

League sports city supported by the Kansas City Royals Baseball team, the Kansas City Chiefs Football team, and the home to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Unfortunately it is impossible to cover the entire expansive and rich history my City has displayed.

Kansas City is now the second largest rail hub. We are second only to Rome in fountains and have more miles of boulevards than Paris. Kansas City is first in greeting card publishing as the home to Hallmark Cards. We have more freeway miles per capita than any major metro area and are 25th in U.S. population. Kansas City is adored for its 24 public lakes and 200 public parks. We stand 1.6 million people strong in the metropolitan area.

We highlight our rich history through events and activities that enliven the culture of our community and celebrates its diversity and sense of unity. This year Kansas City was blessed with events such as "Arrivals and Departures—Union Station" a Kansas City symphony performance to highlight the importance and the memories shared at our newly renovated Union Station; Benjamin Ranch Celebration Picnic allowing our youth to experience the wild outdoors with horse rides, stagecoach and hayrides; the 18th and Vine Vintage Vine afternoon at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum recreated the excitement of a Monarchs game; and finally the Kansas City Zoological Park brings our community 150 new animals. The grand finale will be held at Arrowhead Stadium where Walter Cronkite, Kenny Rogers, Little Richard, Oleta Adams, and the biggest fountain and pyrotechnic special effects show ever seen in the Midwest will swing us into the next incredible 150 years.

Throughout the 150 years of Kansas City we have been known for our hospitality, strong work ethic, fairness, and ability to develop a consensus. These attributes of our community are constantly enhanced by our citizens' commitment to continue to grow and expand upon these inherent traditions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the City of Kansas City's 150th Birthday.

IRANIAN JEWS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join several of my colleagues in condemning the actions of the Iranian government against 13 members of that nation's Jewish community. These Jews, arrested over a year ago, have been accused of spying for Israel. In Iran, a country where Jews enjoy virtually no freedoms and are under constant government scrutiny, one of the world's most effective intelligence organizations, Israel's Mossad, has allegedly chosen to use Jews to collect state secrets. Not only is this assertion preposterous, it is offensive. A shoe salesman, a candy store owner, and a 16-year-old boy, are being portrayed as agents of espionage.

Ten of the 13 have been imprisoned since their arrest last year. All have been brought before a court with no jury, in which the judge also serves as the prosecutor, to face accusations they have not heard, without the assistance of a lawyer or any contact with their fam-

ilies or friends. To add insult to injury, a Justice Ministry spokesman recently announced that "only one or two" of the 13 Jews were actually accused of espionage, the others were accused of the lesser crime of acting against national security. This after the Minister of Intelligence and Security said, in January, "if they are condemned to hang, they will be hanged." As if "one or two" deaths were any less despicable than 13.

This would not be the first time a show trial in Iran resulted in the deaths of members of the Jewish community there. Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, 17 Jews have been executed in Iran. I say it is time for this to stop. I ask those in Iran who represent fundamental Islamic faith to recall the centuries old Islamic tradition that protects strangers in Muslim lands. I call on those in Iran who represent reason and reform to intervene and prevent a brutal outcome to this trial. And I ask all Iranians to look at the changing world and recognize that by rejecting reconciliation with Jews, they are no longer on the fore of a unified Arab front, they are lonely outsiders who will never reap the benefits of the lasting partnerships being formed in the Middle East.

EVENT AT WEST END MEMORIAL SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, Who: 200 4th and 5th grade students from Woodbury Public Schools.

What: Will host Vice-president Lawrence Engel of the Battleship New Jersey Foundation.

When: May 24, 2000 at 1:30 PM.

Where: West End Memorial School, Woodbury, NJ.

Why: The fifth grade students from the three elementary schools engaged in a two month project of designing, making, and selling needlepoint bookmarks and stock certificates which resulted in raising \$1000.00 for the Battleship New Jersey Museum which is to be located in Camden, NJ. An assembly featuring Liberty, Uncle Sam, The Minuteman, Betsy Ross, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt will engage the students in the singing of patriotic songs, the presentation of the check to Col. Engel, and refreshments to celebrate their success.

