Salvation Army, Homer Toberman Settlement House, the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro, the San Pedro Peninsula YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and the San Pedro Lions Club. Ante also serves on the board of directors for the Salvation Army and the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro.

His personal recognitions include a doctor of philanthropy degree from Pepperdine University, Honorary Mayor of San Pedro, Citizen of the Year from the Boy Scouts of America, Man of the Year from the Lions Club, and the Steering Wheel Award from the San Pedro High School Lady Pirate Boosters, in addition to being a lifetime member of the San Pedro Elks and the San Pedro Lions Club.

With his gentleness, kindness, and giving heart, Ante has touched the lives of the Harbor area community with his generous and unheralded gift of caring. I am proud to join the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro in extending my sincere administration and appreciation to Ante Perkov.

Congratulations Ante.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS OF NEW JERSEY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of veterans from the Women's Army Corps in raising money to refurbish Flemington County's veterans memorial.

On the weekend of July 19, 10 members of the Women's Army raised \$1,250 to contribute

to the \$80,000 needed. Organizer Anna Hoffman sat outside a local ShopRite with Janet Thatcher, Ruth Lincoln, Estelle Lokowsky, Josephine Knoblock, Linda Trimboth, Mabel Kauffman, and Grace Meyer, taking turns sitting at a table, collecting money.

Mr. Speaker, there are many women veterans who served valiantly and without regard for their own lives in both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the gulf war. Their efforts need to be acknowledged and honored.

The refurbished memorial was dedicated on September 14, 1997, to all Hunterdon County veterans. I thank each and everyone of these men and women who served our great Nation.

INTRODUCING THE DAVIS-BACON REPEAL ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Davis-Bacon Repeal Act of 1997. The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931 forces contractors on all federally-funded construction projects to pay the local prevailing wage, defined as "the wage paid to the majority of the laborers or mechanics in the classification on similar projects in the area." In practice, this usually means the wages paid by unionized contractors. For more than 60 years, this congressionally-created monstrosity has penalized taxpayers and the most efficient companies while crushing the dreams of the most willing workers. Mr. Speaker, Congress must act now to repeal this 61-year-old relic of the era during which people actually believed Congress could legislate prosperity. Americans pay a huge price in lost jobs, lost opportunities and tax-boosting cost overruns on Federal construction projects every day Congress allows Davis-Bacon to remain on the books.

Davis-Bacon artificially inflates construction costs through a series of costly work rules and requirements. For instances, under Davis-Bacon, workers who perform a variety of tasks must be paid at the highest applicable skilled journeyman rate. Thus, a general laborer who hammers a nail must now be classified as a carpenter, and paid as much as three times the company's regular rate. As a result of this, unskilled workers can be employed only if the company can afford to pay the Government-determined prevailing wages and training can be provided only through a highly regulated apprenticeship program. Some experts have estimated the costs of complying with Davis-Bacon regulations at nearly \$200 million a year. Of course, this doesn't measure the costs in lost jobs opportunities because firms could not afford to hire an inexperienced worker.

Most small construction firms cannot afford to operate under Davis-Bacon's rigid job classifications or hire the staff of lawyers and accountants needed to fill out the extensive paperwork required to bid on a Federal contract. Therefore, Davis-Bacon prevents small firms from bidding on Federal construction projects, which, unfortunately, constitute 20 percent of all construction projects in the United States.

Because most minority-owned construction firms are small companies, Davis-Bacon keeps minority-owned firms from competing

for Federal construction contracts. The resulting disparities in employment create a demand for affirmative action, another ill-suited and ill-advised Big Government program.

The racist effects of Davis-Bacon are no mere coincidence. In fact, many original supporters of Davis-Bacon, such as Representative Clayton Allgood, bragged about supporting Davis-Bacon as a means of keeping cheap colored labor out of the construction industry.

In addition to opening up new opportunities in the construction industry for small construction firms and their employees, repeal of Davis-Bacon would also return common sense and sound budgeting to Federal contracting, which is now rife with political favoritism and cronyism. An audit conducted earlier this year by the Labor Department's Office of the Inspector General found that an inaccurate data were frequently used in Davis-Bacon wage determination. Although the inspector general's report found no evidence of deliberate fraud, it did uncover material errors in five States' wage determinations, causing wages or fringe benefits for certain crafts to be overstated by as much as \$1.08 per hour.

