

Month". As a trained social worker, I know first-hand the significant contributions that have been made nationwide by this profession. Professional social workers, throughout this nation, can be found in the most amazing places including fortune 500 companies, departments of health, courts, mental health centers, managed care companies, schools, child welfare agencies, nursing homes, health care settings, employee assistance programs, and public and private agencies. Daily they are tasked with helping to alleviate society's most intractable problems, working one-on-one with troubled children and families, organizing communities for change and performing cutting-edge research and administering social programs.

The business of social work is helping people help themselves. One such entity that has made a point of emphasizing the importance of social workers in the health care delivery system is the Miami-Dade County health department. Social workers play an integral role in servicing Dade County residents in a variety of public health areas. The fact that the county administration has agreed to give special recognition to its social workers is a testament to their significant contributions to the health department. Let me congratulate all my fellow social workers and we honor them for their service during the month of March.

BEAN THERE, DONE THAT

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the famous story of Speaker Joe Cannon yelling "Thunderation!" when he went to the Member's Dining Room wanting a bowl of Michigan Navy Bean Soup, and not finding it on the menu. Ever since that day, this soup with its main ingredient, the Navy Bean, coming from most likely my congressional district, has been on the menu. But how many of you have heard the story of John A. McGill, Jr., the now-retired Executive Vice-President and Treasurer of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association having lunch with our former colleague, Bob Traxler, in the same dining room, and having to once again yell "Thunderation" when someone substituted impostor Great Northern Beans for the historic and acclaimed Navy Bean?

From 1969 until August 28, 1998, John McGill actively worked to promote the interests of the Michigan dry bean industry. Both shippers and growers benefited from this gentleman's expertise, his savy business sense, and his well-known resolve to fight for what he believes to be right. And our Navy Bean Soup remains secure.

His work on behalf of research both at the Saginaw Valley Bean and Beet Farm and Michigan State University has resulted in the development of new varieties that will be planted for years to come. John was a major player in making sure the Michigan's beans continue to appear on plates throughout the United Kingdom. He participated in many trade missions to Africa and other potential

markets with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and was a vital player in increasing our sales in Mexico. His development and continued publication of the Michigan Dry Bean Digest provides one of the most comprehensive documents available to the industry. And he will never be forgotten for his devotion and competitiveness in the annual MBSA golf tournament at the Association's summer meeting.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, to John and his wife Donna, we offer our most sincere best wishes and friendship in return for years of their guidance, friendship, sense of humor, and support. John's leadership for Michigan dry beans and for all of agriculture in Michigan—spanning the decades—will not be forgotten soon. He has truly set an example for future leaders, and to colleagues and friends. Mr. Speaker, we urge you and all of our colleagues to join us in wishing this wonderful gentleman his happiest years ever. May his hunting sights be filled, his tee shots straight and long, and his duck carving tools sharp and true.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LUELLA
POWELL KOONCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend Mrs. Luella Powell Koonce will be joined by family and friends to celebrate her 90th birthday. Birthdays are perfect occasions for reflection. Mrs. Koonce's life has been fruitful and she has much of which to be proud. She has many names—Mother, Mom-in-Law, Granny, Aunt Tee, and Cousin Lou. She is the eldest living member of the Powell-Hutchins-Koonce families and has more than 100 living relatives.

As you can imagine, a woman with so many relations must have a busy life. She is known as a counselor, professional seamstress, good cook, baby sitter, family banker and hot line monitor for her church and neighborhood. Luella Koonce was born 90 years ago on a farm in Blakely, Georgia. She was one of the four children of James and Elizabeth Hutchins Powell. After the family moved to Dothan, Alabama, she met and married Early Koonce and they subsequently moved their family of three children to Newark, New Jersey and eventually to East Orange, New Jersey.

Family unity, independence and moral values have always been emphasized in her family and she has passed those and other cultural traditions down to her children and grandchildren. In the early 1940s, she joined St. Paul AME Church in East Orange. She has remained a faithful member since that time. During her membership, she has devoted her attention to the Pastor's Aide Club, Missionary Society, and Georgia Circle. A firm believer that "prayer changes things," she has made a believer out of many of her relatives.

