

speech. Often he spoke about problems that the nation's governors have been talking about, such as education and crime.

The President spoke crisply, and with conviction. He showed genuine passion as he talked about his number one priority for the next four years—ensuring that Americans have the best education in the world. Recognizing widespread concerns about education, he called it “one of the critical national security issues for our future”. He then dealt in rapid-fire fashion with most of the policy areas on the nation's agenda. He wants to expand Head Start, extend the family and medical leave law, expand medical research and technology, mount a full-scale assault on juvenile crime, and clean up 500 toxic waste sites. He wants low-tax empowerment zones in urban areas to encourage revitalization.

His education proposals call for a 40 percent increase in federal spending on education by the year 2002. He set out a ten-point plan to renew education at all levels; especially noteworthy for me was his emphasis on teachers. So much of the discussion on reforming education has omitted the key importance of teachers. More controversial was his call for education standards. Most everybody is demanding improvement in the quality of education, recognizing the wide variety in what schools teach and students learn among the states and the counties. Most past efforts to create national education standards have been either ignored or diluted, and the U.S. is one of the few industrialized countries without specific national requirements for what students should know. The challenge here is to help students and teachers to know what to strive for in class without creating more federal intrusion into the schools.

The most moving portion of the speech came at the end when he called for one America, emphasizing that diversity is our strength, not a weakness, and that we must all be “repairers of the breach”. Even after a long speech, the audience was clearly moved by the president's conclusions and plea for unity amidst diversity.

His bluntest statements were in opposition to the balanced budget amendment to the constitution, even as he made a strong plea to balance the budget. He stated that a constitutional amendment would cripple the country in time of crisis and force unwanted results upon the country. I strongly applauded his call for bipartisan campaign finance reform, and I was not surprised to see him make a plea for improving welfare reform. And I liked his challenge to employers to make the new welfare system work by giving someone on welfare the chance to work.

The most dramatic change in the President's thinking is on health care. He has clearly abandoned his plans for sweeping changes, and is now proposing more incremental steps by extending insurance to at least half of the ten million children in our country who have no health insurance.

WORLD LEADERSHIP

The President gave major emphasis to keeping American leadership in the world strong. He spoke for some time and in considerable detail about what that means. He wants an undivided democratic Europe and an America that looks to the East no less than the West. He also wants an America that prospers in a global economy, free to conclude new trade agreements that open new markets to our goods and services, even as we preserve our values. He expressed his confidence that with the best workers and the best products, we can out-compete anybody in the world in a truly open market. The President made a very strong and direct

appeal to Congress to approve the chemical weapons convention, and to support the necessary resources to carry on our diplomacy. He urged Congress to take the steps to keep America strong, secure, and prosperous for another fifty years.

CONCLUSION

I thought the State of the Union address was one of the President's better speeches. It gave a very clear indication of his priorities. The President hit the right themes of improving education and better preparing our nation for the future, but he spent very little time discussing the tough decisions and shared sacrifices that will be needed to tackle the problems of balancing the budget, shoring up Social Security and Medicare, and reforming the campaign finance system.

The President tried to convey a sense of decisive and coherent action by setting out the agenda for the next four years but without proposing ambitious new federal programs. He was clearly aware throughout the speech of the limits imposed by the fiscal realities. The President still speaks of offering opportunity, demanding responsibility, and preparing us for the 21st century, but his proposals reveal a diminished means for accomplishing those goals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TRICIA PATTERSON

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the House's attention the good work of a valued community organization in my district, the Italian American Commercial Club, and their efforts to assist outstanding young people to further their education.

This year the Italian American Commercial Club of Joliet's 1996 scholarship recipient is Tricia Patterson. Tricia is an outstanding young lady and is an honors student at Joliet West High School. While maintaining a full load of honors classes, Tricia still manages active involvement in the National Honors Society, the French National Honors Society, French Club, and Peer Helpers. On top of this, she works part-time at Dominic's.

Tricia is proud of her family and credits her family with teaching her the basic values that have helped her succeed.

This outstanding Joliet West High School student has worked hard to succeed, especially when it comes to academics. Tricia plans to attend college and has already been accepted to two outstanding colleges, Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois to study accounting.

I'm proud to represent outstanding young people like Tricia Patterson and commend community groups like the Italian American Commercial Club for their contribution to helping young people.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating Tricia Patterson.

