

effective fund-raiser, Grace also co-chaired the Colonial Ball and the Friends of the Hermitage Cookbook, first printed in 1976. In addition to her work at the Hermitage, Grace has been an active member of the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School System for over twenty-six years.

Frank Barr has been both a Trustee of the Valley Health System and Chairman of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Valley Hospital has become a Hermitage Pioneer Corporation through its evolution into a major healthcare system. As a former Ho-Ho-Kus School Board President and trustee on various boards in the local community, Frank has played an integral role in the community. He has served as President of Fishers Island Development Corporation and was a Trustee of St. Lawrence University. He has also founded a non-profit affordable housing corporation in addition to his many other career achievements. These are truly phenomenal people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Grace and Frank Barr for all they have done for their community and for the outstanding example they set for all of us.

HONORING GILSON D. FOSTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gilson D. Foster as he concludes his lengthy and meritorious tenure as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 557 and as President of the Saginaw County Labor Council. Gil has truly earned his reputation as an outstanding leader who has played a key role in shaping the future of the greater Saginaw community.

A native of Alma, Michigan, Gil has positively affected the lives of nearly everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him, and those of countless people who will never know how much better their lives are thanks to his hard work. Throughout his life, he has exhibited exemplary citizenship by consistently and eagerly going well above and beyond the call of duty. He has truly made a difference in the lives of working families.

Devotion to duty, longevity in service and job excellence are hallmarks of Gil's work ethic. After graduating in 1952 from the former Arthur Hill Trade School, Gil enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving honorably until his discharge in 1960. He later graduated from the Saginaw Joint Electrical Apprenticeship program and embarked on his career in the electrical trade. In 1966, Gil took over as Local 557 Business Manager and Financial Secretary and served in those roles for 35 years. Similarly, he spent 20 years as President of the Saginaw County Labor Council and also served on the Michigan state AFL-CIO General Board.

Gil's contributions, however, extend far beyond the workplace. Over the years, Gil has freely and exuberantly given his time and resources to many community organizations, including the Salvation Army, the United Way of Saginaw County, the Lake Huron Area Council Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, the

Saginaw Community Foundation, the Delta College Quality of Life Advisory Council, the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Great American Music Festival Board of Trustees.

Of course, such community service is never accomplished without the love and support of family. Gil's wife, Patricia, and five children, Kathy, Nancee, Keith, Randall, and Anne, have been an integral and key part of his success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gil Foster on his first-rate and admirable community involvement and for his efforts in making Saginaw an enviable place to call home. I am confident that he will continue to provide many more years of dedicated service to his fellow citizens.

CONDEMNING TALIBAN REGIME OF AFGHANISTAN REQUIRING HINDUS TO WEAR SYMBOLS IDENTIFYING THEM AS HINDU

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this Resolution which condemns the treatment of Hindus by the Taliban government.

The Taliban government has once again crossed the line, this time by forcing Hindus to wear identifying markers on their clothing. This latest oppressive act is eerily reminiscent of Nazi-era Germany when Jews were forced to wear the yellow Star of David in order to identify themselves. Singling out one group serves only one purpose: fostering discrimination and potential persecution. The world stood silently by when the Nazis started targeting Jews. We will not be silent this time. We must remember the cautious maxim that reminds us that those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

The Taliban are slowly attacking all groups who they perceive as different. Since 1996, the Taliban, an extremist militia, has seized control of 90% of Afghanistan and then unilaterally declared an end to women's basic human rights.

Women are banished from working. Girls are not allowed to attend school beyond the eighth grade. Women are being beaten for not fully covering themselves, including their eyes and ankles.

Women and girls are not allowed to go out into public without being covered from head to toe with a heavy and cumbersome garment and escorted by a close male relative.

Women are not allowed to seek health care, even in emergency situations, from male doctors.

The Taliban has allowed some women to practice medicine, but women must do so fully covered and in sectioned off, special wards. And even these services are only available in very few select locations, leaving women to die from otherwise treatable diseases.

A sixteen-year-old girl was stoned to death because she went out in public with a man who was not her family member.

A woman who was teaching girls in her home, was also stoned to death in front of her

husband, her children and her students. An elderly woman was beaten, breaking her leg, because she exposed her ankle in public.

