

to extend to her my congratulations on her retirement and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRESS BEARS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE SOLVENCY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in expressing my concern about the Administration's budget and how it jeopardizes the Social Security Trust Fund.

I would like to begin by reminding my friends that within the last year, the overall cumulative surplus has shrunk from \$5.6 trillion to about \$1.6 trillion; this is a difference of approximately \$4 trillion in one year. Also last month, the Administration expressed the need for legislation that would raise the statutory debt ceiling in order to prevent a national default. Add the proposal to raid the Social Security Trust Fund surplus into this mix, and we have got a situation that the Democrats have been warning about and objecting to for the last year.

Mr. Speaker, the war on terrorism and homeland security are very important, but so is the economic well being of this country. We will support the Administration in the war on terrorism, but we will oppose any legislation that disregards the economic well-being and future prosperity of our citizens. National security and homeland security can be achieved without penalizing, Social Security and Medicare.

According to a Social Security primer published in September 2001 by the Congressional Budget Office, over the next three decades, the number of people over 65 years of age will rise by 90 percent, whereas the number of people below 65 years of age will rise by only 15 percent. This is a major demographic shift that will stretch the Social Security program to its fullest.

In his budget for FY 2003, the President is seeking more than \$2 trillion in spending. This implies that for the rest of his term, the government will have to consistently dip into the Social Security Trust Fund surplus to fund its day to day operations. All this, despite the promises made by the Administration last year to leave the Social Security surplus untouched. It was in February 2001, in his address to the joint session of Congress, that the President stated that his budget will protect all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus. Other Republicans echoed the same promise. A promise that they are trying to break as we speak. With these facts blatantly staring us in the face, we should be ensuring Social Security benefits for the public and not dissolving them.

It is true that the American citizens are concerned about national and homeland security. But, they are also concerned about their Social Security and Medicare benefits. We cannot and should not accomplish one at the expense of the other. It is time to keep the promises we made to the American public and ensure that the Social Security surplus is intact for the benefit of the current and future workforce.

HONORING THE NEW FAITH CHURCH AND PASTOR T.R. WILLIAMS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the New Faith Church located at 4315 West Fuqua Street, Houston, Texas, and the Reverend Theodore Roosevelt (T.R.) Williams, Sr., celebrating 25 years of service to the Houston community.

The New Faith Church was organized on February 27, 1977, as the New Faith Missionary Baptist Church. Under the leadership of its original and current pastor, the Reverend T.R. Williams Sr., and an initial body of fifty-two members, adopted the church motto which came from Nehemiah 4:6, . . . "for the people had a mind to work." Beginning in March 1977, services were held in Magnolia Lodge Masonic Hall at 2792 McGowen, and less than one year later on January 15, 1978, Pastor Williams and a membership of 142 entered New Faith's present church home on Fuqua.

From its inception, New Faith's priorities have been in accord with God's directives, and members served the church through participation in Bible Study, Deacons, Brotherhood, Junior and Senior Missions, Junior and Senior Usher Board, Adult, Youth and Sunshine Choir, and Boy and Girl Scouting programs. New Faith also has a tape ministry where quality cassette recordings of all worship services and special programs are made available at nominal cost. In addition, they have a premarital course to assist engaged couples in building a life together on a spiritual foundation and a leadership course to prepare men as spiritual leaders both at home and at church.

Under the leadership of Reverend Williams, the congregation has grown to more than 1,600 members with facilities on more than ten acres of property. Reverend Williams is assisted by Reverend Drew E. Marshall, Assistant Pastor; and the Minister of Music, Reverend Ronald J. Materre; Minister of Prison Care, Reverend Christopher Lumpkin; Minister of Pastoral Care, Reverend Rosetta Whitfield; Minister of Christian Education, Reverend Lekesha Barnett; Minister of Youth and Young Adults, Reverend Howard Earle; and Minister of Children, Sheryl Williams Edmonson. Additionally, a number of dedicated and talented individuals, both paid staff and volunteers, support the broader ministries and the demands of the church family through their day to day commitment and active involvement in church operations.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pastor Williams on his 25 years of service to the New Faith Church and to all the members of New Faith Church as they look back on 25 years of service to their community. I wish them continued success as they build on the strong sense of community they have established in the city of Houston.

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the future of Social Security.

Social Security is the basis of the American worker's retirement. Given the essential role it plays for every generation, regardless of gender, race, or socioeconomic status, I believe all my colleagues join me in support of this program.

