

which we can study and learn about our rich heritage.

FRIENDSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, November 17, 1996 marked the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The fraternity was founded by three undergraduate students and their faculty advisor at Howard University. These gentlemen—Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, Frank Coleman, and Dr. Ernest Everett Just—began an organization that would play a major role in the cultural, social, and civic lives of communities of color.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is one of eight members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. The fraternity's motto is "Friendship Is Essential To The Soul" and its cardinal principles are manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. The first chapter, the Alpha Chapter, was organized by 14 charter members on December 15, 1911. Today, Omega Psi Phi is composed of 11 districts and has more than 500 active chapters around the world.

The Upsilon Phi Chapter represents the greater Newark, New Jersey area. It was founded on October 27, 1927 to promote the fraternity's cardinal principles in the community. The 63-member organization has continued the tradition of providing service and support to our community and its people.

The brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were very active in America's struggle for social change. Thousands of Omega men from every part of the country were involved in the fight to eliminate racial discrimination. The Omegas financially supported other organizations, including the NAACP and Urban League, that were fighting on the same battle field for social justice.

It is said to forget one's history is to be doomed to repeat one's mistakes. In 1921 at its Nashville Grand Conclave, the Omegas adopted Carter G. Woodson's concept of a National Achievement Week to promote the study of Negro life and history. Today, Mr. Woodson's concept is observed in the month of February as Black History Month. The Achievement Week is still observed during the month of November where tribute is paid to members of the community who have served it in an exemplary manner.

On November 9, 1996, the Upsilon Phi Chapter held its 1996 Achievement Week Awards Breakfast on the campus of the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, New Jersey. The event was a gathering of family, friends, brothers and associates who came together to recognize and thank those who have made a difference. Student Awards were presented to Willie D. Graves and Michael Brown, students of Orange High School and St. Benedict's Prep School, respectively; Irving A. Childress received the Community Service Award; the Citizen of the Year Award went to Milton L. Harrison; the Superior Service Award was accepted by Brother James G. Hunter; the Basileus Award was presented to Brother

Felix H. Bryant, Jr. and Brother William H.L. Oliver became Omega Man of the Year.

In their acceptance speeches each gentleman thanked his family for the role each has played in his life. The words role model kept coming up. Felix Bryant thanked his mother who received an Achievement Award in 1995; presenter Louis Childress thanked his awardee brother, Irving, who although younger had been a role model for him; William Oliver recognized his two daughters, Shelly and Krystal and his granddaughter, Kourtney. The theme of being of service to one's community also took a prominent place in everyone's remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to be the recipient of the 1994 Citizen of the Year Award from the Upsilon Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It was very gratifying to be recognized for my work by a group of distinguished professional gentlemen who in their own rights make differences in the lives of many people every day. Greatness, commitment and service have permeated the legacy of the Omegas through the memberships of many famous African-American men including marine biologist Ernest E. Just who was recognized recently with the issuance of a commemorative U.S. postal stamp, discoverer of plasma Charles Drew, poet Langston Hughes, developer and initiator of the current Black History Month Carter G. Woodson, attorney and former head of the National Urban League Vernon Jordan, astronaut Ronald McNair, America's first African-American Governor L. Douglas Wilder, and author of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" James Weldon Johnson. This list of luminaries would not be complete if it did not include two gentlemen who were instrumental in establishing a sound and functional foundation for the fraternity. They are H. Carl Moultrie who served as the fraternity's first national executive secretary (executive director) and Walter H. Mazyck who was the fraternity's preserver of records (historian).

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to enter into the annals of U.S. history, the names of the members of the Upsilon Phi Chapter; hereby thanking them for being such good role models and supporters of our community. The 1996 membership roster includes Lee A. Bernard, Jr., Basileus; William H.L. Oliver, 1st Vice Basileus; Patrick D. Todd, 2nd Vice Basileus; Ronald D. Coleman, Keeper of Records and Seal; Felix H. Bryant, Jr., Keeper of Finance; Derrick Hurt, Keeper of Peace; Rev. John G. Ragin, Chaplain; and members Dwayne R. Adams, Donald D. Baker, James R. Barker, Jr., Stephen Barnes, Richard A. Bartell, Jr., James E. Bennett, Victor Cahoon, Louis Childress, Jr., Steve Cooper, Michael A. Davidson, Adrian C. Desroe, Edward Von Dray-Smith, Daniel Eatman, Leon Ewing, Jeffrey C. Gaines, Alfred C. Gaymon, Tyrone Garrett, Hugh M. Grant, Richard Greene, Bruce D. Harman, Keith Harvest, Pearly H. Hayes, Thomas V. Henderson, Bruce A. Hinton, James G. Hunter, George W. James, IV, Sharpe James, Michael W. Johnson, Kenneth J. Jones, Ronald M. Jordan, Jr., Calvin R. Ledford, Jr., Melvin D. Lewis, Jr., Gilbert D. Lucas, Samuel M. Manigault, Samuel T. McGhee, Maxie A. McRimmon, Clifford J. Minor, Ronald J. Morse, Jr., Roy Oller, Sedgewick Parker, Alfred Parchment, S. George Reed, Autrey Reynolds, Arthur J. Smith, III, Zinnerford Smith, Rhudell A. Snelling, Jessie L. Stubbs, Jr., Kenneth

