

working together earlier this year, hoping to obtain funding to design projects for property acquisition and housing preservation.

Carpenter, according to Santiago Burgos, director of the American Street Empowerment Zone in North Philadelphia, was able to help people working in the area "think through to design a project to consolidate those goals." Carpenter helped them see that they needed money for pre-development and environmental testing. Their improving planning made it easier to identify and get funding, Burgos said.

In addition, Carpenter brought in the right people as advisers and consultants, Burgos said, and "shortened the learning curve" for the community people, moving things forward faster.

Such projects are close to Carpenter's heart.

"Frankly, it's one of Philadelphia's biggest disgraces—what happens to vacant land once the building is torn down. The city essentially abdicates responsibility. They do not clean it, they do not maintain it, they do not cite the owners for not maintaining it.

"For a developer driving by here, the first gut-recoiling reaction is, 'Why would I even build here if the people who live here tolerate this? What would they do to my store? What would they do to my business?'"

Although the problem is vast, Carpenter said—in the city there are about 40,000 vacant buildings and 30,000 vacant lots, most privately owned—he thinks it can be tackled.

"Having the HUD seal of approval gets people to listen to me," he said.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I was granted a leave of absence for Monday, June 29, 1999. Following are the Suspension votes I missed and how I would have voted:

On Passage of H. Con. Res. 94: On rollcall vote No. 259, I would have voted "yea."

On Passage of H. Res. 226: On rollcall vote No. 258, I would have voted "yea."

On Passage of H.R. 2280: On rollcall vote No. 257, I would have voted "yea."

Lastly, I would have voted "yea" for H.J. Res. 34; H.R. 1568; H.R. 2014 and H.R. 1327 all passed by voice vote.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH RAY SMOOT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 41 YEARS AS A TEACHER, COACH AND PRINCIPAL

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Ray Smoot on the occasion of his retirement from a teaching career that has spanned 41 years.

Ray Smoot has served children from kindergarten through high school. He has been a teacher, a coach and a principal. Today, he will retire as Principal of Talladega High School in Talladega, AL.

Ray Smoot had to work hard for his education, and he has always promoted the importance of education. He might have chosen another field, but he wanted to teach. Now he can take pride in knowing that he has made a difference in the lives of so many people, helping them to see the value of education and recognize their potential.

I salute Ray Smoot on his outstanding career.

IN HONOR OF VINCENZO MELENZIO

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vincenzo Melenzio for his assistance to the United States forces during World War II.

Mr. Melenzio, or "Enzo," was an Italian navy radioman who after the Germans had taken over the Italian Government, defected and volunteered for action against the Germans with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

Mr. Melenzio was employed by the OSS for four months in the winter of 1945 as a behind-the-lines radio operator. He served with the OSS 2677th Regiment along with approximately 750 Italian partisan led by 9–10 Americans.

On May 11, 1945, Mr. Melenzio received a certificate of appreciation for his services from Col. Russell D. Livermore, commander of all Special Operations Units in the Mediterranean area. Furthermore, the United States Army, in a memo to the Italian Navy, recommended Mr. Melenzio for the bronze medal.

It is appropriate that Mr. Melenzio be recognized for his bravery, and for his service to both the United States, and to the international community at large.

THE HOLOCAUST ASSETS COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the new millennium, it is right and proper that we look forward to the bright future before us. Yet mileposts like these, like old photographs, evoke reflection on the past, not just of our triumphs but also our tragedies. Today I want to draw our attention back to the past, back to one of the most tragic chapters in all of human history, to the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The horrors of the Holocaust are well known: six million Jews murdered, along with millions of others deemed "undesirable" by Adolf Hitler and his followers. It is often overlooked, however, that the Holocaust was not only one of the largest mass murders in history, but also the largest organized theft in history. The Nazis stole, plundered, and looted billions of dollars of assets. A half-century later we still lack a full accounting.

One year ago, Congress passed and the President signed legislation creating the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust As-

sets in the United States. The Commission has two goals. The first is to conduct original historical research into the question of what happened to the assets of Holocaust victims that came into the "possession or control" of the Federal Government. This research will also include a review of work done by others looking into the matter of assets that passed into non-Federal hands, commodities that included gold, non-gold financial assets, and art and cultural property. The second is to recommend to the President the appropriate future action necessary to bring closure to this issue.

