

Mr. Chairman, every member of this body respects and deeply appreciates the contributions of our veterans. This institution is the home of many proud war veterans—liberal and conservative; Democrat and Republican.

This issue is not one of partisanship but rather one of dignity.

Veterans may appear like regular people—but they are not. They are an uncommon brand of hero. These people made the conscious decision to put their own life, their hopes, and their future on hold to stand up for the basic principles of their homeland: freedom, liberty, and a proud tradition of justice. They are the men and women of courage and integrity.

I would like to share with my colleagues a story of one of these men of integrity—Mr. Eugene Mozer of Jackson Heights, in my district.

He was a World War II veterans decorated with a Purple Heart after being wounded in battle. He was a patriot. Mr. Mozer personifies the thousands of veterans that live in each of our home communities.

This past February, Mr. Mozer passed away. His wife, Faustina Gobrili, and their son attempted to acquire a Military Honor Guard for his burial service. They believed that an Honor Guard would be a fitting tribute to this man's life—a life he was prepared to sacrifice for this nation.

After contacting the military and explaining the situation, Ms. Gobrili was informed by the military that they, incredulously, could not fulfill her family's request for a military Honor Guard.

Or, Mr. Chairman, I call your attention to the countless other stories of families of deceased veterans contacting the military to request an Honor Guard only to receive a cassette tape of TAPS in the mail.

These are gross indignities to the people who were willing to die for our freedom—for people they would never know, let alone meet.

Mr. Mozer and his family and the thousands of other distinguished veterans and their families deserve a more apt tribute—a tribute that appropriately reflects the gratitude and indebtedness of this nation.

A military Honor Guard at the funeral of a veterans serves as the final salute of a grateful nation. Let us not deny them this final call of respect. I urge you to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH HOLMES BOUTELLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who with boundless energy and enthusiasm researched and authored an award-winning book and became the world's foremost authority on the renowned architect Julia Morgan. Sarah Holmes Boutelle passed away in Santa Cruz last May at the age of 90.

Born on January 29, 1909 in South Dakota, Sarah was a history teacher and school administrator when she came to Santa Cruz county in 1972 and visited Hearst Castle with her son, Christopher. Upon learning that Julia Morgan was the architect who built San

Simeon, Mrs. Boutelle's interest, as a teacher, in female role models led her to seek more information about the renowned architect. Sarah's research on Julia Morgan cumulated in a book that won a California Book Award and Mrs. Boutelle's naming as an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. Throughout the remainder of her life, Sarah continued to travel extensively, investigating new Julia Morgan material and lecturing.

Sarah Holmes Boutelle was truly a remarkable woman who will be fondly remembered for her energy and enthusiasm as well as her extraordinary effort and contribution to the appreciation of architecture. She will be missed by the many people she touched both personally and through her writing and lectures during her lifetime.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS CHILDREN'S EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Representatives ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CONNIE MORELLA, the "Federal Employees Health Benefits Children's Equity Act of 1999."

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 required States to enact legislation requiring employers to enroll a child in an employee's group health plan when a court orders the employee to provide health insurance for the child but the employee fails to do so. The Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) law provided that a Federal employee "may enroll" in a FEHB plan "either as an individual or for self and family" coverage. The law does not allow an employing agency to elect coverage on the employee's behalf. Further, FEHB law generally preempts State law with regard to coverage and benefits. Therefore, a federal agency is unable to ensure that a child is covered in accordance with a court order, even when the same order would ensure coverage for the child if the child's parent were employed by an employer other than the federal government.

To correct this inequity, my proposal would enable the federal government to enroll an employee and his or her family in the FEHB Program when a State court orders the employee to provide health insurance coverage for a child of the employee. If the affected employee is already enrolled for self-only coverage, the employing agency would be authorized to change the enrollment to self and family. If the affected employee is not enrolled in the FEHB Program, the employing agency would be required to enroll him or her under the standard option of the Service Benefit Plan, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Finally, the employee would be barred from discontinuing the self and family enrollment as long as the court order remains in effect, the child meets the statutory definition of family member, and the employee cannot show that the child has other insurance.

I am very pleased about the broad constituency that supports my proposal. Among the groups that have offered support for the

change are the American Payroll Association, which represents employers, the Center for Law and Social Policy, which represents the rights of indigent parents and several state child support program officials.

I am also pleased to introduce this important legislation during National Payroll Week—September 13–17—and to have the support of those who are key to the wage and medical support withholding process.

Please join me and Representatives ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and CONNIE MORELLA in cosponsoring this worthwhile measure. It will help our efforts to ensure that our children have access to needed health insurance coverage.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NAMING OF THE GLORIA S. WILLIAMS BUILDING AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives a very special event which will take place on Tuesday, September 14, 1999. On that date, the campus of New Jersey's William Paterson University will undergo a transformation which, in itself, exemplifies their commitment to their mission of providing quality instruction in an environment of leadership and diversity. This transformation is the renaming of one of the University buildings in honor of a remarkable person, the late Gloria S. Williams. This ceremony marks a truly historic event, the first time that a structure has been named for an African-American on the campus of William Paterson University.

