

in the national network of the Alzheimer's Association. But his commitment to the organization goes beyond his own chapter. He has been a key collaborator with his colleagues in other chapters in helping to shape the direction of the entire Alzheimer movement in this country. And just last week, the President of the Alzheimer's Association appointed Peter to serve on the management committee of the national organization.

On Friday, the people of Los Angeles will celebrate the tenth anniversary of Peter Braun's service to the Alzheimer's Association. It is a personal pleasure for me to join in recognizing his leadership, his commitment, and his dedication to his organization, to his community, to the Alzheimer movement, but most particularly, to the families who turn to the Association for help.

**BARB ALBERTSON: A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON BAY COUNTY**

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the toughest and most pleasing position in public service is that of local officials. It is the toughest because no matter where you go, you are always encountering constituents who rightly bring to you problems and concerns. It is the most pleasing because you get to see the effects of your efforts in the satisfied faces of the people you represent. For the past 38 years, the people of Bay County, Michigan, my home county, have had the good fortune to be served by an outstanding woman, Barbara J. Albertson, who retired on January 1st. This week she is being honored for her commitment to Bay County, and those honors are very well deserved, indeed.

Barb was hired in 1960 by former County Clerk Steven Toth. After four years, she was promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk, after the death of Barney Balcer. Since the Clerk's position is an elected one, Barb sought the people's approval in 1984 after Clerk Toth announced he would not run for another term. Barb took up the challenge and scored a decisive victory after going door to door, and from event to event. The lesson she learned in that campaign—it's important to make yourself as visible as possible—was a policy she kept alive as the Bay County Clerk herself.

During her fourteen years as Clerk, Barb Albertson modernized the recordkeeping system of the Clerk's Office, using a portion of a federal grant and a temporary staff of four to put all court documents and vital records dating back to the 1800's on microfilm. Since her initial efforts, all of these records, including births, deaths, and divorces are filmed each year, with the records being accessible by computer for the ease of everyone in the community. She also improved the election process by switching from voting machines to a computerized election system, which saves taxpayers at least \$60,000 per election.

Barb readily acknowledges the excellent work done by her staff of four full-time Deputy Clerks plus a Chief Deputy Clerk. Linda Tober, the Chief Deputy Clerk, recognizes the reason that this staff has been so successful when she says, "I feel like I've been trained by the best."

As Barbara Albertson begins her well-deserved retirement, and has the chance to spend more time with her husband, William Silvernale, and plans to fish, golf, and travel, it is only right that we all take a moment to say: Thank you, Barb. Thank you for caring about our community, our neighbors, our heritage and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in recognition of Barbara J. Albertson's outstanding career of public service. May all of our communities have the good fortune to be served by more caring and thoughtful individuals like her.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE STAND DOWN AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999**

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999. This important legislation will build up and expand the VA's role in providing outreach assistance to homeless veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 275,000 veterans are without homes every night and twice as many may be homeless during the course of the year. Based on this statistic, one out of every three individuals who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served our country. Unfortunately, these numbers are only expected to increase as the military downsizes.

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefield to a place of safety. This procedure was known as "Stand Down." Today, Stand Downs which help veterans are held across our nation. Stand Downs are grassroots, community-based intervention programs designed to help the estimated 275,000 veterans without homes in our country. Today's battlefield is too often life on the streets for our nation's veterans.

The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will direct the VA to create a pilot program that will establish Stand Down programs in every state. Currently, only 100 Stand Down events take place in a handful of states annually. In addition, my legislation would also authorize the VA to distribute excess supplies and equipment to Stand Downs across the nation.

I have participated in several Stand Down events back in my home state of Minnesota. The Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999 will build upon the success of the Minnesota Stand Down and serve as a national role model for all states to adopt. Furthermore, the Administration allocated \$1.5 million in the Presidents Fiscal Year 2000 budget request to Congress. This will allow the VA to formally support Stand Down events for veterans without homes in Minnesota and across the nation. This budget request is only a one year proposal, however, my legislation will establish Stand Downs in each state each year starting in the year 2000.