Col. Engel will present the district with a print of the Battleship and certificates of participation to each of the three elementary schools. He will address the classes about the ship and its contributions to democracy, present a slide show, and bring a six-foot model of the ship with him. He will also comment on the significance of Memorial Day.

May 24 has been designated Red, White, and Blue Day at West End School in celebration of Memorial Day and the student's success.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE ILLINOIS PTA

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the members of the Illinois PTA, and celebrate the 100th anniversary of this extraordinary organization. Tuesday, May 30, 2000, will mark 100 years of partnership between the dedicated parents and teachers from across the great state of Illinois.

The Illinois PTA is invested in improving the quality of education and opening the doors of opportunity for all students. From our largest cities to our smallest towns, the PTA is working to ensure that each student has the resources needed to succeed and is provided with a safe, healthy environment in which to flourish.

We must make a commitment to helping the members of the Illinois PTA and parents, teachers, and students from across the country, by providing them with the tools they need to do their jobs. We know that the greatest investment we can make in our youth is to provide them with a quality education. In this time of economic prosperity, we can afford to make a long overdue investment in public education. I hope you will join me in the effort to bring quality teachers, smaller class sizes, greater accountability, and modern schools to American communities. The time is now.

I commend the tireless efforts of the members of the Illinois PTA and express my deepest gratitude for their noble work. I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JUDGE VEL PHILLIPS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Judge Vel Phillips, who was recognized on May 14, 2000, with an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Vel Phillips has been my friend for many years and a friend to the people of Wisconsin for many years more. I first developed my admiration for Vel Phillips as a young paperboy, reading about her work in public office. I assumed two things about her: first, that she must be very important, and second, that she must be very old. I was obviously wrong about her age, because thirty years later, she is as active and vibrant a person as any I know. In fact, she's forever young.

The record of barriers she broke and accomplishments she attained is too long to list in full, but I am pleased to offer a few examples. Vel was the first African American woman to earn a law degree at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She was the first woman and the first African American elected to serve on Milwaukee's Common Council, and her incisive mind, great personal charm and deep sense of devotion to the needs of her constituents made her an effective and respected representative. After 16 years on the Council, Vel was appointed to Milwaukee

County's Children's Court, and became the first woman and the first African-American to serve as a Wisconsin judge. In 1978, she ran a successful campaign for Wisconsin Secretary of State and became the first African American to be elected to a statewide, constitutional office.

The University of Wisconsin honored Judge Phillips' unparalleled contributions to our community and to Wisconsin history on May 14, 2000, by bestowing on her an honorary Doctorate of Laws. On May 28th, her friends and admirers will gather at the Community Brainstorming Conference in Milwaukee to congratulate Vel. I join them in commending Judge Vel Phillips on this latest distinction, and I celebrate her years of dedicated service to the people of Wisconsin.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, greed has rolled like a bulldozer over all of the numerous logical reasons supporting the denial of a permanent trade agreement with China. The megaprofits to be realized by the corporate elite are so overwhelming that this juggernaut cannot be halted. This act will have tornado-like devastation on the employment of ordinary men and women in this nation. Workers on both sides of the world will be the victims of this agreement. Chinese laborers paid twenty five cents per hour or less will fill the bank accounts of multi-national corporations. American workers will be forced to struggle harder and work more hours as industrial and manufacturing jobs are moved to China. Only lower paying service jobs or hi-tech positions requiring a college education will be left here on our shores.

Trade agreements standing alone on the floor of the House should never be accepted in the future. We should be voting on a comprehensive bill which anticipates the consequences of this arrangement with a nation of 1.2 billion people. The legislation should cover provisions to compensate for the massive economic dislocations that will inevitably escalate over the next few years. A massive worker retraining is needed for adults who face the immediate loss of their livelihoods. We also need a thorough revamping of the nation's public school system, an institution which serves working families, to guarantee that the emerging work force will have the qualifications to fill the thousands of information technology and telecommunications vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, if this risky agreement is passed today, we must immediately develop legislation to establish Worker Technology Retraining Centers to be operated by unions and other worker organizations in all parts of the nation where a loss of jobs will take place.