These atrocities are real.

They are happening now, and will continue tomorrow as long as the extremist Taliban government is still in control of Afghanistan.

The restrictions on women's freedom in Afghanistan are unfathomable to most Americans.

Women and girls cannot venture outside without a burqa—an expensive and restrictive garment that covers their entire bodies including a mesh panel covering their eyes.

For some women, not having the means to afford and purchase this expensive garment will banish them to their homes for the rest of their lives.

The effects of this decree have been severe.

Many Afghan women are widows and have no means to income because they cannot work, and unless they have a close male family member, they have no access to society for food for their families and themselves.

We must continue to speak out against the Taliban, on behalf of the women and girls that risk death for speaking out for themselves.

We must not accept the Taliban as a legitimate government.

We must send a strong and clear message that gender apartheid and religious discrimination is unacceptable and a gross violation of the most basic human rights.

Afghanistan may be physically located on the other side of the world, but the voices of the women and girls suffering there are heard loud and clear here.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT FOR CREDIT ON TAXES

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would invite you to join me as a co-sponsor of the Renewable Energy Act for Credit on Taxes.

This is a refundable tax credit to be given for investments in renewable energy systems based on solar, wind, or fuel cells providing up to \$4.50 per Watt of electricity produced, capped at the lesser of 35 percent of the cost of the system or \$6,000 for residences and \$50,000 for commercial enterprises. It would sunset in four years.

A recent ABC poll showed that 90 percent of the public support increased investment in renewable energy sources. In its National Energy Policy, the administration has also identified this need.

Based on the California experience, we need to supply more energy at peak periods as soon as possible. Because of transmission gridlock both between states in the western region and within California, right now we need to increase supplies where they will be used. Public policy calls for increasing reliance on renewable energy sources.

Therefore, we need to give incentives to power sources that can be put into operation relatively quickly, produce power at peak times where it will be used, and be powered by renewable energy sources.

The administration's National Energy Policy states, "Photovoltaic solar distributed energy is a particularly valuable energy generation source during times of peak use of power." [p. 6-10]

Under-used locations for increased production of power are homes and businesses. Owners have not invested in personal energy systems in part because they have not provided a reasonable return on the investment. This gap can be bridged by using tax incentives to motivate additional private investment in power. The benefit is a long-term contribution to power supply that does not require continued cost for fuel.

Solar power for water heating has been used extensively in the West over many years because it has been a good investment. It demonstrates the willingness of owners to make this investment when it is financially viable.

Newer materials and more reliable systems have become available to make individual photovoltaic systems attractive as well. In April a solar demonstration home was built on the Washington Mall that not only incorporated many energy saving designs but also employed a solar energy system with back-up batteries. The additional cost for the solar system for this large, three-bedroom, two story home was given as \$30,000.

Is a federal tax credit enough to encourage a homeowner to make this investment? Under my bill the owner would qualify for \$18,000 of the cost based on the amount of power produced; however, the proposed cap would be the lesser of 35 percent of the cost or \$6,000, leaving \$24,000 of uncovered cost.

While this might not be a sufficient incentive for many owners, some 14 states as well as about 26 municipalities have additional rebates. California, for example, has a rebate program capped at 50 percent of the cost. In this case, the California homeowner combining the two programs would be paying only \$9,000 of that cost.

Without a rebate, a homeowner could buy a system of half the capacity receiving a lower rebate but still have a \$9,750 net cost under this bill.

The advantage of a solar solution is that in many locations the solar energy is most available when it is most needed—in the summer in the middle of the day.

In other areas wind systems are viable with applications that look like a typical roof top vent suitable for residences and businesses. While there is a current production tax credit for wind energy, it is not an attractive financial incentive for individuals since the owner is using the product not selling it. Thus, a tax credit is the appropriate mechanism.

I have chosen a refundable tax credit rather than a grant program as less bureaucratic and readily accessible to a taxpayer. The sunset will give incentives to immediately increase supplies.

I believe it is time to take a large stride toward investing in renewable energy that will continue to produce power for many years without needing to purchase fossil fuels. We can have more clean power where we need it at peak periods.

