

CONGRATULATIONS, KID WITNESS
NEWS AWARD WINNERS**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in paying special tribute to a very talented group of students at the Gordon Parks Academy, located in my Congressional district in East Orange, New Jersey. On May 15th, they will be honored at the 11th annual Panasonic Kid Witness News Vision Awards Ceremony, to be held in our own Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey.

The Gordon Parks Academy, K-8, is this year's special Technical Vision Award winner for producing a video with the best special effects. This winning video, "Reading: Destination Unlimited", used especially creative and innovative special effects to create its message that books can transport the mind and the imagination. Two students wander into their school's book fair looking for a recommendation. They are invited by the mysterious librarian to take a trip across the United States. To the tune of Nat King Cole's "Route 66," the students experience a fun-filled cross-country odyssey. The special effects reinforce the point that reading a good book can be as vivid as living what you are reading. Mrs. Sharman Howe Nittoli, the TV Production Teacher and KWN coordinator, should be commended for her outstanding work with the very talented young people who produced this video. Kid Witness News is a hands-on video education program in more than 200 primarily inner-city schools in 120 U.S. cities. Using Panasonic-supplied equipment to create video projects, young people are encouraged to develop their creative, communication and technical skills through video production. Annual awards are presented to student teams in various categories, including Best Video, Documentary, Local Hero, Multiculturalism and News at a special program held in New Jersey each spring. It is apparent that The Gordon Parks Academy is proud to be a participant in Panasonic's KWN student news program. I know Ms. Joyce F. Howard, the school's principal, clearly recognizes the importance for young people of diverse backgrounds to seek new experiences and examine themselves in different roles as they prepare for their own future. I truly am proud to say congratulations to her, to the program advisors, and especially to the students of Gordon Parks Academy for a job well done. As a former teacher and lifelong advocate of youth, I am pleased to support Panasonic's Kid Witness News program. I commend Don Iwatani, Panasonic's Chairman and CEO of North American operations, for his support and leadership of such a commendable program. The excitement surrounding this program is that we actually will see "The World Through Their Eyes" in years to come as the participants become the future newsmakers of tomorrow. The 2001 New Vision Awards are a testament to the great future of today's youth as they prepare for the 21st Century. I am proud that Panasonic is in New Jersey and proud of its efforts to make a difference in the lives of children both in New Jersey and across the country.

THE 42ND ANNUAL CASTROVILLE
ARTICHOKE FESTIVAL**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 42nd Annual Castroville Artichoke Festival, taking place May 19th and 20th. While quite unknown to many people outside of my district in California, Castroville is the self-declared "Artichoke Capital of the World," and this delicious thistle is one of the largest crops in northern Monterey County.

The Artichoke Festival is an annual two-day event that celebrates the culture of the Salinas Valley, specifically the growing, harvesting and many uses of the artichoke itself. Every year new events are planned, but the most popular ones include a classic car show, a parade, and, of course, the food. This year will surely be more exciting, with the addition of a 10K/ half marathon race and an artichoke recipe contest.

The artichoke first came to central California in 1921, when four families with close ties to Italy decided to grow the thistle that was so popular in Europe right in Castroville. With a climate that is perfect for this crop, the artichoke has become a rich part of the heritage and culture of our area.

Because of this importance in the life and economy of my district, and because it is such a delicious treat for anyone familiar with this thistle, I am pleased to be able to honor the 42nd Annual Castroville Artichoke Festival.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE LOU FISHER

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Jimmie Lou Fisher in the Congress for her invaluable contributions and service to our state and nation.

I have known Jimmie Lou for years, and I can testify from experience to her public service and the example she has set for others.

Jimmie Lou has served longer than any other state treasurer in Arkansas history. As one of the first female office holders in our state, she has been a positive role-model and trailblazer for young women. Most importantly, she executes her responsibilities effectively, and combines her obvious competence with a passion for politics. This explains why the citizens of Arkansas have elected her so many times, and why she has inspired so many others to become involved in our political system.

Clearly Jimmie Lou has mastered her job, and has shown creativity and ingenuity in the process. In 1990 she was named the president of the National Association of State Treasurers. Recently she was the only state treasurer in the nation to employ a state-of-the-art investment and general ledger system, which has cut paperwork and processing in half, and dramatically reduced maintenance costs.

