

Social Security also plays a critical role in providing financial security for minorities. African Americans are more likely to receive disability benefits. Since their life expectancy is shorter than average, survivor benefits are also important. Also, about 2/3s of African Americans and about 3 out of 5 Hispanic seniors would have income below poverty without Social Security. As we consider changes to the program, we must not reduce the benefits that are vital to preventing poverty among minorities.

As we protect Social Security for those who rely on it the most, we must also work to ensure Social Security is fair to all generations. Our kids and grandkids need us to find a way to improve the low rates of return they will receive from Social Security. For example, a single man who is 31 years old today and earns average wages can expect a rate of return on his contributions of only a little more than 1 percent, and kids born today can expect even less. We cannot, in fairness, allow this to continue.

The President's bipartisan Commission to Strengthen Social Security has talked about the unique needs of women and minorities, as well as the system's low rates of return in its Interim Report and throughout its meetings. Soon, the Commission will recommend several options for modernizing and strengthening Social Security. It's the beginning of a long road to make America's most important income security program secure far into the future.

That road will lead here to the Congress where the first and the final decisions will be made on this critical issue. My hope is those decisions will be bipartisan from the beginning, because that is the environment that the Social Security debate deserves. So let us begin today, as Congress first voices its views, and let that voice be a bipartisan one.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons that I encourage all Members on both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor this critically important resolution. We must act now to assure Americans that any plan for saving Social Security will guarantee current law promised benefits, including cost-of-living adjustments, for current and future retirees without increasing taxes. Our children, our grandchildren, and future generations deserve no less.

TRIBUTE TO ALBANIAN FLAG DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Albanian American community in celebrating the 89th anniversary of Albanian Flag Day which symbolizes Albania's independence.

On November 28, 1912 Albania declared its independence by raising its flag in the coastal town of Vlora. Since that glorious day, Albania has endured many hardships but has managed to persevere. The conflict that occurred in Kosova only a short time ago tested Albania and its people. Albania and its proud citizens are entering into a new era of political, social, and cultural growth. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

The United States relationship with Albania is strong and growing stronger. This was evident when Albania pledged its support to us in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Today, the United States is enriched by the many Albanian Americans living here. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Albanian community adds to the wonderfully diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs and beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Albania, those of Albanian ancestry around the world and Albanian Americans in celebrating Albanian Flag Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

IN HONOR OF DOROTHY ISAAC FAUSTINO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dorothy Isaac Faustino in recognition of her tireless commitment to healthcare and serving those in need.

Dorothy Isaac Faustino grew up in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Long Island City. She earned her nursing diploma from Kings County Hospital Center's School of Nursing. Later, she earned her Bachelor's degree from Adelphi University. She also received Adelphi's Eileen Jacobi Leadership Award and was inducted into the National Honor Society for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau.

Dorothy is not one to allow herself a moment's rest. Following her undergraduate education, while raising a family, working and running a Girl Scout troop for 10 years at Sacred Heart Church, in Cambria Heights, Dorothy earned a joint Master's Degree from Columbia University in Nursing and Public Health. While there she also became involved in working with the homeless. Together with several other students, Dorothy and her team developed a hand book and training curriculum for staff and volunteers working with the homeless from 1985 to 1988.

In addition, to being a tireless worker, Dorothy is a people person who has involved herself in programs that make an impact in her community, such as, teen pregnancy programs and Brooklyn's Perinatal Network—where she worked for over 12 years in the Bed-Stuy and Fort Greene communities. She collaborated with Medgar Evers College's School of Continuing Education and Fort Greene's Youth Coalition program to develop curricula and training programs for welfare recipients to become nurse's aides.

