

Avant. On March 18, 2000 these two Veterans will be honored by their families and friends as they place Military Headstones on their graves in the Avant-Cox-Pierce Cemetery in Washington County, Georgia.

Mr. Moses Cox started his illustrious military career in our Nation's fight for freedom and independence. He proudly served as a Private (Scout) in the Revolutionary War with the North Carolina Militia for over three years. He fought in the victorious Patriot Battle of Moores Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776. This battle was a decisive victory over British Loyalists at a point in time that served to dramatically raise the morale of the Patriot forces. Soon thereafter Mr. Cox was called to bear arms in the battles of Brier Creek (GA), Battle of Catawba (NC), and at Gates Defeat (SC) where he was wounded in the right forearm. He gallantly continued the Patriot fight for independence and marched from Wilmington and Fayetteville, NC to Camden, SC.

Mr. Cox married Martha Patsy Avant; blessed with a large family, came by wagon train to Washington County, GA where he settled Cox Town Road and a small community called Coxtown, later changed to Oconee. He accepted over 400 acres of Pioneer Bounty land off Coxtown Road in Oconee, cleared the land, built a house and raised his large family. He was again called to arms to serve and protect his beloved country in the War of 1812. He served as Lieutenant in the 98th District of Georgia Militia from Washington County, Georgia. A fine soldier, father, and husband he was laid to rest on December 19, 1845 with only family honors.

Mr. James Ransome Avant proudly served as a Private in Company B, 12th Battalion Georgia Light Artillery, Confederate States Army during the Civil War. Mr. James Ransome was married to Moses and Martha Cox's granddaughter Lucretia Cox. Mr. Avant died in 1876 and also received a burial with family honors.

Family, friends, and guests will be gathering at the Avant-Cox-Pierce Cemetery off Coxtown Road in Oconee, Washington County, GA and honor these two Veterans. I would like to formally recognize the bravery, honor, and selfless services with which these veterans served as the families remember these special veterans on March 18, 2000.

TRIBUTE TO COACH SHIRLEY WALKER AND THE ALCORN STATE LADY BRAVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you and pay tribute to someone who has been a pioneer in coaching women's basketball. Coach Shirley Walker, head coach of the Alcorn State Lady Braves won her first automatic bid to the NCAA tournament this past weekend as her Lady Braves won a convincing game (83-58) against Grambling State University for the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Championship.

Although this was Coach Walker's fourth SWAC Championship, it was her first time earning an automatic invitation into the NCAA

tournament. Getting an automatic invitation to the tournament has been a goal that Coach Walker has lobbied for her entire 21 seasons at Alcorn State. Coach Walker has been credited for her efforts in developing women's basketball in the SWAC by her peers and is most deserving of this opportunity to display her talents on the highest level college basketball has to offer. Without her contributions to this cause, women's basketball in the SWAC may have never had the chance to be represented at the NCAA tournament.

Mr. Speaker, this upcoming Saturday, Coach Walker and her Lady Braves set off on a journey many dream of at the beginning of each basketball season, I ask that you join me in congratulating them and wishing them the best of luck in the "Road to the Final Four!"

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Martinez/Trafficant amendment to increase the minimum wage by \$1.00 over two years.

I have been a proponent of increasing the minimum wage since elected to Congress. I feel strongly that we need to give the working poor an increase in their wages.

Our country is in the midst of the longest period of economic growth in our history and yet the disparity between rich and poor has never been greater. An increase of a dollar over two years is a highly effective way in which we can bridge the gap of the economic disparity in our country.

Over time, as the value of purchasing power of the minimum wage has been eroded by inflation, it has become impossible to expect workers to live a dignified life when they are employed at or below the minimum wage. That is why it needs to be raised now and why it needs to be raised by a dollar over the next two years. This increase would simply catch up the wage to inflation since the last time the minimum was raised.

There are over 12 million people working for or close to the minimum wage. Some studies have indicated that of these 12 million Americans who earn between \$5.15 and \$6.15, 15 percent are African-American, 60 percent are women; and nearly two-fifths are the only earner in their families.

Increasing the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour will not eliminate jobs or put people out of work. There is little or no evidence that illustrates job loss or the loss of opportunity since the last increase in the minimum wage.