As a member of the Commission, I feel compelled to address the question, "why now?" Why, as we look forward to the new millennium, are the resources of the United States and 17 other nations being devoted to learning the truth about the treatment of Holocaust victims half a century ago?

The answer is simple. Holocaust survivors are aging—and dying. If we are ever to do justice to them, and the memory of the six million Jews and millions of other victims who perished, we must act quickly. The intransigence of the Swiss and others has inflamed passions and energized advocates throughout the world. Justice delayed is justice denied. And with the end of the Cold War, we have the opportunity to look at the immediate post-World War II period with a fresh perspective.

Even if the world were so inclined, it is now impossible to pretend that justice was done. We know too much. We know that in Europe banks sat on dormant accounts for five decades; that insurance companies evaded their responsibilities to honor policies held by victims; that unscrupulous art dealers sold paintings that were extorted from Jews who feared for their lives; and that gold from Holocaust victims was resmelted, often becoming the basis for financial dealings between large corporate entities.

The Holocaust Commission Act assumes a sunset date of December 1999. Because of the delay in starting a new enterprise from scratch and because of the enormous volume of archival and other resources that need to be examined, it is clear that the commission must have more time and more funding to accomplish its mission.

Therefore, in acknowledgment of this need, I am introducing the Holocaust Commission Extension Act. This act will do two things: extend the sunset date of the Commission to December 2000 and authorize the Commission to receive additional funding. I am joined today by my colleagues on the Commission: Chairman BEN GILMAN, JIM MALONEY and BRAD SHERMAN, as well as JOHN LAFALCE of the House Banking Committee, and Banking Committee Chairman JIM LEACH, who has led the way on this issue. The effort to create the Commission has been bipartisan and will remain so. Honoring the memories of the victims and the pursuit of justice in their names cannot be sullied by politics as usual. I invite my colleagues on both ends of the aisle to co-sponsor and support this bill.

We are all familiar with George Santayana's famous quote—"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." With this quote comes the unspoken prerequisite: the truth must be established and acknowledged before it can be remembered. The United States, along with every other nation, must therefore remember the Holocaust as

both history and as an unfolding of human tragedy. I am confident that the Commission's efforts will demonstrate that as Americans we are willing to confront our own past, and in so doing, we will demonstrate our leadership in the international effort to obtain justice for the victims of the Holocaust and their families.

NAFTA-TAA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the authorizations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program expire today, June 30, 1999. Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the programs through fiscal year 2001. There should be no gap in the authorizations for these vitally important programs, which have long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Efforts to increase the participation of the United States in global trade are essential to the continued growth of our economy. However, when increased trade is a cause of dislocation for some U.S. workers and firms, we must be prepared to respond. The TAA programs are the cornerstone of our longstanding efforts to cushion the impact of the blow for employees and businesses who have been harmed by imports. Most important, TAA provides retraining and technical assistance so these workers and firms can thrive in the new economy.

A number of reforms in the TAA programs have been proposed recently. The legislation that I am introducing today is intended to continue these programs as their Congressional authorization is set to expire. However, the bill is not meant to preclude important discussions of broader, systemic changes.

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEST ANGELES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the West Angeles Community Development Corporation (CDC). This thriving community development organization was founded in 1994 as an outreach program of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, a 15,000 member congregation in the Crenshaw area, located in my Congressional District. The West Angeles CDC is dedicated to economic empowerment, social justice, and community transformation for its surrounding South Los Angeles area.

The West Angeles CDC has achieved success in developing a school-based training program in peer mediation named Peace-Makers, launching a job placement assistance program, providing renters' assistance and case management services to families displaced from housing, and providing emergency food assistance to those in need. In ad-

dition, the CDC recently built the West A Homes, a 44-unit apartment complex for large low-income families.

