

compose art or to communicate with students in other cities, states and countries. Strong arts, theater, music and athletic programs enable students to find that they have talents in multiple disciplines.

From the first September nearly 300 years ago, Abington Friends School has been a special place for children. Quakers and non-Quakers and children of all races, nations and economic backgrounds have received rigorous academic training in an environment which empowers them to create, question, challenge and explore. Students are taught the value of peaceful conflict resolution and are required to perform community service. With these powerful guiding principles, Abington Friends School has been able to help children grow into productive, responsible adults committed to improving their communities and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the students, faculty, administrators, and parents of Abington Friends School as they celebrate their rich history, the dedication to the community, their commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict and their respect for all members of the human family without regard to race, color, creed or social standing. I praise their efforts to raise generation after generation of American children dedicated to working for the common good and I wish them prayers and good wishes for the next 300 years and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON.
CHARLES ARTHUR HAYES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the deepest sympathies of our community to the family and friends of Congressman Charles Arthur Hayes of Chicago, IL, who served in this body from September 1983 through December 1992.

It was my distinct pleasure to know and work with this indefatigable man we called Charlie, including a visit to his central city Chicago district. During that tour, we walked from public housing development to public housing development, trying to envision a better and different future for the people—especially the children—living there.

He knew every nook and cranny of his town. While we explored his neighborhoods, he talked about his early life, how upon graduation he had sought to work in Chicago but was denied because he was a man of color. He eventually joined the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and spent his life as a tireless and vocal advocate for the working people of our Nation—and for those who wish to work but are denied access.

Through his life, he helped America move forward. As a staunch ally of Martin Luther King, Jr., and civil rights advocates, he changed the laws of our land to meet the Nation's promise that "All people are created equal."

We shall miss you, Charlie. I still look for you in the corridors of Congress, and still hear your voice. Very few citizens with a background like yours achieve election to this

Chamber. You brought a set of experiences and a world view that need greater voice. Rest in peace, faithful servant. In your life, you made a difference.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize permanently a very successful, low-cost, community-based program to train and counsel current and potential women business owners. This program was created as part of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988, which I authored.

Mr. Speaker, women entrepreneurs are an increasingly significant part of the U.S. economy. They account for approximately one-third of all U.S. businesses and are starting businesses at twice the rate of men. Masked by these impressive statistics, however, is the fact that women encounter numerous obstacles trying to start, maintain or expand a business—obstacles which must be eliminated if we are ever to realize the full potential of this dynamic sector of our economy.

While all small businesses have common challenges—access to capital, for example—there are particular problems faced by women. In 1988, the Committee on Small Business first heard testimony from dozens of women business owners on this issue. One area which was repeatedly cited was a need for business training to teach women financial, management and technical skills. The women's business training program, which is the subject of today's legislation, thus was established as a pilot program to see if it could help fill the training void. I can report to you today that it has exceeded our hopes for it.

As befitting a program administered by the Small Business Administration, this program takes a very entrepreneurial and business-like approach to fostering and assisting women entrepreneurs. Organizations experienced in business counseling and training may submit to the SBA proposals for Federal funding to start a training center. The process is very competitive as Federal funds for the program are limited and must be matched by non-Federal assistance according to a specified formula. I can assure you that such terms weed out all but those who are the most committed to assisting women entrepreneurs and are the most likely to be able to keep their centers operational over the long term.

Nine years after getting off the ground, there are currently 54 training sites—19 of which are currently receiving Federal funding—in 28 States and the District of Columbia. Contributing to the program's success is the fact that this program does not require a one-size-fits-all approach. Each center tailors its style and curriculum to the particular needs of the community—be it rural, urban, low income, or linguistically or culturally diverse.

With the centers flexible enough to base everything from hours of operation to class offerings on community needs, the sites have understandably been highly responsive to low-income women and those seeking to get off welfare. We all know the intensive assistance

that must be given to women who are likely to be entering the business world for the first time. Having spoken to the directors of many of the women's business centers about their programs, I can attest to their commitment to working with these women; to making available the necessarily broad array of business and skills courses; and to providing them a learning atmosphere that is supportive enough to bolster them in their decision to make the transition from welfare, yet realistic enough to prepare them for the responsibilities of owning a business.

