

years of waiting did the government decide their application contained errors and must be resubmitted. In addition, the church is listed as a branch of the Nehemiah Protestant Church, which is registered.

Many other religious communities are also concerned. It is feared the Ashkenzai Jewish community will not be successful in registering, because the State Committee is favoring a separate Jewish group. The liquidation suit brought by Chairman Aliev against the Love Baptist Church in the Narimanov district court continues to drag on. Liquidating the church due to alleged statements by its pastor is a disproportionate penalty and contravenes OSCE commitments. Illegal closures of churches by local officials, as in the case of the Gyanja Adventist Church on February 24, 2002, have not been halted by the State Committee. The closure of mosques under the pretext of state security is also a concern, as the government could ban unpopular groups, despite no proof of illegal activity.

The Helsinki Final Act commits that "the participating States will recognize and respect the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience." Mr. Speaker, I urge President Aliyev to ensure that the re-registration process is accomplished in accordance with Azerbaijan's OSCE commitments. In light of statements by Chairman Aliev, it is apparent the State Committee is perverting the re-registration process to arbitrarily deny legal registration to selected religious communities. The government must take the necessary steps to protect the right of individuals to profess and practice their faith by registering religious organizations, in keeping with Azerbaijan's commitments as a participating OSCE State.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am greatly alarmed by the re-registration campaign in Azerbaijan. This being the third time in a decade the government has required registration, it would seem Azerbaijan will continually "sift" minority religious groups until all are made illegal. Therefore, it is my hope that the Azeri Government will choose to honor its OSCE commitments and allow religious communities to register without harassment or bureaucratic roadblocks. Members of Congress will be watching to see if groups highlighted in this statement are harassed because of their mention.

A TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE EUROPE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jacqueline Europe for her dedication to her community.

Jacqueline founded the "Reach for the Stars" Child Development Center, a Christian centered day school approximately five years ago. Her motto is "every child is born with gifts and talents, and is capable of learning and becoming scholastically gifted." Her vision is to expand the facility to include pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade, as well as continued service of the nursery school to accom-

modate the needs of her community. Jacqueline also co-founded the "Childcare Providers Business Coalition Inc." whose forum is to make daycare providers a strong united political force. The agenda for the coalition is to effectuate positive changes in the childcare profession.

She is also a very active member of the Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, as a choir member, spiritual counselor and teacher for the Saturday Math and Reading program. She has been recognized as a "2001 Visionary" and as a "2001 Woman History Maker."

Mr. Speaker, Jacqueline Europe is devoted to serving her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me honoring this truly remarkable woman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, regarding Roll Call votes on yesterday, March 19, 2002:

On Roll Call 65, I would have voted YEA on Approving the Journal.

On Roll Call 66, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 368, commending the great work that the Pentagon Renovation Program and its contractors have completed thus far, in reconstructing the portion of the Pentagon that was destroyed by the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

On Roll Call 67, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2509, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Amendments Act.

On Roll Call 68, I would have voted YEA on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2804, regarding the James R. Browning United States Courthouse.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. HENRIETTA SCOTT FULLARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Dr. Henrietta Scott Fullard's dedication to her community.

Reverend Dr. Henrietta Scott Fullard's life can be phrased as one of high achievements and a steward of educational excellence. One word that best describes her is "Teacher." The word teacher maybe simple but a word that carries powerful meaning. Throughout her life, she has strived for educational excellence. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, a Master in Arts and a Master of Divinity. In addition, she received an honorary Doctor of Education and a Doctor of Divinity. Reverend Dr. Fullard has used her educational experiences and talents to not only serve as an educator on the high school level but as an advisor and principal. She was appointed the first principal of the newly formed Mathematics, Science Research and Technology

Magnet School in Cambria Heights, NY. Through her leadership and vision, she established educational partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Agriculture to have the students participate in science and technology research.

