

Sanson, Dale Dawson, Robley Levy, and Ellen Pirie. We all owe much to Alice.

Alice not only supported politicians, she played the game too, and she played it well—from the early 60's as an activist at Community Action Board hearings, to the days when she was an energetic delegate at both state and national conventions. She delighted in these opportunities. Alice had an unrelenting passion for making a difference. When she saw the opportunity to act, she did not let it pass, and her mark on our community has been profound.

In addition to all of Alice's accomplishments, it is just as important to remember her enthusiasm for life, her enjoyment in the great pleasures of our world—good food, good drink, good conversation, and the company of good friends. Alice loved elegant and vivid clothes, jewelry, silver, ivory and gold, and a good martini. I have always enjoyed her hospitality, and was often transported by vibrant tales of her travels—to New York and Guam, Cairo and Portugal. With Manuel, Leonard, Patricia, and Angelina, I am proud to honor the warmth, love, and courage personified in Alice.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF LADY BIRD JOHNSON

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the 90th birthday of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. Lady Bird Johnson has made many contributions to this country.

One of the most visible is her dedication to the preservation of the environment, especially her efforts to beautify our Nation's highways with a legacy of wildflowers.

In 1982, Mrs. Johnson founded the National Wildflower Research Center, which later was renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in Austin, Texas. The center is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of native plants in natural and planned landscapes.

My congressional district includes the Hill Country of Texas, which encompasses Stonewall, Texas, the home of Mrs. Johnson. Each year with spring's arrival, the Hill Country's fields, hillsides and riverbanks shed their drab winter austerity for the vibrant hues of wildflowers.

Lady Bird Johnson was the recipient of the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom and, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan awarded her the Congressional Gold Medal.

I commend Lady Bird Johnson's efforts to preserve the landscape of this country and we send her best wishes on her 90th birthday.

A WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO
MATTIEBELLE WOODS ON HER
HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 26, 2002 the Milwaukee Community will join together to celebrate Ms. Mattie Belle Woods' 100th birthday and honor her for over 50 years of journalistic excellence serving the Milwaukee community.

Mattie Belle Woods was born and raised in Milwaukee and has spent more than 50 years as a newspaper columnist and community activist. Ms. Woods has served as an icon for an array of people across socioeconomic lines and professions with a lifetime commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for citizens in the Milwaukee community. Her distinguished professional career has taken her to the top of her craft with assignments to the Milwaukee Globe, The Chicago Defender, The Milwaukee Star, Jet Magazine and currently the Milwaukee Courier. She still remains active in the community and has been gainfully employed for almost a century. Currently Mattie Belle has a weekly column in the Milwaukee Courier newspaper, 'Mattie Belle's Party Line.'

Legendary is her community involvement where she has played an active role in the March of Dimes, The United Way, The NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, and numerous other endeavors including the political arena. Ms. Woods was the Founder and Director of Miss Black Teen-Wisconsin, Miss Bronze Milwaukee and Ten Best Dressed Black Women in Wisconsin.

Numerous awards and recognitions she has received which include: Black Female Pioneer Award, Quality of Life Award, Status of Women Service Award, African-American Ancestry Award, Outstanding Woman in Wisconsin Journalism, and NAACP Presidential Award.

So it is with great pride that I congratulate Mattie Belle Woods, not only for her 50 years of community public relations and social affairs, but also for a lifetime of service to the Milwaukee community, and on her 100th birthday celebration. Happy Birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, because of health reasons I was absent for rollcall votes 453–463. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 453—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 454—"No"; Rollcall No. 455—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 456—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 457—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 458—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 459—"No"; Rollcall No. 460—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 461—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 462—"Yes"; and Rollcall No. 463—Yes.

OUR LADY OF PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4757, the "Our Lady of Peace Act"—sensible and much-needed gun safety legislation. I thank my colleague, Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, for bringing this bill to our attention. In facilitating a more accurate and complete database of people who are ineligible to purchase firearms, the Our Lady of Peace Act would bring greater safety and security to our streets and into our homes.

This bill would require that a greater number of federal and state records that are pertinent to determining firearms transfer and possession eligibility be made accessible through the National Criminal Instant Background Check System (NICS). It is incumbent that we do all we can to ensure that such a database is as thorough as possible in order to prevent criminals from buying guns.

We seem to be increasingly reminded of the fear and tragedy that guns can help cause in our society. As lawmakers, we must do all we can to ensure that assault weapons and handguns are kept off the street and that only law-abiding citizens have access to firearms for hunting and sport. This bill is a step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

KEEPING CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider H.R. 5601, the "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002" which reauthorizes and improves the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Adoption Opportunities program, and the Abandoned Infants Act.

While I recognize and am disappointed that we were not able to come to agreement on all issues of the original bill, H.R. 3839, the bill before us shows our effort and commitment to ensure that programs aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect continue. I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides for their hard work and efforts in developing this mutual compromise in the bill before us for consideration today.

I especially want to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. BOEHNER, for his support of this bill, and Mr. GREENWOOD for his diligence in ensuring that infants born addicted to alcohol or drugs receive necessary services.

I want to also thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. ROEMER, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. MILLER, for their cooperation in working towards this alternative bill before us today.

This bill provides for the continued provision of important federal resources for identifying and addressing the issues of child abuse and

neglect, and for supporting effective methods of prevention and treatment.