While she is proud and boastful of the accomplishments of her children—Willie, my successful barber; Evelyn, a retired teacher/librarian; and Mary, a member of the East Orange City Council; she is always quick to remind them to remember where they came from and not get "too big for their britches."

Her nine grandchildren have profited from her inspired motivational talks using the Prodigal Son as her text to teach the value of love. As a teenager, I remember visiting the Koonce home. It was a place that always seemed to have young people around. I am sure that was because we all had a tremendous amount of respect for Mrs. Koonce. She instilled values in all of us, not just her children. She always seemed to extend herself.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in sending Mrs. Koonce our best wishes for a wonderful birthday.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD "HOWIE"
HERBERT

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring your attention to the contributions and leadership of Howard (Howie) Herbert, a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Howard Herbert moved to Albuquerque at the age of 20, in 1950. After building a reputation in sales and management Howie began his career as an entrepreneur. He opened the first discount store in the southwest, calling it Albuquerque Discount Club. Gas was sold for seven cents a gallon to those who had the Albuquerque Discount Club deal. After two years he sold this successful business and moved on to land development and the appliance business—Herbert Distributing. Mr. Herbert was a founding member of Western Bank.

Howard Herbert experienced business success, but believes that it is all about giving back to the community. Over the years he has served on more than 30 committees and boards including the Governors Drug Council, Youth Incarceration Business Outreach Program, Board of Directors for Special Olympics, Goodwill Industries, Trustee of the 100 Club of New Mexico, state chairman of the Easter Seals program and New Mexico Mental Health, founder of the Christmas Basket Program in Albuquerque and co-founder of the Halfway House Rehab for Alcoholics, and the list continues.

Please join me in the recognition of economic and social contributions Howard Herbert has made to my home of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TROOPER FACES PROBE OVER OUTBURST

EUGENE, OR (AP)—A state police trooper accused of shouting racial slurs and obscenities during an incident in Eugene is facing a criminal charge.

Joseph Michael Jansen, 28, assigned to the Madras patrol office, was in town for a wedding when he allegedly caused the 2 a.m. ruckus Jan. 24.

Jansen, who is charged with disorderly conduct, is on "modified duty status" while police investigate, state police spokesman Lt. Gregg Hastings said.

"That type of behavior, whether on duty or off duty, is very serious and it's taken very seriously," Hastings said.

Jansen and another man were on the first floor of the Valley River Inn yelling racial slurs about blacks and Mexicans, according to a Eugene police report.

Jansen gave his badge and state police identification to the officers, who didn't immediately believe he was a trooper because of his behavior.

Officers said they tried to calm him down, noting that hotel guests were waking up to see what was happening.

They said Jansen appeared to be extremely intoxicated and continued to yell and swear, telling one officer to "shut up" when she asked him to quiet down.

As officers put him in a patrol car, they said, they warned him that the car had a recording device, but he continued to yell.

Jansen posted \$510 bail five hours later and was released. Hastings said Jansen in on paid leave, "duty-stationed at home," meaning he has to be available to perform paperwork-type duties during normal work hours.

Jansen, who was hired Jan. 1, 1997, could be fired, Hastings said. However, a decision isn't expected until the disorderly conduct charge is dealt with in court.

SCHOOL SAYS SYMBOL IN TILE IS NATIVE AMERICAN, NOT NAZI

WALLED LAKE, MI (AP)—A swastika-like symbol embedded in the mosaic floor of a Walled Lake public school for 77 years has brought the district under fire this week from the NAACP and an attorney.

The symbol, covered by a throw rug in the entryway of the district's Community Education Center, is a foot in diameter and was placed in the floor when the school was built in 1922.

District officials said the symbol is from American Indian culture. Unlike the Nazi swastika, the arms of the symbol on the school's floor point counterclockwise.

"It has nothing to do with the National Socialist Party of Germany," Robert Masson, director of the center, told the Detroit Free Press for a story Wednesday. "The building and the symbol precedes the Nazis by a considerable amount of time."

School officials put a rug over the symbol in recent years because of "possible interpretation of its meaning as a swastika," Masson said.

Arnold Reed, an attorney representing a Walled Lake student involved in a scuffle with an administrator, complained about the symbol.

