

focusing his talent and energy on helping people.

Val served tirelessly in the Executive Office of South Carolina's Department of Transportation and other divisions of improve overall opportunities to ethnic minorities, women and individuals with disabilities.

Val exhibited strong leadership and he ably represented the interests of fellow coworkers and local residents. He worked with the Human Resources Office to develop a recruitment strategy to identify and attract minorities and women in underutilized professions, with an emphasis on the engineering career field. He proved his dedication and excellence to the community by providing outstanding support to research efforts of the Legislative Black Caucus, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), and rural communities. Val has undertaken special projects including research special transportation initiatives for Native Americans.

He administered the implementation of the HBCU Partnership Program with South Carolina State University and Benedict College, the Summer Transportation Initiative Program, the Cooperative Education/Intern Program, the Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program and the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program.

He was named the agency's Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator, and the Urban Youth Corps Program Statewide Coordinator for which he leaves an indelible legacy. The Youth Corps Program which began in 1994 now employs over 690 youth throughout the state of South Carolina.

When Val was named as the transportation department's Director of Minority Affairs in 1990, he stated, "I view this is one of the most challenging positions in the agency because of the uniqueness of the highway construction industry and because of the economic importance of minority firms participating". But he had faced tough challenges before. Fresh out of school and armed with a degree in Sociology from St. Augustine College in Raleigh, N.C. he moved to Washington, D.C.'s troubled inner-city. He began working as a counselor for the Neighborhood Youth Corps, helping the disadvantaged find jobs and offering them alternatives to crime. His community service included Directors of the Triangle Ministry Community Program, the Mission/Congress Heights Youth Service Center and the Mission of Community Concern, Inc.

In 1976, Val moved back to South Carolina to work in the office of Governor James B. Edwards under I. DeQuincey Newman, who was director of the Division of Rural Development, and later became the first Black South Carolina senators since post-reconstruction. There he assisted rural communities through workshops, training programs and resource development. Val remained in Rural Development through the first term of Governor Richard Riley before assuming the position of project information coordinator for the South Carolina State Family Development Authority, an agency that sets up tax-deferred bond programs to assist farmers in building agricultural facilities.

In 1987, Val came to the Office of Planning and Program Development in the Division of Motor Vehicles, previously the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation where he served continuously until his untimely death last Saturday.

To Valentine Burroughs, community and public service wasn't an option. It was a re-

sponsibility and an honor. Whenever neighbors or coworkers called upon him, Burroughs was always there. There aren't enough Valentine Burroughs in our communities and his absence will be greatly missed.

I extend my deepest condolences to Val's wife, Audrey and their two children. To them Val was a loving husband and father, to me he was a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in a tribute to Valentine Burroughs for his selfless dedication to his community and country.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER PETER C. SCARPELLI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable man, Peter C. Scarpelli of Nutley, New Jersey. Peter is being honored because of his years of community service. It is only fitting that we gathered here in his honor, for he epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

Commissioner Scarpelli is a member of the Nutley High School Class of 1955. He also attended Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia where he studied Business Management. In addition Peter studied Management Skills Training at Rutgers University's Newark campus. Scarpelli also majored in Construction Design at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Rutherford, New Jersey.

Peter has always been an active and involved leader. He has been the President of Meadowlands Landscaping Inc. since 1969, a company which specializes in property maintenance. A hard working and dedicated individual, Scarpelli is President of two other firms. He heads both P. Scarpelli and Son, Inc., a building construction and property management company and Jo-Lee Garden Center of Belleville, New Jersey, a full service garden center of which he is also Treasurer. Peter is also the Vice President of Interior Plant Design, where he is responsible for the installation and maintenance of interior decorative plants.

The early years of his life instilled in Peter the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him the role model that he is today.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Peter Scarpelli joined the Nutley Board of Commissioners in 1983. Since that time he has served as the Director of the Department of Public Works, and has been elected to five consecutive terms. From 1983 to 1988 he undertook the supervision of the Code Enforcement Department. His responsibilities included the supervision of the inspectors of buildings, electric and plumbing. Peter also provided appointments to the Construction Board of Appeals.

On the Nutley Board of Commissioners, Peter Scarpelli is a member of the Nutley Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. He has also served as the Superintendent of the Nutley Weights and Measures Department.

