

Samoa will lose fully one-third of its total economy. This will be devastating.

This legislation is a start toward addressing this problem. The commission established will be directed to examine, among other things, recent changes in trade law and the current and future impact these changes will have on American Samoa.

A TRIBUTE TO CONCORD COLLEGE,
ATHENS, WV, 125 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1875, 70 students arrived at a rough frame building for the first session of classes, under the leadership of Capt. James Harvey French as principal—a result of action taken by the West Virginia Legislature to establish a branch of the State Normal School at Concord in the county of Mercer.

On February 28, 1997 Concord College will observe its 125th anniversary—celebrating one and one-quarter centuries of excellence.

This expansion of higher education was motivated by the educational reform movement of the 1870's and the need for producing qualified teachers for elementary and secondary schools. The enabling legislation provided that no State funds were to be used in the construction of the school building. Residents of the town raised over \$1,700 by subscription to erect the first building on land donated by William Harvey Martin, at the site of the present Athens Elementary School.

By 1885, the State Legislature, impressed by the service given to the State by the school, appropriated \$5,000 for a new brick building, which was completed in June 1887.

But fire was to claim the downtown location of the Normal School in November 1910, rousing a determined faculty and students to hold classes the very next day wherever they could find space throughout town. The current campus was selected as the new site, and it was purchased by the people of Athens from the Vermillion family for that purpose, only to have a second fire in 1912 that was even more damaging than the first—but again, a determined faculty and residents of the local community banded together to rebuild and rededicate Concord School.

The college awarded its first baccalaureate degree to three graduates in June 1923, and in 1931 the institutions' name changed to Concord State Teachers College.

Today, under the current leadership of President Jerry Beasley, Concord has grown to a comprehensive State college of 2,400 students studying in Athens, Beckley, and other southern West Virginia locations. The town in which it has always been located even changed its name to Athens in 1896 in recognition of Concord's role as a center of education.

Concord College, under previous Presidents such as Cap. James Harvey French, whose early title was "Principal," to President Joseph Franklin Marsh, to President Meredith Freeman, to the excellent administration of its current President Jerry Beasley, has expanded far beyond its original teacher preparation mis-

sion—with programs of study offered in business, social work, the arts and sciences and the other pre-professional fields.

The college believes strongly in the advantages that a broad liberal arts education can add to the job preparation skills which the public now demands. In an era in which job change and career shifts are on the rise, the value of this fundamental education—learning how to learn for a lifetime—is even more pronounced.

Mr. Speaker, it is my high honor to represent the people who live in southern West Virginia—the State's third Congressional District—where Concord College was established and where it is now a thriving campus.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Concord College, to its faculty, students and to its many friends as it celebrates its 125th anniversary on February 28, 1997. At 11 a.m. on that date, a full academic procession will enter the Alexander Fine/Arts Center of the Athens campus for a program commemorating the college's beginning—and its future.

I join with the officials of Concord College, the newly elected Governor Cecil Underwood, the State College System board of Directors, the local delegation to the West Virginia Legislature and representatives of Concord's constituent and support groups, in congratulating Concord College for this enormous success in serving family and student needs in Athens and surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, it is through these kinds of lasting efforts continued down through centuries and more, that we continue to be able to improve and enhance higher education for all our people. From its inception, the local people of Athens, the students and faculty, and the enormously talented Presidents named above who served Concord from 1872 to 1997, all sharing their ideas and their ideals and acting upon them for the common good—have culminated in the highly respected and greatly loved Concord College that we pay tribute to today.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: RECOGNITION, RESPECT, AND RELIANCE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, February is Black History Month, which our Nation has devoted to recognizing and honoring the contributions and accomplishments African-Americans have made to this country. Across our great Nation, schools, businesses, churches, and civic organizations are making a special effort to proclaim the importance of African-Americans to this Nation's progress and success.

We make this special effort for two fundamentally important reasons. First, black people of this Nation have suffered unfairly through generations of slavery and oppression. Today, I am grateful that we are working together to ensure that all people are treated equally, both in word and deed. The second reason we mark this time with Black History Month is that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to this Nation's progress and success. Quite simply, we would be much diminished as a

nation if it were not for the hard work, insight, activism, leadership, and excellence found within the African-American community.