Her many awards and nominations indicate the degree to which she has touched the lives

of people in communities large and small. President Bill Clinton was lucky to have her as a district coordinator when he first ran for governor; the Democratic party was lucky to have her in all of the capacities she accepted in its behalf; the citizens of Arkansas were lucky to have her through almost eighteen years of public service; and the women in our state have been lucky to have her as a role model and inspiration.

Jimmie Lou decided to retire from politics this year, which came as a surprise to many people in our state. We all wish she could have served forever. On behalf of the citizens of the state of Arkansas and this nation, with great love and respect, I thank her for everything she has done to improve the lives of others. I am very proud to call her my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL
BUSINESS LIABILITY PROTECTION
ACT**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Small Business Liability Protection Act. This bill, which has cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, represents the successful negotiations of Republicans and Democrats on both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill is long overdue and will provide liability protection to small businesses that disposed of very small amounts of waste or ordinary garbage and shelter small businesses from serious financial hardship by offering those affected businesses expedited settlements. It does not save any businesses from Superfund liability if their waste stream caused serious environmental harm. This bill provides an appropriate helping hand while keeping the onus on all businesses to be responsible stewards of our environment. I would urge all members of this House to support this bill, without amendment.

CELEBRATING NILOUS MCKINLEY
AVERY**HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend and celebrate the life and Golden Anniversary Celebration for Dr. Nilous McKinley Avery. Dr. Avery has pastored Hill Street Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina for fifty (50) years. It has been my privilege to be in his church many times as he has held the summer "Earning by Learning" reading program in his church which I have sponsored for the past seven years.

Dr. Avery graduated from Garner High School in Garner, North Carolina, and then went on to complete his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, and Master of Divinity at Shaw University in Raleigh. He pursued a Doctor of Theology Degree (THD) in Psychology and Pastoral Counseling from the Boston University of School of Theology in

Boston, Massachusetts and was recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Shaw University.

As a student Dr. Avery served as pastor of Pilot Baptist Church in Pilot, North Carolina; New Liberty Baptist Church in Louisburg, North Carolina; Macedonia Baptist Church in Wake Forest, North Carolina; and Malabys Crossroads Baptist Church in Knightdale, North Carolina. In 1951 he came to Asheville to pastor Hill Street Baptist Church, and fifty years later he is still the pastor.

Since his arrival in Asheville, Dr. Avery has become an outstanding leader in the religious community. In 1956 he became the first African American to be elected president of the Interracial Ministerial Association of Asheville and Buncombe County. In addition, he has served in a leadership capacity in many organizations in the area as well as state-wide organizations.

Dr. Avery is married to the former Christine Watson who is a retired teacher from the Asheville City Schools System. They have four children, all college graduates: Nilous M. Avery, II pastors Mount Zion Baptist Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. Kryste' N. Moore practices dentistry in Newark, New Jersey. CiCi Morton is the Supervisor for Community in Schools in Asheville, North Carolina. Nian Avery is a licensed embalmer and funeral director at Hart Funeral Service in Asheville, North Carolina. The Averys have eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in saluting Dr. Avery's first fifty years of service to his Lord, his church and our community.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of China will be completing his first year of service as Taiwan's head of state this May 20, and I would like to congratulate him and comment on a few of Taiwan's achievements.

First, the Republic of China on Taiwan is a major trading partner of the United States and has maintained friendly ties and relations with us for the last ninety years. Second, over recent decades, Taiwan has become a successful model of political reform. Fifty years ago, Taiwan was a closed and authoritarian society with neither freedom of speech nor freedom of assembly. Taiwan did not have elections. Today, Taiwan has become a true democracy. It is the home to more than 90 political parties and virtually every political office in Taiwan is hotly contested through free and fair elections. Third, Taiwan subscribes to the private enterprise system. Taiwan's economy is vibrant and it offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia, including universal education and free medical care of people of all ages in Taiwan. Fourth, in terms of its trading relations with us, Taiwan represents our seventh largest export market, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. Fifth, in addition to trade relations, more than 30,000 Tai-

wan students are studying at U.S. colleges and universities. Sixth, the U.S. is the number one destination for most of Taiwan's travelers. Seventh, and last but not least, Taiwan and the U.S. share many values in common such as attachment to human rights, freedom and democracy.

