

are poised to increase trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, a strong trade and investment relationship between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States will reduce poverty and expand economic opportunity in Africa. Moreover, a stronger, more stable and prosperous Africa will be a better partner for security and peace in the region and a better ally in our mutual fight against narcotics trafficking, international crime, terrorism, the spread of disease, and environmental degradation.

Some 30 sub-Saharan countries have begun dynamic economic reform programs, including liberalizing exchange rates and prices, privatizing state-owned enterprises, ending costly subsidies, and reducing barriers to trade and investment. The African Growth and Opportunity Act is designed to complement economic reforms such as these which African nations have decided to pursue by creating greater opportunities for partnerships between Americans and Africans.

Specifically, the bill offers increased access to the U.S. market for non-import sensitive goods and increased dialogue with the United States on deepening our trade relationship. The benefits available under the bill provide incentives for the most aggressive reformers to liberalize their markets even further. This legislation would not impose new conditions for maintaining existing trade and aid benefits. However, to qualify for enhanced trade benefits, the African Growth and Opportunity Act requires that countries make continual progress toward achieving the bill's market-based criteria. For countries that choose to follow this course, the bill requires the President to develop a plan to solidify our economic partnership through the creation of a United States-Sub-Saharan African Free Trade Area.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is strongly supported by political and economic leaders across sub-Saharan Africa. Every African Ambassador in Washington, D.C. has endorsed this bill. Never before have the 48 diverse nations in the region been united in support of such an initiative. In addition, the African Growth and Opportunity Act has a high profile throughout the continent and the response has been clear—Africans want to be trading partners with the United States and the world.

In order to continue to grow, African economies need to have enhanced access to U.S. markets, capital, management expertise, and technology. The bill is the first step toward making that happen and is a long overdue response to change led by Africans themselves across the continent. I urge my colleagues to support this historic legislation when it is considered on the House floor in the coming weeks.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MISSOURI
FARMERS AND TRADERS BANK
PRESIDENT JOE W. SCALLORNS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, It has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the banking industry has come to an end.

Joe W. Scallorns, bank president of Farmers and Traders Bank, retired recently after over 30 years of serving Missouri's banking needs.

Scallorn's distinguished banking career began as a bank collector in Columbia, Missouri while finishing his degree as a student at the University of Missouri. After college, he joined Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York as a credit analyst. He returned to Columbia in 1967, eventually rising to the position of Vice President of the First Bank of Commerce and later as President of the First National Bank and Trust Company. He joined Eagle Bank of Highland, Illinois, as its President in 1987. In June 1988, he purchased Farmers and Traders Bank in California, Missouri.

Additionally, Joe is active in professional organizations, chairing the committees on Banking Education, Legislative Affairs, and the Political Action Committee of the Missouri Banking Association, also serving on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Government Relations Council of the American Bankers Association and its National BancPac Committee.

As he prepares for quieter time with his wife, Fran and his son, Joseph, I know all Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to my good friend Joe Scallorns and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
JUDGE AARON MENT FOR HIS
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1999, the Honorable Judge Aaron Ment of Fairfield, Connecticut, will retire after 14 years of dedicated service as Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. I rise today to honor Judge Ment and salute his distinguished career spanning over 20 years serving the people in the State of Connecticut.

Aaron Ment's career as a judge began in 1976 when he was first appointed to the bench. Only eight years later, on September 18, 1984, Judge Aaron Ment was appointed as the Chief Court Administrator for the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. Here Judge Aaron Ment's vision and leadership helped shape the Connecticut Judicial Branch forever.

Judge Ment's innovative foresight and ambition helped to foster a more positive working relationship between the courts and Connecticut communities. He has been diligent in improving operations and trying to better serve the people of Connecticut. The multiple innovative programs he has helped pioneer have been studied and reproduced all over the United States.

Under Judge Ment's leadership, judges and citizens have benefited from programs such as the one day/one trial jury system, an expanded prebench orientation program, a wellness program for Judges, a centralized infraction bureau and a statewide alternative incarceration program. He has also implemented special sessions of the Superior

Court, including drug sessions, truancy dockets, the complex litigation docket and a National Demonstration Program for Domestic Violence.