HONORING PAMELA Y. LOVING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who is strong and positive

force within the community, and who by her actions has shown that the rewards from such dedication are immeasurable. On Thursday, February 6, 1997, the Flint, MI Pan-Hellenic Council will honor Ms. Pamela Y. Loving as a part of their Seventh Annual Salute to African-American Elected Officials. The awards dinner is chaired by Mr. James B. Franklin III, and the honorary chair is Dr. Alan Arnold.

Pamela Loving, a resident of Flint MI, has blessed the city with a professional career that spans 35 years, beginning at Lippincott Market as a sweeper, a butcher and a cashier. Ms. Loving has also held positions at Hurley Medical Center and served as the public health nurse for the city of Flint. She has also served as president of Whole Village, Inc. and then began a 23 year tenure at GMI Engineering and Management Institute. These accomplishments have ultimately led to her current position as acting president of Jobs Central, Inc., proving that hard work and perseverance are prime factors for success.

Armed with an associates degree from C.S. Mott Community College, a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit and a graduate-level curriculum from such schools as Central Michigan, Purdue, Wisconsin, Michigan State, and Harvard, Ms. Loving decided to pursue a more active role in the community of winning a seat on the Flint Board of Education in 1989, where she still serves as treasurer. In addition to the board, Ms. Loving possesses a host of affiliations including the Flint Cultural Center, Hurley Medical Center Board of Directors, Alzheimer's Association and Forum Magazine Advisory Board, to name a few.

This year's dinner will also honor the Honorable Valdemar Washington with the distinguished Floyd J. McCree Memorial Leadership Award. Additionally, the Community Service Award will be given to Ailene Butler, Joann Owens-Reed, and Ali Saaba. All of these individuals represent the very best in civic and social responsibility, and are more than deserving of the highest respect and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I appear before you today to recognize Ms. Pamela Loving. As evidenced by her personal motto that “Learning is a lifelong process,” she has been and shall continue to be a solid inspiration to not only me, but to all those she comes in contact with. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow members of the 105th Congress to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, Ms. Pamela Y. Loving.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR JACKIE ROBINSON MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESEGREGATION OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a talented man, Mr. Jackie Robinson, and to the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of major league baseball. Not only did Jackie's efforts gain entrance for African-Americans into professional baseball, but they paved the way for African-American participation in all professional sports.

Fifty years ago, as the United States fought racism in World War II, America's national

pastime remained a white-only sport. On April 10, 1947, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball, ending 71 years of exclusion for African-American athletes, when he was signed by Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey.

Jackie's path breaking career in professional baseball began on October 23, 1945, when he was signed to the Montreal Royals, the Dodgers' Triple-A farm team, as the first African-American player in the minor leagues. In his first game, Jackie led the Royals to a 14-1 victory over Jersey City Giants winning the respect and admiration of Montreal and Jersey City fans alike. As he remembered, "the crowd just mobbed me. Kids were chasing me * * * to get my autograph and grown people were patting me on the back * * * I was convinced that American sports fans are truly democratic * * * that they would accept me—they didn't care what color a player was."

Jackie went on to play as first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers in April 1947 and was named National League Rookie of the Year. During his 10 years on the Dodgers the team won the pennant six times and the World Series in 1955. When Jackie retired in 1957 he had played every position but pitcher and catcher, and boasted a .311 lifetime major-league average, with 1,518 hits, 947 runs, 273 doubles, and 734 RBI's. He was named the National League's Most Valued Player in 1949 and to the Baseball Hall of Fame at the first election he was eligible on July 6, 1962.

In this, the golden anniversary of major league baseball's desegregation, I ask Members to join me in honoring Mr. Jackie Robinson and the American ideals of opportunity and equality which make our Nation great.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOUTH LYON

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal and dedicated officer to the community of South Lyon in Oakland County, MI. David LaFond celebrated his 25th year on the South Lyon police force on January 26, 1997.

David began his career in law enforcement on August 11, 1963, with the city of Northville. He transferred to South Lyon in 1972 and has served 25 dedicated years since.

He was promoted to sergeant in 1977 and in 1990, became the first lieutenant in South Lyon police history. Currently, David serves as the second in command of the South Lyon department and, for the past 12 years, has been the officer in charge of all department investigations.