It is imperative that the wage is increased by \$1.00 over two years. Some have argued that a \$1.00 an hour increase over 3 years is suffice for the working poor. Unfortunately, a minimum wage of \$6.15 an hour would not lift a minimum wage earner out of poverty. Therefore, we in Congress owe it to the working poor to give them a raise over the shortest period of time—2 years.

A wage increase spread over 3 years would cost a full time minimum wage earner \$1000. \$1,000 may not seem like a lot of money to most people here but for minimum wage earn-

ers in Buffalo, New York and throughout the country that \$1,000 a year may mean 6 months of rent payments, groceries on the table, or presents under the tree.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SUSAN SOLOMON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that a constituent from my district, Dr. Susan Solomon, is the recipient of the 1999 National Medal of Science. Dr. Solomon is a senior scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, based in Boulder, Colorado, and is the first NOAA scientist to be awarded the medal, which is the nation's highest scientific honor. She is also the recipient of many other honors and awards that recognize her important work.

In commending her accomplishments, Secretary of Commerce William Daley called Dr. Solomon "one of the most important and influential researchers in atmospheric science during the past 15 years." I know I join all my colleagues in congratulating Dr. Solomon on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Solomon first theorized in the 1980s that the explanation for the Antarctic ozone hole involved chemistry on clouds, not just gas molecule reactions, as was thought then. Dr. Solomon confirmed her theories with solid data observed during two National Ozone Expeditions to the Antarctic in 1986 and 1987, when she identified reactions between two different forms of chlorine on the stratospheric cloud surface. These reactions release chlorine molecules, which separate and act as catalysts in destroying ozone.

Because of Dr. Solomon's discovery, scientists were then able to conclude that the chlorine responsible for the ozone hole originates from chlorofluorocarbons and other man-made compounds.

Dr. Solomon and other leaders in her field provide important role models for today's students as they prepare to meet the demands of tomorrow's technology-based economy. But it is not only the young who can benefit from Dr. Solomon's example. She cites as the most important lesson from her research the "need to keep an open mind on environmental issues." We should all heed her very good advice.

ON THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CAROLINE L. GUARINI: THREE CENTURIES AND TWO MILLENNIA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the distinguished Caroline Guarini, mother of our former colleague, U.S. Congressman Frank J. Guarini, Jr., on the celebration of her 100th birthday, March 25, 2000. After 100 years, Caroline continues to be an inspiration to us all, a model wife, mother, and human being. Her everlasting dedication to those who are less fortunate, combined

with her devotion to those who surround her, stand as testament to Caroline's commitment to making this world a better place for everyone.

Born on March 25, 1900, in Niagara Falls, NY, Caroline attended the Loretta Convent School and a business academy in Ontario, Canada. After completing her studies, she worked in her family's furniture business for a time, and in 1923 married Frank J. Guarini, Sr., who was a well known and highly respected attorney in Jersey City, NJ. A lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War I, her husband was corporation counsel in Jersey City and a prominent member of the New Jersey Legislature. Together they enjoyed a life in politics.

Caroline has been active in many charitable and civic groups including the Cleo Club, the Dante Alighieri Society, and the American Committee for Italian Migration. Concerned for the needs of the less fortunate, she has spent countless hours delivering baskets of food and toys to the poor during the holiday seasons. As a senior citizen, she served as a hospital volunteer for the sick and elderly. Caroline's talents include singing and playing the piano. She has been active in her church choir and, at 100, still plays the piano remarkably well.

The Guarinis had two children, Frank Jr. and Marie. Influenced by the spirit and example of his parents—and since the apple doesn't fall far from the tree—Frank J. Guarini, Jr., studied law and went into politics. A distinguished attorney, he was elected to two terms in the New Jersey State Senate and seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served on the Ways and Means Committee and the Budget Committee. He was majority whip at-large for the Democratic leadership. He recently served as the United States of America Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations. During World War II, the former member of Congress saw active combat duty in the Pacific as a Navy lieutenant.

Caroline's daughter and faithful companion, Marie, married Albert Mangin and began her career at New York's Lexington School for the Deaf, later teaching elementary school in Newark. The Mangins are the parents of two children, Peter, a noted attorney who is president of the Garden State Development which is engaged in rebuilding the Hudson County Waterfront, and Carol, who holds an MBA and is a medical consultant at Meditech in Boston.

When family and friends ask what she is looking forward to in the new millennium, Caroline, in her usual warm and gracious manner, says, "The celebration of my 100th birthday!"