It is with great pleasure that I join with the friends and family of Judge Aaron Ment in congratulating him on his retirement. The State of Connecticut's Judicial Branch will feel his absence for years to come. I thank you, Aaron, for all that you have accomplished in your very distinguished career. My very best wishes to you for health and happiness in your retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPAND &
REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS
ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce school construction legislation that I spearheaded in the 105th Congress. The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act is a progressive step forward to resolve America's ever-expanding school overcrowding crisis. I was disappointed to see the 105th Congress end without the passage of meaningful school construction legislation. The President, myself, and other members of Congress offered beneficial and positive measures to renovate and improve America's schools, but we were blocked every step of the way by a Republican leadership unwilling to commit needed resources to our education agenda. I hope our new Speaker will use the opportunity of a new Congress to do more, and to prove to the American people that we care about our schools and our children.

School overcrowding remains a tremendous obstacle in my congressional district and, I am positive, all across America. The Secretary of Education annually releases a Baby Boom Echo report which highlights trends in school populations across the country. The dismal scenario we saw in the 1997 report became even more bleak in 1998. This year total public and private school enrollment will rise to a record 52.7 million, and over the next decade public high school enrollment is expected to increase by 11 percent! Twenty states will have at least a 15 percent increase in the number of public high school graduates, with a 78 percent increase projected for Nevada, 39 percent for Hawaii, and 38 percent for Florida. Largely because of the high school enrollment increase, the total number of new teaching positions for public and private high school teachers is expected to rise by 115,000—a 9 percent increase. The Secretary of Education also anticipates that 6,000 schools need to be built in the next ten years to accommodate school population increases. We can no longer ignore these facts. School overcrowding is a national dilemma that needs a nationwide solution.

The Expand & Rebuild America's Schools Act, H.R. 415, is that solution. This bill is focused, effective, and tax-payer friendly. H.R. 415 develops a pilot bond program to help our local schools save money on bond initiatives. Through the creation of a new class of bonds, the Federal Government will provide a tax credit to lenders equal to the amount of

the interest that would otherwise be paid by schools. Schools will save millions of dollars in interest costs by having to repay only the principle amount of the bond.

To be eligible for the bond program, local school districts must have rapid growth rates and high student-teacher ratios, a problem facing the majority of suburban schools in this nation. Schools must also seek out partnerships with local businesses and the private sector for donations of equipment or funding, volunteer work, vocational training, or however a school and business sees fit. Encouraging our schools to develop these public/private partnerships will only enhance the impact of the bond initiative. The Expand and Rebuild America's Schools Act aims to reward schools that have high standards and are working hard to solve their overcrowding problems.

This bill is also simple and easy to administer. Schools can apply directly to the Secretary of Education for these bonds, bypassing state bureaucracy and cutting red tape. And, my bill does not create any new government program or agency. This legislation gives local school districts the incentive they need to float and pass local school construction bonds. It provides the stimulus for the private sector to step up and help their local communities.

This is a bill that both Republicans and Democrats can support. Within a week of the bill's introduction, we have gained 27 bipartisan co-sponsors, and the numbers keep growing. My bill is supported by the Administration, and even the President has included \$25 billion in school construction bonds in his FY 2000 budget. Organizations such as Cal Fed and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing have endorsed the bill, and I have also held numerous community wide forums and hearings in my Congressional district to highlight the benefits of H.R. 415.

Our schools are waiting for the Federal Government to act. And, we must act in a bipartisan and cooperative manner if we are to truly make a difference. The passage of school construction legislation is possible, but we must work together to achieve this goal. We cannot let the American people down. Help relieve America's bulging classrooms! This public/private partnership is the answer. I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 415. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to include the following materials into the RECORD.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 16, 1997.

Hon. LORETTA SANCHEZ,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR LORETTA: I am writing to tell you how pleased I am that you are interested in introducing legislation to expand the education zone bond program that was enacted as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Like you, I believe that program was a needed first step and that we should look for opportunities to expand it.

I hope to have the opportunity to offer an amendment on the Floor to expand that program in connection with the consideration of H.R. 2646. That legislation would permit taxpayers to contribute \$2,500 per year per child to an education savings account. Earnings from that account would be tax-exempt if used to pay expenses of primary and secondary education.

