

Yesterday's graduates, ranging in age from 29 to 78, represented 25 states and 33 unions. Most of them are the first in their families to earn a degree.

About 400 union members and leaders from throughout the country are participating in the college degree program, which has recently expanded to offer a master's degree.

Kevin P. O'Sullivan, yesterday's student speaker, plans to earn his master's degree in public administration through the college. For Mr. O'Sullivan, the labor movement is integral to his family's history.

"My father, an Irish immigrant, worked seven days a week as an electrician, providing a better life for his family," said Mr. O'Sullivan.

"His example of solidarity while supporting a Teamsters strike for three months despite the pressures of providing for his wife and seven children will be with me longer than my disdain for oatmeal that I gained during the strike."

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT- MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOP- LE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am reluctantly voting today to affirm the Administration's renewal of Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with the People's Republic of China (PRC) for the coming year. At the same time, I also want to reaffirm my current opposition to the extension of permanent NTR status to China. I strongly believe the United States should preserve the annual option of suspending NTR open as a potential instrument of policy, and trust China is aware that it continues to edge ever closer to a suspension of its NTR status with the United States.

I hold grave reservations over current U.S.-China relations. Among other things, the PRC's theft of U.S. nuclear and computer technology secrets, its continued opposition to U.S. policies abroad, and its long-term history of human rights violations all raise serious concerns. I have already taken public steps this session to toughen U.S. policy on the PRC by speaking out against religious persecution in China on the House floor, voting to limit satellite exports to China, voting to prohibit military-to-military exchanges with the People's Liberation Army, and implementing the recommendations of the Cox Report.

Nevertheless, as someone who represents a state where the agricultural sector is vitally important to both our culture and our economy, I believe the expansion of markets within China for agricultural products is crucial. Our farmers face a crisis today. Commodity prices are at extraordinarily low levels as demand continues to lag behind supply worldwide. At the same time, Congress is encouraging our farmers to rely more and more on market forces, and less and less on old-style bureaucratic programs. A huge part of these market forces is dependent upon growth in our farm exports. The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that 37 percent of the growth in our nation's farm exports could go to China by 2003. In other words, to restrict trade by sus-

pending China's NTR status would take a key market away from our struggling farmers at an unfortunate time, likely driving agriculture prices even lower.

In recent months, the U.S. Trade Representative has negotiated conditional agreements with China that would, among other things, dramatically reduce Chinese tariffs on U.S. cheese and ice cream exports. If NTR fails, these agreements are finished—giving Wisconsin farmers bad news at a time when bad news seems to be the order of the day.

This has been a tough decision, one I have weighed for some time. There are valid and persuasive arguments on both sides of the NTR debate, and I can truly say this has been one of the most difficult issues I have faced since taking office. In the end, however, the issue's potential impact on agriculture tipped the scales in favor of renewing China's NTR status for another year.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support for the Department of Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2000. This legislation reaffirms Congress' commitment to a strong national defense and takes a positive step toward restoring our hollowed-out military. This legislation provides funding for key defense projects such as the LPD-17 and the Navy Information Technology Center.

By providing full funding for the LPD-17, the United States Navy receives a highly reliable, warfare capable ship and the most survivable amphibious ship ever put to sea. The LPD-17 design incorporates state-of-the-art self-defense capabilities, C4I, and reduced signature technologies advances that will prove priceless over its 40-year service life. LPD-17 also incorporates the latest quality of life standards for our Sailors and Marines.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the Chairman for his foresight in placing additional funding above the President's request into the DIMHRS account for the Navy Information Technology Center in New Orleans. Funding for the Navy Information Technology Center will ensure continued development of the information software needed to handle personnel and pay management files for the Navy and other armed services. By investing in these improvements now, the Office of Management and Budget estimates the Navy will be able to save billions of dollars in the future. These savings will result in additional funding to rebuild our national defense.

The legislation also includes the first significant increase in defense spending in 14 years, and will also boost pay for the nation's 1.4 million active-duty service men and women by 4.8 percent.

