

A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA YOUNG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Barbara Young for her exceptional contributions to health care and education for the people of New York. For over 30 years, she has been contributing to the education and health care industry.

Mrs. Young received a Bachelors degree in Community Health from Jersey State College; received her Masters from Hunter College City University of New York; and acquired her Nursing Home Administrator's license from Hofstra University.

During her professional career, Ms. Young, moved up from Staff Nurse in Neonatal Intensive Care to Vice President of Nursing. Ms. Young, has gone out of her way to help people and be particularly supportive to young minority men whom she feels, need someone to stand up for them and be supportive. She has devoted most of her professional career to care of the elderly and takes pride in promoting and maintaining quality of life.

Ms. Young's contributions to the community include being a Cub Scout leader, Girl Scout Leader, teaching religious instruction to mentally challenged children, providing volunteer services at homeless shelters, and making visits to a home for battered women.

In addition to Mrs. Young's volunteer work, she is a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association and has been Chairperson of the Education Committee whose objective is to provide seminars and health education to health care professionals, and give scholarships to nursing students. She is Vice President of the Imani Reading Group, which started off with a group of professional women who wanted to know more about their African heritage. Currently, she is organizing the reading group to start a prison ministry at the Rikers Island Women's Prison.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Barbara Young for her hard work and dedication on behalf of the sick and underprivileged, and for her extraordinary contribution in the field of education and health care.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation with Messrs. TIERNEY, MCGOVERN, CAPUANO and MARKEY to allow the exclusion from gross income of stipends received by persons over the age of 60 for volunteer services performed under a qualified State program.

The Elder Services Corps in the State of Massachusetts was created in 1973. It is composed of individuals at least 60 years of age and allows volunteers to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly population of the Commonwealth. Individuals enroll for one year at a time, and are required to volunteer 18 hours per week or 72 hours per month, and receive

a stipend of \$130 a month. The program is 100 percent State funded.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why the modest income received for this volunteer service should be subject to tax, especially employment taxes. I hope Congress will act on this legislation this year, and provide an additional incentive for an expansion of this program in Massachusetts, and its adoption by other States.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND
OPENING OF THE BERKELEY
REPERTORY THEATRE'S NEW
HOME**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the March 12, 2001 Grand Opening of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's new 600-seat proscenium theater. The festivities will also include a performance of *The Oresteia*, running from March 13, 2001 until May 6, 2001, and an open house honoring the longstanding relationship between the theater and the larger community.

The Berkeley Repertory Theatre has a long history of excellence. It was founded in 1968 as the East Bay's first resident professional theater. In 1980 Berkeley Rep gathered enough public support to move from its converted storefront theater to its current location in downtown Berkeley. The Theater was awarded a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater in 1997. In October of 1998 the group announced its plans to construct a new 600-seat proscenium stage theater to complement the existing 401-seat thrust theater stage.

The second theater will enable the Berkeley Repertory Theatre to continue its more than thirty year tradition of providing the community with eclectic, imaginative, and challenging productions. The new theater will evoke the intimacy and vitality that is characteristic of the current space, but will also provide greater artistic flexibility for the future.

The opening will showcase the new theater, introduce the community to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's new home, and host a world premiere performance of *The Oresteia*. The theater will better serve the Repertory's ever-increasing 15,000 member audience. The new building was made possible in part by donations from the City of Berkeley and the Ask Jeeves Foundation.

The new Berkeley Repertory Theatre is the cornerstone of downtown Berkeley's emerging Arts District and has become a great source of civic pride for the community. I am proud to congratulate Berkeley Repertory Theatre as it opens its new theater and I look forward to the many years of arts enrichment it will provide to the City of Berkeley.

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. CRUZ BACA

HON. HILDA SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the proud contributions Mr. Cruz Baca and his decedents have made to the city of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca was born in Mexico in 1874 and first arrived in Baldwin Park in 1906. In 1909 he returned to Mexico to retrieve his wife and children from the threat of revolution and bring them to Baldwin Park. In the spring of 1910 the Baca family finally settled near Francisquito Avenue in Baldwin Park following a long journey on foot through Texas and parts of Arizona.