I oppose that legislation because I feel that it is a diversion of scarce resources for the benefit of a small group of wealthy families

with children in private schools. I believe that those resources should be devoted to the improvement of our public school system. Therefore, I intend to offer a substitute that would expand the education zone bond program. My substitute would increase the size of the program from \$400 million per year for the next two years to \$4 billion per year for those years. In addition, my substitute would permit the use of those bonds for school construction. My substitute is very similar to your proposed legislation and I hope that you will support my substitute.

Again, I welcome your interest in the education zone bond program and look forward to working with you on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Ranking Democrat.

—
U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 6, 1998.

Hon. ROBERT E. RUBIN,
Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RUBIN: I share your commitment to schools and education and applaud the administration's school construction bond initiative. The tax proposal will provide assistance to schools in California, particularly schools in low income areas. These schools have significant rehabilitation and construction needs, but may be forced to pay the highest bond interest rates to obtain financing, if the bonds can be issued at all.

In preparing the legislation for introduction in Congress, I encourage the Treasury Department to use the proposed tax legislation to address the important issue of alleviating school overcrowding, which will contribute dramatically to improving education. Specifically, I urge the administration to incorporate provisions of H.R. 2695, introduced by Representative Loretta Sanchez, which confers eligibility for the bonds to schools facing significant school overcrowding, projecting significant future growth and has adopted a strategic plan to address overcrowding concerns. California's schools face a major crisis in education:

California faces compelling school infrastructure needs and a school overcrowding challenge that will only grow over time. Today, California's 32 million people are relying on school infrastructure built when the population was 16 million. The problems will only increase as our population increases to close to 50 million over the next 25 years.

School overcrowding directly affects education quality. Educators tell us that elementary schools should be limited to 450 students, yet some California elementary schools serve more than 5,000 students. Average enrollment in K-12 schools is expected to increase by more than 400,000 students by the end of this decade. At this pace, California would have to build nearly a school each day just to keep up with increased enrollment.

To be sure, the nation's education system cannot be fixed with just bricks, mortar and electrical wiring. However, California's schools face major needs, with both the nation's highest student-to-teacher ratio and the lowest share of 18-24-year-olds receiving a high school diploma. Poor education facilities are simply not compatible with meeting the requirements of today's global economy.

Every student deserves access to a quality education. Every parent deserves to know the federal government is committed to supporting the best education for their students. The administration deserves great credit for its school construction tax incentives. However, the tax incentives should acknowledge the critical challenge of school overcrowding and assist states and school districts to meet

their building needs. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to the administration's views.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

[From the Orange County Register, Orange County, CA, Jan. 21, 1999]

JAM-PACKED SCHOOLS

EDUCATION: A PUBLIC FORUM TODAY ADDRESSES THE IMPACT OF OVERCROWDING IN CENTRAL O.C.

(By Dennis Love and Dina Elboghady)

Lunch time at Edison Elementary School in central Santa Ana. Fourth-grader Azucena Aburca stood at the rear of a 90-kid-deep lunch line that, to her, seemed to stretch to Arizona.

"It takes so long—10 or 15 minutes," she said, straining on tiptoes for a glimpse of the promised land. "And when we get up there, we have to eat fast."

Other symptoms of overcrowding abound at Edison, where 950 children and a staff of 65 jostle about a 3.7-acre campus designed for half that many.

Portable classrooms sit where children once played basketball. Music students practice in a small classroom amid skyscrapers of stacked chairs. In a hallway, seven first-graders squeeze together like paper dolls on an old sofa to be tutored in reading.

Conditions such as these will be the subject of a public forum today at 10 a.m. at Loara Elementary School in Anaheim, where Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, and House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., will be among those listening to testimony from students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents and others about overcrowding and its impact in central Orange County.

Sanchez arranged the hearing in support of legislation she has proposed that encourages new school and classroom construction through new tax-exempt bonds.

Enrollment in California is growing faster than anywhere else in the nation, and school districts are feeling the pressure. In the Anaheim City School District, for example, the newest school opened 10 years ago.

"The bottom line is always funding," said Mike Vail, senior director of facilities planning and governmental relations for the Santa Ana Unified School District, who will testify at the hearing. "Schools suffer because we just don't have a reliable stream of money to build more classrooms."

