

to one's ability to pay, are much fairer. The income tax is a type of progressive tax. I believe that the current budget surplus is large enough to consider repealing other regressive taxes that harm lower-income Americans. As such, I remain committed to creating a more fair tax system.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WILKINSON—
EXTRAORDINARY LIBRARY ADVOCATE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize Larry Wilkinson for receiving the Extraordinary Library Advocate of the 20th Century award that is presented by the ALA/ALTA National Advocacy Honor Role. This award recognizes individuals who encourage and promote library services at both the state and national levels. Larry was one of five individuals chosen for this award.

Some of Larry's accomplishments, with regards to his library service, include initiating the inception of two public libraries in the State of Colorado. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the restoration of a former jailhouse into the current library in the town of Telluride. Today, Larry volunteers one day a week to continue his public passion and also serves on the Colorado Council of Library Development.

The many contributions that Larry has made have markedly improved the publics' access to information, especially in the Telluride area. Before Larry's involvement and the creation of the library, residents would have to travel to the city of Montrose in order to obtain access to literary materials. Thanks to Larry, that is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Larry's efforts and to thank him for his work to provide access to information that is only available in public libraries. Larry is exceedingly worthy of this prestigious award and deserves the praise of this body.

WELLTON-MOHAWK TRANSFER
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at the end of this long journey to fully support this legislation which transfers the title of the Gila Project/Wellton Mohawk Division facilities from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District.

I want to thank the Gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, the Gentleman from California, Mr. MILLER, the Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, Chairman DOOLITTLE, and the Ranking Member of that Subcommittee, Mr. DOOLEY, for their help in getting this legislation through the Subcommittee, through the full Resources Committee, and now on the Floor of the House.

I also want to thank my colleagues from Arizona for their help. Congressmen STUMP, HAYWORTH, and KOLBE joined me in introducing the legislation, and Congressman SHADEGG quickly joined them in seeing the wisdom of co-sponsorship. And in the other body, both Senators from Arizona joined to introduce the bill we are considering today.

The Gila project in Western Arizona was originally authorized for construction by President Roosevelt in June, 1937. Construction for the Wellton-Mohawk Division was started in August, 1949, and water from the Colorado River was turned onto the Wellton-Mohawk fields for the first time in May, 1952. The project was completed by June, 1957 and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District fully repaid its project costs and was given its certificate of discharge on November 27, 1991. In 1998, the District and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Agreement that covers the details of the transfer of title.

This bill, S. 356, which is virtually identical to the bill I introduced, H.R. 841, simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out all provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement covering the transfer of title, including the authority to convey lands as required. It also requires the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Energy to continue to provide water and power as provided under existing contracts.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this has been a long road, but we are finally ending the legislative journey. This is simple legislation which will help shrink the role of the Federal government and shift the responsibilities for ownership into the hands of local entities. In short, passage of this legislation will ensure a smoother and more efficient operation, which in turn will better serve the American taxpayer and the citizens of Southwest Arizona.

I ask that my colleagues support passage of S. 356 and I look forward to watching the President sign it into law.

TEXAS' CHILD HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Texas' Child Health Insurance Program.

Today, our children should not have to fight to get the health care coverage they deserve. I am sad to say, in Texas they do. A child born in the year 2000 is far more likely to grow up healthy and to reach adulthood than a child born in 1900 was. Over the past 100 years, our nation's scientific, technological, and financial resources have built the most advanced health care system in the world. But the doors of the health care system are not open to everyone.

Millions of children have inadequate medical care. Ensuring that every child in our nation receives the best possible health care must be a top priority for the nation. Unfortunately, not all children have benefited equally from the medical, public health, and public policy achievements of the 20th century. To a large extent, health status is still determined by race, language, culture, geography, and eco-

nomics. In general, children in low-income communities get sick more often from preventable acute and infectious illnesses such as measles, conjunctivitis, and ear infections. Low-income children and teens are also more likely to suffer from chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and asthma, the leading cause of school absences. In fact, the sharpest increases in asthma rates are among urban minority children.