Mr. LaFond has been awarded many citations and letters of commendation during his years of service. He has acted as director of public safety and served on the West Oakland major crime team since its inception. In 1994, he was elected the team coordinator.

The dedication of David LaFond exemplifies his commitment to making South Lyon a safer place for our families. He is a loyal public servant who deserves the recognition, honors, and accolades he receives.

REPEAL THE ESTATE TAX

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, among the taxes the Internal Revenue Service collects, the estate tax ranks as one of the most unfair. With top rates reaching as high as 55 percent, the estate tax can and does force the sale of family businesses, farms, and ranches to satisfy the tax collectors.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's safe to say that most people work for themselves and their families. They do not spend long hours and many years building a successful business or family farm so that when they die, the Government can step in and take the fruits of their labors. Yet, that is exactly what the estate tax allows.

Though they account for only 1 percent of Federal revenues, estate taxes have forced the sale of thousands of farms, ranches, and businesses throughout this country. We can only guess at the jobs and economic potential lost through this process. One study concluded that one-third of all small business owners will have to sell all or part of their businesses to pay estate taxes—70 percent of that group will have to cut their work force.

Estate taxes hit the agricultural sector particularly hard. American agriculture is filled with farmers who are rich only on paper. These "paper millionaires" know that the value of their farms is not in the IRS valuation of their equipment and land, but in the farm's ability to produce agricultural products. Farmers make their living growing food and fiber, not speculating in land and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the estate tax. After a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice, the family business owner, farmer, and rancher should not be faced with the prospect of losing it all to the tax man.

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of Black History Month. The observation of Black History Month dates back to 1926 when African-American historian and scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson introduced "Negro History Week," traditionally observed during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, a personal hero. In 1976, this was expanded to include the entire month of February. In many communities, this has also been expanded with celebrations beginning with Kwanzaa in late December, continuing in January with the birthday celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through February, culminating in May with the birthday of Malcolm X. Of course, it goes without saying that black history is relevant everyday especially in the United States since it is inextricably linked to the history and development of this Nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one celebration that resonates personally. This past Sunday, February 9, the Pullman Blues Whistle Stop Tour departed Jack London Square in my hometown of Oakland, CA. This tour was created to coincide with a February 16 celebration by the Historic Pullman Foundation in honor of the thousands of African-American men and women who provided the Pullman Co. and the railroads of America with over a century of faithful service on the passenger trains of railroad's Golden Age.

My uncle, C.L. Dellums, for whom the Amtrak station at London Square is named, was a Pullman car porter. He was a colleague and comrade of A. Philip Randolph in the struggle to bring dignity to the jobs that were being performed by railroad workers. Their pioneering struggle that resulted in the creation of the first largely African-American trade union was a harbinger not only of future victories for worker rights—but it was a catalyst that led to some of the important and more general civil rights victories in our society. It is no small wonder that this movement succeeded, given the towering vision and the charismatic intellectual leadership of people like A. Philip Randolph and C.L. Dellums.

This cross country whistle stop tour via two private railroad cars began in Oakland, stopping over at Los Angeles, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, and will end in the historic town of Pullman, IL. Cosponsors of this event include the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the NAACP, Amtrak, Twayne Publishers, and various private and union sponsors throughout the country.

Their efforts to highlight the work of thousands of African-American men and women in the railroad industry is an important and moving contribution to our continuing struggle to bring about equality of opportunity and an end to bigotry and intolerance in our Nation. We have so far to go to achieve equality, and we desperately need to remain engaged in this struggle—not just because the goal is so terribly important but because we need urgently to persuade our children that we continue to fight and struggle for their future as well.

I applaud their efforts and wish them the very best in their celebration.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BENTLEY KASSAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues of the House, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a very special person who is about to celebrate his 80th birthday on February 28, 1997.

I am speaking about Justice Bentley Kassal who has faithfully served the people of the State of New York for over 40 years. Bentley Kassal was born in New York City on February 28, 1917, to Pauline Nirenberg and Hyman Kassal, who arrived from Poland in 1914. He attended New York City public schools. He graduated from Townsend Harris High School and was a member of the varsity soccer and baseball teams. He was elected to the Townsend Harris hall of fame in April 1991 and received its Life Achievement Award in October 1989.