Terrell, Lloyd Terrell, Antionne Thompson, Charles W. Watts, H. Benjamin Williams, Robert Wilson, Jr., James C. Wilkerson, Rashad Wilkerson, and Ennis D. Winston.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I offer congratulations to the award recipients and extend best wishes for a prosperous, healthy and happy 1997 to the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, particularly the membership of the Upsilon Phi Chapter of Newark, New Jersey.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Representative OBERSTAR, the Truth in Budgeting Act, which takes off-budget four user-financed, deficit proof transportation trust funds.

In the 104th Congress, the House, on April 17, 1996, voted by nearly a two to one margin (284-143) in favor of the same bill that we are introducing today. The support for that legislation was overwhelmingly bipartisan.

The reason for this support is simple. The issue before the House was not a budget question but rather a matter of honesty with the taxpayer. Members concluded that they no longer wanted to continue the charade of collecting dedicated gas, airline, waterway, and harbor taxes and using the funds—not to fund infrastructure improvements—but rather to mask the size of the general fund deficit.

The Truth in Budgeting Act is very simple. It removes four trust funds (Highway, Aviation, Inland Waterways, and Harbor Maintenance) from the Congressional Budget. The trust funds still remain subject to all current authorizing and appropriations controls. Indeed, the legislation includes provisions guaranteeing that the funds can never deficit spend.

All spending from these trust funds would still require authorization and appropriate spending controls could still be set by the Appropriations Committee. Further, spending from the funds are still subject to line item veto and would be included in calculations under balanced budget constitutional amendments.

America's infrastructure needs are staggering. For highways, we should be spending \$60 billion per year but are only spending \$30 billion. Similar levels of neglect exist in our bridge and transit programs. Our air traffic control system is still literally running on vacuum tubes.

There are numerous costs to this under investing: increased commuting times and delay, additional cost from wear and tear, decreased industrial productivity and international competitiveness, and increased transportation costs for businesses.

Perhaps the greatest cost is in diminished safety. Fatal accidents on four-lane divided highways may be one half that of two-lane roads. Improvements from the National Highway System (NHS) may save 1,400 to 3,600 lives yearly as well as savings in human suffering and economic loss. Aviation safety is the top priority of the air traffic control system.

When these trust funds were established, the American taxpayer consented to paying dedicated excise taxes (for example, the gas tax and the airline ticket tax). In return, the Federal Government promised to spend these use-related taxes for infrastructure improvements. To signify the fiduciary responsibility the Federal Government was undertaking, trust funds were established to keep track of receipts and spending. The government further promised that any unspent balances would be invested in the safest security possible—U.S. Government securities.

The current existence of over \$30 billion in cash balances in these funds makes a mockery of these promises. For years, we have attempted to appropriately spend the funds in these trust funds, yet the balances continue to rise. This bill is the best available means to the real goal of insuring that these dedicated funds are spent for their intended purposes.

Support for the Truth in Budgeting bill is entirely consistent with support for a balanced budget or a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. According to CBO, the Truth in Budgeting Act does not, by itself, spend any additional funds. We have always been committed to working out reasonable spending levels to draw down the balances while continuing on track to reach a balanced budget. Indeed, due to their self-financing nature, these trust funds are model programs for how to balance the budget.

In addition, due to the unique nature of these four transportation trust funds, there will not be a stampede of other trust funds deserving of the same off-budget treatment. Unlike other trust funds, these four funds are totally user financed, deficit proof, not entitlements, and annually controlled.

There is a strong argument that releasing these funds for infrastructure improvements will actually make it easier to balance the budget. A recent study funded by the Department of Transportation found that since the 1950's, industry realized production cost saving of 24 cents for each dollar of investment in highways. In other words, a dollar of highway investment paid for itself within 4 years.

A \$1 billion expenditure on highways supports 56,600 full time jobs: 42,100 of these jobs are in highway construction and supply industries and an additional 14,500 jobs are in other industries throughout the economy.