The state school-construction program requires school districts to put up matching money, which few districts have. Compounding the dilemma is that any local school-bond measure must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voters rather than a simple majority.

Even if only a simple majority were required, school officials consider that avenue unpromising. In response to a survey conducted by Sanchez, Michael Perez, director of facilities planning for the Anaheim City School District, said, "Orange County is still recovering from the recession, and the likelihood of the community passing a general obligation bond seems very unlikely."

All the while, enrollments are soaring and many school districts are running out of stop-gap measures. The recent move in California to 20-to-1 student-teacher ratios in grades K-3 only intensified the crunch.

For example, Perez estimates that the Anaheim City School District needs a minimum of \$80 million over the next five years to build eight new schools. In addition, Perez noted, "Almost all buildings do not meet today's safety and structural requirements for school facilities." Vail said Santa Ana needs

\$120 million to build a high school and three elementary schools.

Yet these needs often run counter to political realities. Historically, building schools has been a local issue. Congress has resisted paying for school construction for philosophical and economic reasons.

Some lawmakers say local taxpayers will become more dependent on the federal government and less committed to paying property taxes if Uncle Sam helps build schools.

Others say it will cost too much. For instance, building a new school in the Anaheim City School District costs about \$15 million, according to Perez. And the General Accounting Office estimates that it would take \$112 billion to repair schools nationwide.

"The Republican majority in Congress has tended not to support federal involvement in education," said Sally McConnell, a lobbyist for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. "That mood is still there among lots of members."

To appease deficit hawks and other critics, many lawmakers who want the federal government to pitch in are focusing on tax-oriented rather than spending-based solutions.

Under Sanchez's proposal, the federal government would give investors in school-construction bonds a tax credit.

A tax break, Sanchez said, will entice purchasers of bonds and take some financial burden off the schools without costing the federal government extra money or harming local control of schools.

To get the tax credit, schools must prove that they've tried to alleviate overcrowding by using nontraditional classroom space or holding a year-round schedule. They must work in partnership with a private group or business willing to pay some expenses such as computers.

And they must meet at least two of the following criteria: a 10 percent growth rate during a five-year period; a student-teacher ratio at least 28-to-1; or at least 35 percent of students living below the poverty level.

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., wants \$1 billion a year in tax credits for companies doing school construction projects so they would charge the local school districts less for the work.

Under Moseley-Braun's plan, \$226.7 million in tax credits would go directly to two school districts and six cities in California, including Santa Ana.

President Clinton plans to weigh in. In his State of the Union Speech on Jan. 27, Clinton is expected to propose spending \$5 billion on school repairs and construction. A similar plan was shelved last year during the balanced-budget talks, angering many education groups.

If any school-construction bill passes, it will probably borrow from the various pieces of existing legislation, said Michael Briggs, Moseley-Braun's spokesman.

Advocates of federal school-construction money say they're encouraged that some Republican governors are joining them to ask for federal help, including Gov. Pete Wilson, who has floated his own school-construction bond proposal.

About 87 percent of the public schools in California say they need to upgrade or repair buildings, according to a recent study by the GAO.

Enrollment in the state's elementary and secondary schools is expected to reach almost 7 million by 2007 from the current 6 million—a 17 percent increase, making it the state with the highest growth rate in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

And with many pushing for smaller classes, the space crunch will only get worse. About 6,000 more schools are needed to accommodate the growing enrollment, the education department study says.

"The joke around education circles is that every available trailer was headed to California when that thing passed," said Jewell Gould, research director at the American Federation of Teachers.

To principals like Edison's Ann Leibovitz, it may seem as if all those portables have landed on her campus. "We need more air space," she said. "We need help so that we're not bumping into each other as much."

REMEMBERING THE REVEREND DR. EDWARD ANDERSON FREEMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, and I join today in paying tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Edward Anderson ("E.A.") Freeman, who we are saddened to report passed away on January 26, 1999, in Kansas City, Kansas. His funeral was held this morning at the First Baptist Church of Quindaro, where he had been pastor for fifty years before retiring in 1996.