Mr. Baca was a prosperous farmer who harvested a variety of crops and raised cows to produce milk and cheese. Realizing a demand for the ingredients for tamales, Mr. Baca became the only supplier of those ingredients in the San Gabriel Valley. But Mr. Baca's legacy is not as a landowner or businessman, it is the humanity he demonstrated to his fellow man, neighbor, and community.

Mr. Baca always lent a helping hand to those in need. During the Great Depression Mr. Baca provided food for the poor, he would park his wagon full of produce at Morgan Park to help feed the community. He also provided transportation to those in need with his horse and wagon, taking people as far as San Gabriel to attend services at the San Gabriel Mission. His efforts to improve the community are many, such as plowing and landscaping the land to develop Morgan Park for free and helping to plow his neighbors land when they were experiencing difficulties. Mr. Baca is also known for his selfless acts of heroism, single-handedly saving a family from a burning home and pulling his neighbors car out of the San Gabriel Valley River with his horse and wagon during a heavy rainstorm.

Mr. Baca was a dedicated father, husband and citizen and his influence will be everlasting in the City of Baldwin Park. Mr. Baca's legacy continues also with the hundreds of decedents that continue to live, work, and raise families in the City of Baldwin Park.

H.R. 808, THE STEEL
REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2001**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001.

America's steel industry is in a near crisis state. Beginning in 1997, dumped and subsidized steel imports grew dramatically until they reached almost 40 percent of the U.S. steel market. Steel prices rapidly decreased; steel workers were laid off, steel companies filed for bankruptcy. As a result of the weakened steel industry, the level of imports deemed acceptable by the government increased, and recovery has been difficult.

I believe that this legislation is necessary to help revitalize the steel industry. It provides

import relief by imposing five year quotas on the importation of steel and iron ore products in the U.S. The quotas will return the import market share to the levels prior to 1997. This provision is very similar to H.R. 975, which passed the House with strong support in the previous Congress.

In addition, this legislation will augment the Steel Loan Guarantee Program, which provided guaranteed loans to qualified steel companies. Currently, steel companies are finding it almost impossible to raise capital through other sources, especially due to plummeting stock prices and decreasing demand. The Steel Revitalization Act will expand the program by authorizing \$10 billion rather than \$1 billion, guaranteeing 95 percent of the loan rather than 80 percent and extending the terms from five years to fifteen. With this expansion, more companies will be able to take advantage of this worthwhile program.

Mr. Speaker, in the Congressional District I represent, two of our steel companies are seriously distressed. Many of my constituents are at risk of losing their jobs. It is of the utmost importance that we in Congress work hard to keep America's steel industry vital. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 808.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 333) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. I have spent a great deal of time examining the public debate surrounding bankruptcy reform and looking for assurances that H.R. 333 will reduce the number of abusive bankruptcy filings by holding debtors responsible for repaying their debts.

Although bankruptcy filings continued to decrease this past year from the record 1.4 million consumer bankruptcy petitions filed in 1998, they still remain six percent higher than five years ago, when filings first passed the one million mark. Last year, the number of personal bankruptcy filings in Rhode Island decreased by 12 percent from the previous year, but that number is still too high, as the number of personal filings in the state has more than doubled in the last decade. Unfortunately, hardworking consumers shoulder much of the economic burden of these bankruptcies.

While there are many factors contributing to the increased number of bankruptcy filings, statistics have shown that a significant number of individuals are permitted to walk away from their debt by filing under Chapter 7 when they have the ability to repay most, if not all, of their debt. Our bankruptcy system should direct filers to the chapter that best matches their needs and allow them to pay off as much debt as possible.

