

children. Jay, the oldest, lives in Austin, Texas with his wife, Leigh. Frank attends Christian Brothers High School, and John, the youngest, is a student at Woodland Presbyterian School.

Oral and Chris became permanent residents of Forrest City in 1962, when they moved here to establish a new location for their grocery store business at the intersection of Division Street and Highway 70. The business has since grown and Oral and his son, Steve, now own GES, Inc., which operates businesses in Arkansas named Food Giant, FG Express, Tobacco Warehouse and EDPROP Development Co.

In addition to being a business leader, Oral has also been an active community leader. Oral has served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College and the Baptist College of Medical Sciences in Memphis, Tennessee. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Health Care Company, in Memphis.

Chris, not to be outdone by her husband, has also played an important role in a number of community organizations. She has been a member of the Garden Gate Garden Club and the Forrest City Musical Coterie for more than 40 years. She has also been an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

The state of Arkansas is a better place because of my close friends Oral and Chris Edwards, and I am proud to call them my friends. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to these faithful public servants on the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN HIGH
SCHOOL 2002 WISCONSIN "WE
THE PEOPLE" CHAMPIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, our great statesman Benjamin Franklin was asked, "What have you wrought?" He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Two hundred years later, the Center for Civic Education, created by Act of Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, began working with our nation's elementary and secondary students to help them understand the enduring relevance of that statement. Since the inception of the "We the People" program in 1987, more than 26 million students and 82 thousand educators have participated in the Center's outstanding program to promote civic competence and participation.

Our founding fathers recognized that ultimately a free society must depend upon the civic virtue of its citizens, and that our schools have an important mission to prepare students to become informed, responsible citizens. Heritage Christian High School's social studies teacher Tim Moore certainly understands the important role of schools in promoting democratic values and an involved citizenry. In the seven years that Heritage Christian has participated in the "We the People" program, Mr.

Moore's students have won first place in the Wisconsin state competition five separate times!

The students from Heritage Christian have truly been inspired to academic excellence, and have demonstrated an impressive knowledge of the fundamental principles of our nation's constitutional democracy. It is with great pride that I recognize their outstanding achievement, and commend them for their exemplary commitment to the study of constitutional issues.

This year's representatives from Heritage Christian High School are: Sarah Bohl, Tim Bruce, Tim Cisler, Liz Culver, Jordan Hawkins, Joe Hense, Joanna Hinks, David Kludt, Amy Krejcarek, Brad Larson, Paul Lorenz, Tim Melville, Jon Pickens, Ashley Ramsland, Erik Skoglund, Meredith Spry, Courtney Van der Ploeg, and Andrew Wier.

Congratulations, and best wishes for continued success in this year's national competition in Washington, D.C.!

HONORING MAY AS OLDER
AMERICANS MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, May 1st, marks the beginning of Older Americans Month. This should give us pause to focus on the status of our nation's seniors.

What is the major concern facing older Americans today? It is the need for affordable prescription drugs. As we all know very well, the Medicare program does not cover outpatient prescription drugs. Women, in particular, are affected by this shortfall in coverage. Women live, on average, seven years longer than men, have earned less during their working lives and have half the average annual income of older men. This makes women vulnerable to high health care costs, including out-of-pocket expenses and insurance deductibles as well as the price of prescription drugs.

Because of their longevity, women are more likely to have chronic health conditions and functional limitations. Eight of ten women on Medicare, including those with disabilities, use prescription drugs regularly to manage chronic conditions and subsequently are vulnerable to catastrophic expenses. These women fill fewer prescriptions annually than those with drug coverage but spend nearly twice as much out-of-pocket for their medications. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the average out-of-pocket costs for older Americans just for prescription drugs will be \$1500 this year alone.

This month, Connecticut seniors who are members of the Alliance for Retired Americans will board buses and travel to Canada in order to have their prescriptions filled at affordable prices. The Alliance, which will send its members from every state that borders Canada, expects to show that in just one month of short trips seniors can collectively save as much as one million dollars in annual prescription costs.