Today, I want to focus on the pattern of black history that begins with our Nation's earliest days and ends in a future that is brighter for all of us. That pattern has three fundamental components: Recognition, Respect, and Reliance. I believe that we must recognize African-Americans for their contributions. I believe that respect for African-Americans flows out of our recognition of their importance in America. Finally, recognition and respect creates a healthy reliance on African-Americans that crosses all racial and economic groups. I stand here today in order to help move forward our efforts to recognize Black historical accomplishments, to urge respect for our African-American neighbors, and to promote a cross-racial reliance that fosters a more perfect Union.

Recognition begins with an understanding that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to the cultural, economic, athletic, scientific, and spiritual advancement of the United States. They have been a positive factor in nearly all major events in American history and have both influenced and changed American life and culture. Unfortunately, many contributions made by African-Americans remain unknown among most Americans.

We could spend many hours exploring African-American contributions to American life. Today, I urge you to take some time and explore the remarkable achievements of African-Americans on your own. When we recognize the continuous and important impact they have had on our nation, we will agree that a future full of African-American accomplishments is a good one.

Consider the impact African-Americans have had in politics and civil rights. Of course, Blacks have always been politically active. Today, we should call special attention to Blacks who serve their nation and communities in ways unimaginable one hundred years or even fifty years ago. Blacks now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. Mayors David Dinkins, Tom Bradley, Coleman Young, and others have had a positive impact on some of our most important cities. Douglass Wilder served as governor of my neighbor state of Virginia. In my home district, several black leaders have served on the city council, school board, board of county commissioners, community college board members, state board of transportation, numerous other state boards and commissions, state legislature, and in government positions at all levels, including Congress, for many years with distinction. The civil rights advances in our nation could not have been made without these fine citizens. We must recognize the importance Blacks have in shaping our political lives.

We should also recognize Blacks for their contributions to advancing American science and technology. Blacks have been vitally important inventors and scientists from our nation's earliest days. Did you know that Onesimus, a black slave, was experimenting with smallpox vaccines in the 1720s? This pioneer of modern medicine was followed by others such as Dr. Charles Drew, who engineered blood transfusions; and Samuel Kountz, who made kidney transplants more

successful. In technology, Blacks have invented the incandescent light bulb, truck refrigeration, polymer fabrics, and automated manufacturing machines used in making shoes, telephones, and other items essential to our daily lives. In space, Lt. Colonel Guion Bluford was the first Black to fly in space. Hoping to advance human services, astronaut Ronald McNair tragically died in the Challenger shuttle explosion. These individuals and many many other African-Americans must be fully recognized for their contributions to American life.

Once we recognize African-Americans for their accomplishments, we must respect them as valuable contributors to American society. In my home state of North Carolina, the African-American community emerged from the shadows of slavery to quickly take positions in government, education, entertainment, and media. The progress has not always been easy or free of hardship and danger, but the results for North Carolina include a vibrant and diverse sense of community that benefits every citizen.

Take, for example, two North Carolinians who should have our respect. First, in the early 1900's Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown founded a school for African-American children. Although she was attacked and oppressed with Jim Crow laws, her faith in God and her commitment to her community gave her the strength to ensure that her school, known as the Palmer Institute, educated Black children in the sciences, language, and culture. She received many honors, and was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. DuBouis, Booker T. Washington, and other leaders of the day. I have nothing but respect for people like Dr. Hawkins, who spend their lives committed to God and community.

There is one more person who exemplifies the sort of success that we should respect. Hiram Rhodes Revels is especially significant to me for three reasons. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, only 30 miles from where I was born. Third, he was the first Black member of the United States Congress. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He was a true pioneer of American political life.

All the people I have mentioned today—the scientists, teachers, politicians, and every African-American—should be respected members of our Nation.

Finally, we should consider America's future in light of the recognition and respect due African-Americans. America works best when every American can act responsibly, work well, and live in a safe community. When Black History Months ends, we must not end the recognition and respect earned by African-Americans. Our recognition and respect for African-Americans leads to a reliance on African-Americans for their valuable contributions to American life.

Today, there are nearly 400,000 African-American children in the North Carolina public schools. We must work together to ensure that their future is full of success and opportunity. Through the efforts of their forebearers, this Nation has come closer to fully understanding our Declaration of Independence: That all men are created equal under God and are entitled to the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pur-

suit of happiness. For many years, these words rang hollow to African-Americans. Let us be wise enough to now recognize their accomplishments, respect their value to society, and rely on them to be equal members in the great work of this Nation.

