

are made to reward as many political entities as possible, and the level of investment is spread too thin to be effective."

The National Association of Public Administrators [NAPA] agrees. In its publication "A Path to Smarter Economic Development: Re-assessing the Federal Role", NAPA asserts that government agencies "tend to perpetuate a focus on small political and geographic units rather than regions."

The RCA is an important first step in changing the Federal Government's divisive approach to funding economic development activities. The RCA encourages regional cooperation by amending the criteria used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] to award Economic Development Initiative [EDI] grants. The new criterion will simply read: "When applicable as determined by the Secretary, the extent of regional cooperation demonstrated by the proposed plan." Note that my measure in no way mandates regional cooperation. Rather, if such cooperation is appropriate, applicants will benefit if their proposals reflect a sense of cooperation with their neighboring communities.

EDI's potency as a tool for enhancing and expanding economic activity make it an appropriate starting point for encouraging regional cooperation. Since its inception, over \$400 million in EDI grants have funded the revitalization efforts of over 100 communities. Further, EDI funds are competitively awarded, are limited to a percentage of the section 108 and must work in tandem with the loan guarantee. As such, the amount of an EDI award is controlled, yet no formula has been uprooted to implement my measure.

The Tri-County Mini-Loan Fund, Inc., a revolving loan fund for small business ventures in my congressional district, is a nationally renowned program that boasts strong regional cooperation. Since its inception in 1992, the Mini-Loan Fund has pumped nearly \$2 million into the regional economy with few defaults.

In establishing the Mini-Loan Fund, we observed the impact of fractionalized efforts and took a different path. We worked with banks, local universities, and non-profit organizations from all over Ohio's Mahoning Valley to ensure the entire market would benefit from the fund, not just those within specified political boundaries. In applying for EDI and section 108 funding to enhance the program, three counties and three cities submitted six separate applications and bundled them together to form a singular, powerful application.

As a result, HUD not only awarded our Mini-Loan Fund nearly \$8 million in grants and loan guarantees, but then-Assistant Secretary Andrew Cuomo declared it a "national model of regional economic development." The now-Secretary Cuomo went on to thank the commissioners and mayors of the respective counties and cities for "pooling your resources to grow jobs for the region."

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is and will continue to be a key in successful local community development activities. It just needs to play its role a little smarter. Instead of playing communities off one another, it needs to bring them together. As we witnessed in my district, such cooperation can be a powerful tool for revitalizing not only a community, not an entire region.

Again, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Regional Cooperation Act.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIAN ANDERSON CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, on February 27, 1897, Marian Anderson, one of the world's greatest singers, a champion for civil rights, and a leader in the advancement of global peace, was born to a poor family in Philadelphia, PA. She died at the age of 96 on April 8, 1993. To honor the centennial of the birth of this great individual during Black History Month, I am today introducing with my 13 other colleagues, the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act.

This legislation is a bipartisan effort to honor Ms. Anderson's life of achievements and accomplishments. Marian Anderson, a master of repertoire across operatic, recital, and American traditional genres, played a vital role in the acceptance of African-American musicians in the classical music world. In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] refused to allow Anderson to sing at Constitution Hall because of her race. As a result of the ensuing public outcry, Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR and helped arrange a concert at the Lincoln Memorial that drew an audience of 75,000—an audience far larger than Constitution Hall could ever accommodate.

Marian Anderson was awarded 24 honorary degrees by institutions of higher learning. In 1963, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom. Congress passed a resolution in 1974 to have a special gold medal minted in her name. Marian Anderson was also an alternate delegate to the United Nations where she received the U.N. Peace Prize in 1977. In addition, she was awarded the National Arts Medal in 1986.

The surcharges from the sale of coins will be distributed to the Smithsonian Institution and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the endowment of exhibits and educational programs related to African-American art, history, and culture, as well as on the life of Marian Anderson. In addition, this bill assures that minting and issuing coins will not result in any net cost to the U.S. Government.

As we celebrate the centennial of the birth of this great individual during Black History Month, I urge my colleagues in joining us to support the passage of the Marian Anderson Centennial Commemorative Coin Act.

THE LATE REVEREND RALPH  
DAVID ABERNATHY, JR.