More than 55,000 women have sought and benefited from the training and counseling in business management, marketing, financial and technical assistance offered by the centers. The centers have directly led to business startups, expansions, and job creation. Equally important, the program has also prevented business failures.

Mr. Speaker, I could spend hours giving concrete examples of the accomplishments of this program and describing the experienced and talented people who put enormous time and energy into running their sites. I will, however, take just a minute to give a few examples of how creatively this program has responded to the needs of its clientele and the realities of the economy and business world they seek to be part of.

The Washington, DC and Los Angeles sites are working on a pilot program with the Department of Defense to provide business training to military spouses, who often cannot develop a career because of the frequent moves required by military life. The training is focusing on portable businesses—ranging from computers to hair care services—that the military spouse can move when the family changes duty stations. This pilot program will take place in Norfolk and San Diego.

All of the women's business centers—including those no longer receiving Federal moneys—are linked on a women's business intranet, which will lead shortly to an Internet training site. Based at the Dallas business center, the computer training site will make available to any woman with a computer business training, mentoring, counseling, etc. This program and its potential so impressed IBM that it has partnered with the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership to give them 240 computers for the sites to teach women how to use computers for business purposes such as developing a business plan.

The Milwaukee program has set up in a nearby office building a coffee business called Coffee with a Conscience. The training center rotates potential businesswomen as "owners" of the coffee cart, giving them firsthand experience in the fundamentals of owning a business, including bookkeeping, ordering supplies, and working with customers, and also gives them an opportunity to answer threshold questions such as whether they want to put in the time that owning a business demands.

The Center for Women and Enterprise in Massachusetts last year was given \$150,000 by the Bank of Boston toward the center's private matching fund requirements. Since then, one of the center's clients has won a Small Business Innovation and Research award, which is a highly competitive Federal grant given to small businesses which have technologically innovative and commercially feasible products to develop.

Mr. Speaker, this program has since its inception received broad bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress. It does what we want most Federal programs to do: runs on a shoestring, produces concrete results, reaches and benefits a wide array of individuals, involves only a small amount of Federal financial aid to any one recipient location, and requires no bureaucracy to run it. This program works and it puts people to work. I urge all Members to support this bill and I look forward to its quick passage.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. KOVACS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of Michael J. Kovacs. Mr. Kovacs has worked tirelessly for over 15 years to educate the people in the south suburban communities of Chicago.

Mr. Kovacs has chosen to give back to his community by volunteering his time and valuable skills to the local cable industry. Over the years, in cooperation with Steve Klinherth and Kenny White of Continental Cablevision, Kovacs has reached out to local schools, churches, VFW's, chambers of commerce, and local elected officials with his film-making skills in an effort to keep the community informed on important issues in their area.

Michael Kovacs's commitment to providing service to his community deserves the highest commendation. His impact on Chicago's south suburban community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should also serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our Nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Michael Kovacs is both timely and appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their communities whose actions have so greatly benefited and enlightened America's communities.

NATIONAL WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, new technologies like electronic mail and the Internet have helped bring people closer than ever to the events in Congress. But one of the most instrumental groups in keeping people in touch with their representative, National Write Your Congressman, relies on technology that is as old as this country itself—the U.S. Postal Service.

National Write Your Congressman was founded in Dallas, TX, in 1958. For nearly 40 years, this important organization has helped constituents voice their opinions with monthly mailings that present both sides of controversial issues. Constituents are then asked to mark a ballot in favor of or against a legislative proposal, and return the ballot to their

Representative. National Write Your Congressman conducts frequent polls of its membership and informs Representatives of their results. They also keep Representatives' voting records on file, and frequently update their membership on the performance of the men and women who represent them.

I am particularly grateful to LeRoy and Erika Larson of Burnsville, MN, in my congressional district, who visited my office this week.