Unfortunately, that is where our common ground ends.

We all know Social Security is in danger, and we all know something must be done. We just disagree as to how we can accomplish this difficult—yet necessary—task.

Each year, more Americans retire and begin collection of Social Security, but not enough people are joining the workforce to supplement the depleting funds. We must find a way to finance the Social Security Trust Fund without cutting guaranteed benefits.

I firmly believe investment is a critical part of the American worker's future, but I don't believe the government can promote investment at the expense of current retirees. Today, as my generation approaches retirement age, and we plan our finances for the future, I count on receiving Social Security benefits.

I don't recommend the American public rely solely on Social Security for their retirement. I want every generation to think constructively about their retirement by saving and investing money outside of Social Security. Since I want my constituents to retire in comfort, I want to make sure their money is secure. That is why I support pension reform legislation, why I believe each and every American worker should be actively involved in their finances, and why I know Social Security must be saved—not replaced by an alternative and faulty solution.

There is nothing to debate—if Congress doesn't do something to strengthen and finance Social Security, the trust fund will run out in 2038. My colleagues and I are good at waiting until the last minute to solve a problem . . . but this isn't one with which we should play political games.

THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION EDUCATION ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my Senate colleague PATTY MURRAY, The Emergency Contraception Education Act. This bipartisan legislation will help educate women and health care providers across the nation about this important method of contraception. EC has often been called "the nation's best kept secret" because so few women in this country know that, in emergency situations, something is available that can prevent pregnancy after sexual intercourse.

It is estimated that almost 90 percent of women aged 18–44 have either never heard

of emergency contraception, or don't know the key facts critical to the use of emergency contraception. Only one percent of women aged 18–44 have used emergency contraception. Were information about this important contraceptive choice readily available, the incidence of abortion could be drastically reduced. Our legislation is an attempt to get this information to precisely the women and health care professionals who need it.

One of the reasons this bill is so necessary is because there is so much confusion surrounding emergency contraception. EC is not abortion; it is not RU-486; it is contraception. Regardless of one's position on abortion, we should all be able to support emergency contraception. EC will reduce unintended pregnancies, and therefore reduce abortions.

Proof of the effectiveness of EC's ability to reduce unwanted pregnancies is found in Senator MURRAY'S home state of Washington, where emergency contraception is available without a prescription at pharmacies. In Washington State, pharmacy access to emergency contraception has helped produce the largest declines in adolescent pregnancy and in abortion rates in the last 20 years.

This legislation has been endorsed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). I hope that my colleagues in both the House and Senate will join Senator MURRAY and me, as well as the health professionals of ACOG, in championing this important reproductive health option for women across the country.

TRIBUTE TO LAVINIA M.C.
HARTFIELD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Mrs. Lavinia M.C. Hartfield upon her retirement from the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons and Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Hartfield will be honored at the National Midwest District Convention to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 9.

For the past 51 years Mrs. Hartfield has faithfully served this organization in a wide variety of positions. As one of the original founding members of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons Mrs. Hartfield has remained a dynamic force in moving the organization forward. She is the first national district Grand Matron for the National Midwest District. The district consists of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. She serves on the First Supreme Board of Directors, the Corporate Secretary, the Grand Matron of the Edith Sampson Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star for the State of Michigan for the past four years and Secretary of the Exalted Degree Department of the organization. She was elected Supreme Recording Secretary at the first International Masons and Order of the

Eastern Star Supreme Convention in Canton, Ohio and is still serving in that position.

Lavinia Hartfield has carried the principles of the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons of charity, benevolence and education into other areas of her life. As a member of the NAACP, The Urban League, and the Greater Flint Council of Churches she has worked to bring charitable service to everyone she meets. Honored by her peers, she was honored in 1975 by the Zeta Phi Beta Fraternal Sorority as the "Zeta Woman of the Year."

Rooted in the Bible and Christian doctrine, Mrs. Hartfield has returned her God-given musical talent to the Lord's service at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Since her early childhood, Lavinia has provided musical inspiration to the congregation. Working tirelessly as the choir director, music coordinator, and gospel soloist she is presently carrying on the Lord's work as the assistant choir director.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mrs. Lavinia Hartfield as she retires from active service with the International Free and Accepted Modern Masons and Order of the Eastern Star. Along with her husband of 47 years, Dr. Turner S. Hartfield, Lavinia Hartfield has served God, her community, her church and her family with zeal, compassion, and courage.