

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

aware of the social needs surrounding them. In 1968, she moved more directly into social action, working as a pastoral minister in the predominantly African-American community of Sacred Heart Parish in San Francisco. At the same time, she pursued and earned her masters of social welfare at the University of California at Berkeley.

As an educator, community organizer, and social justice leader, Sister Margaret pioneered new models of building a community within parishes. She successfully cultivated partnerships with labor, government, business, and the academic community in pursuit of justice. She fought tirelessly for civil rights in the African-American community of San Francisco, with the United Farm Workers, and with refugees from Central America. She led her order's participation in the Sanctuary Movement. She sought to know first hand the plight of the poor, visiting the migrant camps in California, the slums in our inner cities, and the poor communities on Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador where her sisters worked. She was a bridge-builder and a peacemaker. She lived out the maxim, "If you want peace, work for justice."

On numerous occasions, she was called upon to exercise her exemplary leadership skills by working with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious [LCWR], NETWORK, the Catholic organization which lobbies Congress on social justice issues, and by her own order. She exerted unparalleled leadership in building dialog within the Roman Catholic Church about the role of religious women. She never hesitated to speak the truth, to find opportunity in crisis, to identify hope within the most desperate hour.

From 1981 to 1990, the Presentation Sisters elected her to be superior general, and from 1992 until her untimely death, she served as the executive director of the LCWR.

As her sisters declared, "While Sister Margaret's contributions to the communities she served as an organizer and an advocate for the underserved were far-reaching, she will be remembered by bishops and beggars, by legislators and labor leaders, by friends and foes alike as an extremely gracious, articulate, determined and compassionate woman of faith who will be sorely missed."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to Sister Margaret's sister, Ellen Cafferty, herself a missionary in Guatemala, and to the Union of the Sisters of the Presentation [PVBW].

TRIBUTE TO LARRY SMITH

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Larry Smith. On May 8, 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Law Institute chose Mr. Smith as winner of the 1997 National Wetlands Award. The award honors individual citizens who have dedicated their lives to preserving wetlands through programs and projects at the regional, State, and local level.

For years, Mr. Smith has been a leader and a pioneer of the environmental movement in

Memphis. His work to protect wetlands and prevent toxic pollution has benefited every Memphian. He has made a critical difference in saving the wetlands along the Wolf River, a tributary of the Mississippi River, which snakes through southwestern Tennessee and through my congressional district. This river is important, not only for its scenic beauty, but because it's surrounding wetlands recharge the underground aquifers which have provided the pristine drinking water the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County have enjoyed for decades.

Mr. Smith has shown great skill as a grassroots organizer and educator of the public about the importance of protecting our environment. He has marshaled citizen concern about environmental issues, which has spurred our public officials to act to protect the environment.

I know how committed Mr. Smith is to the environment, because I have worked closely with him to develop and introduce legislation that will protect the public from toxic wastes. On January 27, 1997, an explosion at a hazardous waste facility in Memphis exposed the citizens of the neighborhood to a cloud of toxic chemicals and polluted a nearby creek. Thankfully, no one was injured, but at least two highly toxic chemicals, toluene and xylene were released into the environment. With the experience and expertise of Mr. Smith, I introduced H.R. 843, the Common Sense Toxics Buffer Zone Act, a bill which would require a 5,000 foot buffer zone between any residential community, school, day care, or church and the expansion or construction of a hazardous waste facility.

Mr. Smith stands as an example for all of us to follow. He is a steadfast soldier in the fight for clean water, clean air and the heritage of our national wilderness. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Smith for receiving this prestigious award.

THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the en block amendment offered by Chairman LAZIO because it includes my simple community right to know amendment, which I offered with my good friend and neighbor, MIKE DOYLE.

As a former member of the Banking Committee I would like to thank my colleagues, Chairman LAZIO and Representative KENNEDY along with their staffs for working with us on this efforts. I realize that more work will be needed in conference and I look forward to working together to ensure that this is included in the final bill.

Our amendment attempts to avoid disastrous situations like the one that happened in our area, when HUD nearly paid \$92,000 for homes valued at less than \$50,000, almost twice the market value.

Luckily this did not take place, because Mr. DOYLE and I were able to bring it to HUD's attention in time for HUD to investigate, and stop the purchase.

No, the purchase was not stopped because of resistance from the community.

It was stopped because when HUD investigated the sale they discovered that the purchase did not even meet basic HUD criteria: the units were concentrated together; without access to public transportation, shopping, or employment opportunities; and the cost was above HUD's top purchase price.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that all of this would have been avoided if the housing authority and the locality had only worked together.

This amendment is not meant to be divisive, nor is it driven by NIMBYism. I am a strong supporter of public housing, and believe that every community has a responsibility to provide shelter for our poor, and less fortunate residents.

Mr. Speaker, let me explain what we are trying to do. The block grant section of the bill codifies the requirement that local housing authorities, and local governments work together. This is nothing new. Already, HUD requires housing authorities to go to the local governments in which new public housing is proposed and get them to sign local cooperation agreements as part of the application for federal dollars. Obviously, notification is implicit in that process.

We support this process, and think that local communities and the housing authorities should work together.

The problem arises when housing authorities act pursuant to a court order or a consent decree. That is what happened in our area. Pursuant to a consent decree the housing authority needed to distribute up to 23 single family homes throughout the county.

Mr. Speaker, we have no problem with public housing in our community. Nobody wants to keep people out. In fact, at both the local and the state level Democrats and Republicans alike want this to be a success and are willing to work together to ensure that it is. Our hope though, along with HUD, and in concurrence with the consent decree, is that we are able to pay a fair market value for the requisite number of homes, and have them disbursed throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the court that recipients of public housing, living in homes purchased pursuant to the consent decree blend into the community, and that we avoid concentrated public housing communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is our goal. Yet, Mr. Speaker, unlike every other application for federal public housing dollars the law is ambiguous as to notification requirements when it comes to consent decrees and court orders.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the provision in the bill that would require HUD to "consult with units of local government" in the process of negotiating a settlement to housing litigation. This goes a long way toward avoiding the problems we have experienced, but it still does not adequately address consent decrees which have been entered into before this bill takes affect.

Our amendment eliminates this confusion by requiring notification. Regrettably, had the housing authority notified the borough, they could have worked together to a successful end—we would have avoided controversy, and saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars.

I urge you to support the Klink/Doyle Community Right to Know amendment.