LeRoy and Erika's tireless efforts on behalf of National Write Your Congressman have enabled my Minnesota constituents to voice their opinion on legislation that directly affects their lives. At the same time, they have been proactive participants in the education of our citizenry, which helps build a more responsible America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank National Write Your Congressman for their ongoing efforts to inform citizens of our activities in Washington and to inform us of our constituents' concerns. They are truly helping empower the people of this country and returning the government to the people it was created to serve.

MAJORITY OF HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE INCLUSION OF MILITARY SPENDING IN BUDGET CUTS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, with the budget negotiations going forward, many of us are disturbed by the apparent assumption that military spending should be continued at its current level while significant reductions are imposed on a wide range of important nonmilitary programs. Health care, environmental cleanup, education, job training, community development, transportation, international economic assistance—all of these are put seriously at risk by a decision to exempt military spending from any significant budget discipline.

While Democratic Members are naturally interested in supporting the President at this critical time, significantly more than half of the Democratic Caucus recently agreed to a letter which we sent to the President last Friday voicing our strong objections to important aspects of the budget negotiations as they have been reported.

To date, 111 of the Democratic Members of the House, along with our Independent colleague, have signed on to the letter in which we have told the President that "we strongly believe that a budget compromise must begin seriously the process of moving funds from the Pentagon and related agencies to the civilian side if we are to balance the budget while avoiding devastating cuts over the next 5 years in important nonmilitary programs."

The goal of reducing the deficit to zero by the year 2002 is very widely shared. The debate is not over whether or not to balance the budget, but whether to do so in a socially responsible way, which meets our obligation to deal with important social and economic problems to the extent that we can, or whether to do it in a way that will exacerbate these problems. Members of the House do not casually write to the President to voice strong objections to efforts to resolve our budget difficulty,

and I believe that the fact that so many of us have felt compelled to do so at this time is a point that should be noted here. It is precisely because many of us hope to see a budget compromise reached that we can support that we are making clear what we believe to be the essential elements of such a compromise in this way. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of the letter and the list of signers as of noon on Monday be printed here.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, April 25, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We wish to make clear our strong objections to any budget proposal which would maintain the current high level of military spending while reducing severely in real terms both discretionary spending on all non-military functions, and funding for Medicare and Medicaid. You have correctly noted the importance of adequate funding support for education, the environment and job training. We believe that there are other important priorities that must receive adequate funding support in the years ahead as well. Unfortunately, the action of the Republican majority in adding \$17 billion to the Pentagon's budget over the past two years has already greatly exacerbated the difficulties we face in providing adequate funds for many of these programs, within the context of a balanced budget by the year 2002. And we are concerned that current proposals from the Republican leadership seek to make this bad situation even worse.

Many of us have been active in past years in seeking significantly greater contributions from our wealthy European, Asian and Middle Eastern allies in contributing to common defense concerns. We have also opposed the development or procurement of extremely expensive weapons which had originally been designed for use in the context of the military competition with a heavily armed Soviet Union. And we believe that there has been an unwillingness on the part of the congressional majority to hold the military and intelligence agencies to the same level of scrutiny as is applied to domestic agencies when it comes to insisting on efficiency and accurate accounting.

We therefore strongly urge you to resist efforts to continue to the pattern of a higher than necessary level of military spending at the expense of the non-military functions of the federal government, including those aspects of foreign policy which have also suffered from inadequate funding in past years. It is our responsibility to inform you that we strongly believe that a budget compromise must begin seriously the process of moving funds from the Pentagon and related agencies to the civilian side if we are to balance the budget while avoiding devastating cuts over the next five years in important non-military programs.

We of course share your view that America must remain the strongest nation in the world, and be well able within a significant margin of safety to meet genuine national security needs. But we believe that the current military budget significantly exceeds what is required in this regard, while important health, public safety, environmental, educational and other functions of the federal government will suffer greatly if Republican priorities are followed. And of course the suffering in this case does not fall abstractly on "programs", but rather on the American people who are the intended beneficiaries of this programmatic activity.

The following Members have signed onto the letter to the President.