

have worked together. We all know that government programs have a lot of gaps and failures. Volunteers can fill some of those gaps but probably not all of them.

The overall statistics on volunteerism are impressive. 93 million Americans volunteer. They contributed a stunning 20 billion hours of their time in 1995—that's 220 hours per person. But a closer look at the figures raises some questions. Almost 5 billion of those hours are informal volunteering like baby sitting for a neighbor and baking cookies for a school fair, and many others are volunteer hours at theaters, museums, boards, and commissions. While extremely worthwhile, such efforts don't always address some of the core problems of our society. Less than 10% of those 93 million volunteers work in human services, and fewer than 4% are tutors or mentors. Much volunteer work is done for local churches, which is certainly valuable, but only about 10-15% of volunteering done through the churches goes into the community.

Volunteer effort can also be poorly organized and managed. I am told by people who organize volunteers that there are usually many when a disaster strikes or when help is needed for one-time events like a walk-a-thon or even building a home for a poor family. The real problems come with sustained efforts to deal with the problems of poor children, needy seniors, and the poor. Volunteer services—especially improving the lives of children through mentoring—needs to be performed one-on-one over a long period of time and often in very low-income neighborhoods. It is hard to get volunteers for those kinds of tasks. Most volunteering is done in a very tight circle of familiar friends, places, and activities.

CONCLUSION

The big question that emerges from the summit, of course, is its legacy. Will this unprecedented bipartisan celebration of volunteerism be an historic launching point to help children and decaying neighborhoods or will it be just another media extravaganza that will fade over time? The central challenge is aimed at the millions of at-risk children in this country. They come from poor families that are often dysfunctional. Many overcome steep odds to lead productive lives but many others do not, at a high cost to society over a lifetime.

The summit has given us a chance, just a chance, to do something really important. It certainly signals a fresh start, and it will inspire many Americans to volunteer. Those who have worked on our intractable social problems are probably entitled to a degree of skepticism about its impact and follow through, but the real task is how to make things different this time. Commitments have been made and the challenge is to see if the American people can be inspired and energized to enhance the future of the children.

HONORING ESTHER KELLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in praise of Esther Keller for her work and dedication to the people of the 17th Congressional District. Esther retired last month after 20 years of service and while I wish her the best, I will truly miss her. In fact, she was one of my first staff members when I was first elected to public office 20 years ago.

She has worked hard and well and with little public recognition, except among the many

she has helped. She gave constituents what they want and deserve most from government: Help with a problem they cannot solve themselves. She initially worked out of a trailer in Co-op City before we moved indoors to an office which I still maintain.

Esther has been an integral part of my public life from the beginning. She worked long hours to help the people of the district, working with those who had difficulties with the Social Security system giving guidance when they could not find their way through the intricacies of the bureaucracy. She brought her own special kind of charm so that people who were receiving her help also felt comfortable.

All Members of Congress know the value of a staff member who wants to help those in need of help. In the time Esther worked for me I came to appreciate her willingness and her determination to give her all to the constituents. She treated them as her own, using all of her ability to assure them that someone did care and would help. I salute her and wish her the very best in her retirement. I and all the people of the 17th Congressional District will miss her.

BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues that today, May 7, 1997, the Alumni Association of the Buffalo General Hospital School of Nursing, in Buffalo, NY, is dedicating a permanent exhibit honoring the hospital's School of Nursing.

Buffalo General's School of Nursing was founded April 5, 1877 as the Training School for Nurses. It was the first such school west of New York City and is the second oldest hospital school of nursing in the United States. The school's nurse graduates have served our Nation in five wars: Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean war, and Vietnam war.

Among the school's many notable graduates was Lystra Gretter, class of 1888. She is best remembered for chairing the committee that wrote the Nightingale Pledge—later adopted as the official pledge of graduate nurses from accredited schools throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the Buffalo General Hospital School of Nursing for its 120 years of training nurses to care for our citizens.

COMING HOME: JAPANESE-AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF 1942-1945—A SPECIAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Japanese-Americans who re-

ceived honorary high school diplomas from the San Francisco Unified School District in a special graduation ceremony on May 6 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco.