It also continues local projects with demonstrated value in eliminating barriers to permanent adoption and addressing the circumstances that often lead to child abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, this bill emphasizes the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it occurs. It promotes partnerships between child protective services and private and community-based organizations, including education, and health systems to ensure that services and linkages are more effectively provided.

The bill retains language that appropriately addresses a growing concern over parents being falsely accused of child abuse and neglect and the aggressiveness of social workers in their child abuse investigations. It retains language to increase public education opportunities to strengthen the public's understanding of the child protection system and appropriate reporting of suspected incidents of child maltreatment.

The agreement continues to foster cooperation between parents and child protective service workers by requiring caseworkers to inform parents of the allegations made against them, and improves the training opportunities and requirements for child protective services personnel regarding the extent and limits of their legal authority and the legal rights of parents and legal guardians.

It also ensures the safety of foster and adoptive children by requiring states to conduct criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household.

Lastly, this bill expands adoption opportunities to provide for services for infants and young children who are disabled or born with life-threatening conditions, and requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the annual number of infants and young children abandoned each year.

I again want to thank my colleagues for their work on this bill and urge them to join me in support of this effort to improve the prevention and treatment of child abuse by supporting H.R. 5601, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2002.

TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL BROOKS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and extraordinary law enforcement official, Israel Brooks, Jr., as he retires as the United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina.

This Newberry County native started out his career serving his country in the United States Marine Corps. In this capacity he served a tour at the National Security Agency in the greater Washington area, and obtained a top-secret crypto clearance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This fueled his interest in pursuing a professional law enforcement career.

After leaving the Corps, Israel joined the South Carolina Highway Patrol as a Patrolman

in Beaufort County. This was particularly significant because he broke the color barrier in that organization. His enthusiasm and leadership led to a steady succession of promotions, ultimately culminating in his attaining the rank of Major, a position in which he assumed the administrative duties for the entire agency.

Because of his exemplary service during his 27 years with the South Carolina Highway Patrol, my friend and colleague, Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS, nominated Israel as President Clinton's United States Marshal in South Carolina. He has served in this capacity with distinction since March 1994, even earning his agency the 1995 "District of the Year" award from the United States Marshals Service.

Israel Brooks' career has been as distinguished as historic. He has received numerous awards for his achievements, and shares his message of success with young people of all ages. As he retires as United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina, I commend him for his dedicated service and the example he has set for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, Israel Brooks Jr.'s contributions to South Carolina and the Nation are significant and deserving of high praise and I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring him for the example he sets for all of us. I wish him continued success and Godspeed!

EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5598, The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002.

Let me first thank Chairman CASTLE and Congressman KILDEE for their outstanding work on this bill. Both members have championed the need for quality education research and this legislation is a reflection of their leadership on this issue.

H.R. 5598 complements the bipartisan effort started with the No Child Left Behind Act. In that landmark reform measure enacted this year, states and schools districts will now be held accountable for providing a quality education to all children. The availability of scientifically based research that demonstrates what works and what doesn't work will be critical in this effort and H.R. 5598 establishes the framework to make this happen.

H.R. 5598 brings research directly into the classroom where it is needed the most. Through a system of regional technical assistance, school districts will be able to receive support tailored to their needs.

The bill also establishes 8 research centers to focus on long term research in such critical issues as teacher quality, early childhood education, and assessments and standards. The research conducted by these centers will help to inform the efforts of educators all over the country.

I am proud that this bill will continue to support the efforts in my State of: West Ed in San Francisco, CRESST at UCLA, and CREDE at UC Santa Cruz. All of these programs offer top-notch work that is of direct benefit to our entire educational system.

Perhaps most important this legislation authorizes a new level of investment in education research to match the demand for quality science on what works to improve education.

Again, I commend the work of my colleagues Congressman CASTLE and KILDEE and urge support of this bill.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th Anniversary of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month of reflection evolved from the Day of Unity, which was created in 1981 to connect battered women's advocates from across the nation who shared the common goal of ending violence and abuse. The Day of Unity developed into a week of local, state and national advocacy and in October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed.

Domestic violence is a serious problem in communities throughout the United States. While physical abuse is the most recognized form of domestic violence, in many cases the abuse is often emotional, verbal, mental, sexual or economic. Domestic violence affects families in every community, crossing all races, social and economic backgrounds, cultures, religions, and relationships.

According to the 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey, approximately 700,000 incidents of violence between partners were reported that year with thousands more cases going unreported. Every person deserves the right to live without fear. Children who witness family violence may be its most helpless victims, even if they are not attacked themselves.

It is crucial to raise awareness among teachers, police officers, clergy, and others in the community who can recognize the warning signs of domestic abuse. Historically, domestic violence has been considered a private issue, allowing thousands of abusers to carry out their crimes unnoticed. No one in an abusive situation should feel isolated or judged. With awareness and education, we can learn how to help our friends or loved ones in need and ensure they have the support they need to end the violent behavior in their homes.

Many Federal, State, and local programs addressing the domestic violence problem have achieved great success, bringing greater safety to families. Community leaders, police, judges, advocates, healthcare workers, and concerned citizens are joining together to develop innovative solutions to this serious problem. Community-based organizations in my district, such as the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Casa Myrna Vasquez, The Elizabeth Stone House, Finex House, Harbor Me, Jane Doe Inc., Renewal House, Respond, Inc., and the Transition House have been helping individuals win the battle against domestic violence for many years, and their dedication should be applauded.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge all Americans to commit themselves to eliminating domestic violence and