The trips are not a solution, but they will demonstrate just how ludicrous it is for U.S. citizens, especially older Americans, to have

to go to Canada to purchase lower cost medicines because of the lack of a prescription drug benefit within the Medicare program. We must bear in mind that for every person making the trip to Canada there are others who are far worse-off physically and who need the lower-priced medications even more. Unfortunately, they cannot physically board a bus.

Congress must act this year to break the hold that the pharmaceutical industry has on the drug pricing system that forces our citizens to travel to Canada to purchase their prescription drugs at affordable prices. Congress must relieve the emotional and financial distress that millions of older Americans are experiencing. Mr. Speaker, the best way to honor older Americans is for Congress to enact a comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit this year.

TRIBUTE TO SALESIAN HIGH
SCHOOL OF RICHMOND, CALI-
FORNIA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and families of Salesian High School of Richmond, California, who will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary on September 6, 2002.

On September 8, 1927, the Salesians of Saint John Bosco, a religious society of the Catholic Church specializing in youth services and education, established a high school seminary program for boys. Then, in 1960, the seminary relocated to Watsonville, California, and became a college preparatory Catholic high school.

In 1989, the school became coeducational and now, with 570 students, they reflect the ethnically diverse population of the area: 18% African-American, 7% Asian Pacific, 20% Euro-American, 23% Latino, 20% Filipino, and 12% from other ethnic and racial backgrounds.

65% of these students come from low-income families in the local neighborhood. Salesian High School has the lowest annual tuition among all the private schools in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, and it is their policy that no student will be left behind due to an inability to meet tuition costs. Therefore, they maintain a strong tuition assistance and scholarship program.

Salesian High School graduates 98% of their seniors into colleges and universities throughout California and the United States. This attests to their combination of church, school, playground, home, and family in their educational system.

The school is dedicated to developing well-rounded students through curriculum that encourages the students to develop their unique talents through education, Christian formation and service.

I rise to congratulate Salesian High School for 75 successful years of educational service and wish them continued success in the years to come.

EDITORIAL BY DR. BILL LEE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an exceptional editorial by Dr. Bill Lee of The Sacramento Observer, which underscores the threat Social Security privatization poses to minority communities. The Observer is the premier African-American news source in my hometown of Sacramento, and has been a staple of the community for nearly forty years. It has received over 500 national and local awards for journalism excellence, and has a weekly circulation of 50,000 paid subscribers.

Dr. Lee's column makes a critical point that is sometimes overlooked: privatizing Social Security would be devastating to minorities, who benefit disproportionately from the program. In fact, privatization would likely result in smaller benefits not only for minorities, but also for women and low-income workers.

The future of Social Security is profoundly important to all Americans, particularly minorities. The voices of African-American leaders like Dr. Lee—the founding editor of the family-owned Observer—must be heard. I commend Dr. Lee for bringing this issue to the attention of his readers and his community, and I am proud to bring the Observer's unique perspective to the floor of the House.

[From the Sacramento Observer]

SOCIAL SECURITY CONTINUES TO WORK FOR US,
HERE'S HOW

(By Dr. William H. Lee)

Everywhere I look in the African American community, I see the success stories of Social Security. I see seniors counting on it in their retirement. I see people who were able to pay their rent or make it through college thanks to survivors' benefits. I know I am counting on Social Security to help me in my golden years, just like others in the African American community are counting on it.

But why is Social Security so important?

Social Security says a lot about who America is and what we stand for as a nation. By providing seniors with guaranteed retirement income for life and protecting young families who lose a breadwinner to disability or death, Social Security shows that America can be a compassionate nation.

It proves that this is a nation with a bottom line: that we can stand together, especially when life is most difficult. It's a promise America has made to its people, a promise that has kept millions of its citizens out of poverty.

I want to tell you, however, about a threat to this successful and popular program: proposals to privatize Social Security.

Privatization of the Social Security program may sound like a good idea at first, but "the devil is in the details"—the more you learn about it, the worse it becomes. It would cut benefits and pave the way for the ultimate destruction of the program. That is something we cannot allow to happen.

Some people in Washington D.C. want us to believe that Social Security is about to collapse. We have to make one thing clear to our readers: Social Security is not in crisis.

