

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Landis, North Carolina on its centennial celebration. We offer our best wishes for much prosperity and success during the century to come.

IN HONOR OF SFC TOYA D. KING-
JOHN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor the 18-year commitment of SFC Latoya King-John of Brooklyn, NY. Ms. King-John is currently serving in the United States Army Reserve. From 1996–1997, Ms. King-John served in Operation Joint Venture; leaving her husband and two young children while she worked as a movement control supervisor in Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary.

In addition, Ms. King-John has worked for New York State for the past 17 years. While there she has been an active member of the Civil Service Employees Association, where she has served on the Education Committee of Local 351. Also, Ms. King-John is a member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association. In 1999, Ms. King-John was recognized by the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. King-John has served this country for nearly two decades at great personal sacrifice; she has served New York State for nearly two decades as well. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

SUPPORT OF THE LABOR FIRST CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

The National Labor Relations Act guarantees the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively to improve living standards and working conditions. The right to organize is a basic civil right, and unions are an avenue to equity, fair treatment, and economic stability for working people. Free enterprise includes the freedom to organize as a unit to bargain collectively. Often, current law hinders this ability. That is why I have introduced the Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act.

This bill requires mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration of initial contract negotiation disputes. Under this proposed bill, if an employer and a newly elected representative have not reached a collective bargaining agreement within 60 days of the representative's certification, the employer and the representative will jointly select a mediator to help them reach an agreement. If they cannot agree on a mediator, one will be appointed for them by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. In the event that the parties do

not reach an agreement in 30 days, the remaining issues may be transferred to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for binding arbitration.

Let's make sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOME- OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND EDU- CATORS ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague Representative LEACH and a number of other Members of the House, I will be introducing the Homeownership Opportunities for Uniformed Services and Educators Act, also known as the "HOUSE Act."

The HOUSE Act authorizes 1% down payment FHA mortgage loans for prekindergarten through 12th grade teachers, policemen, and firemen buying a home within the school district or local employing jurisdiction. This significantly reduces the down payment hurdle. For example, the down payment on a \$132,000 home would be lowered from around \$6,270 to only \$1,320. In higher cost areas the effect would be more dramatic.

Moreover, for qualified borrowers, the bill defers the 1.5% up-front FHA premium that FHA customarily charges, which currently ranges from \$1,980 to \$3,590, depending on the size of the loan. Moreover, this deferred fee is reduced by 20% for each year of public service in the community, and entirely waived after five years of continued service.

Down payment and loan fee reductions will have the effect of helping school districts and localities recruit and retain qualified teachers, policemen and firemen. It will also make it easier for these public servants to buy a home within the community they work. And, the bill's premium waiver feature provides an incentive for continued public service in the local community.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the bill would generate 125,000 new loans to teachers, policemen, and firemen over the next five years. CBO also determined that the bill would actually increase the federal budget surplus by \$162 million over the same period.

This legislation is supported by the Fraternal Order of Police, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the American Association of School Administrators.

Moreover, the bill enjoys bi-partisan support, and was in fact passed by the House last year, as Section 203 of H.R. 1776. Unfortunately, it died when the House and Senate failed to reach agreement. I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation, so that we may enact it into law this year.

HONORING ASSEMBLYMAN DENIS
BUTLER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assemblyman Denis Butler for his twenty-four years of elected service on behalf of the people of Queens. The Powhatan and Pocahontas Regular Democratic Club will honor Butler again next week for his tremendous advocacy for youth, senior citizens, veterans and the disabled.

Assemblyman Butler was first elected to the New York State Assembly in April of 1976, and enjoyed victories in every Assembly race since then. During his twenty-four years in the Assembly, Mr. Butler moved up the ranks to become an Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore, to which he was appointed in 1993. Assemblyman Butler previously held the positions of Vice-Chairman of the Majority Conference, Chairman of the Majority Conference and Chairman of the Committee on Standing Committees. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments.

As Chairman of the Queens Assembly Delegation, Assemblyman Butler has been an unfailing advocate for Astoria and Long Island City, successfully securing hundreds of thousands of dollars for numerous recreational, cultural, educational, civic, youth, anticrime and senior programs throughout Queens.

In 1998, Assemblyman Butler received the Brooklyn Diocese's Pro Vita award, presented to him by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the unborn. In 1992, he was the recipient of the New York State Catholic Conference Public Policy Award, presented by John Cardinal O'Connor and the Bishops of New York State. Assemblyman Butler was the driving force behind the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, a non-for-profit statewide organization that promotes alternatives to abortion, successfully securing approximately 17 million dollars for the Foundation since 1983.

Assemblyman Butler is Vice-Chairman of the Queens Democratic County Committee and for thirty years was the Executive Member of the Powhatan Regular Democratic Club, one of the oldest clubs in New York State. In conjunction with the Powhatan and Pocahontas Clubs, Assemblyman Butler was the organizer for the last twenty-nine years of annual Toys for Tots Drive for the needy.

Mr. Butler is a lifelong resident of the District he represented, covering Astoria, Long Island City and Jackson Heights. A graduate of La Salle Academy and Cathedral College, Assemblyman Butler also attended St. Joseph's Seminary, Columbia University and the State University at Albany. Prior to his election to the New York State Assembly, Mr. Butler, who holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, was an account executive and sales manager on the field of broadcasting, both in radio and television.

Married to former Mary Kerr, Assemblyman Butler and his lovely wife have three children: Kathleen, a health care administrator; Denis, an attorney; and Thomas, President of Butler Associates, a Manhattan based Public Relations and Marketing Firm.