As a reverend, while Dr. Fullard was establishing her education agenda, she also served as a minister. She maintained a dual career for several years. Now, retired from her many years of service with the New York City Board of Education, she is currently serving as pastor of the Bethel AME church in Arverne, New York. Her ministerial focus is to develop and promote programs and services that instill community empowerment, economic development, job opportunities and capital investments. With this charge, she founded the Bethel Arverne Home Health Aide Training Program. Since the program's inception, the program has successfully graduated three classes. In addition, she continues to be actively involved in many community, civic associations, and fraternal organizations.

Reverend Dr. Fullard has been a steward of both educational and spiritual upliftment for the Brooklyn community. Reverend Dr. Fullard is truly an educator. And, today it is my pleasure to bring her achievements to the attention of my colleagues.

RECOGNITION OF MARK GRIMMETTE

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the hard work and achievement of Mr. Mark Grimmette, who won the silver medal in the doubles luge at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympic games. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time Mr. Grimmette has won an Olympic medal. He also won a bronze medal at the Winter Olympic games held in Nagano, Japan in 1998. In winning the bronze, Mr. Grimmette helped end a 34-year medal drought for America in the Olympic luge event.

In addition to his excellence in the Olympics, Mr. Grimmette is also a three-time U.S. national champion in the luge with his doubles partner, Brian Martin. The duo won the World Cup championship in 1998, and won two bronze medals during the 2001-2002 World Cup season.

Mr. Grimmette took his first luge slide at the age of 14 on a track he helped build in his hometown of Muskegon, Michigan, which is located in the 2nd Congressional District of Michigan. That slide began a momentous journey that has taken him to the top in Olympic achievement and ultimately earned him recognition as one of the world's best lugers.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Grimmette represents a proud and longstanding Olympic tradition in Michigan. He has earned much deserved recognition for his accomplishments, and I salute him on his recent Olympic success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
BROWNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF BP

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Browne, chief executive of BP for his distinctive leadership on the issue of climate change. In 1997, at Stanford University, John Browne took a bold step; he broke from his peers in the oil and gas industry and set a target to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from company operations. The target he set was a ten percent reduction below a 1990 baseline by the year 2010.

Just last week this same man again stood before an audience at Stanford to announce that the company had achieved the target, and done so eight years ahead of schedule. Importantly, this was done at no net cost to the company. Mr. Browne further announced that BP would continue its quest to reduce the carbon intensity of its activities and stabilize carbon emissions at current levels while growing the company. This, he said, would be achieved through focusing on technology improvements, gains in efficiency and through offering less carbon intensive products to customers.

Mr. Speaker, the actions on the part of John Browne and BP clearly demonstrate that a little bit of initiative can go a long way. This is leadership—we need more of it here in the U.S. on the matter of climate change, because this issue is not going to go away.

I applaud the achievements of John Browne and the progressive company that he leads.

HONORING ROY C. NICHOLS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Nichols for his lifetime of national and international public service. He has been a tireless champion for economic, social and civil justice for more than 50 years.

He once stated, "education is critical in achieving national goals. Most people forget that the U.S. Constitution was written as a mission statement to establish social justice . . . And, public schools must foster a sense of justice under which people of diverse economic, social, and racial backgrounds can become great."

In his efforts to help bring equity to underserved communities, Bishop Nichols has served as Chairman of Oakland's Human Relations Commission and President of the Sequoyah Heights Board of Directors. He has also served as a consultant, lecturer, preacher, interim pastor and Bishop in Residence.

In the late '50s and throughout the 60's, Bishop Nichols, then Pastor of Downs Memorial United Methodist Church in North Oakland, joined with national leaders to advocate for civic, economic, social and educational justice in the Bay Area. He was chair of the Berkeley NAACP Education Committee, President of the Berkeley Board of Education (four years

before the school district became the first to voluntarily integrate schools), and hosted the first Black Panthers' Breakfast.

Since 1968, Bishop Nichols has worked from several different positions to raise the principles of justice in the faith community. He was a member of the Executive & Central Committees of the World Council of Churches of Geneva, Switzerland; President of Christian Associates in Western Pennsylvania; President of the Council of Bishops for the United Methodist Church; President of the New York Council of Church Executives; and President of Africa University's Development Committee.

