

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

or child who is either a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. It also established that the Attorney General may not cancel the removal and adjust the status and suspend the deportation of a total of more than 4,000 aliens in any fiscal year.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR] has announced that immigration judges have already granted 4,000 applications in the current fiscal year and ordered immigration judges to discontinue approving more suspension of deportation cases. Many eligible applicants, including refugees, will now be deprived of a way to legalize their status. We must take action to correct this situation as soon as possible.

The original intention of this section of the law was never to arbitrarily deny this form of relief to eligible people. The original language, as approved by the Judiciary Committee, restored the Attorney General's discretion to grant relief to eligible aliens who had not been admitted with the condition that an annual ceiling be placed on the number of adjustments of status granted. Nevertheless, the original language was changed during the floor consideration of the bill and the Attorney General now may not cancel the removal and adjust the status to permanent residence of more than 4,000 aliens in any fiscal year.

This unfortunate change could result in the unnecessary deportation of thousands of immigrants who may have fled their homes seeking safety and protection in the United States.

Very simply, my bill would remove the existing 4,000 cap and allow the immigration courts to use their discretion in suspension of deportation—cancellation of removal—proceedings.

NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge National Arson Awareness Week and to support efforts to prevent arson such as the Target Arson project.

As a Member of Congress, I have supported fire prevention efforts on the floor of the House of Representatives and in West Virginia. Most of my work has been helping our children learn valuable fire safety lessons. Two years ago I worked with the Martinsburg Fire Department and the Berkeley County Office of Emergency Services to have a fire prevention video produced. The video, "House on Wheels Fire Education," was distributed to all elementary schools in West Virginia with the assistance of State Farm Insurance.

Arson is different from most other crimes. It is a cowardly criminal act. It is committed without regard to who might be hurt. Innocent victims, even firefighters can be harmed by an arsonist. Each year 1,000 people die from an estimated 332,000 arson fires. Direct property loss is in excess of \$1.6 billion. Since 1984 arson fire deaths have increased 33 percent.

Unfortunately, West Virginians were not spared from the scourge of arson. The United States Fire Administration's Annual Report to Congress states that in 1994, 18.4 percent of all reported fires in West Virginia were caused by arson, with losses exceeding \$1.6 million.

Earlier this week I participated in an arson investigation demonstration with Captain, West Virginia's only four-legged arson investigator. Captain is an arsonist's worst nightmare. He is a black labrador retriever who works for the State of West Virginia and is trained to locate the origins of arson incidents.

Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local firefighters, police officers and other members of the community are participating in Target Arson, a public awareness campaign that is part of National Arson Awareness Week. Target Arson is aimed at educating our children and the general public about the dangers of arson, its consequences and how to prevent it.

Let us pause, Mr. Speaker, during National Arson Awareness Week to honor all those men, women and four-footed allies dedicated to fighting the war against arson and urge all Americans to support their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall votes 92 through 97. If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 92, "aye" on rollcall 93, "aye" on rollcall 94, "aye" on rollcall 95, "aye" on rollcall 96, and "aye" on rollcall 97.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to illness, I was unable to be present on Thursday, May 1 for votes on amendments offered by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, and the gentleman from Florida, Mr. WELDON. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 100, "no" on rollcall No. 101, and "aye" on rollcall No. 102. I ask unanimous consent that this explanation appear in the permanent RECORD next to the votes.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. C.B.T. SMITH FOR 45 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE DALLAS COMMUNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the retirement of a great friend, the Reverend Dr. C.B.T. Smith, the minister of the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church. C.B.T. Smith has played a prominent role in the African-American community during his 45 years of service at his church in the city of Dallas. The reverend demonstrated a life long commitment to the ministerial needs of our

community in Dallas, and his service is exemplified by his more than 50 years of service in the gospel ministry.

During his tenure, Dr. Smith has been a staunch supporter of education and has become well known for his work on the local, State, and national levels, promoting positive opportunity through education.

Dr. Smith's congregation gathered to commemorate his retirement in a weekend-long tribute which began April 11, 1997.

When Dr. Smith came to Dallas, he began to organize and create ministries which would give access to all who wished to attend church especially those who could not make it to Sunday worship.

He created a prison ministry and a bus ministry to continue to provide outreach to people who needed his service the most. He believed in feeding his flock first, through starting the First Christian Welfare and Storehouse Ministry, the Sunday School on Wheels Ministry, and a senior citizens ministry.

His most ambitious undertaking was when he launched the ARMS [Adult Rehabilitation Ministry], a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility for men.

All of these ministries which he set forth were to bring a sense of belonging to those who felt disenfranchised. He wanted to make sure that everyone who wanted to could feel a part of this community and attend his ministry.

Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues assembled here to join me in recognizing my good friend and the fine minister from the Golden Gate Missionary Baptist Church, the Reverend Dr. C.B.T. Smith, for his many years of dedicated service to the city of Dallas. All of Dallas and the State of Texas are lucky to have such a fine minister, and I am sure that he will, in some way, continue to look after us in some capacity in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARGARET CAFFERTY, PBVM

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a mixture of sadness and deep gratitude that I rise today in tribute to an American woman who devoted her life to the causes of civil rights and social and economic justice.

Margaret Cafferty, a sister of the Presentation Sisters, is her name. And her death on April 20, 1997, at her motherhouse in San Francisco after a battle with bone cancer, leaves her native city, her country, and the global community a proud legacy of a staunch and persuasive defender of justice for all, especially the poor and oppressed.

Born in San Francisco on December 8, 1935, Sister Cafferty was the daughter of John Cafferty and Mildred Sinks. Sister Cafferty's sense of social justice was nourished from the cradle by her father, a coal miner, and her mother, who where both active in the struggle for labor rights.

In 1953, Margaret Cafferty entered the community of the Sisters of the Presentation. Her early assignments included teaching high school in San Francisco and in Los Angeles where she challenged her students to become