

taxes owed to the state. Child support payments begin to repay debts owed to custodial families only after the debt to the state has been completely repaid. The changes proposed in the Child Support Distribution Act would help families that have left welfare to stay off welfare by providing additional resources to them at a time when they are likely to be vulnerable to economic hardship. Child support is an important income supplement for low-income working families. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, when single-mother families receive child support, their poverty rate drops from 33 to 22 percent.

The Child Support Distribution Act would also dramatically simplify rules governing the assignment and distribution of child support payments. According to the National Governors' Association, "The complexity of current child support distribution rules creates a costly administrative burden for both states and the Federal Government." The current rules are expensive to administer, and difficult for child support staff to explain and for parents to understand. The Child Support Distribution Act addresses these issues and provides funding to community-based and state programs working directly with low-income custodial parents to help them support their children financially and emotionally. This legislation gives funding preferences to community programs that partner with domestic violence programs and child support agencies.

This bill includes a number of complementary provisions that are beneficial to low-income children and families. Several provisions in the bill are intended to help low-income fathers improve their capacity to support their children financially and emotionally. The changes the bill makes in the child support system would allow a larger portion of the child support that low-income fathers pay to benefit their children. These provisions represent an investment in stronger families that should reduce poverty among these children, help low-income parents receive services they need, and strengthen children's ties with their fathers, who will be better able to see the result of their hard-earned contributions when they pay child support. These changes should make child support easier to administer and empower states to integrate the collection and distribution of child support with their own welfare reform strategies.

I strongly support H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN HONOR OF ARMANDO
TALAVERA, WADO RADIO
SPORTS COMMENTATOR

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Armando Talavera for his career as a sports commentator, covering Major League Baseball for Spanish language radio.

Mr. Talavera was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He currently lives in Queens, New York, with his wife, Linda, and his two children, Carlos and Adrienne.

He began his career as a sports commentator in 1972, and has covered the All Star

Game and World Series since 1975. He has also covered New York Mets and Yankees baseball, the NBA finals, the past 11 Super Bowls, Major League Soccer, the World Cup, and the Caribbean World Series.

Because of his exceptional abilities, Mr. Talavera was hired by WADO Radio (1280 AM) in 1993, and has been an integral part of the station ever since. He covered sporting events initially, and later was the host of a four-hour talk show called "WADO Deportivo."

For his contributions to journalism, and for his service to Hispanic Americans, I commend Mr. Talavera. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH YEAR OF THE JERRY LEWIS MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY TELETHON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer praise today for a man with whom I am proud to share a name, a man who has shown the world for 35 years that Americans will rally in huge numbers to help those in need. I am speaking, of course, of my friend Jerry Lewis, the consummate entertainer, and his world-renowned telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Since 1965, Jerry Lewis has taken to the airwaves to raise funds to fight neuromuscular disease, setting a standard for fund-raising that has become a part of our culture. In the 2000 version of the event on September 3–4, Lewis and his "Jerry's Kids" and a multitude of entertainers raised a record \$54.1 million in pledges. The MDA will operate 183 offices and research centers nationwide with these and other private donations—the organization does not request or receive government funding.

The diseases combated by Jerry Lewis and MDA—40 of them, including "Lou Gehrig's disease" and myasthenia gravis—affect tens of thousands of people throughout the United States. The MDA efforts can be found nationwide as well. I am proud to say the Loma Linda University Medical Center in my district has one of two Southern California clinics that serve 1,500 adults and children.

The donations raised by Jerry Lewis for the MDA go much further than treating these diseases. Researchers funded by MDA have discovered a gene that controls one form of neuromuscular illness, and are now conducting tests on what forms of gene therapy might be possible.

It is also through these donations that thousands of children each year can get out of their treatment rooms and go to summer camp, where they enjoy horse-back riding, canoeing and other activities. At one of those camps, in Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains in my district, children who spend nearly all of their energy fighting neuromuscular disease can enjoy the great outdoors because MDA is able to pay for a counselor for every camper.