Through a life that has spanned three centuries and two millennia, one phrase has followed Caroline throughout, and continues to ring true today—what a lady!

IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, prior to Taiwan's second presidential election on March 18, the People's Republic of China increased its rhetoric and essentially gave Tai-

wan an ultimatum—to start reunification talks or risk invasion. Such hostile rhetoric from Beijing has evoked strong responses in both Taipei and Washington. The people in Taiwan are more determined than ever to disregard Beijing's dire warnings and reject Beijing's "one country, two systems" formula that governed the return of Hong Kong and Macao. The people of Taiwan would have to see a genuine Western-style democracy take hold in China before serious reunification talks could begin. In Washington, both administration officials and lawmakers have warned China that any action against Taiwan would be a matter of grave concern to the United States.

As a strong supporter of Taiwan's vibrant democracy, I believe we must do all we can to ensure that the voters in Taiwan are guaranteed the right to freely elect their president this March 18, and that China must not interfere in Taiwan's electoral process. I know that I, and many of my colleagues, become incensed when China repeatedly threatens its small and democratic neighbor—particularly during an election year. We certainly consider China's latest threats against Taiwan unwarranted, untimely, and unwise.

I am proud of the long-standing friendly relations between the United States and Taiwan, and I believe its time to show support for our friend.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS GILMARTIN

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on the floor of this House in recognition of Mr. Thomas Gilmartin from my district, as the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall.

A prominent Irish-American in Western New York, Tom's community service includes work with the Knights of Columbus, the Irish-American Cultural Association, the Gaelic-American Athletic Association, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, and the Irish Parade Committee. In fact, he has been involved with the parade committee for over twelve years. In recognition of that dedicated service and his commitment to our Proud Irish-American Heritage, Tom will serve as the Grand Marshall of the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade in the City of Buffalo.

Recently, I selected the Buffalo St. Patrick's Day Parade as one of New York's local legacies. This program's chief purpose is to document distinctive examples of a cultural heritage in each of the nation's fifty states, which will then serve as a record of life in America at the end of the Twentieth Century. Our parade is a fitting example of that cultural tradition, and Tom Gilmartin will make a fine Grand Marshall during this important event.

Tom and his wife, Mary (Steffan) are lifelong residents of Western New York, and attend Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul R.C. Church in Hamburg. The Gilmartins have four children and one grandchild.

In addition to his outstanding community service, Tom served the Town of Hamburg as Superintendent for Buildings and Grounds for over 20 years, where I had the privilege of working with him as Town Supervisor. Prior to his service to the Town of Hamburg, Tom

served the Village of Blasdell in the Department of Public Works. I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the entire Gilmartin Family, the United Irish American Association, and indeed, all of Western New York in tribute to Mr. Thomas Gilmartin, a proud Irishman and Grand Marshall of our great parade.

SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3843) to reauthorize programs to assist small business concerns, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3843, the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2000 and urge its adoption.

This reauthorization bill authorization funding for the SBA's primary lending programs, the 7(a), 504 and microloan programs. It also includes provisions to authorize and fund disaster loan surety bond guarantees, Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) program, the National Women's Business Council, the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) program, and the Drug Free Workplace program.

H.R. 3843 provides record funding for these critical programs that have played a large role in creating and maintaining this country's unprecedented economic growth. The record funding levels will insure that the core SBA programs will continue to grow over the next 3 years. When enacted, H.R. 3843 will fund \$1.3 billion in additional 7(a) loans, \$3.3 million more in SBIC equity investment loans, and a doubling in Microloan technical assistance grants.

Mr. Chairman, in the Second District of Colorado, many small businesses have reaped the benefits of technology related SBA programs. In particular the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program provides the funds necessary to refine their ideas, turn them into products, and to take those products to the commercial marketplace. Although the main purpose of the program remains meeting the federal government's research and development needs, small businesses have turned SBIR-inspired research into commercial products that have improved our economy and scientific advances that have helped to improve the health of people everywhere.

Studies show that nationwide, small businesses produce twice as many technological innovations per employee, as compared with large employers. In fact, most of the significant technological innovations of the 20th century ranging from personal computers to high resolution x-ray microscopes can be traced to the small business community.

Clearly, the success stories of small business owners who have participated in SBA programs provide powerful testimony to their merits. I commend Chairman TALENT and