In recognizing the significant outreach ministry of the West Angeles CDC, I must highlight the outstanding leadership of the organization's distinguished Board of Directors: Bishop Charles E. Blake, Pastor of the West Angeles Church; Lula Ballton, Esq., Executive Director of the CDC; Dr. Desiree Tillman-Jones, Chairperson of the Board; Mrs. Belinda Ann Bakkar; Mrs. Jueline Bleavins; Mr. Mack Bruins; Ms. Stasia Cato; Mrs. Nancy Harris; Mr. Harold T. Hutchison; Mrs. Janet Johnson-Welch; Ms. Nathalie Page; Ms. Sandra McBeth-Reynolds; Rev. Donald T. Paredes; Mr. Maurice Perry; Mr. Mark J. Robertson; Mr. Roy Sadakane; Mr. Paul H. Turner; and attorneys Patricia S. Cannon, Anne C. Myles-Smith, and Wyndell J. Wright. These dedicated individuals have selflessly fulfilled the vision of the West Angeles CDC by bringing compassion, hope, and healing to the Crenshaw community they serve.

The West Angeles CDC's contributions to the South Los Angeles community have been invaluable. I congratulate them on their outstanding work and offer my best wishes for their continued success. With construction underway of a beautiful new West Angeles Cathedral, I am confident the West Angeles Church of God in Christ and the West Angeles Community Development Corporation can look forward to a long and prosperous future.

H.R. 2373, THE START-UP SUCCESS ACCOUNTS ACT OF 1999

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from South Carolina in the introduction of legislation that will give owners of newly formed small businesses a new way to channel capital into the growth of those businesses.

I am very excited to join my colleague, Mr. DEMINT, in this effort. I'm pleased to serve alongside Mr. DEMINT on the Small Business Committee and have found that we see eye-to-eye on so many issues of critical importance to small businesses in our respective states. I believe that we share a common interest of helping small businesses thrive in our nation, and this legislation is a step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, Small businesses are the economic foundation of southwest Washington. As my colleague mentioned, they account for nearly all new jobs in our economy. However, a majority of those new small businesses fail in the first few years of existence—largely due to lack of capital.

As currently structured, the tax system seems to penalize capital retention. Certainly, it provides disincentives for small businesses to save, which I believe is misguided policy.

As one who grew up with small business owners, I am aware of the struggles that one goes through in trying to build a business. My folks owned a small clothing store as I was growing up, and went on to run a small ice-cream and sandwich shop. They certainly had their good years, and their bad and tried des-

perately to make ends meet during those less profitable years.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, the Start-Up Success Accounts Act of 1999, would help our small businesses save for those rainy days; and it would allow them to take a more careful, considered approach to investing in the growth of their business. By allowing business owners to set aside up to 20 percent of their profits in more successful years and defer tax on those profits until later years, this bill would put another instrument in the toolbox of new small business owners, who need all the help that we can provide.

Giving small businesses a fighting chance to succeed isn't a Democratic issue or a Republican issue—it's an American issue. It's the common sense thing to do, and I am proud to join with my colleague in drafting and introducing this bill. I think that this straight-forward legislation will appeal to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who see the simple benefits of promoting savings.

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1658) to provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1658, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

The Constitution is the foundation of our great nation. From an early age we are taught that we are entitled to basic rights and liberties, and we cherish these rights and protections afforded under our Constitution. When these rights are violated, we are quick to demand action and correction.

This is a time when we must demand action and correction. The current civil asset forfeiture laws abuse individual rights by denying basic due process.

Under current law, there are two kinds of forfeiture—criminal asset forfeiture and civil asset forfeiture. Under criminal asset forfeiture, if you are indicted and convicted of a crime, the government may seize your property if your property was used, however indirectly, in facilitating the crime for which you have been convicted.

I have no problem with that law. Not only is it a good deterrent against a number of crimes, but it does not deny anyone their Constitutional rights.

However, under civil asset forfeiture, the government can seize your property, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the property owner. The government can seize property merely by showing there is probable cause to believe that these assets have been part of some illegal activity. This means that even if there is no related criminal charge or conviction against the individual, the government may confiscate his or her property.

And property can be anything—your car, your home, your business. The government can take anything and everything premised on