Because he has been a sentimental success for three decades, and because he is very open with his thoughts and emotions, my good friend Jerry Lewis has often not been

given the respect he deserves by the national media. But in cities and towns across the country young people, civic groups and many volunteers worked hard to help him make this year's telethon a great success. They know that he is a hero who is dedicated to saving millions of lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a delight when I pick up the telephone and hear a buoyant voice say "This is Jerry Lewis, how are you doing?" I enjoy telling tourists who peer into my office: "Of course, I'm the real Jerry Lewis." Sharing a name with someone who gives so much to help millions overcome disease is indeed an honor, and I urge my colleagues to honor this American institution by expressing our gratitude for his efforts.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 57

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the 75th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 of Chaska, MN, and its remarkable contribution to supporting our Nation's veterans.

This distinguished unit was chartered in 1925 with 40 charter members. It has since grown to 225 members in 2000, including one Gold Star Mother. What is most amazing about this organization is that they have 13 members who each have over 50 years of service. This totals to over 650 years of membership and dedication.

The unit provides outstanding service to area veterans through several fund-raising events and social activities. They host porkchop dinners for the Carver County Veterans' Van Fund and participate in the Poppy Program which benefits veterans locally and nationally. They also hold bingo socials for residents of the Hastings Minnesota Veterans Home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 for their extraordinary patriotism and exceptional dedication to service for our country.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROGRAM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy, and the National History Day program is promoting history education in Vermont and throughout our Nation.

National History Day is a yearlong not-for-profit program in which students in grades 6–12 research and create historical projects related to a broad annual theme, culminating in an annual contest. It provides students the critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas.

I had the opportunity to meet with Vermont students who came to Washington for National

History Day. This program encourages students to draw attention to important historical events that shaped their own hometowns as well as our Nation, and in the process it improves their writing, reading, and critical thinking skills. It gets students excited about learning, while teaching them skills that will help them throughout their lives.

For its efforts to promote the National History Day program, I would like to commend the Vermont Historical Society. National History Day has had a significant impact in history and social studies classrooms in Vermont and across the country. But there is still much to be done. Many teachers are unable to take advantage of the National History Day program because of a lack of funding.

I urge my colleagues to support funding for the National History Day program in the Fiscal Year 2000 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO PETER B. LEWIS
AND DANIEL R. LEWIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing concern in the global community that the United States may be drifting into increasing isolationism and that the American people are largely disinterested in what happens outside the borders of their own country. I am very proud to highlight two individuals, brothers named Peter B. Lewis and Daniel R. Lewis, who are shining examples of individual American's interest and concern for people in need in other countries and their willingness to stand up and make a difference.

Peter B. Lewis, a resident of Cleveland and one of my constituents, and his brother Daniel R. Lewis have dedicated a great deal of their own time and resources to promoting peace in the Middle East. They have worked hard to lay the groundwork for peaceful coexistence among the national, religious and ethnic groups in the Greater Cleveland Area.

The Lewis brothers have worked in conjunction with Interns for Peace to develop and implement innovative community development projects that bring together Israelis and Palestinians to work on issues of common concern.

To date, the largest project initiated by the Lewis brothers is the Rabbi Albert Manilla Lewis Saving Human Life Project, which has empowered and united thousands of Palestinians and Israelis in public safety issues. The program has identified road safety as an area of common concern among all sectors of society in Israel and Palestinian areas. Using this common ground, the Rabbi Lewis Program has brought together individuals from different communities to work toward the common goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities. Perhaps most impressive, this program works across the complete spectrum of society in the region with a heavy emphasis on individuals from Palestinian refugee camps and in Orthodox Jewish communities in Israel.

The Lewis brothers' choice of mechanisms for engendering cooperation and understanding is no accident. They know a thing or two about automobile safety. The Lewises

founded one of the largest insurance companies in the United States, Progressive Insurance, which is based in northern Ohio and provides automobile insurance to millions of Americans.