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am once again pleased and honored to introduce legislation honoring the Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Jr., leader of the National Poor People's Campaign of 1968. My legislation would authorize the construction of a memorial on the National Mall in honor of the Reverend

Abernathy and the thousands of individuals who participated in the Poor People's Campaign.

During the 1960's, I was honored to be a part of the civil rights movement—a movement that changed the face of our Nation. People from throughout our Nation—old and young, black and white, rich and poor—joined the nonviolent revolution that made our country a better, fairer, more just Nation. During this time, I was fortunate to get to know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his partner in the movement—Dr. Abernathy.

Dr. Abernathy was an inspiring and committed leader from the earliest days of the movement. When Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to stand in the back of the bus while there were empty seats in the white section of the bus, she inspired the Montgomery bus boycott. As ministers of the two leading black churches in Montgomery, AL, Dr. King and Dr. Abernathy worked together to organize and sustain that boycott. Thus began the strong bonds of friendship and commitment that would last as long as the two men lived.

Dr. Abernathy had a lifelong commitment to securing and protecting basic civil rights for all Americans. I marched with him many times throughout the South, including Selma and Montgomery. After the assassination of Dr. King in 1968, Dr. Abernathy assumed leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and worked to carry on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After Dr. King's death, Dr. Abernathy continued to organize and lead marches and other events, including the Poor People's Campaign, a massive demonstration to protest rising unemployment, held in Washington, DC.

The Reverend Abernathy passed away 7 years ago. Today, I am introducing a resolution authorizing the construction of a memorial to the Reverend Abernathy and the Poor People's Campaign on the National Mall. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort. The monument will celebrate the achievements of the past, commemorate those who marched alongside us many years ago, and pay special tribute to the sacrifices and the contributions of Dr. Abernathy and others who participated in the Poor People's Campaign. Thousands of people participated. Some had small roles, others large roles. The Reverend Ralph David Abernathy had many roles, often at the same time. He was a teacher, a leader, an organizer, a soldier, and a friend. Many were inspired by his spirit, his good humor, and his guidance. Today, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating his legacy and his life.

IN HONOR OF MORTIMER LEVITT  
ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and esteemed respect that I acknowledge my constituent, Mortimer Levitt, for his many achievements.

Mr. Levitt, founder of the Custom Shop Shirtmakers, started his venture in 1937. After losing his job and his savings in the height of the Great Depression, Mr. Levitt courageously

launched his business, the Custom Shop Shirtmakers. He now owns 73 Custom Shop Shirtmaker stores.

Mortimer Levitt, however, is not just an archetype in the fashion industry. He is also a philanthropist, Broadway producer, and author of four books. The custom shirtmaker is the founder and biggest contributor to the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts. He contributed funds to the building of the arts center and has since helped raise half of the pavilion's annual budget. He is on the board of directors for the Lincoln Center Film Society, the Manhattan-based Young Concert Artists, and founder of the Manhattan Theater Club where not only was he on the board, but also produced over 20 plays. Levitt has also made significant contributions to Lincoln Center and endowed a scholarship fund at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

Mortimer Levitt, for the past 60 years, has provided jobs for his community, has raised funding for the arts, and has been an inspiration to the world of fashion. It is for these reasons and many more that I would like to recognize Mr. Levitt on his 90th birthday.

#### TAIWANESE PEOPLE AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, a Taiwanese-American constituent gave me a book entitled "Formosa Betrayed" written in 1965 by American diplomat George Kerr. The book describes a painful episode in Taiwan's history, which is today known as the 2-28 Massacre.

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of the massacre.

After Japan had lost World War II, Taiwan was put under temporary administrative control of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Kuomintang. At the time, the Kuomintang was still fighting its civil war with Mao Tse-tung's Communists on mainland China. The Nationalists under Governor Chen Yi treated Taiwan as a conquered territory. Initial euphoria about the arrival of the nationalist troops in Taiwan soon changed to conflict when the new authorities turned out to be repressive and corrupt. That anger resulted in the 2-28 Massacre which claimed the lives of an estimated 18,000-28,000 Taiwanese in 1947. The event represents the beginning of 40 years of Martial Law on the island during which Chiang's mainlanders ruled the island with an iron fist.

Mr. Speaker, the date February 28 is etched in the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese people. Beginning this year, Taiwan dedicates February 28 as a national holiday.