The first such special Stand Down, held in 1988, was the creation of several Vietnam veterans. The goal of the event was to provide

one to three days of hope designed to serve and empower homeless veterans. Since then, Stand Downs have provided a means for thousands of homeless or near-homeless veterans to obtain a broad range of necessities and services including food, clothing, medical care, legal assistance, mental health assessment, job counseling and housing referrals. Most importantly, Stand Downs provide a gathering that offers companionship, camaraderie and mutual support.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations over the past decade have done an outstanding job donating their time, expertise and energy to address the unique needs of homeless or near homeless veterans and their families. Currently, the VA coordinates with local veteran service organizations, the National Guard and Reserve Units, homeless shelter programs, health care providers and other members of the community in organizing the Stand Down events annually. However, much more action is needed to address the persistent and growing number of homeless veterans who have fought honorably to preserve our freedom and now face personal crisis in their lives. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Vets (DAV) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) have endorsed this legislation. In addition, the Stand Down Authorization Act has the strong support from over 50 Members of Congress.

Veterans in past service unconditionally stood up for America. Now we must speak up and stand up for veterans today. I urge all members to join with me in providing outreach assistance to veterans without homes by co-sponsoring the Stand Down Authorization Act of 1999.

**IN HONOR OF ERNIE LAMANNA**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ernie LaManna. For 50 years Ernie, 60, has worked in the barber shop on the corner of Lorain and West 65th. When he emigrated to Cleveland from Bari, Italy, in 1948, he worked in his father's barber shop, shining shoes.

Ernie received his barber's license in 1954, a year before he graduated from West High School. Mr. LaManna briefly left the barber shop in 1956 to serve his country in the Armed Forces for two years. For a while in the late 1950's Ernie and his father, Frank, worked side by side. A picture showing Frank, Ernie, and another barber is a treasured keepsake for Ernie. Like many small businessmen, hard work and perseverance have helped the LaManna's barber shop to thrive. Ernie's dedication and commitment to his customers is outstanding. Among Ernie's many loyal customers is Dave Long who has had his hair cut by a LaManna for over 60 years.

After 50 years of work, Ernie LaManna still enjoys what he is doing. He likes the social aspects of his job and is always eager to strike up a conversation with passers-by. His enthusiasm and sense of humor have helped him to maintain a strong and vital business.

Ladies and gentlemen please join me in recognizing Ernie LaManna's 50 years of tireless work.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY VACCO  
ON RECEIVING THE VILLAGE OF  
BEDFORD PARK COMMITTEE'S  
MAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable public servant, Anthony (Tony) Vacco, who was recently selected to receive the village of Bedford Park, Illinois' 1998 Man of the Year award.

Mr. Vacco was appointed Mayor and Village President of Evergreen Park, Illinois on October of 1968 to fill a vacancy. He was so good at his job, that he was elected in 1969 and has been re-elected for each term ever since, and will again be a candidate for that office this spring.

Mr. Vacco serves his community in every aspect of his life. He supports and/or is a member of numerous local charities, civic, fraternal, service, educational and religious organizations. Among his charitable events is the Evergreen Park Cancer Society "Love Lights A Tree" program at Christmas. Through his efforts, the Evergreen Park Cancer Society unit is the most prosperous fundraising unit in all of Illinois. Mr. Vacco has taken on numerous leadership roles, including serving as President of the Southwest Council of Mayors since 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Vacco on receiving this prestigious award, and extend to him my best wishes for continued service to the community.

ABSAOLM JONES DAY CELEBRA-  
TION BENEFITS BLACK EPIS-  
COPAL SCHOLARSHIP AND EN-  
DOWMENT FUNDS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in a tribute to the legacy and spirit of Absalom Jones, an 18th century slave and join the 1999 Absalom Jones Day Celebration presented by the Washington Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. "Standing Firm in Faith: Accepting the Challenge" is the theme of the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, Absalom Jones, a house slave, was born in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read from the New Testament and other books. At the age of sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia where he attended a night school for Blacks that was operated by the Quakers. At the age of twenty, he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings. Absalom Jones bought his own freedom in 1784.