CONGRATULATING ELMER BECKENDORF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and outstanding Texan, Mr. Elmer Beckendorf. This Saturday, June 16, 2001, Elmer a member of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District Board of Trustees will receive the Association of Community College Trustee's Regional Trustee Leadership Award. His commitment to public service and above all his dedication and support for education earned him this rightly deserved honor.

Born December 14, 1921 in Harris County, Texas, Elmer is a fifth generation resident of Harris County, Texas. He graduated from Addicks High School and attended the University of Houston. During World War II, Elmer served in United States Army Signal Corp attached to the Air Force installing and maintaining radio equipment providing communications for an Air Force Fighter Wing in the Pacific area of operations, Okinawa and surrounding areas. After the war, he returned to Texas where he married Dorothy Heldberg. They have three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In 1954 Mr. Beckendorf formed E.L. Beckendorf and Sons, Inc., an independent dairy farm.

Elmer Beckendorf has been a true leader in his community, having served on public boards for 47 years. He has served on the North Harris Montgomery Community College District (NHMCCD) Board of Trustees for sixteen years including two two-year terms as chair and two two-year terms as vice chair. During his service, the college district has grown from two campuses serving four school districts to four, soon to be five, comprehensive campuses and six educational centers serving nine school districts in a 1400 square mile area with a population of over 1 million citizens.

He was elected to and has served on the Tomball Independent School District Board of Trustees for 22 years, holding various offices including president during his years of service. In January of 1980 the school district dedicated the E.L. Beckendorf Intermediate School in his honor.

Civic organizations on which he has served include the Tomball Regional Hospital Authority Board of Directors, member since 1975, chairman since 1982; the Cypress Creek Branch of Greater Houston YMCA, board member 1975-1986 receiving the Volunteer of the Year in 1979; the Rotary Club of Tomball, member 1955 to present; the Greater Tomball Chamber of Commerce member since 1975 receiving the Citizen of Year in 1979; the Texas Forage and Grassland Council, Charter member, 1979 to present and President from 1981-1984; the Houston Milk Producers Federal Credit Union as an Officer of the board for 29 years; the Association of Community College Trustees as a Lifetime member; the Dairy Shrine Club as a Lifetime member and the Tomball Future Farmers of America as an Honorary Chapter Farmer.

Additionally, Elmer Beckendorf has been a champion of education supporting and leading initiatives in the area of economic develop-

ment, workforce development and K-16 partnerships. With his support, NHMCCD has established Center for Business and Economic Development (CBED), a center focused on economic development initiatives and workforce development needs of our region. His support for K-16 partnerships, initiatives and agreements has led to the seamless flow of curriculum, program and services from public school through community colleges and universities.

The Association of Community College Trustees could not have picked a more outstanding person for this award. Elmer Beckendorf is a very special person and one who exemplifies the true public citizen willing to give tirelessly of himself in order that others may benefit. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of the 8th Congressional District of Texas, I offer our warmest congratulations.

A NEW DIRECTION AT ST. LOUIS HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share some very happy news about the St. Louis Housing Authority. Just two short years ago, the St. Louis Housing Authority had the distinction of holding the worst federal ranking—14.25 out of 100—of any big city housing authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development was threatening to take over the agency. But then, fortunately, Cheryl Lovell was named Executive Director of the agency and good things began to happen. Last month, the St. Louis Housing Authority achieved a federal ranking of 70.3 and by all accounts things are improving for the residents of St. Louis public housing.

I commend Cheryl Lovell for her dedication and achievement and would like to share the following article "City Housing Raises Its Grades" which appeared in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on June 13, 2001.

[From the St. Charles County Post, June 14, 2001]

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS WILL BE STUDIED

(By Ralph Dummit)

A consultant has been selected to conduct a study in St. Charles County on the availability of affordable housing. The consultant is Paul Dribin, who served for several years as an official in the St. Louis office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dribin Consulting was picked by St. Charles County Executive Joe Ortwerth from among five or six applicants for the \$45,000 contract.

Social service workers across the county have sought answers to the question of available housing for low-income residents for many years. They have contended that not only is it difficult for poor families to rent houses but that affordable houses for sale to the poor are in limited supply. They are concerned that development is geared more to large houses on large lots than to building houses or apartments in a more modest price range.

Dribin is no stranger to housing matters in St. Charles County. The Farms apartment