Gloria S. Williams, a native of Newark, excelled throughout her educational career here in New Jersey. She began her quest for knowledge in Newark's public school system and it eventually led her to William Paterson University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Economics. Throughout her rich life, Gloria S. Williams made certain to place the needs of others before those of herself. This selfless behavior was evident in her decision to share her knowledge and experiences as a teacher in the Paterson School District after her college graduation. Her experiences at William Paterson University was not simply limited to an undergraduate education. As an undergraduate, Gloria was an employee of the University and immediately following graduation she remained with the University as a dorm assistant and summer camp coordinator. After that, her career at William Paterson flourished. Gloria held many important positions including Residence Hall Director, Assistant Registrar, and ultimately she was named Associate Director of the Advisement Center where she was well known for always having an open door. Because of Gloria's rich involvement with others and with William Paterson University, it is a fitting tribute that the University chose to name a building in her honor. Gloria S. Williams was also very active in the church. As a youngster she was a member of St. Luke's A.M.E. Church where her parents, Daisy and O'Donnell Williams,

were lifelong members. While living in Wayne, New Jersey, Gloria joined New A.M.E. Zion Church, where she served diligently on the Scholarship Committee. After returning to Newark and joining St. James A.M.E. Church, Gloria realized her ambition to become a religious counselor.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating William Paterson University as they honor Gloria S. Williams in this way. Her life story embodies all the aspects that educational institutions strive for—determination, diligence and dedication. By naming a building in her honor, William Paterson University will preserve for future generations the admirable legacy of a great woman, Gloria S. Williams.

IN HONOR OF MR. MANUEL MOTA

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Manuel "Manny" Rafael Gerónimo Mota, for his spirited work with youth, his humanitarian service, and his outstanding accomplishments as a major league baseball player and coach. Through his compassion for others and his infectious enthusiasm for life, Manny has served as a model citizen for all Americans.

Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on February 13, 1938, Manny Mota grew up loving the game of baseball. Soon, Manny realized that he had a gift for the grand old game. At the tender age of 19, Manny demonstrated a keen eye at the plate when he joined the minor leagues. Within a few years, Manny ascended to the major leagues and soon established himself as a premier hitter.

Manny joined the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1969 and contributed to Dodger success from 1969–1982. As a player for the Dodgers, Manny established the all-time major league record for pinch-hits with 150. Manny batted .304 over his entire 20-year major league career with Montreal, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Manny Mota was selected to the 1973 National League All-Star team and led the league with a .351 batting average at the All-Star Break. When you add his tenure as a coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Manny has served the Dodgers for 30 years.

Just as important as Manny Mota's contributions on the field are his contributions off the field. Over a quarter of a century ago, Manny Mota established the Manny Mota International Foundation with the intention of giving

youth opportunities to reach their full potential and pursue a quality education. Manny has used baseball as his medium to instruct and motivate Los Angeles youth. The Manny Mota International Foundation awards five \$1,000 scholarships to Los Angeles area students each year.

Manny Mota's generosity extends beyond the borders of the United States. Manny has worked hard to raise money to build a medical clinic, baseball field, and school in the Dominican Republic. Manny Mota was at the forefront of relief efforts when natural disasters devastated the Dominican Republic, Central America, and other regions of Latin America. Repeatedly, Manny demonstrates that he does not forget his roots, as he swiftly extends aid to those who are disadvantaged.

Manny has also served as a loving caretaker of a successfully family. He resides with his wife Margarita in Glendale and is the proud father of eight children: Cecilia, Jose, Andres, Domingo, Manuel, Maria, Rafael, and Antonio. His wife and children remain active in foundation activities and embrace the same commitment to public service that has inspired Manny to share his gifts with others.

Just as Manny so often delivered "in the pinch" at the plate, so has he delivered "in the pinch" in life. Mr. Speaker, family and friends of Manny Mota gathered at the California Plaza Watercourt in Downtown Los Angeles, California on Saturday, August 28, 1999 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his association with the Los Angeles Dodgers, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional man.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2684) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my concern about the deep cuts in the Veterans Administra-

Housing and Urban Development annual (VA/HUD) appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2000. This legislation not only substantially slashes funds for programs that have enhanced economic development and improved housing in Connecticut and the 5th Congressional District, but also guts many of our important NASA science programs. My support for the VA/HUD Appropriations bill is conditioned on a conference agreement which restores funding for HUD, the Veterans Administration and NASA.

If allowed to stand, the cuts to HUD programs will have a significant impact on the State of Connecticut and on my own congressional district, affecting both economic development initiatives and a variety of housing services. The Republican budget cutters have dug deep into initiatives that have proven track records of success. There is simply no reason to reduce our efforts to provide economic development for our towns and cities in the form of Brownfields monies and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds. By doing so, we will set our communities and our economies backwards, rather than spur them forward.

The VA/HUD Appropriations legislation also slashes funding for key NASA science programs. This shortsighted action jeopardizes our country's leadership in space. Unless NASA funding is restored, this legislation should not pass Congress.

My colleagues, I support the VA/HUD Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriations in the House because it restores badly needed funds for the Veterans Administration. I urge all of you to join me in working to reverse the housing, CDBG, economic development and NASA cuts in this bill. If this important funding is not restored, I will oppose the House-Senate conference agreement on the final version of the bill. I urge you to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, due to notifications from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that hurricane "Floyd" is likely to hit my district within 48 hours, I will not be able to be present and voting this evening and tomorrow. Hurricane "Floyd" is currently a category 4 storm and gaining strength as it approaches the Southeast coast. I will remain in my district to assist constituents and my family with pending evacuation and mitigation plans.