"When I pulled back that rug, I could barely move because fear gripped me. I felt like I didn't belong here," Reed told The Oakland Press. "You'd be hard pressed to find another African American who didn't feel the same way."

Lawyer H. Wallace Parker, who represents the North Oakland County NAACP branch, said regardless of its origin, it is identified as a symbol of racial hatred and should have been removed long ago.

Reed said he wants a plaque mounted to explain the symbol.

CLINTON PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton has issued his annual Black History Month proclamation, urging the Nation to "not only remember the tragic errors of our past, but also celebrate the achievements" of the American descendants of African slaves.

Clinton said Monday that this year's events should focus on the proud legacy of leadership blacks have built over their 350-year history in the United States despite the trauma of slavery and government-sanctioned segregation. He urged public officials, educators, librarians and citizens in general to draw from the power of this collective achievement as they seek to resolve racial problems.

Specifically, Clinton listed notable blacks from NAACP co-founder co-founder W.E.B. DuBois to Martin Luther King Jr., and said all Americans could draw from the "skills, determination and indefatigable spirit" they displayed as the were "shaped but not defeated by their experience of racism."

In his proclamation, Clinton referred to February as "National African American History Month."

THE VACCINATE AMERICA'S CHILDREN NOW ACT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative PHILIP ENGLISH to introduce the Vaccinate America's Children Now Act.

This legislation seeks to lower the excise tax on vaccines from \$.75 per a dose to \$.25 per a dose.

Congress imposed the vaccine excise tax in 1986 after forming the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to provide compensation to children who develop complications due to vaccination.

In the beginning, various tax levels were set up for each vaccine and the amount of tax was based on best guess estimates.

Due to a building surplus in the fund, in 1993, the House Ways and Means Committee, directed the Administration to study the fund and report back to Congress with recommendations regarding the surplus.

The report, which included the approval from all areas of the public health community, called for a new flat tax of \$.51 per vaccine.

With the surplus now over \$1.25 billion (twice what it was in 1993) the time has come to lower the tax to \$.25 per dose.

As part of the 1997 Balance Budget Act, Congress created a flat tax of \$.75 per dose for each vaccine it covered thus ending the varying tax levels for different vaccines. We did not, however, deal with the larger problem of over funding the trust fund.

In 1997, the trust fund was estimated to receive \$180 million in tax revenue. The interest alone, was \$59 million and is more than enough to pay all claims that are filed.

At the \$.25 per dose rate, tax revenues would be over \$50 million a year with equally as much, if not more, coming from interest. This still brings in over \$100 million in revenue each year to the trust fund.

Since the states are a major purchaser of vaccines, they stand to save a substantial amount of money that can be used in other areas. In fact, the Commonwealth of Kentucky could have saved over \$830,000 in 1997 and Representative ENGLISH's state of Pennsylvania would have saved over \$1.16 million.

This legislation was unanimously endorsed by the guardian of the trust fund, the Advisory

Commission on Childhood Vaccines and was supported by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers when it was introduced in the 105th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join Representative ENGLISH and myself in cosponsoring this important legislation.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On December 6, 1998, it was my great pleasure to attend a testimonial dinner honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Charles E. Langille.

Mr. Langille was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1922. His family moved to North Attleboro where Mr. Langille attended a regional agricultural school and began a long period of employment with the Sales Dairy Farm.

Mr. Langille interrupted his employment in 1943, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a member of the elite 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper-medic. In June 1944, Mr. Langille participated in the Normandy Invasion, carrying only a pistol and sometimes no weapon at all! Mr. Langille reports that he was one of the fortunate few to survive that war unscathed. After the war, Mr. Langille resumed his career in agriculture and later spent several years working in the lumber industry and as the Animal Control Officer in North Attleboro, retiring at the age of 70.

Those who know Charles Langille know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. As an example of his concern for others, over the past 20 years, Mr. Langille has regularly visited veterans at the VA hospital in Brockton, bringing them meals, providing recreation and helping them in countless other ways.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Charles Langille in their midst. I offer Mr. Langille my deep gratitude and heartfelt congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the After-School Children's Education Act (ACE Act). My proposal, which does not spend a lot of money, will lead Congress to better information on after-school programs and guide us through a vitally important decision-making process on how to meet the educational needs of students across the nation.