I was proud to serve with Assemblyman Butler in the New York State Assembly for twelve years, and I am pleased to call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Assemblyman Butler for his twenty-four years of advocacy for the people of Queens and New York State.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ENSURE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES ARE RIGHTFULLY ENTITLED TO USE THE CASH METHOD OF ACCOUNTING

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Cash Accounting for Small Business Act of 2001," a bill to simplify the tax code and provide relief for small businesses across the nation. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. TANNER, along with the chairman and ranking member of the Small Business Committee, Mr. MANZULLO and Ms. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ.

One of the most complex and burdensome aspects of the Tax Code for many small businesses is also one of the most fundamental—their tax accounting method. While current tax law specifies a \$5 million annual gross receipts test for the use of cash accounting, this test has often been misinterpreted by the IRS, especially for small businesses using inventory.

Today we are introducing the "Cash Accounting for Small Business Act of 2001," legislation to clarify tax accounting rules for small businesses. Our legislation will follow the recommendation of the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate in his 2000 report to Congress by further clarifying the \$5 million threshold for use of the cash method of accounting. For small companies with average annual gross receipts below that level, they will be entitled to use the cash method. In addition, the bill will enable small businesses, particularly service providers below the \$5 million threshold, to avoid the onerous inventory-accounting rules. As a result, small business owners will be able to save time and accounting costs and put them back into productive use.

According to accountants, the use of accrual accounting can increase a small business' accounting costs by as much as 50 percent. For small firms struggling to get their businesses off the ground, that's valuable capital thrown down the drain to pay for unnecessary record-keeping. The costs for failure to comply, however, can be quite high. A survey by the Padgett Business Services Foundation, for example, revealed that on the inventory accounting issue alone, a small business found by the IRS to be using the incorrect bookkeeping method can end up paying \$2,000 to \$14,000, with an average of \$7,200 in taxes, interest, and penalties.

Small business owners across the country have been clamoring for tax simplification. This legislation is a down payment on that goal. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this straight-forward effort to infuse some common sense into our overly complicated Tax Code.

Small businesses contribute greatly to this country's economy, and they deserve a break from needless government-imposed compliance costs.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ALBERT VANN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor New York State Assemblyman Albert Vann of Brooklyn, New York upon his receipt of the Susan G. Hadden Pioneer Award from the Alliance for Public Technology. The Hon. Albert Vann has served as the NYS Assemblyman for the 56th Assembly since 1974. During this time Mr. Vann has been a tireless advocate on behalf of low-income communities, chairing the Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families as well as the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. He is currently the Chairman of the Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. The 'Corporations' Committee has oversight authority over the New York State Public Service Commission, the regulatory body for telecommunications and cable.

Assemblyman Vann has worked on a variety of initiatives to lay the groundwork to bring technology to low income and rural areas. Mr. Vann worked with me to expand the Congressional Black Caucus' Braintrust Communications Conference to include telecommunications and e-commerce issues. He also worked with the New York State Public Service Commission to create the Diffusion Fund, which provides \$50 million to establish broadband capacity in low-income communities. In addition, he has held a series of technology seminars in his district to provide his constituents with networking opportunities in telecommunications and information services.

Al Vann was selected to serve as co-chair of the Assembly Task Force on Telecommunications where he worked on the ramifications of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act for New York State. He has used his positions to ensure that New York State maintains a leadership role on telecommunications issues. Al brought his technology access concerns to a national forum by chairing the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Telecommunications and Energy Committee.

Mr. Speaker, NYS Assemblyman Al Vann has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the technologically underserved, through his hard work and dedication, he has provided access where otherwise there would not be any. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this fine public servant.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE CONTINUING RESOLUTION URGING INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE (TYPE 1) DIABETES RESEARCH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation which urges Congress to increase federal funding for Type I diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes.

Type I diabetes is a devastating illness that affects over 1 million Americans, many of whom are diagnosed as children. This serious disease robs children of their innocence and independence, and burdens its victims with a lifetime of finger-sticks, shots, and fear of dreaded complications.

Even with a strict regimen of insulin injections, blood-glucose monitoring, diet and exercise, people with Type I diabetes are at severe risk for blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart disease and stroke.

The burden of diabetes is felt by all Americans. Americans spend \$105 billion each year on the direct and indirect costs of this disease. One of every four Medicare dollars is spent on beneficiaries with diabetes, and one in ten health care dollars overall are spent on individuals with this serious disease.

There is great promise that a cure for Type I can be found in the near future. Advancements in genetic research, transplantation and immunology, and research into potential vaccines all hold the potential to eliminate Type I diabetes. But if we are to find a cure, we in Congress must find the money to pay for it.

The Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG), a Congressionally appointed panel of experts in diabetes research, issued a report in 1999 that indicates the need for a significant increase in diabetes research. The DRWG recommended a \$4.1 billion increase for diabetes research over a five year period. Congress must heed this report.

This legislation I am introducing today recognizes the particular burden of Type I diabetes, and the need to follow the recommendations of the DRWG. It also recognizes the importance of our partners in the private sector, such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which has donated more than \$326 million to diabetes research since 1970 and will give \$100 million in FY 2001.

Mr. Speaker, full funding for diabetes research will help eradicate this devastating illness, save billions of health care dollars, and end the unnecessary suffering of millions of Americans. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in our fight to cure Type I diabetes.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION ACT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. I am introducing this legislation today to address a pressing