H.R. 333 will help reestablish a degree of personal responsibility by utilizing a needs-

based test to identify debtors making over the median income who have an ability to repay at least a portion of their debts. However, this legislation is by no means perfect and it fails to hold credit card companies accountable for the credit they issue. An increasing number of individuals who have experienced events such as illness, job loss or a recent divorce and have no financial recourse other than bankruptcy are being overwhelmed with misleading and abusive marketing strategies of the credit industry. As a result, too many consumers are prone to predatory lending practices after filing for bankruptcy and are never truly granted a fresh start by the system.

It is for these reasons that I will support the amendment offered by my colleague from Texas, Ms. Jackson-Lee, and the motion to recommit offered by the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Conyers, during consideration of the bill. These provisions would strengthen the bill and address credit card company practices that have contributed to the increasing level of consumer debt and the rise in consumer bankruptcies. Specifically, the Jackson-Lee amendment seeks to modify the means test to allow more flexibility in determining a debtor's expenses, including health insurance premiums, other medical expenses, and the costs relating to the care of foster children, and extend the deadline for filing and confirmation of reorganization plans by small businesses. The motion to recommit would prohibit credit card companies from issuing credit to individuals under the age of 21 unless there is written parental consent or the individual can demonstrate an independent source to pay the debt.

Nonetheless, even if these modifications are not approved, I do intend to support the underlying bill because I believe Congress must do something to address the current state of abuse and overuse of our bankruptcy system. However, Congress should also continue to pursue common-sense reforms that will not only cut down on fraud within the system but also hold credit issuers accountable for their actions while protecting the vulnerable consumer. I would strongly urge the Senate to keep these arguments in mind as it continues to debate its version of the bankruptcy reform bill.

A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED L. BOYCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mildred L. Boyce for her contribution to the education of New York's children. For over 25 years Ms. Boyce has been a dedicated teacher and administrator.

Although Ms. Boyce was born in Manhattan she received all of her education in Brooklyn, attending P.S. 44, P.S. 181, J.H.S. 246, Erasmus Hall High School and Brooklyn College, where she received a B.A. degree, M.S. degree and a professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision.

Ms. Boyce began her career in education as a 6th grade teacher at P.S. 106, in 1965, where she later held the position of Master Teacher and Interim Acting Assistant Principal, before coming to Philippa Schuyler in 1977.

Currently, Ms. Boyce serves as the Principal of the Philippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented.

For her devotion, and hard work Ms. Boyce has been the recipient of many awards including the NAACP Educator's Award and the Black Professional Business Women's Educator Award.

In addition to her duties as an educator, Ms. Boyce is an active member of St. Laurence Catholic Church, serving as a Lector, and a member of the Baptismal team. She is also a member and advisor to the President of the Council for Supervisors and Administrators as well as an elected delegate from District 32. She sits on the executive board of District 32's supervisors.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mildred L. Boyce for her hard work and extraordinary contributions in the field of education.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT MAY

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedicated work of one of my constituents, Mr. Robert May of Old Town, Florida who has been awarded the Charles P. Ulmer award by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Ulmer award recognizes individuals who have worked to honor the memory of those who died serving their country. Robert May has done that and more. He currently serves as a leader within the organization and is actively involved in his community. I commend Robert May for his dedication and commitment to preserving the rich heritage of the South.

The Charles P. Ulmer Award was named for a man who bravely fought in many famous battles during the Civil War, including the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Perryville, and Murfreesboro. As it's told, on November 25, 1863, during the battle of Missionary Ridge, Corporal Charles P. Ulmer put honor before fear when he picked up the flag from a fallen soldier and charged forward. He served his country proudly as he, too, fell answering the call of duty.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans' "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award" is awarded to that person who exemplifies the dedication and duty to country that Mr. Ulmer had shown so long ago, and Robert May is that person.

Mr. Speaker, I join Robert May's family and friends in congratulating him on receiving the "Charles Ulmer Compatriot of the Year Award."

THE CLEAN DIAMONDS ACT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Clean Diamonds Act. This bill aims to eliminate the trade in diamonds that