

record in support of fee relief. In a recent hearing in the Senate Banking Securities Subcommittee, he testified that "[t]he SEC shares the Subcommittee's concern that fee collections are currently well in excess of initial projections." Chairman Levitt stated that he is willing to work with Congress to address this issue, and indicated that a flexible cap on fees is the most workable solution. I commend Chairman Levitt for these comments and for his continued leadership on issues of great importance to American investors.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work hard to ensure that the goal of providing investors with relief from these excessive fees is accomplished in the 106th Congress. I look forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to achieve this result, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1256.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the former North Carolina Superintendent of Schools and as the Second District's Congressman, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to the centennial anniversary of Wiley Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Last year, Wiley Elementary School was preparing to celebrate its 75th Anniversary when student researchers discovered an earlier Wiley School, making the school 100 years old this year. Wiley Principal Cecilia Rawlins describes the institution and this occasion best by saying, "Wiley School has a rich history. There are so many people in this community who played a part in our school, and we need to celebrate our history. There are many people who were a part of the school in the past. We want to celebrate the past so we can continue on that tradition toward the future." I am pleased to say that two members of my staff, Zeke Creech and Mark Hilpert, attended Wiley.

Over the past year, the students, parents, teachers, and the community have been preparing for this celebration. Students have researched the "old" Wiley and "new" Wiley, reviewed old PTA scrapbooks, and visited the state Archives and History division. Some students who were graduating to junior high school even devoted part of their summer working on a video and "memory book" to record the history of Wiley. As a part of this effort, students have recorded Wiley's rich history, architecture and alumni memories.

The current school was built in 1923 by C.V. York Construction Co. Its beautiful three story Jacobean Revival brick building was designed by architect Gadsen Sayre. The school was named for attorney, author, and educator Calvin H. Wiley, who also served as one of my predecessors as the first North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction, then referred to as Common Schools, from 1852 to 1865.

Today, Wiley is an "International Magnet" Elementary School and is one of the oldest continuously operating schools in North Caro-

lina. As it has for so long, Wiley serves as a model for all our public schools in America to follow now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the long history of educational achievement and parental and community involvement at Wiley Elementary School and join students, teachers, alumni, and the community in this centennial celebration.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in this celebration and to read the following articles from the News and Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina making Wiley's 100th anniversary.

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Aug. 26, 1998]

TENACIOUS YOUTHS DETAIL SCHOOL'S PAST (By Treva Jones)

RALEIGH—Wiley Elementary School was preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary when planners realized they were off the mark.

Actually, there was an earlier Wiley School in downtown Raleigh—a fact discovered by student researchers—meaning the institution will be 100 years old next spring.

The school is collecting stories and information about Wiley from former students who learned their ABCs, and more, in the big red brick school house on St. Mary's Street. "Wiley School has a rich history," Principal Cecilia Rawlins said. "There are many people in this community that played a part in our school, and we need to celebrate our history. There are many people who were a part of the school in the past. We want to celebrate the past so we can continue on that tradition toward the future."

The official celebration will be in April. Planning is under way for a school pageant as well as a get-together for all alumni and friends.

"We want to make it a fund—but educational—experience," Rawlins said.

Becky Leousis, a Wiley video and photography teacher, got a small grant last year and used it to buy a piece of equipment that adds titles and credits to videotape. One of her video classes, launched specifically to look into Wiley history, interviewed and videotaped Raleigh residents who attended Wiley in its early years.

Severally Wiley students spent some of their summer break finishing the tape. Among them were Tom Martin, Chelsea Nicolas and Sam Shaber, all of whom started sixth grade in other schools this month. The three said they were so interested in digging up Wiley history that they wanted to finish what their class has started.

"It's one of the [city's] older schools. It has wonderful architecture. It's just real interesting," Tom said.

Students combed old school PTA scrapbooks and took a field trip to the state Archives and History division to look up pictures. They researched "old" Wiley, "new" Wiley, the school architect and Calvin Wiley, for whom it was named. They recorded their findings in a scrapbook and the video, which will be shown during the celebratory activities next spring.

The current school was built in 1923 by C.V. York Construction Co., by authority of the Raleigh Township School Committee. The architect, Gadsen Sayre, designed the three-story Jacobean Revival brick building, one of several Raleigh schools he designed during the 1920s.

It was named for Calvin H. Wiley, a lawyer, author, educator and the first state superintendent of public instruction—his actual title was State Superintendent of Common Schools—from 1852 to 1865. The first Wiley school was a two-story building at West Morgan and South West streets.

As part of a school course this fall, students will produce a booklet about Wiley history and architecture and alumni memories.