Despite the tremendous advances in medical technology and public health, millions of children have less of a chance to grow up healthy and strong because of unequal access to health care. Children without health insurance or a regular source of health care are most likely to seek care from emergency rooms and clinics, which have long waits to see a provider, limited follow-up, and little or no health education about preventive strategies or ways to manage chronic illness. Compared with insured children, uninsured children are up to eight times less likely to have a regular source of care, four times more likely to delay seeking care, nearly three times less likely to have seen a provider in the past year, and five times more likely to use the emergency room as a regular place of care. There is no question that insurance is key to maintaining health.

Imagine one hundred children from Texas standing in front of you. Fifty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-two are covered through Medicaid. Twenty-four are uninsured. This equals to about 1.4 million of the 6 million children in Texas without health insurance.

Now imagine one hundred children from all over the country standing in front of you. Sixty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-one are covered through Medicaid. Fifteen are uninsured.

Why is it that Texas' percentage of uninsured children is higher than the national's average? The reason is due to a Texas government that chooses not to take advantage of government funding that will allow many children to be insured. As a matter of fact, Texas can expand its Medicaid coverage to the age of eighteen and cover those whose income is up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Presently, Texas only covers children up to the age of eighteen and to those whose income is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level with Title XXI funds. If Texas expands Title XXI eligibility to only 200% Federal Poverty Level, like it has the choice to, then an additional 483,000 uninsured children would be eligible for insurance coverage. Over half of all states have expanded coverage to 200% or beyond.

Most states have expanded health insurance coverage to children using Title XXI funds. This coverage is provided through Medicaid expansions and/or separate insurance programs. Ten states offer Medicaid to those with an income up to 150% Federal Poverty Level. Texas falls within this category. Texas falls at the bottom. Our children fall at the bottom.

This should simply not be the case. The Texas government must not only strive to improve its average compared to the national average, but it must also strive to ensure all of its children adequate health care. The opportunity for Texas to make change is now. The

Texas leadership must now show compassion to its future and provide a means for them to live healthy lives.

HONORING GAIL NOLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today on the behalf of the Waterford, Michigan School District, who will be honoring one of their own. On June 14, members of the school district, as well as family and friends, will gather to honor the career of Ms. Gail Nolin, who is retiring after 34 glorious years.

In 1966, Gail Nolin began her career with Waterford Schools, teaching third, fourth, and fifth grades at Cooley Elementary School. Gail's tenure at Cooley lasted 18 years. Gail brought with her many unique and creative opportunities for her students to learn, including painting a large map of Michigan in the school parking lot, and constructing a large rocket ship. Many times, she incorporated art and music in her lessons, giving her students early exposure to fine arts and a well-rounded curriculum. She later moved up to teach upper elementary, where she involved parents in presenting technology to students, and helped pilot the district's first elementary computer network, acting as systems operator with Gladys Baker.

In 1991, Gail began a new role within the District, that of Technology Consultant. She diligently worked along with Dick Elsholz and Randy Gross to implement a program that would allow third grade to fifth grade teachers to integrate computer technology into their curriculum. She served as a member of the Institutional Technology Planning Committee, and co-chaired the first elementary technology plan.

Gail not only had an accomplished academic career, but a political career that has spanned nearly three decades.

A member of the Waterford Education Association, Michigan Education Association, and National Education Association, Gail has always remained a member in good standing and a role model for her peers. She has served the WEA as a member of its Human Rights Commission and Negotiations Committee, as well as other leadership roles with the union. As a member of the MEA, Gail has been an executive officer since 1985, and also sits on the Staff Retirement Board and Legislative Committee. She has operated as the MEA representative to the NEA on several occasions.

Gail's strong belief in our democratic system has allowed her an audience with not only members of Congress, but senators, Cabinet members, and several presidents, on issues such as Title I and equal rights. Gail was invited to the White House by President Carter to participate in discussions regarding the drafting of women into the military.