On the 50th anniversary of the 2-28 Massacre, we recognize the sacrifice of the Taiwanese people and their struggle for self-determination and reaffirm our commitment to a free and democratic Taiwan and to the strong relationship between our two countries.

#### HAWAII HUMANE SOCIETY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Hawaii Humane Society [HHS] and the caring individuals who are employed by, or volunteer at this facility. I am pleased to say that today the HHS celebrates 100 years of success in their service to our community.

The Hawaii Humane Society is a private, nonprofit charitable organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals to perpetuate the bond between humans and animals. Its animal welfare activities are based on a philosophy of encouraging responsible pet ownership through education, legislation, and prevention.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the 28,000 donors and volunteers who give their time for this worthwhile cause. The Hawaii Humane Society's programs are innovative and are models for animal welfare organizations across the country. With their significant contributions in encouraging respect for all living creatures the HHS continues to improve the humane treatment of all animals in our community.

I am proud to pay tribute to the Hawaii Humane Society, and I am honored to add my voice to the praises of the many friends who gather to salute this fine organization.

#### REGARDING PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against religious intolerance in Pakistan. Earlier this month, tens of thousands of Muslims angered by the alleged desecration of a Koran, and incited by local Muslim leaders, burned thousands of homes of Christian villagers, along with a hospital, a school, a Catholic church, and a dormitory. While this event by itself is despicable, the conduct of the local police in this affair is unforgivable. According to reports, local police actually told residents to leave their homes because they could not protect them from the mobs. Yet it took only a small army unit to halt the rampage, which destroyed shops and homes, and restore order to the village.

This is only the latest incident in what the Christian Voice of Pakistan reports is ongoing persecution of Christians by Muslims in Pakistan. The State Department's "Human Rights Report on Pakistan" points out that "Discriminatory religious legislation has encouraged an atmosphere of religious intolerance." In fact, section 295(c) of the Penal Code stipulates the death penalty for blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed. This provision has been used by Muslims to intimidate religious minorities in Pakistan.

I met yesterday with the Pakistani Chargé d'Affaires to ask the Pakistani Government to launch an immediate investigation of the inci-

dent with particular emphasis on the role of the local police, and to repeal those portions of the Penal Code which give license to Muslims to persecute Christians and other religious minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling on Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to speak out against religious discrimination and to work to create a climate of tolerance and religious harmony in Pakistan.

#### THE PLUMBING STANDARDS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Plumbing Standards Improvement Act of 1997.

My bill would repeal the plumbing fixture flow restrictions that were enacted by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1992. Specifically, they limited the capacity of all newly manufactured toilets to 1.6 gallons per flush, and showerheads to 2.5 gallons per minute.

Through originally enacted to conserve water, these restrictions have had a number of unintended consequences, which I believe make a strong case for their repeal.

First and foremost is their impact on the public safety and health of the American people. The most damning evidence comes from a recently-released study by the University of Cincinnati. It shows that the increased mist levels created by restricted flow showerheads have led to a higher incidence of respiratory illnesses. And as you all know, children and the elderly are usually the most susceptible.

In addition, I have heard from several plumbing contractors in my district. They tell me that these showerheads have resulted in more scalding episodes, by causing a delay between the adjustment of the hot water knob and the resulting temperature increase. Thus, people, especially children, are over-adjusting the hot water and sustaining minor burns.

Regarding the toilets, it is apparent that new 1.6 gallon models are not as effective as their prerestriction counterparts. Plumbers and plumbing supply stores have been overwhelmed with complaints from unsatisfied consumers, and black markets for the old 3.5 gallon models have popped up across the country since the restrictions were put in place.

But beware: if you or I buy a 3.5 gallon toilet off the black market or remove the restrictor plate from our water-saver showerhead, under current law we would be subject to Federal fines as high as \$2,500. Simply put, this provision is making criminals out of normal, law abiding citizens who only want a decent shower and a toilet that needs to be flushed only once.

Finally, even if my bill is passed and the Federal restriction is repealed, there is nothing stopping governments in water-scarce areas from passing these kind of restrictions. Some governments may find it necessary to do so, but it is a decision that seems best done at the State and local level.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this. It is my belief that if Congress knew about the safety and health risks alone, it