Peter continually touches the lives of the people around him. He is a member of numer-

ous civic and community service organizations. These include the Nutley Elks 1290, American Legion, Knights of Columbus 6190, Amfrens, Nutley Italian American Club, Nutley UNICO, Nutley Republican Club, Third Half Club Republican County Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Nutley. He is also the President of the Columbian Club and is the Nutley Family Service Bureau Charity Ball Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Peter's family, friends, the township of Nutley and the State of New Jersey in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Peter C. Scarpelli.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT ON THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS: GARMENT AND TOURIST INDUSTRIES PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE COM- MONWEALTH'S ECONOMY

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to be aware of a revealing report issued last month by the General Accounting Office on the economy of the Northern Mariana Islands. The report's findings confirm the development of a healthy and diversified economy in our newest American territory in the Western Pacific that is not a drain on the U.S. taxpayer. However, these findings are contrary to past information by the Administration on which Congress has relied in considering changes in federal law [GAO's February 2000 report to Congressional Committees: "Northern Mariana Islands: Garment and Tourist Industries Play a Dominant Role in the Commonwealth's Economy" (GAO/RCED/GGD-00-79)].

This GAO report sheds new light on the economy of the Northern Marianas and the flaws of prior reports by the Administration. The findings reinforce the need for the federal government to affirmatively support, and not hinder or undermine, efforts of the public and private sectors of the Northern Marianas to improve and maintain economic self-sufficiency, and at the same time, enforce federal labor, safety, and equal employment opportunity laws.

Since I became Chairman of the Committee on Resources in January 1995, we have conducted extensive oversight investigations and hearings on worker conditions, the violation and enforcement of federal laws, and the Administration's agenda for the islands. I will continue to press for maximum public awareness of the real conditions in the Marianas public and private sectors and efforts of the federal and local governments.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been constituted under federal law as a local constitutional government for the primary benefit of the people of the Marianas as well as the United States as an example of democratic self-governance. There is, therefore, a careful balance that must be maintained between the respect of the wishes of the local government and enforcement of the civil and human rights that Americans hold as sacrosanct. Those decisions should be based on sound information, not subjective

political agendas of the government or some private entity. For that reason, one of the most difficult aspects of Congressional oversight over these very important and often sensitive civil and human rights-related matters, has been the lack of credible information by the very executive branch agencies tasked with the responsibility for enforcement of federal laws. Throughout those oversight efforts, the Administration has given the Committee voluminous testimony and information about the Marianas. Fortunately, the GAO has now completed this independent report as mandated by the 1999 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

The two main industries in the Northern Marianas are the tourist and garment industries. The Department of Interior has questioned the benefits of the Islands' garment industry. Interior has issued several studies concluding that the local garment industry—and foreign labor—has an adverse fiscal impact on the Northern Marianas, findings hotly contested by the Northern Marianas' government and business sectors. Both sides have testified before my Committee to present their points of view, but for the first time an independent and unbiased government agency has looked into the Northern Marianas economy. The GAO looked specifically at the economic impact of the two dominant industries—garment and tourist; tax contributions by the local garment industry; and local government revenues as compared to other territories.

GAO found "the garment and tourist industries are the driving forces of the CNMI economy." The two sectors account for about 85 percent of the Commonwealth's total economic activity and represent—directly and indirectly—four out of every five jobs in the Northern Marianas. Critically important to the debate is the GAO's finding that "the local resident population * * * has benefited, economically, in the form of higher incomes and better employment opportunities, from the growth in the garment and tourist industries, and from the presence of foreign workers." GAO concluded that without the garment and tourist industries "the CNMI economy could not have grown to its current size and complexity."

Significant number of foreign workers are brought into the Northern Marianas to supplement the existing workforce. The Department of Interior and several Members have criticized the use of these foreign workers, stating that the foreign workers have taken employment opportunities from local residents. Yet GAO concluded that there was no support for Interior's claim. GAO determined that the "garment and tourist industries are dependent on foreign workers for much of their workforce because the labor pool of local residents, even including those currently unemployed, is insufficient to support an economy the size and scope that exists in the CNMI." Changes in the Northern Marianas ability to use foreign labor to supplement its current labor pool or legislation that would adversely impact either of these industries could have severe impacts on the Northern Marianas' economy, "causing job losses among local residents and revenue losses to the CNMI government," the report stated. Several legislative proposals exist that would do just that, and I am opposed to them.