Anne Bullard, co-chairman of the Wiley Anniversary Committee, appealed to anyone connected with Wiley to write his or her recollection of an event that happened there or write about their most vivid memory of Wiley and send it to the school. Accounts should be limited to 250 to 500 words, Bullard said, and they should be sent before Christmas.

"We do hope to collect quite a lot of them," she said. The committee also is seeking photographs of people who had a connection to Wiley and photos of the building.

Former students, teachers and parents with memories of and memorabilia from Wiley school are asked to call the school office at 857-7723; to write to Anne Bullard, 208 Forest Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27605; or send e-mail to ajbullard@mindspring.com

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 25, 1999]

THOSE OLD BRICK WALLS ARE ABOUT TO TALK (By Jim Jenkins)

Raleigh's Wiley Elementary School looks every inch the sturdy old schoolhouse—the steep steps headed up from St. Mary's Street, the deep-red edifice, the tall doors. It's easy to imagine the generations of kids from Cameron Park, Boylan Heights and surrounding neighborhoods tripping up the steps, parents in tow, for the first day—75 years of first days, in fact, at the present location, another 25 before that at other locales.

Yes, it adds up to a century, which means a centennial celebration is in order, and in fact, in progress now. They're doing it up right at Wiley, which is Raleigh's second-oldest continuously operating school. (Washington Elementary is the oldest.) Students have produced a documentary film on the place, a "memory book" is off to the publisher and a celebratory pageant is slated for April 23. The current generation of students at what is now an "international magnet" elementary school, along with alums, teachers and revered former principal Pearle Poole, will play roles in tracing its history.

And Wiley wants you alums out yonder, wherever yonder might be, to know that you are cordially invited to join the festivities at 7 p.m. on that day. Finding as many of the alumni as possible remains, really, the only string yet to be tied. Those who have been found already have enriched the memory book considerably, and there is no shortage of what schools call "distinguished" alums on Wiley's old rolls, among them a former editor of the Wall Street Journal, the late Vermont Royster, and still-active local pillars like attorneys Bill Joslin and Robert McMillan.

If few of us living and breathing types make it to a personal centennial, it's certainly true that not many schools light 100 candles either. What with the need to "upgrade" for the computer age, or to replace structures that wear and fray, or to honor some illustrious personage from a more modern era with the naming of a school, this sort of thing just doesn't happen that often.

(Wiley, in fact, has through the years survived a push by some officials to sell it or to demolish it and replace it. Among those who argued for saving it was former Mayor Smedes York, whose father, Raleigh developer Willie York, carried water to construction workers when the present school was being built in the early '20s.)

If the vivid memories of Wiley's legions of long ago are any indication, we might be better off preserving the old structures whenever possible and thus nurturing the loyalties of those who learned therein. For their recollections are part of a city's heritage.

Consider Frank Jeter Jr.'s offering for the memory book; he (still a Raleigh resident) was a 1st grade student in the fall of 1924. "Wiley School," he wrote, "was actually one of several public works improvements made in the early 1920s. For those of us who lived on Forest Road, this was the time when they paved the red clay street with blacktop . . . and also installed the sidewalk that made it possible for us to build speedy cares, using old lawn mower wheels, that could race down the hill in the 300 block."

Or the recollections of Nancy Hobbs Banks of Raleigh, who enrolled in Wiley in 1942, when her father, Dr. A.J. Hobbs, was appointed pastor of Edenton Street Methodist Church: ". . . Most of us had brothers or other relatives in the services. Ration books were distributed to families who waited in long lines in the gym. We had occasional air raid drills and were marched to the auditorium where we squatted between the rows of seats until the 'all clear' sounded."

Mrs. Banks has another lasting memory of the place; she met her husband, Myron, there.

Alum Melissa Harris, like many of her classmates from the early 1970s, recalls the controversy that erupted when in 1972 Principal Ben Tench encouraged students to build "Wiley City" on the back yard of the school. "We (the students) literally built ourselves a small city—complete with a courthouse, and a jail and an elected mayor."

Neighborhood protests led to its demolition, Harris recalled, "but no before realizing the diversity of tastes and the power of unified voices." Harris must have learned even more; she is an associate professor of architecture at the University of Michigan.

Wiley today is run by a dynamo, Principal Cecilia Rawlins, and its international magnet status invigorates the school with five languages taught, a "country of the month," and a focus on the different cultures of the world in the teaching of many subjects. If the grand old structure is a monument to memory for some, it is as well a monument to the robust health of public education when it is nurtured and sustained by neighborhoods, by involved parents, by dedicated teachers and by enthusiastic administrators. Wiley is a healthy 100. The candles, if you please.