Once again, I would like to thank the Chairman for crafting an excellent bill, and I look

forward to continuing to work with him and his staff.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PAUL J. HANAK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY, POLICE FORCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Paul J. Hanak on twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of Union City, New Jersey, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the force.

In August 1970, Mr. Hanak joined the Union City Police Force as a Patrol Officer where his hard work and dedication was quickly recognized and rewarded. By 1974, Mr. Hanak started his rise through the ranks when he was promoted to Sergeant. In the following years, he rose to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1983, Deputy Chief in 1987, and finally Chief of the Union City Police Force in 1997.

Through the years, Chief Hanak was revered by his fellow officers as being responsive to their needs and compassionate about their daily stresses. He always set time aside to give advice and counsel. In fact, it was his mission statement which set the stage for the entire force: "Compassion, Proficiency and Respect." It is this type of work ethic, of motivation, that epitomized Chief Hanak's career.

Always committed to his sense of civic responsibility, Chief Hanak continued to flourish and grow in the criminal justice field outside the bounds of the police force. Receiving a Law Degree from Seton Hall University, Chief Hanak passed the New Jersey State Bar in 1971. In addition, he has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Jersey City State College, teaching courses on the Criminal Justice System.

I am happy to congratulate Chief Paul Hanak for his long and distinguished career; for his dedication and service to the Union City Police Force; and for his compassion for and understanding of his fellow officers and all the people of Union City. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing this exceptional man a happy and healthy retirement.

THOMAS AND BRIDGES FAMILIES
CELEBRATE 28TH REUNION IN
CADIZ, TRIG COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Thomas and Bridges families, who will come together for their 28th reunion in Cadiz, Trig County, Kentucky this August.

Drury Bridges brought his family to Kentucky from North Carolina in 1804. James Thomas, Sr., also a North Carolinian, came two years later. Both patriarchs had taken part in the struggle for independence during the Revolutionary War, but they had never met until they acquired land grants near each other

in a portion of Christian County that in 1820 would become Trigg County.

With the passing of time, three of the Bridges children married three of the Thomas children, the beginning of family connections that remain strong today.

During the almost 200 years since these families chose Trigg County as their home, they and their descendants have made invaluable contributions to the cultural, religious, educational and political life of the county.

It is my honor to represent these distinguished families in the Congress of the United States and I am proud to introduce them to my colleagues in the House of Representatives and recognize their patriotism and civic leadership.

IN HONOR OF MS. MARGARET
BLAKE ROACH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mark the loss of a remarkable leader in South Florida. Margaret Blake Roach, an educator and pioneer in civil rights, passed away on July 16, 1999, among her loving family in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The Broward County community is no doubt in mourning for the loss of this great leader, mentor, and role model.

Margaret Roach served as a beacon of wisdom and fairness for many who suffered from social injustice. For more than thirty years, Margaret was at the forefront of the civil rights movement. She was the founder and president emeritus of the Urban League of Broward County and a founding member of the Broward/South Palm Beach region of the National Conference for Community and Justice. She was guided by the simple principle of access to opportunity for all, and she shared that principle with everyone she came in contact.

In addition, Margaret Roach realized the need and the importance to attend to the community's future by caring for the local children. She worked as an administrator in Broward County Schools for almost 24 years and was trustee and former chairperson of the Board of Trustees at Broward Community College. Margaret nurtured her students with an uncommon commitment to education and an education that went far beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. She taught her students by example and brought both her time and leadership to various civic establishments such as the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the Cleveland Clinic.

The State of Florida will truly miss Margaret Roach for both her vision and her commitment to serving others. I am confident that despite the sadness of her loss, the Broward community will celebrate her exceptional life through the organizations to which she dedicated both her time and compassion. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues to join me as we honor this great American who has left such a memorable impression on the lives of so many people. I am grateful to Margaret Roach for her years of dedicated service to humanity and mourn her loss.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARGARET KELLY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, recently the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers Local #28 took time out to honor a special person and friend, Margaret Kelly.