We must also take advantage of the enormous 200 billion dollar surplus available this year and the anticipated two trillion dollar sur-

plus over the next ten years to revamp our public school system. To cope with the massive transformations of the future work places in America we must mandate that no less than ten percent of the surplus must be allocated to education for the next ten years.

We must vote no on this bill before us. At the same time, we must resolve not to desert our working families. Pledge now to adequately finance the world's greatest public education system.

TRIBUTE TO RAY PERRY, C.O.P.E. UNITY AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a distinguished American, a proud Californian and a great labor leader, Ray Perry, who has been chosen to receive the C.O.P.E. Unity Award at the 21st, Annual Committee on Political Education banquet.

Ray Perry has devoted more than two decades of his life in steadfast support of the San Mateo County California Central Labor Council. Since the beginning of his career as an apprentice mechanic at Alameda Naval Air Station in 1966, Ray Perry has brought his skills and energy to community activism and has become a leader of the labor community. First appointed as a Delegate to the San Mateo Central Labor Council in 1979, Ray Perry is now President of the International Association of Machinists, Local Lodge 1781, representing over 10,000 employees of United Airlines at San Francisco International Airport.

As a Delegate, he's worked tirelessly to guide and develop the COPE structure into one of the most well organized, innovative and effective political programs in San Mateo County. Because of his leadership in the campaign to gather signatures, the drive to restore CAL-OSHA was successful in preserving the toughest worker safety program in our nation.

Today, Ray Perry continues his extraordinary work. As Chairman of the U.A.L. Grievance Committee, he is currently working to strengthen the United Airlines Labor Coalition of Machinists, the Association of Flight Attendants, and the Airline Pilots Association. He is widely admired for his boundless energy and his effective work as well as his passionate crusade to improve the lives of those around him.

Ray Perry's life of leadership and community involvement is instructive to us all. His dedication to the ideals of democracy and public service stand tall. I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring this good man whom I'm privileged to know and call my friend. We are indeed a better community and a better country because of him.

FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, the Navy resumed training on the Atlantic Fleet bombing range in Vieques after Federal Agents cleared the bombing range of protesters. Unfortunately, a very tense situation remains. Yet we in the legislature, instead of leaving in place the agreement reached by the President, the governor of Puerto Rico and the Secretaries of Defense and Navy, we tried to add fuel to the fire with a provision in H.R. 4205 that unilaterally undermined a deal where concessions were made on all sides.

I am pleased with the passage of Mr. SKELTON's amendment and celebrate our victory in striking out the deal breaking language in H.R. 4205 and reinstating our agreement with Pedro Rossello, Governor of Puerto Rico. Let us recall that the agreement reached last January is a deal where concessions were made by both sides—negotiators had worked in good faith to reconcile the vital need for training with the legitimate concerns of the people of Vieques. Mr. SKELTON's amendment leaves in place the compromise agreement for the orderly transfer of land on the Western side of Vieques, land not utilized by the Navy, to Puerto Rico. I urge the continuation of the President's deal as H.R. 4205 moves toward conference.

One thing is evident, our actions influenced the Navy's ability to continue crucial training on Vieques. We simply would have done a disservice to our sailors and their readiness if our legislative actions somehow led to more unrest in Puerto Rico. Let us not forget that the Navy has not been the best of neighbors to the American citizens of Vieques. Since the early days of World War II, the people of Vieques have been exposed to bombing raids 180 days of each year. Unfortunately, a little over a year ago, a bomb fell 2 miles off target, killing Mr. David Sanes Rodriguez, a civilian employee by the Navy and severely wounding four others. This tragic accident redefined and emboldened virtually all of Puerto Rico to demand for the safety, the security, and the well-being of the 9,311 Puerto Rico Americans who reside in Vieques.

Let me be clear on the point that the Skelton amendment is strongly supported by the Government of Puerto Rico. I have spoken with Governor Rossello. He told me that over 70 percent of the American citizens on Vieques live below the poverty level and that civilian residents reportedly suffer from a cancer rate 26 percent higher than that of Puerto Rico as a whole. Doctors also note high levels of birth defects, skin diseases, asthma and other respiratory diseases. Yet without this amendment the resources that these people need would have been jeopardized.