And may we remember the words of Adlai Stevenson, who was the Democratic nominee for President in 1956, this year I was born, when he said:

Trust the people, trust their good sense, their decency, their faith. Trust them with the facts; trust them with the great decisions; and fix as our guiding star the passion to create a society in which no American is held down by his race or color, by worldly condition or social status from earning that which his character earns him as an American citizen, as a human being as a child of God.

TRIBUTE TO DANYCE HOLGATE-WILKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Borough of Brooklyn is blessed with a tremendous resource of talented citizens who are dedicated to improving their community and making it a better place to live. Danyce Holgate-Wilkins is one of those dedicated citizens. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, and received her undergraduate degree from Stonybrook University, and her law degree from Howard University School of Law.

Since obtaining her law degree, Danyce has worked in a variety of capacities, including a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Bruce Wright, in addition to working in the law firm of Gaston and Snow in Boston, MA. She also has worked as an assistant corporation counsel for the city of New York.

Danyce is involved in a host of local political endeavors, in addition to serving on the board of the Association of Black Woman Attorneys. Additionally, she is a member of the board of the Tri-Community Development Corporation, and the Parent Teacher's Association.

Danyce is married to William Scott Wilkins and is blessed with two wonderful children, twin girls, Danah and Danielle.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK DEL OLMO

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pride that I rise today to recognize and honor one of this country's finest journalists—Mr. Frank del Olmo—as he celebrates 25 years of service at *The Los Angeles Times*.

For over two decades, Frank has written for *Los Angeles'* award-winning daily and has delivered more than just a story and a byline.

Frank began his career at *The Los Angeles Times* as an intern in 1971 and was hired as a reporter upon completion of his apprenticeship. After spending a year reporting local news, he soon became a staff writer specializing in Latin American affairs—a stint which

lasted nearly 10 years and distinguished him as one of the best writers at his hometown paper.

Frank rose to the rank of editorial writer and held the position for 9 years before beginning his 6-year tenure as deputy editor of the editorial pages. Today, Frank is assistant to the editor at *The Los Angeles Times*. He holds the highest position of any Latino at the newspaper, and he continues to be one of the few high-ranking Latinos in newspaper management in the country.

Frank has earned a reputation for being a journalist with integrity—a risk-taker who knows how to thread the needle—a man confidently anchored as much in his words as by his deeds.

Perhaps one of the most defining moments in Frank's career was born in a dissenting opinion he wrote a few years ago while deputy editor of the editorial pages. When *The Times* issued a gubernatorial endorsement with which he strongly disagreed, Frank put his pen to work despite the brewing tension that many believed might lead to his permanent departure from the paper. For Frank, expressing his opinions publicly was a matter of conscience. He could not sit back while the official *Times* opinion so offended California's ethnic and immigrant communities. His efforts brought him greater respect from journalists in the newsroom; and management fully realized the talents and crucial voice that Frank brings to its pages.

As assistant to the editor, Frank continues to write an insightful column for Sunday's opinion page, and he has greater input in what the paper will run each day. Frank earned this responsibility because he worked hard, because he was vigilant on behalf of his paper and his principles. He earned it because he dared to speak his mind—legitimately, constructively.

The quality of Frank's work over the years has earned him public acclaim. In 1991, he was a co-winner of *The Los Angeles Times* "Editorial Award" for pieces written on the Rodney King/LAPD/Darryl Gates case. In 1984, Frank received the prestigious "Pulitzer Gold Medal for Meritous Public Service" for a series of articles on Southern California's Latino community.

While Frank is highly regarded in the Los Angeles newsroom where he has worked for over 20 years, the story is no different outside the newsroom.

Frank, the highest-ranking Latino at *The Los Angeles Times*, serves as a role model for Latinos and other minorities, especially young aspiring journalists. His commitment to advancing the lives of young people and desire to see more Latinos blaze the journalist path inspired him to join with his colleagues to establish the California Chicano News Media Association (CCNMA) nearly 25 years ago.

Today, the 500-member organization serves as a valuable resource for working journalists and aspiring journalists alike. Frank was a principal architect in the designing of the summer high school journalism workshops that are synonymous with CCNMA. The workshops allow participating students to acquire—through one-on-one training with professional journalists in actual newsrooms—the necessary tools to report the world.

From covering the local beat as a rookie reporter, to reporting the violence and bloodshed of civil disturbance in Central America, to writing commentaries and helping students, Frank