Reverend Freeman was the fifth of seven sons of James and Ollie Watts Freeman, born in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 11, 1914. He was educated in the Atlanta public schools, and received an A.B. from Clark College in Atlanta. After attending U.S. Army Chaplaincy School and Harvard University, he received his bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of theology degrees from Central Baptist Theological in Kansas City, Kansas. His doctoral thesis was published as a book, "Epoch of Negro Baptist and the Foreign Mission Board" in 1953, and remains a standard textbook for teaching religious progress from the earliest beginnings of African-American life in the United States. After his early career as principal of Austell School in Georgia, Reverend Freeman served as pastor of two churches and as a U.S. Army chaplain from 1942–46, attaining the rank of major. After discharge from the Army, he was called to pastor the First Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas, where he served our community for fifty years.

Reverend Freeman, simply put, was a leader in local, national, and international communities. He was a visionary who was driven to assist and empower people, fighting as a civil rights activist, community leader, and president of the Kansas City chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Additionally, he served on the Kansas City, Kansas, Planning Commission from 1955 to 1995 (as its chairman for 29 years), and served on the Kansas City, Kansas Crime Prevention Council. He also was a leader in church affairs, serving as: president of the Missionary Baptist State Convention of Kansas; president of the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.; first vice president of the Baptist World Alliance for five years in the 1980s; and as adjunct professor and member of the board of directors of Central Baptist Theological Seminary for many years.

In addition, we must note the numerous awards Reverend Freeman won throughout

his career which reflect his dedication to dialogue between different faiths, races and cultures, such as the Meeker Award from Ottawa University, which is given to individuals who have demonstrated a life of sacrifice, service to the disadvantaged, profound stewardship of life, unrelenting humanitarian services, and worthiness as a role model; and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Citizenship Award for Community Service, which embraced the philosophy of Dr. King and was presented by the Kansas City Kansas Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration Committee.

We join with the many friends, colleagues and community associates of Reverend Freeman in mourning this profound loss. As the *Kansas City Star* noted in its obituary, Reverend Freeman, throughout his career, was known for "interceding in numerous personal, business, and church matters at the request of those involved." He will, of course, be greatly missed by his wife, Ruth Anthony Freeman, and their three children: Edward A. Freeman, Jr.; Constance M. Lindsay; William N. Freeman; their son-in-law, Horace B. Lindsay, Jr.; six grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we add to the RECORD two articles from the *Kansas City Star*, reviewing the life of this remarkable man, which are aptly entitled, "Death claims a role model: Rev. E.A. Freeman was local, national social crusader," and "Commitment was the hallmark of Rev. E.A. Freeman's life."

[From the *Kansas City Star*, Jan. 29, 1999]

DEATH CLAIMS A ROLE MODEL REV. E.A. FREEMAN WAS LOCAL, NATIONAL SOCIAL CRUSADER

(By: Helen T. Gray)

He was a man of God, and a man of his word. When the Rev. E. A. Freeman put his weight behind a cause, things would happen.

"If he said he would do something, you could count on him to do it," said the Rev. C. L. Bachus, a fellow minister and longtime friend. "Only the Lord could stop him."

Freeman, 84, a longtime religious and civic leader, died Tuesday at the Alzheimer's Center of Kansas City in Kansas City, Kan. He had been pastor of First Baptist Church of Quindaro for 50 years before retiring in 1996.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, long a friend of Freeman's, will deliver the eulogy at the service Tuesday.

"He was a very well respected member of our community," said Carol Marinovich, mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kan. "He was a gentleman, and a gentle man, very committed to all the people of the community."

"Freeman's influence extended beyond Kansas City. He was first vice president of the Baptist World Alliance, a worldwide organization of Baptist churches, for five years in the 1980s. He worked with people of different races, ethnic backgrounds and cultures around the world."

During the Iranian hostage crisis in 1980, Freeman was among African-American ministers who went to Iran to try to open lines of communication between Islamic and Christian leaders.

"I had a great respect for him," said the Rev. Stacey Hopkins, pastor of First Baptist. "Everybody respected him. He was always willing to help the younger preachers. Many of us tried to pattern ourselves after him. . . . He always wore a shirt, tie and jacket. Always. He was a good example."

The Rev. Nelson Thompson said he worked with Freeman on several projects and admired his longevity.