The GAO also criticizes a 1999 Interior Department study that found that the garment industry had a net negative impact. "[T]he Interior study is methodologically flawed because it understates the contributions made by the

garment and tourist industries to the CNMI economy and overstates the impact of these industries and their workers on the need for government services and infrastructure." The GAO determined, however, that the Northern Marianas is more self-sufficient fiscally than other territories. It also found that the Northern Marianas generates more of its government revenues locally—about 87 percent—than all other U.S. territories and all levels of government in the U.S., a remarkable fact.

Finally, the study showed that the garment industry contributes significantly to the local economy, directly contributing about \$52 million, or 22 percent, of the government's \$234 million budget in 1998. It determined that the Northern Marianas garment industry proportionally pays more in taxes and fees than the U.S. garment industry. That is, the garment industry in the Northern Marianas taxes and fees represented about 5 percent of their gross receipts between 1993 and 1998, whereas the U.S. garment industry overall paid only 3.3 percent of their gross receipts in taxes and fees.

During a hearing last September, my Committee heard reasoned warnings from business and government leaders about the potential impact of certain legislative initiatives to eliminate local control of immigration, to remove duty-free access, or to increase the minimum wage on the "vulnerable" economy of the Northern Marianas. GAO's study underscores those warnings and this body should consider carefully the potential adverse impact of any legislation on the frail economy of the Northern Marianas—or the economies of any of our territories.

I will continue to insist on full compliance with federal laws, advocate heightened federal-territorial mutual cooperation in multiple areas, and support local and private sector initiatives to manage the economy and advance self-sufficiency. I strongly encourage my colleagues to review the GAO report, "Northern Mariana Islands: Garment and Tourist Industries Play a Dominant Role in the Commonwealth's Economy" (GAO/RCED/GGD-00-79) which is available to the public through the Government Printing Office and also the world wide web: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/r200079.pdf>.

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN BAKER
WOODWARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who for almost five decades captivated readers with her poignant and charismatic writing as a columnist in three local newspapers. Lillian Baker Woodward passed away on November 16, 1999 at the age of 95.

Born on January 17, 1904 in Seattle, Washington, Lillian majored in journalism at the University of Oregon where she met, fellow journalism student and future husband, Donald Woodward. Married in 1926, Donald and Lillian Woodward led a traditional life with Lillian as a homemaker and Donald in the real estate business. In 1948, the couple moved to Moss Landing where they established a fuel dock,

marine supply store and boat brokerage business. As "one of the real true pioneers of Moss Landing" (Phil DiGirolamo, Phil's Fish Market), Lillian captured the lives of the local people as well as chronicled the ending of the Monterey Bay's sardine era through industry changes and impacts on the community. After Donald's death in 1962, Mrs. Woodward continued to write and publish prolifically throughout the remainder of her life.

Lillian Woodward was much more than a local journalist, described as "force that held the [Moss Landing] community together" (Monterey County Herald, 11/17/99), Mrs. Woodward touched everyone near and far who read her chronicle. She will be sorely missed by the many people who were privileged to know her both personally and through her writing. Lillian is survived by two sons, Donald and Richard; a daughter, Virginia W. Stone; and many loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GREGORY
KOMESHOK

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a well-respected member of New Jersey's Polish-American community, Gregory Komeshok of Passaic, New Jersey. Greg has been elected the 1999 Grand Marshal for the 63rd Annual Pulaski Day Parade because of his years of community service. It is only fitting that the Central of Polish Organizations has chosen him, for he epitomizes the spirit of caring and generosity of spirit and embodies pride in his heritage.

Mr. Komeshok, a member of the Passaic High School class of 1965, went on to receive a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Technology and a Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision from Montclair State University.

Greg has always been a community leader. At 26, he was the youngest ever to hold the position of Democratic Party Chairman for the City of Passaic, New Jersey. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976. Furthering his belief in civic participation, Greg was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the county's legislative body. The time spent working as a Passaic County Freeholder, and eventually Freeholder Director, instilled in Greg the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community.

This native of Passaic has many experiences as an elected and appointed official. In 1978, then New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne appointed him Commissioner of the North Jersey District Water Supply.

Known for his keen mind, Greg Komeshok is a respected and industrious leader in education. Greg assumed the role of an elementary school principal for nine years, and was also an adjunct professor at Kean University. Greg currently serves as the Supervisor of Career and Alternate Education for the Passaic Board of Education.

Greg continually touches the lives of the people around him. In 1978, he established English classes for immigrants at Holy Rosary