Congratulations to Taiwan. I would also like to extend my sincerest welcome to President Chen during his visit to America. He will be stopping in New York on his way to Central America later this month. His stay in New York will be brief, but I hope he enjoys his stay and I wish him success during his official visit in Central America.

REVEREND FELIX B. DUCKWORTH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Reverend Felix B. Duckworth in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Reverend Duckworth was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1964, and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He has been married to his lovely wife for 14 years, and he has two beautiful daughters who are 13 and 14 years of age.

His is a life of devotion to the church, and he has spent 20 years in the ministry winning souls for Christ. For ten of those twenty years Reverend Duckworth has been pastor of a church. He served seven of the ten years as Pastor of the Star of Zion Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. While at the Star of Zion, he was as a member of the City Revitalization/Economic Development Committee. It was here that he committed himself to improving socially and economically distressed areas. Through his work on that board, Reverend Duckworth helped to build and develop the infrastructure for the city of Robstown, Texas, a suburb of Corpus Christi.

After leaving the Star of Zion, he moved to Forrest City, Arkansas, where he assumed the stewardship of Salem M.B. Church. At Salem, he continued his life's work by providing the vision to construct the Salem M.B. Church Family Life Center. Reverend Duckworth used his experience in Corpus Christi to give Forrest City a resource that will provide the community with much-needed intervention and prevention programs. The Salem M.B. Church Family Life Center will serve as a community center that will offer counseling, tutoring and wellness services. The facility will have a computer learning center that is the result of a collaborative effort of state and federal agencies. The Center's primary focus is promoting the importance of getting a good education and addressing the social problems that are ever-present in distressed communities. Reverend Duckworth has written several papers conveying his thoughts on leadership and stewardship. Recently he completed a Leadership Manual addressing church leadership philosophies that will probably be published in late 2001.

In addition to his main responsibilities with the church, Reverend Duckworth somehow has found time to be Moderator of the North Arkansas Baptist District Association, which

oversees 12 churches; President of the St. Francis County (Arkansas) Ministerial Alliance; a member of the Community Relations Board at Forrest City Federal Prison; Chaplain of the Baptist Memorial Health Care Center in St. Francis County; a member of the St. Francis County TEA Coalition Board; and a member of the St. Francis County NAACP.

I am proud to recognize Reverend Duckworth for everything he has done to help the residents of the communities that have been lucky enough to count him as a member, and I want to express my appreciation on behalf of those people, and on behalf of the citizens of this nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW- ARK YMWCA ON 120 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring an institution which is close to my heart and which has inspired countless young men and women over its 120 years of service, the YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity.

As friends and supporters of the Newark Y gather for the 120th anniversary celebration, we reflect on the unique history of the organization as it has worked to serve fellow citizens, young and old, men and women, families and singles, of all races and religions. The Newark Y was the first major Y in the nation to have an African American Executive Director, Mr. Robert Wilson. In the early 1950s, when both the YMCA and the YWCA were conducting a capital campaign to raise funds for a new building, it was decided that the two would merge, creating the YMWCA. The Newark Y has been in the forefront of international programs, with the diligent global work of people like Woody and Connie English putting Newark on the map.

As a school teacher in the 1950s, I encouraged students on the athletic team I was coaching at the then Southside High School, called Malcolm X. Shabazz High School today, to join in the storefront Y at 52 Jones Street. That first group formed the Omega Phi Epsilon High School Club, and within a few years we had over 40 clubs. The TransCity Teen Program was recognized as the most active in the country. Our efforts at the Y resulted in thousands of youngsters being mentored and placed in colleges throughout the northeast and the rest of the nation. Volunteers would drive them to college and help them settle in to their freshman dormitories. Participating in regional, national and international programs in Europe, South America and Africa, many of the Y youngsters of yesterday have become outstanding leaders of today in all fields: education, law, government, medicine, and the corporate world. The YMWCA is committed to developing the spirit, mind and body of the individual; to creating a sense of common social purpose in the community; and to promoting basic, wholesome values for living. The YMWCA demonstrates those commitments through programs and services which offer opportunities to develop youth leadership skills,