Finally as we honor him tonight, I want to thank him on behalf of the entire 9th Congressional District for being a great religious and civil leader. Bishop Nichols has been a friend who has shared his wisdom and has given me support.

I take great pride in joining Bishop Nichols' friends and colleagues to salute the extraordinary Roy C. Nichols.

BRING SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, last year the President convened a special, hand-picked commission to study Social Security reform. Unfortunately, the commission was comprised entirely of those who support private accounts as a precondition to any reform proposals they might consider. In December 2001, the commission disbanded after releasing a report in which it detailed three privatization options, each of which cuts benefits and requires massive general revenue transfers to finance private accounts.

President Bush continues to advocate these untested privatization plans as the single solution to Social Security's future financing challenges, but he has thus far been unwilling to submit these schemes to the rigors of the legislative process of advocacy, testimony, and amendment. If these plans are indeed credible options, they should be treated as such. They should be marked up in the House Ways and Means Committee and brought as soon as possible to the House floor for debate and a vote. Should any one of the measures prove feasible or desirable, it would subsequently be sent to the Other Body for additional debate and votes. Should both houses agree, the legislation would then be sent to the President of the United States for his signature or veto.

Sadly, it appears unlikely that Social Security privatization will follow this rational and democratic course. The Republicans refuse to place this issue on the agenda. They have scheduled no markups, no debate, and no votes on what will be a radical change to the most successful program in American history. Meanwhile, the President has indicated that he intends to move forward with these proposals next year.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a critically important program for millions in America, and the American people deserve an honest debate on these proposals now. That is why I am introducing this legislation. It is the only

way the American people will get the debate they deserve.

Simply put, if neither the President nor the Republican majority in the House will submit the President's privatization plans to the light of day, others will be forced to do it for them. It is with a sincere hope for an open and fair debate that I introduce this legislation to the House of Representatives. I now call on the Republican majority to bring this legislation to the floor.

**IN TRIBUTE TO GLEN AND SALLY
BECERRA**

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two of my constituents and friends, Glen and Sally Becerra, who for the second year are chairing the Simi Valley Education Foundation's Lew Roth Dinner.

Few passions are more important to the future of America than the education of our children. Lew Roth epitomized that passion during 23 years as a School Board trustee in my hometown of Simi Valley, California. We registered in different parties, but we were bound by that belief. He was a true teacher and a good friend.

Lew founded the Simi Valley Education Foundation in 1989 to provide the business community and individuals with an avenue to improve our schools. The Lew Roth awards were founded after Lew died in 1991 to recognize other school personnel who share Lew's passion for educating our children. Awarded during a gala dinner celebration, the awards honor a classified school employee, a manager, a teacher and a volunteer. This year's recipients are PTA volunteer Annette Morgan, Garden Grove School Principal Lynn Friedman, Santa Susana School cafeteria manager Linda Pistachio, and longtime educator Peggie Noisette. They join an elite group more important than any Hall of Fame promoted regularly on television.

This year's gala, to be held on Friday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, is a festive gathering that brings the community together to recommit to Lew's ideals and his vision. It is an important fund-raiser for the non-profit foundation, and provides a large share of the funds the foundation spends each year for teacher grants, classroom technology and other educational needs. The success of the evening helps shape the success of the foundation for the coming year.

And, the success of the evening depends largely on the people who chair the event, the caliber of an active foundation board, and the cadre of other volunteers they assemble to assist them. It's a huge commitment and one that Glen and Sally Becerra have taken on twice. It is anticipated that the galas last year and this year will have raised about \$200,000 for the foundation.

I know personally of Glen's and Sally's commitment to family and community. They have two young children who are the loves of their lives. Sally is a dedicated mother and Glen a dedicated father who together actively nurture their children. In addition to serving as a foundation board member, Glen is a city councilman. They have long been active in their community, like their parents before them.