The work of Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis is making a difference in the Middle East at a critical time. The program they have created works to promote peaceful co-existence and mutual respect, despite the cultural and historic differences of the communities involved. This is a parallel and complimentary track to the formal peace negotiations underway and important groundwork for any peace agreement that may be reached.

I commend Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis for their insight, compassion, and creativity in seeking to make the world a better and safer place for people today and for future generations. It is through people like the Lewises—ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things—that our country has prospered and become a global leader and a beacon of hope for people across the globe.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to others, and good luck in your future efforts to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East.

AN APPRECIATION AND TRIBUTE
TO CURTIS MAYFIELD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to salute and pay tribute to Curtis Mayfield, a great American songwriter, singer, guitarist, producer, and film composer. He was indeed a poet who wrote lyrics of hope and profound optimism. He was a philosopher and balladeer of the people seeking social action and commitment to the civil rights struggle of the 1960's.

Curtis Mayfield stood on the mountaintop of American music. As a native of Chicago, he was the architect and builder of what has become known as "Chicago Soul." His roots were purely American—originating in the gospel music of his boyhood church. But the heart and soul of his music reached around the world. At the age of 57, after years of fragile health from a near tragic accident, he died on December 26, 1999, during the waning days of the 20th century. Yet, he gave us four decades of song beginning with the formation of The Impressions in the late 1950's, writing soul hits in the 1960's, composing a provocative and memorable soundtrack for the film "Superfly" in the 1970's and recording the Grammy-nominated album "New World Order" in the 1990's.

During the 1960's, his music tapped into the consciousness of a generation. With songs like "It's All Right," "People Get Ready," and "Keep on Pushin'," his call to social action was undeniably clear: he urged us to care about a nation whose great promise was so dear yet woefully denied to people of color and the poor. Wherever people were, wherever they lived, whatever they did, Curtis Mayfield made people think. You could not listen to his songs without being stirred to tears of hope. It was like he knew the soul of Amer-

ica because his music changed us in some way. He lifted our spirits and opened our minds with a sharp-edged social commentary on America in the 1960's.

Whether you listened to his powerful songs in a beauty shop in Harlem or on a sunny afternoon at a midwestern university, without his music, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without song. Simply, Curtis Mayfield wrote the soundtrack to the civil rights movement. With his songs, he demanded and we accepted his challenge to not rest until we build a new America based on peace and justice.

We are lucky. We are more than lucky to have been touched by the creative genius of Curtis Mayfield. He has fed our hearts and minds with spiritual food. He has moved the feet of a nation toward a better society. He has never left us in spirit because his music still inspires us to remember his optimism, his hope, his sense of righteous indignation, and his abiding faith in a better America.

Another great songwriter and musician, Stevie Wonder, once said of Curtis Mayfield:

For as long as there is romance in love, the joy of pride, the power of words, the teaching of right, and songs with haunting melodies there will always be a need for the music of Mayfield.

As we honor this great American, the legacy of his music is still alive. A new generation of musicians are writing and performing new songs, but they stand on the shoulders of Curtis Mayfield, who created a powerful vision of America through word and song.

Like the men and women before him, who shed blood and tears for a better America, Curtis Mayfield was, above all else, a founder of the New America. His music was inspiring, profoundly creative and courageous. And as a civil rights activist, his contribution to the cause in music will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROLANDO
PAULINO ALL-STARS

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute and to congratulate the Rolando Paulino All-Stars team for a very successful year. This group of young South Bronx little leaguers finished their season one game shy of making it to the Little League World Series on August 17, 2000.

They have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I hope they will continue to be successful both on and off the diamond. They are terrific examples for young men throughout our communities.

Mr. Speaker, about 150 family members and friends of the Bronx players, almost all of them wearing the team's cardinal red colors and some of them with their faces painted red, sat behind the team's dugout that night to cheer on these Little Bombers.

This year, in repeating as the New York State champion, the Bronx team won 10 consecutive games to qualify for the Eastern regional. It defeated four teams from its district in New York City, three teams in the sectional