In 1987, Dorothy became Director of Nursing for Cumberland Diagnostic and Treatment Center. She and her staff were deeply involved in community and school based outreach programs. They provided health care and education to children and teens in the Beacon School Program in Fort Greene. In addition, Cumberland staff provided one of the first back to school campaigns to get children immunized. Dorothy and her staff also worked nights and weekends to provide health care to families in the Auburn Family Shelter, the Atlantic Avenue Men's Shelter and the Brooklyn

Emergency Assistance Unit at the Duffield Center.

Dorothy has worked with the Fort Greene Community in providing special outreach and health screening events for its senior citizens, day care centers and its middle and senior high schools. She has mentored students into various careers and continues to work with staff supporting them as their careers progress. Ms. Faustino is currently the Deputy Director for Ambulatory Care Nursing Services for the North Brooklyn Health Network. She was professionally involved in the Queens County Black Nurse's Association for over ten years.

Dorothy says she had the loving support of her husband for 34 years until his recent death and their daughters Nancy and Allison. Anyone who has worked with Dorothy knows her motto is "EACH ONE, REACH ONE, TEACH ONE".

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Faustino has lead a life dedicated to improving her community through her field of expertise, healthcare. Moreover, she has distinguished herself as a caring and committed person who brings a high sense of integrity to her life and work. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses solidarity with Israel in the fight against terrorism, and as introduced by my colleagues, House International Relations Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS.

Last week, Israel faced another series of terrorist against innocent civilians, many of them children and teenagers. An orchestrated attack on Saturday night in Jerusalem and two bus attacks in Haifa and near Afula in the north of Israel caused the deaths of 32 Israelis and injured more than 200. These attacks have focused the world's attention on the Palestinian leadership's failure and unwillingness to fight terrorism. As we have seen time and again since the launching of the September 2000 intifada, the Palestinian leadership continues to encourage violence through incitement, and through institutional cooperation among the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Additionally, the Palestinian leadership has shown a disturbing proclivity to release terrorists from jails and to allow them to operate freely in the territory under their control. These actions are direct violations of the agreements the Palestinians have signed with Israel and the United States.

H. Con. Res. 280 clearly outlines the steps PA Chairman Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian leadership must take—dismantle and destroy their terrorist infrastructure; arrest and prosecute the terrorists or turn them over to the Israeli government. If the Palestinians do not comply, then as provided under this bill, the President should suspend all relations with Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. The

U.S. relationship with the Palestinian leadership has been based on a commitment to renounce violence and terrorism, and to pursue a negotiated settlement with Israel. The violence carried out by suicide terrorists this past weekend comes less than 18 months after the generous compromises offered by Israel at July 2000 Camp David Summit. These compromises included a Palestinian state in all of Gaza and over 95 percent of the West bank, additional land exchanges from inside Israel and a capital in Jerusalem. The response from the Palestinian leadership has been 15 months of murder and terror.

I believe passage of this legislation is a critical step to show our nation's unity with Israeli government and the Israeli people. As a democratic nation, the government of Israel is entrusted with the responsibility to provide security for its citizens. This is nothing less than what Americans expect from their own government. Indeed, Article 51 of United Nations Charter guarantees the inherent right of all member states to self defense. The United States must stand steadfastly with the Israeli government in its fight against Palestinian terror, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in rising before you today to recognize one of the world's greatest and most admired entertainers—Tony Bennett.

World-renowned as an "individual of unequalled excellence," Tony Bennett has remained for over five decades, one of our leading male singers of traditional pop songs who has entertained all age groups with his magnificent voice and dynamic performances. Indeed, he is an American icon whose talents are timeless and who continues to be an inspiration to all generations.

It is said of Tony Bennett that he is a superb performer, a true legend of American music, and a national treasure. While all that may be true, Tony is all those things and so much more.

In addition to entertaining audiences through song, Tony Bennett is also an accomplished painter and author, as well as a devoted philanthropist. Throughout his career, he has participated in many humanitarian causes and concerns. He has raised funds for the American Cancer Society, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and the Hospice of Baltimore. He has worked with the Center for Handgun Control and has supported environmental issues through such organizations as Save the Rainforest and the Project for Walden Woods.