These experiences also led her to a stint as an assistant to Congressman Bob Carr, and the opportunity in 1993, where President Clinton met and bowed with her eighth grade students.

Mr. Speaker, Gail Nolin is my educational colleague and my friend. For many years, I

have benefitted from her insight, as has the entire Waterford community over the course of the last 34 years. She has always been a fighter for education, for she believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Gail Nolin on her retirement, and wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HARVEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional man, Michael Harvey. In May, Mr. Harvey traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the "Star of Life" award, the highest honor presented to paramedics. Mr. Harvey received the award because of his dedicated service to his community and his fellow man as a paramedic. Mr. Harvey embodies the goals that this award stands for and we all can learn from the proud example he has set.

As you know Mr. Speaker, paramedics work tirelessly and selflessly to serve their fellow man. Mr. Harvey and his fellow paramedics are expected to perform in difficult—even perilous—situations on a daily basis. Mr. Harvey's service and sacrifice in his field clearly merit both the "Star of Life" award and the respect and admiration of this great body.

It is obvious why Mr. Harvey was chosen as the recipient of the "Star of Life" award. I think that we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the State of Colorado. Due to Mr. Harvey's dedication, it is clear that Colorado is a better and safer place in which to live.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you and congratulations to Mike Harvey on this outstanding accomplishment. Your community, state and nation are all very proud of you, Mike. Keep up the good work.

SALUTE TO URSULA SHERMAN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I salute, congratulate, and honor Ursula Sherman.

Ms. Sherman has been a founding and active Board member of Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) for more than 29 years.

Ms. Sherman came to California in 1938 after her family spent five years in Paris as refugees from Nazi Germany. She learned the importance of volunteerism as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin and during her year as a researcher at the Nuremberg trials, where she fully grasped the concept that there but for the grace of God go I.

Ms. Sherman became an advocate for youth as a children's librarian and University of California at Berkeley visiting lecturer. In her "other" vocation as a community activist organizer, she worked hard at integrating Berkeley schools in the late sixties. She and members

of the Jewish Community organized the Hillel Streetwork project, which later became Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency or BOSS. This organization continues to serve the homeless and mentally-disabled populations in the East Bay, thanks to her leadership 29 years ago.

In addition to her work in BOSS, Ms. Sherman is also a past or current board member of such organizations as The Jewish Music Festival, The Traveling Jewish Theater, the American Jewish Congress of Northern California and the Berkeley Public Library Foundation.

In honor of Ms. Sherman's many contributions to our community, BOSS is hosting a Tea Ceremony in her honor at the Rose Garden Inn in Berkeley, California. Proceeds from this event will benefit BOSS's 21st Century Charitable Fund which is dedicated to ending poverty and homelessness in our community.

I proudly join the friends and colleagues of Ursula Sherman in recognizing her community leadership and activism, as well as celebrating her many years of extraordinary service to the people and organizations of the East Bay.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS FERNANDEZ

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lois Fernandez, president and co-founder of Odunde, a cultural organization that for 25 years has sponsored the Odunde Festival, one of Philadelphia's brightest cultural attractions and one of the largest African American festivals in the United States.

Odunde, which among the Yoruba of Nigeria means Happy New Year, is the greeting that first meets the more than 300,000 people who attend the Odunde festival. The festival transforms a 10-block area in the First Congressional District into a veritable West African marketplace complete with African, African American and Caribbean vendors selling crafts, clothing and food.

Those attending the festival can also take part in a traditional Yoruba ceremony that pays respect to Oshun, a Yoruba deity. The festival also offers a broad assortment of performances by musicians, dancers, singers and poets.

Ms. Fernandez has enriched our community by providing sorely needed education regarding the rich culture and history of Africa and the Africans of the diaspora.

For a quarter of a century Ms. Fernandez has been a formidable force for social change in our city and she has provided us with an invaluable cultural legacy.

HATE CRIMES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, sitting on a bench, riding on a bus, or even walking down the street, a hate crime can occur anytime or any place. Hate crimes are acts of