The honorees were denied the opportunity to graduate from high school in San Francisco during World War II. The issuance of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, set into motion the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans including the honorees and their families for the remainder of World War II. The internees were given only 48-hour notice to sell or store their belongings, and evacuate their homes before they were herded into 10 internment camps across this Nation. They were surrounded by barbed wire and watched over by armed military guards.

Most of the honorees were only 17 or 18 years old at the time. They were removed from school as security risks. Yet, they were American citizens, the American-born sons and daughters of parents who emigrated from Japan.

More than 50 years later, the honorees and their fellow internees are in the senior years of their lives. In the past decade or so, our Government has apologized and awarded reparations. The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund now supports efforts to educate others about the internment experience.

The honorees' experiences are living symbols of a shameful period in American history which we must not repeat. As one of the planners of the ceremony expressed, it is a privilege to be part of a program that will enlighten so many, especially the students in our school system.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the individuals involved and the San Francisco Unified School District in planning this event to acknowledge the legacy of the Japanese-American experiences. I am grateful to the honorees for coming forward and sharing of themselves. I am proud to salute them.

TRIBUTE TO JAMON CHARLES WILLIAMS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay special tribute to a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself by his exceptional accomplishments in both academics and athletics. Mr. Jamon Charles Williams passed away on Thursday, April 17, 1997.

Jamon attended Memorial High School in San Antonio, TX, and was in the top 15 percent of his senior class. He was a Presidential Classroom Scholar and had plans to pursue an Engineering career at one of the six colleges where he had already been accepted.

Jamon was co-captain of Memorial's basketball team and was named to the 27-AAAA District Basketball team. His athletic ability and his desire to build team morale allowed him to lead his high school basketball team to many victories. In addition, Jamon was the president of the Black Student Union.

Mr. Speaker, all of San Antonio grieves for the family and friends of Jamon Williams. Mr.

Williams was an extraordinary leader, an exemplary student, and a highly respected member of the San Antonio community. He inspired those that he worked with, won the devotion of his friends, and earned the gratitude of his community. I ask my colleagues assembled here to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Jamon Charles Williams.

SUPPORTING MORE EQUITABLE HIGHWAY FUNDING PROPOSALS

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the Congress to an issue of inequity facing my home State, the State of Tennessee. This inequity is the current funding formula of the Federal highway trust fund.

As most of you know, there are a number of States in the Union which are called donor States. These States pay into the highway trust fund through various taxes, but receive less money than they remit to the Federal Government. For example, based on the most recent Federal Highway Administration figures, the State of Tennessee receives approximately 82 cents for every \$1 contributed to the fund.

However, there are a number of States which receive well over \$1.50 for each \$1 they remit to the trust fund. This is unfair. Tennessee's transportation needs, in many cases, are just as critical as those States which receive a disproportionate lion's share of the trust fund proceeds.

There are a number of proposals seeking to reach a more equitable solution to this funding disparity, and I urge all Members of this body, especially those of us in the donor States, to support reasonable changes in the funding formula to ensure that each State's transportation needs receive adequate funding.

CONFLICT OVER THE WESTERN SAHARA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the United Nations recently asked former Secretary of State, James A. Baker III, to make a fresh assessment of the situation regarding the long-standing conflict over the Western Sahara.

As my colleagues may know, the United Nations have been attempting to resolve conflicts which have gone on over more than 20 years between the Sahrawi Republic and the government of Morocco. The United Nations currently maintains a peacekeeping force in this region, and so far a resumption of armed conflict has been avoided.

Mr. Baker's recently completed visit to this region has brought renewed hope that a bridge to resolving the current impasse might be forthcoming.

His Excellency the Honorable Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the Sahrawi Republic and Chairman of the Polisario Front, has

made a noble gesture of goodwill toward the peace process by initiating the release of 85 Moroccan prisoners of war. His Excellency extended his hand of friendship, a gesture which I trust is appreciated and reciprocated by our friends in Morocco.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting into the RECORD a letter which I recently sent to President Abdelaziz congratulating him on his gesture of goodwill toward the peace process in Western Sahara.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 6, 1997.