Margaret Kelly, through a long career in Saint Paul Public Schools, is committed to education and has invested in building solid representation for teachers. Politically active, her hard work has resulted in a successful educational environment and an effective teacher's labor union. Her sister and perhaps best supporter, Mary Kelly, has also been active.

The roots of this local union go back many years and in line 1940's when there was labor strife, a young Margaret Kelly was in the middle of it. Today relations are more harmonious, but the challenges to Saint Paul Federation of Teachers #28 President Ian Keith are just as great. Fortunately, he has Margaret Kelly to rely upon. As a Member of Congress, I have been proud and well served with Margaret and Mary Kelly's counsel as well.

Congratulations to Margaret Kelly. The following brief article from the July 21 Union Advocate touches upon Margaret's role and the feelings of her fellow teacher's union members.

[From the Union Advocate, July 21, 1999]
LABOR MOVEMENT PIONEERS GATHER TO
CELEBRATE, REFLECT

Some of the key leaders who helped build the St. Paul Federation of Teachers gathered July 13 to celebrate the contributions of one of their own—Margaret Kelly (left), a member of the local for more than 50 years, an officer and leader.

Ian Keith, president of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, Local 28, presented her with the American Federation of Teachers "Living the Legacy" Award.

"A lot of things changed in the union, but Margaret was always there," said Tom Dosch. "She really represented the union and unionism. She certainly was a guiding force the early years I was involved."

Although she's been retired, Kelly is still remembered fondly by many of her former students, said Don Sorenson, another colleague. "Margaret not only did a great job in the union, she also was a great teacher." Kelly taught junior high English and Social Studies.

Kelly said she believed her greatest accomplishment was successfully working for state legislation to establish retiree health benefits for teachers.

Among those honoring Kelly were family members and fellow teachers, some of whom were involved in the historic St. Paul teachers strike of 1946—the first organized teachers strike in the United States. Others have been leaders of the union in the years since.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. RILEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Mike Riley, who is re-

tiring after a 45-year career with the Teamsters Union. In his modest way, Mike has said that working as a union organizer is "one of the few things I was good at that I liked." I don't know about his other pursuits, but I can say without hesitation that Mike is one of the best union representatives that I have ever known.

Mike's union career began as an accident. He was working as a truck driver in San Francisco, recently back from a tour of military duty in Korea, when he attended a union meeting. The big issue that day was whether members should support an increase in dues from \$3 to \$3.50 per month. Mike thought the request was justified, especially since the union had recently negotiated a \$2.50 per week increase for Mike and his co-workers.

As it turned out, he was in the minority. From that point, Mike started to speak in favor of the union at the monthly meetings. His efforts caught the attention of union organizers, who asked him to join their ranks. He accepted the offer, and has never looked back.

Mike has held many prominent positions with the Teamsters, including International Union Representatives, International Vice President, Chairman of the Western Conference of Teamsters and President of Teamsters Joint Council 42, the position he holds today. Mike estimates he has helped negotiate thousands of contracts and settle tens of thousands of grievances through the years.

Mike counts among his proudest achievements obtaining early retirement—with full benefits—for eligible union members and helping to establish the Teamsters Miscellaneous Health and Welfare Plan, which provides medical, dental and vision benefits to an additional 25,000 Teamsters and their families.

Although he was dedicated to the union, Mike did make room in his schedule to serve as member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. As the father of three sons (and three daughters), Mike knows better than most how important it is for a young man to have an adult male figure in his life. One of his sons is currently serving as a Big Brother.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mike Riley, whose sense of compassion, commitment to economic justice and devotion to his family is an inspiration to us all. I am proud to be his friend.

TIME TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM
WAGE: THERE IS A HIGH COST
FOR LOW WAGES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, with 126 of our distinguished colleagues, I am a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 325, which was introduced by our colleagues Congressman DAVID BONIOR and Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT. Our legislation would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$5.65 on September 1, 1999, and from \$5.65 to \$6.15 on September 1, 2000. An identical bill has been introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the present minimum wage is a poverty wage. A single mother, with two children, working at minimum wage earns thousands of dollars less than the poverty level.