H. CON. RES. 7

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, home ownership plays a vital role in creating stable, vibrant communities in our country. As a firm supporter of home ownership and the strong communities that home ownership fosters, I would like to encourage all my colleagues to join with me, Congresswoman ROUKEMA, and all other original cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 7 to ensure that mortgage interest and property tax deductions remain in our tax code.

The beauty of the mortgage interest deduction is multi-faceted. Unlike the reams of forms and documentation required to qualify for many other deductions, the mortgage interest tax deduction is simple, widely understood and used by taxpayers. It benefits hard-working, middle class Americans. Forty-two percent of households that claimed the mortgage interest deduction in 1995 reported incomes below \$50,000, and many of those benefiting from

the mortgage interest deduction are minorities and first time home owners.

Taxing the interest on the most significant purchase that most individuals will make in their lives sends the wrong message to potential home buyers. The mortgage interest deduction helps individuals who are willing to make a stake in their communities and take on the responsibility of home ownership. We should encourage home ownership and the commitment to our communities that home ownership represents. H. Con. Res. 7 clearly does so by assuring Americans that Congress will continue to protect the mortgage interest deduction.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Federal Employee Flexibility Act of 1999. This bill will extend to federal employees the same commuting benefits that have been given to private sector employees under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21). This is a very important bill which could have a significant impact in helping the Washington metropolitan region and a great many others with federal employees come into attainment with Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards. For this reason, I am introducing this bill in time for Earth Day. Senators JOHN CHAFEE and DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN also recognize the potential environmental benefits of this bill, and they are reintroducing companion legislation in the Senate today.

Prior to the enactment of TEA-21, the federal tax code contained an anomaly that in practice discouraged employers from using mass transportation or other means other than driving. Previously, employers could provide tax-free up to \$65 per month (\$100 by 2002) in transit benefits in lieu of taxable salary. However, if any employee within a company elected to take the salary instead of the transit benefit, the transit passes for all the other employees would lose their tax-free status. This made employers wary of offering any transit benefits.

Likewise, employers were allowed to offer tax-free parking up to a value of \$170 per employee in lieu of some other taxable benefit, such as salary. However, if any employee chose to receive the taxable benefit rather than parking privileges, the parking of all employees of the company became taxable. The result was that employers were encouraged to grant all employees tax-free parking and employees were given no choice as to "cashing out" the benefit and commuting by other means such as walking or car pooling.

TEA-21 included language that eliminated this all-or-nothing approach for the private sector. However, federal employees were inadvertently left out of this more flexible approach. Federal compensation law must be modified to specifically authorize federal employees to have the option of receiving transit, parking, or additional salary. The bill that I introduce today provides this specific authorization.

The absence of a specific authorization has had a greater negative impact on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area than on other cities and regions. As the federal city, Washington, D.C. has a far greater percentage of federal workers than other cities. In addition, the region has the second worst traffic congestion in the United States, behind the Los Angeles area. I believe my bill will go a long way toward relieving some of that unbearable congestion if federal employees who live in Maryland, Virginia, and outlying areas of the District are given incentives to commute into downtown Washington by means other than driving every day.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked hard to ensure that federal agencies and their accompanying jobs remain in the District. Last year, I signed a Federal Facilities Recruitment and Retention Pledge for Washington D.C. and its Inner Suburbs to "actively work to locate Washington Metro area federal facilities within ½ mile of a Metrorail station" and to "give preference in federal facility location decisions to sites first within the Nation's Capital . . ." This is a critical goal, and I work hard to carry out this pledge. However, we do not have much trouble getting federal agencies to remain in the District, and indeed have insufficient land for many federal facilities that would prefer to be here. Our greatest unmet challenges are the air quality and the congestion that pose immediate and dangerous threats to the quality of life, the growth, and the economy of this region. This bill is an important step toward moving us in the quest to overcome this challenge. I urge the support of Members as well to eliminate unintentional discrimination in benefits for federal employees when compared to those this body has already granted private sector employees.

TRIBUTE TO JACK POWELL ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993 eleven outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

I have the honor once again this year to participate in this important and inspiring induction ceremony, which pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of the late Jack Powell of Escanaba on behalf of the labor movement.

Jack Powell had the kind of working career that could be the outline for an adventure novel. He was wildcat oil drilling at 13. Wildcatting, Mr. Speaker, is the risky venture of drilling a well outside a known field. It's a fitting start for life that included pioneering labor efforts in northern Michigan.

After some years as a painter and wallpaper hanger in Chicago, Mr. Powell came to the