His Excellency the Honorable MOHAMED ABDELAZIZ, President of Sahrawi Republic, Chairman of Polisario Front, Washington, DC.

Your Excellency: I send you my personal greetings and best wishes. My office had the pleasure of being briefed by your Ambassador Said on your recent visit with Mr. James A. Baker, representing the Secretary General of the United Nations.

I have been informed of your extraordinary gesture of goodwill towards the process of peace in Western Sahara. I am referring to your decision to release some 85 Moroccan prisoners of war being held by your army. This is a most generous gesture and expression of your commitment to the current efforts to bring peace to your region.

Your actions speak well for the prospects of cooperation and consultation in Western Sahara. I trust that your generosity and vision will be reciprocated by Morocco and that Mr. Baker can be an instrument of reconciliation and resolution for the problems which have plagued your people for too many years.

Your gesture is deeply appreciated and understood.

Sincerely,

ESTEBAN E. TORRES,
Member of Congress.

A YEAR OF SUCCESS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, later this month on May 21, the Republic of China on Taiwan will mark a historic milestone. It will be the 1-year anniversary of President Lee Teng-hui's inauguration as China's first democratically elected President. President Lee's election was the culmination of a 10-year process of democratization and economic reforms which transformed the Republic of China into an economic powerhouse and a model for other emerging democracies in the world.

It was just a year ago that the People's Republic of China was launching missiles across the Taiwan Strait in the vicinity of Taiwan's main ports. This crude attempt to intimidate Taiwan's 21 million people, as they prepared themselves to elect their national leadership and, failed miserably. That failure for the PRC was great triumph for Taiwan. President Lee was overwhelmingly elected with 54 percent of the vote. In doing so, the people of Taiwan demonstrated their commitment and resolve to the democratic values we all share. I was proud to organize the congressional delegation which traveled to Taipei last year to witness President Lee's swearing in. I organized

that trip because I respect and admire what President Lee has accomplished, and I am proud to call him my friend.

The past 12 months of President Lee's leadership has been a time of continued achievement and success for Taiwan. The Republic of China remains the United States seventh largest trading partner and best ally in Asia. In spite of the PRC's efforts to undermine Taiwan's free market, Taiwan's stock market has soared 36 percent and official reserves in Taiwan now exceed \$90 billion. All of these achievements are a testament to the successful policies of President Lee and his government.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to point out that we are also approaching the first anniversary of the appointment of John Chang as the Republic of China's Foreign Minister. Mr. Chang has a long and illustrious career as a diplomat, having served previously as Minister of Overseas Chinese and as head of the North American Division. I and many of my colleagues know about Mr. Chang's work and leadership, and I would like to take this opportunity to salute his success in keeping our bilateral relationship, while not official, for now, as warm and strong as ever.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this month also marks the anniversary of Mr. Jason Hu's first year as the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office [TECRO]. TECRO serves as the ROC's unofficial embassy here in Washington. Ambassador Hu previously served as President Lee's spokesman, and was a vital part of President Lee's team during the election. Since arriving in Washington, Ambassador Hu has developed many warm relationships with Members of this body and has worked tirelessly to insure United States-Republic of China relations continue to improve.

Mr. Speaker, the ROC is a beacon of democracy in a region of the world too often shrouded in the darkness of oppression and tyranny. The ROC is our friend and partner, and Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for stopping in Taiwan during your recent trip to Asia. And I want to thank you for speaking for me when you remarked that the United States should defend Taiwan if attacked. Once again, congratulations President Lee, Minister Chang and Ambassador Hu on a successful year of remarkable accomplishments.

ELIMINATING NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS RELATING TO CANCELLATIONS OF REMOVAL AND SUSPENSION OF DEPORTATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to eliminate the limits relating to cancellations of removal and suspensions of deportation.

The new immigration law requires individuals applying for suspension of deportation—now changed to cancellation of removal—to establish good moral character, 10 years of continuous presence in the United States, and exceptional and extreme hardship to a spouse