His charity concerts have also benefited many causes, namely the preservation of the Apollo Theater in my Congressional District of Harlem in New York City.

What many people may not know is that Tony Bennett served as a foot soldier in World War II, and was an active participant in the liberation of a concentration camp. In 1965, he participated in the March on Selma with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and refused to perform in South Africa during the era of apartheid.

Tony Bennett, who celebrated his 75th birthday in August of this year, is a lifelong New Yorker born in the Astoria section of Queens. He attended the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan, where he continued nurturing his two passions—singing and painting.

This year, Bennett founded the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in New York as a tribute to his friend and musical mentor.

Recently, friends gathered together to commemorate Tony's extraordinary and enduring career at the pinnacle of popular music, a career that took off shortly after Bob Hope discovered Bennett in a New York nightclub in 1949. That discovery has resulted in scores of albums, ten Grammy awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award, and induction this year (along with Frank Sinatra), into the Black Entertainment in Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Tony Bennett, an extraordinary entertainer, a true humanitarian, and a champion for all people. Legions of fans of all ages and musical tastes applaud his genius, and we can be assured that the legacy of Tony Bennett will live forever.

TRIBUTE TO LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lebanese American community, who celebrated the 58th anniversary of Lebanon's independence on November 30, 2001.

On November 22, 1943 Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea that human rights were global and that it was ready to be a full partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon played an integral part in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As one of the world's early cradles of civilization, Lebanon has long been held up as an example of prosperity and perseverance. In its recent history, Lebanon has suffered a great deal but to truly understand the spirit of the Lebanese people, one only need to look at the way in which they have rebuilt their nation. While much remains to be done, the nation's progress is an example from which we can all learn.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America with open arms and their contributions helped build a greater nation. This relationship is best exemplified by the following familiar words, first spoken by a proud Lebanese American: "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country?" Those are the words of Kahlil Gibran, a poet who frequently wove beauty and justice into his work and in the process touched the heart and meaning of America.

Today, I think we have reason to reflect on another of Gibran's contributions, one that

holds a great lesson for us all. "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own."

Since 1965, nearly 100,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. My home state of Michigan has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in the country and it has been actively involved in the life of our great state. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values not only with Michigan, but with the entire nation. The result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lebanon, those of Lebanese ancestry around the world and the Lebanese American community in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

IN HONOR OF INGRID S. MASON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ingrid S. Mason in recognition of her career as an educator and children's advocate.

Ingrid S. Mason's roots became solidly grounded by the legacy bestowed upon her by her maternal grandmother, Alice Crawford. Born in Costa Rica, Ingrid spent her formative years under the nurturing love and guidance of her "Tia" and grandmother. Her roots continued to be firmly set, when at the age of five she migrated to the United States to reunite with her mother Irene. It is from her grandmother, mother and aunts that Ingrid gained her most valuable gifts in life a legacy of faith, independence, determination, and commitment to excellence, a strong work ethic and a positive spirit. This legacy has provided her with the wings to soar.

As a youngster and young adult Ingrid excelled academically, earning a myriad of honors, citations, awards and scholarships. She graduated from New York University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ingrid's love of children naturally guided her to a profession in education. For the past sixteen years she has been a staunch advocate for children and committed educator, working in Community School District 19 in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood. She has served the parents and children as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. She is currently the assistant principal of P.S. 346 in Starrett City. She has earned a Master of Science in Bilingual Education and an Advanced Certificate in Education Administration, both from Brooklyn College. She is a member of many professional organizations including the Council of Supervisors and Administrators, the Association of Assistant Principals and the Association for School Curriculum and Development.

Ingrid's philosophy on education and working with children stems from her belief that all children possess inner greatness waiting to be awakened. She sees this not only as a challenge, but as a duty. Each day she strives to awaken that greatness by passing on to them the legacy given to her.