A well-managed program of infrastructure investment improves the Nation's productivity and economy, making it easier to balance the budget.

A wide cross-section of business, labor, and government organizations recognizes these facts and supports the Truth in Budgeting Act. In all, 94 organizations are part of a Truth in Budgeting Coalition working to pass this legislation.

Support for the Truth in Budgeting Act is a win-win situation. Taking the transportation trust funds off-budget restores faith with the American taxpayer over the promises made when these taxes were enacted. Spending from the trust funds is still completely subject to congressional control, is consistent with a balanced budget, and can help the economy, making it easier to reach a balance.

COMMON LANGUAGE, COMMON SENSE: THE BILL EMERSON ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation making English the official language of the U.S. Government. Similar legislation in the 104th Congress (H.R. 123) drew 197 bipartisan House cosponsors, and won a bipartisan 259-169 House vote on August 1, 1996.

The Bill Emerson English Language Empowerment Act represents a commonsense, common language policy. The legislation:

Names English as the official language of the Government of the United States;

Recognizes our historical linguistic and cultural diversity, while finding that English represents a common bond of Americans, and is the language of opportunity in the United States;

Requires the U.S. Government to conduct its official business in English, and to conduct naturalization ceremonies in English;

Entitles every person in the U.S. to receive official communications in English;

Includes commonsense exceptions to the policy, such as for international relations, national security, teaching of languages, preservation of Native Alaskan or Native American languages, and for any use of English in a nonofficial or private capacity;

Is supported by 86 percent of all Americans, 81 percent of immigrants (Luntz, 1996), and a broad range of mainstream citizen organizations, such as U.S. English, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and others.

The only substantial difference between this bill and the H.R. 123 adopted by the House in 1996 is that the House-passed bill incorporated a repeal of the Federal bilingual ballot mandate, H.R. 351, and this bill does not. I continue to support repeal of the Federal bilingual ballot mandate. This arrangement helps simplify the bill's referral to only one House committee.

Our late colleague, Representative Bill Emerson worked for many years to make English the official language of the U.S. Government. Through his goodwill, we had an historic and successful first-ever House vote on the issue in the 104th Congress. His widow and successor, Representative JoAnn Emerson is the first cosponsor of this legislation in the 105th Congress.

I invite Members to cosponsor the Bill Emerson English Language Empowerment Act in the 105th Congress, so we may enact this positive and constructive legislation.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL PRAYER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a constitutional amendment to en-

sure that students can choose to pray in school. Regrettably, the notion of the separation of church and state has been widely misrepresented in recent years, and the Government has strayed far from the vision of America as established by the Founding Fathers.

Our Founding Fathers had the foresight and wisdom to understand that a Government cannot secure the freedom of religion if at the same time it favors one religion over another through official actions. Their philosophy was one of evenhanded treatment of the different faiths practiced in America, a philosophy that was at the very core of what their new Nation was to be about. Somehow, this philosophy is often interpreted today to mean that religion has no place at all in public life, no matter what its form. President Reagan summarized the situation well when he remarked, "The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of the country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny." And this is what voluntary school prayer is about, making sure that prayer, regardless of its denomination, is protected.

There can be little doubt that no student should be forced to pray in a certain fashion or be forced to pray at all. At the same time, a student should not be prohibited from praying, just because he-she is attending a public school. This straightforward principle is lost on the liberal courts and high-minded bureaucrats who have systematically eroded the right to voluntary school prayer, and it is now necessary to correct the situation through a constitutional amendment. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and make a strong statement in support of the freedom of religion.

A BEACON-OF-HOPE FOR ALL AMERICANS: KENNETH TAYLOR

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, with the 1996 election behind us, this Nation has completed another cycle for the ongoing democratic process which makes America great. The electoral process and the public officials selected through this process are invaluable assets in our quest to promote the general welfare and to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is important, however, Mr. Speaker, that we also give due recognition to the equally valuable contribution of non-elected leaders throughout our Nation. The fabric of our society is generally enhanced and enriched by the hard work done year after year by ordinary volunteer citizens. Especially in our inner-city communities which suffer from long public policy neglect, local grassroots leaders provide invaluable service. These are men and women who engage in activities which generate hope. I salute all such heroes and heroines as Beacons-of-Hope.

Kenneth Taylor is one of these Beacons-of-Hope residing in the central Brooklyn community of New York City and New York State. In 1982, Mr. Taylor offered his services as a volunteer in the office of Congressman MAJOR OWENS and later rose to the position of deputy