At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as lay minister for its Black membership. Jones's active evangelism, and that of his friend Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed vestry decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers

attempted to remove them, the Black parishioners walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first African-American society. Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need, and established communication with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania with the following conditions: 1. That they be received as an organized body; 2. That they have control over their local affairs; and 3. That Absalom Jones be licensed as a layreader and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794, it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Absalom Jones was ordained as a deacon in 1795 and as a priest on September 21, 1802. The Reverend Absalom Jones was the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church.

Reverend Jones was an earnest preacher who denounced slavery. His constant visiting and mild manner made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to more than 500 members during its first year. Known as the "Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church", Reverend Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians uses its Absalom Jones Day Celebration in two significant ways. First, the proceeds which are generated will be used for the benefit of the Black Episcopal College scholarship and endowment funds. Scholarship recipients include Saint Augustine's College which was founded in 1867 and is affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church. The college is committed to teaching the importance of achievement, leadership and community service. Saint Paul's College was founded in 1888 as Saint Paul's Normal and Industrial School, and became Saint Paul's Polytechnic Institute in 1941. It received authority to offer a four-year degree program in 1941, and the name was changed to St. Paul's College in 1957. Its liberal arts, career-oriented, and teacher education programs prepare graduates for effective participation in various aspects of human endeavor.

Voorhees College stands as testimony to the faith and determination of its founder, Elizabeth Evelyn Wright. A former student of Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, Miss Wright, at 23, dreamed the seemingly impossible dream of starting a school for Black youth in Denmark, South Carolina. From its founding in 1897 as Denmark Industrial School, Voorhees has evolved into a leading four-year, liberal arts college—the first historically Black institution in the state of South Carolina to achieve full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Secondly, the celebration will include recognition of a person whose life and work in the church and community exemplifies the legacy and spirit of the Reverend Absalom Jones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join this tribute to the legacy and spirit of Absalom Jones and salute the honoree of the evening.

REINTRODUCTION OF SLUSH FUND  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 1999*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in the 105th Congress the Republican majority changed House rules to allow the creation of a nearly \$8 million "reserve fund" for unanticipated committee expenses.

With the advent of biennial committee funding, setting aside resources for unforeseeable contingencies makes sense.

No one can know with certainty 2 years in advance what demands House committees may face. If contingencies do not arise, and the funds are not needed, they can be used to reduce the public debt.

But somewhere a good idea went awry. Republican leaders used the reserve not as a rainy-day fund for unforeseen contingencies, but as a slush fund for their partisan projects.

Most of the nearly \$8 million was eventually disbursed, not for committee expenses a reasonable person would consider unforeseeable, but instead for political investigations of the administration and the working men and women of organized labor.

And under procedures established by the Republican leadership, these millions were disbursed without any vote of the House. Committees devised their plans for partisan investigations, often without even informing the minority. If Speaker Gingrich approved of a plan, the majority of the House Oversight Committee rubber stamped it in a "ministerial" act, and the money flowed.

There was no floor debate, vote, or accountability to the American people for how millions of dollars were to be spent.

To improve accountability and bring the process into the open, last March I introduced House Resolution 387, to require a House vote before any disbursements could be made from the reserve fund.

Unfortunately, the Rules Committee did not approve this reform. Today, I reintroduce it with the cosponsorship of the ranking Democrat on every legislative committee of this House.

I had hoped that with a new Speaker who spoke so eloquently on opening day about bipartisanship and meeting the Democratic minority half way, reintroducing this resolution might be unnecessary.

But the rules adopted by the majority that same day again permit creation of a slush fund, from which disbursements may be made without a floor vote, thereby signaling the majority's intention to proceed as before.

Until it is clear that the reserve fund will be used solely as a hedge against unforeseen contingencies, rather than as petty cash for political sideshows, then the House should debate and vote on how those funds will be used.

When Democrats controlled this House, the only way committees could get more funds for unanticipated needs was through debate and approval of a supplemental expense resolution on this floor. That is the time-honored, open process that lets the public see what's going on and know whom to hold accountable.

By contrast, under Republican control, committees can get more money through a process essentially hidden from public view and for which most Members are not accountable.