The most compelling reason to repeal Davis-Bacon is to benefit the American taxpayer. The Davis-Bacon Act drives up the cost of Federal construction costs by as much as 50 percent. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has reported that repealing Davis-Bacon would save the American taxpayer almost \$3 billion in 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to finally end this patently unfair, wildly inefficient and grossly discriminatory system of bidding on Federal construction contracts. Repealing the Davis-Bacon Act will save taxpayers billions of dollars on Federal construction costs, return common sense and sound budgeting to Federal contracting, and open up opportunities in the construction industry to those independent contractors, and their employees, who currently cannot bid on Federal projects because they cannot afford the paperwork requirements imposed by this Act. I therefore urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the Davis-Bacon Repeal Act of 1997.

FOREIGN SPENDING

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the topic of foreign spending. While it is to our benefit to assist less fortunate countries, it is also important to ensure that taxpayer resources are well spent. I would like to share one opinion as written by Mr. Cory Flohr from Colorado.

"America must change the way it does business with regard to foreign assistance spending. For too long, our government has taken billions of dollars out of the pockets of the hardworking taxpayers of this country, only to squander it in far-off lands in an attempt to settle our national conscience. At best, the recipients have benefitted very little from our handouts. At worst, these people, who truly are in need of real assistance, have been left in a worse predicament than that in which they were found.

"As a nation of immigrants, America has a distinct interest in, and direct responsibility

to, the world outside of our borders. Not only do our ancestral ties often bind us emotionally to the well-being of our familial homelands, but our nation's economic, political, and military interests rely directly on the prosperity, stability, and security of the rest of the world. Furthermore, Americans are simply, and arguably, the most generous, compassionate, and "charitable people on Earth. It is just our nature to assist those in need.

"For these reasons, it is not surprising that the issue of foreign assistance can evoke strong feelings from a large portion of our population. Unfortunately, our prosperous nation learned long ago that we can quickly engage, if not solve, the world's problems by throwing money in the general direction of the source. The problem is that very few substantial and complicated problems can be effectively solved with cash alone. This is especially true of the afflictions most developing countries face which are driven by flawed national policies and which cannot be cured until meaningful policy changes are enacted from within.

"The unfortunate fact is, that although our country has dumped hundreds of billions of dollars overseas, the great majority of the recipient countries are no better off today, and in many cases worse off, than they were before. For example, of the 64 countries that have received U.S. foreign aid for 35 years or more, 41 have economies that have remained virtually the same or have deteriorated over the past three decades. Of those 41 countries, 21 of them are poorer today than they were thirty years ago.

"Now many people argue that while the economies of recipient countries may not have improved, their plight can be blamed on factors beyond their control—natural disasters, lack of natural resources, civil unrest, or colonial exploitation. These explanations would be enlightening if not for very significant contradictory examples from the past. Many of the world's richest countries, Japan for one, have virtually no natural resources. America, a former British colony, was torn apart by a devastating Civil War in the 1800's, yet managed to "generate massive economic growth both during, and after the war.

"The one thing, however, that all economic powerhouses have in common, and that all poor countries lack, is a policy of economic freedom. This concept is characterized by the ability of individuals to pursue their own economic desires with minimal governmental intervention and control, low barriers to trade, lowered taxes, limited regulatory burdens, high foreign investment, freedom of private property ownership, and access to competitive banking.

"No amount of government-to-government charity will ever create wealth, nor can it counteract the detrimental effects of repressive economic policies that do nothing but stifle productive output and discourage the creation of wealth. This is why, rather than continuing to send our bundles of cash overseas year after year, we should instead demand, demonstrate, and encourage those countries to begin implementing long-lasting, and self-sustaining economic reform. Unless, of course, our true goal is to play the role of global welfare provider, keeping recipient countries in a subservient role and dependent upon America's handouts.

"Many try to justify America's high level of foreign spending by arguing that, compared to the mammoth size of our overall federal budget, the expense is negligible. No amount of money taken out of the American taxpayer's pocket should ever be considered negligible, particularly when we are talking about \$12 to \$13 billion per year. There are simply too many hardworking families living paycheck to paycheck in this country for