In March, the Social Security Trustees released their annual report on the program's financial health. For the fourth year in a row, the outlook improved.

New economic and demographic projections show that Social Security can pay full

benefits until 2041. We need to acknowledge the challenge ahead: four decades from now, Social Security will only be able to pay three-quarters of promised benefits.

That is, however, a challenge we can overcome. It is not an imminent crisis that requires the unraveling of Social Security's fundamental purpose.

Privatization proponents want you to believe that Social Security is in crisis and that "a radical change" is necessary. But the truth is privatization will only make Social Security's financial problems worse.

Privatization is based on the idea that one can take money out of the trust fund without any negative consequences. But this seemingly simple proposition is based on a flawed and misleading understanding of how the program works.

Since Social Security taxes are immediately paid out to current beneficiaries (it's a "pay-as-you-go" system), money taken out of the program would come directly out of our parents or grandparents' pockets. That's why privatization will mean benefit cuts. And these cuts would affect all recipients—retirees, disabled workers, and survivors alike.

And since privatization opens a gaping hole in Social Security's finances, trillions of dollars would be needed to make up the difference. Where would this money come from? No one knows.

Privatization will weaken Social Security for all Americans, but for some the results will be even more devastating.

This is particularly true for African Americans. But, it is also true for women, lower-income workers, and other ethnic minorities.

For example, minorities tend to benefit disproportionately from the disability and survivors components of Social Security, but these will be cut across the board to make room for private accounts.

Women are also particularly vulnerable to the effects of privatization.

For example, African American women, on average, live longer than men and spend more time out of the workforce to raise children or take care of elderly parents. As a result, they would have less to deposit into private accounts. They would therefore have to live on smaller benefits from smaller accounts over a longer period of time, without the protection from inflation offered by Social Security.

Social Security serves as the foundation of a secure retirement—unshakable by the ups and downs of the stock market, the timing of your retirement, or corporate scandals. Social Security is set up so that our nation's seniors, all our seniors will be protected at the end of the road.

It ensures that seniors will not suffer like Enron employees who watched the value of their stock accounts plummet and their dreams of a secure retirement vanish along with it.

Of course, Americans should be encouraged to save more. Personal savings have an important role to play, especially in the African American community. But it is critical that we keep a portion of retirement income guaranteed. Social Security is that guarantee.

Privatization does not work. Social Security does. It has worked in the African American community, and in all other communities, for over 60 years. We should work together to defend it, protect it, and improve it. But we should oppose those who would fundamentally alter it, break it, or send it, piece by piece, to its demise.

IFAD

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Congress can preform a great service to the American taxpayer, as well as citizens in developing countries, by rejecting HR 2604, which reauthorizes two multilateral development banks, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Asian Development Fund (AsDF).

Congress has no constitutional authority to take money from American taxpayers and send that money overseas for any reason. Furthermore, foreign aid undermines the recipient countries' long-term economic progress by breeding a culture of dependency. Ironically, foreign aid also undermines long-term United States foreign policy goals by breeding resentment among recipients of the aid, which may manifest itself in a foreign policy hostile to the United States.

If Congress lacks authority to fund an international food aid program, then Congress certainly lacks authority to use taxpayer funds to promote economic development in foreign lands. Programs such as the AsDF are not only unconstitutional, but, by removing resources from the control of consumers and placing them under the control of bureaucrats and politically-powerful special interests, these programs actually retard economic development in the countries receiving this "aid!" This is because funds received from programs like the AsDF are all-too-often wasted on political boondoggles which benefit the political elites in the recipient countries, but are of little benefit to the individual citizens of those countries.

In conclusion, HR 2604 authorizes the continued taking of taxpayer funds for unconstitutional and economically destructive programs. I therefore urge my colleagues to reject this bill, return the money to the American taxpayers, and show the world that the United States Congress is embracing the greatest means of generating prosperity: the free market.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE P. DEMPSEY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, Louise P. Dempsey, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the state of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Ms. Dempsey my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

Louise Dempsey is currently Assistant Dean for External Affairs at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland. She received her B.A. from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec; Certificate of Advanced Study in Bioethics from the Department of Philosophy,